



## **Resolution on combating antigypsyism and the inclusion and equal participation of Roma youth**

ONLINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
20-22 NOVEMBRE 2020

**Preamble:** European values - respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law - are threatened by antigypsyism and ongoing prejudice and discrimination faced by Roma remains a key challenge for achieving equality in Europe.

Antigypsyism is the root cause of exclusion of Roma people, the largest ethnic minority in Europe. It is a specific form of racism against Roma, Sinti, Travellers and others stigmatised as 'gypsies'<sup>1</sup>. Currently, in European societies, antigypsyism is supported by high levels of social acceptance and a lack of recognition and understanding of its existence and its manifestations. In order to better fight antigypsyism it is essential:

1. To understand that antigypsyism is not a 'minority issue', but an issue that impacts society as a whole. In order to combat antigypsyism, our attention needs to shift from 'the Roma' to the ideology and behaviour of mainstream societies;
2. To empower those dramatically affected by antigypsyism; Roma leadership, participation and empowerment are crucial in order to overcome the long-lasting effects of antigypsyism;
3. To understand that 'Roma inclusion' will remain illusory as long as we do not confront antigypsyism as the root cause of exclusion.
4. To recognise the porajmos - the romani genocide - as a barely spoken of horrible chapter in our common European past, that has to be taught in schools and get the remembrance in the public it deserves.

## **What are the Main Challenges Faced by Roma Youth?**

In 2020, the Phiren Amenca International Network<sup>2</sup> and the ternYpe Roma Youth International Network<sup>3</sup> conducted an in-depth, European-wide research involving hundreds of young Roma and youth civil society organisations on 'Roma Youth Challenges and Perspectives'<sup>4</sup>. The central areas, highlighted in the research, of the challenges facing young Roma are as follows:

---

<sup>1</sup> More information on antigypsyism available at <https://www.antigypsyism.eu>

<sup>2</sup> <https://phirenamenca.eu>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ternype.eu>

<sup>4</sup> Brief available at <https://phirenamenca.eu/roma-youth-challenges-and-perspectives-live-talk/>

- Antigypsyism<sup>5</sup>
- Access to Education and Training<sup>6</sup>
- Participation<sup>7</sup>

As such, it is within the above framing that this resolution is being tabled in order to effectively highlight and push forward the need to combat Anti Gypsyism and to include Roma Youth in youth policies, structures and relevant institutions.

### **The European Youth Forum acknowledges:**

- That the human rights of Roma people, especially Roma youth, are severely violated;
- That antigypsyism is the specific form of racism towards Roma, Sinti, Travellers and others who are stigmatised as 'Gypsies' in the public perception that is under no circumstances acceptable;
- That fighting against antigypsyism, similarly to other forms of racism and discrimination such as antisemitism, islamophobia and homophobia, is at the core principles and values of the European Youth Forum and its Membership;
- The adoption of the EU Roma Strategic Framework on Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2020-2030 by the European Commission is a key guideline for Roma inclusion<sup>8</sup>;
- The legally non-binding working definition of antigypsyism adopted by all the 34 States of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), including all the examples included therein<sup>9</sup>;
- The principles stated within the Roma Youth Action Plan of the Council of Europe and its following post-2020 development<sup>10</sup>.

---

<sup>5</sup> The study finds out that the biggest concern for Roma youth among education, employment, and training, is antigypsyism. 95 % of the Roma youth have observed and encountered discriminatory words, behaviours and gestures directed at Roma, while 68 % have encountered racism while attending schools/university. Anti Gypsyism manifested as wide-spread anti-Roma sentiments and hate speech, in the media and by politicians, still remains worryingly widespread and accepted within European society today.

<sup>6</sup> 59 % of the Roma Youth have concerns about their access to formal or informal education facing barriers such as segregation, poor quality education, discrimination and inaccessibility.

<sup>7</sup> 57 % of young Roma experience obstacles for participating in public and social life.

Political participation of young European Roma remains extremely low. Moreover, there is a major lack of Roma youth participation in the National Youth Councils and in the work and programmes of youth organisations.

<sup>8</sup> Available at [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1813](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1813)

<sup>9</sup> IHRA Working definition of Antigypsyism, available at:

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antigypsyism-anti-roma-discrimination>

<sup>10</sup> Available at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth-roma>

## **The European Youth Forum resolves:**

### ***A: To address Antigypsyism***

- I. Affirm its commitment to tackle antigypsyism in all its forms;
- II. Adopt and apply the IHRA Working Definition of Antigypsyism, including all the examples included therein;
- III. Encourage Member Organisations to adopt and apply the IHRA working definition of antigypsyism with its examples;
- IV. Take appropriate disciplinary action when instances of antigypsyist speech or action occur among its leadership, Secretariat, volunteers and Member Organisations;
- V. Provide opportunities for educational training and awareness-raising on antigypsyism;
- VI. Publicly denounce actions that are antigypsyist based on the aforementioned definition.

### ***B. To address Access to Education and Training***

- VII. Advocate for the removal of the linguistic barriers posed to Roma youth in formal education;
- VIII. Combat segregation in education and promote inclusive education as expressed by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- IX. Work on the formal recognition and validation of non-formal education for Roma youth.

### ***C. To address Participation of Young Roma***

- X. Commit to the implementation of the 2030 EU Roma Framework by increasing Roma youth participation and mainstream Roma youth issues;

XI. Commit to advocate for proper funding and sustainable structures for Roma Youth Organisations as a precondition of meaningful Roma participation across all levels of society;

XII. Advocate with the European Commission and other EU institutions so that European programmes targeting young people become fully inclusive for Roma youth;

XIII. Ensure and support that Roma youth is addressed in both European and national mainstream youth policies, and that the equal participation of Roma youth organisations is strengthened;

XIV. Support a working group to be run by EUJS, together with Roma youth organisations such as Phiren Amenca and TernYpe, to advance Roma youth participation, to address access to education of young Roma, and to combat antigypsyism, on all levels among its membership.