

WRITTEN COMMENTS
OF THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE CONCERNING ITALY

For Consideration by the United Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
(CERD) at its 110 Session (07 Aug 2023 - 31 Aug 2023)

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Introduction

In its concluding observations on the combined 19th and 20th periodic reports of Italy at its 91st session (21 November to 9 December 2016), the Committee reiterated its deep concern at the persistent and entrenched discrimination faced by Roma, Sinti and Camminanti communities.

The Committee recommended that the State party:

- (a) Halt any plans to carry out further evictions of Roma, Sinti and Camminanti communities or to establish new segregated camps or segregated housing areas that separate them from the wider society;
- (b) End the use of segregated camps and ensure the provision of adequate and culturally appropriate accommodation to Roma, Sinti and Camminanti as a matter of priority;
- (c) Review and amend national, regional and municipal housing legislation, policies and practices to ensure that they do not discriminate against Roma, Sinti and Camminanti in the enjoyment of their rights, in particular their access to social housing and other forms of housing benefit;
- (d) Prioritize efforts to ensure that Roma, Sinti and Camminanti children are able to access quality education that is culturally and linguistically appropriate at schools that are geographically accessible and where they suffer no form of segregated schooling or negative treatment by staff or students;
- (e) Ensure that the national strategy for the inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Camminanti communities for the period 2012-2020 leads to concrete and tangible improvement of the enjoyment of their rights;
- (f) Provide effective remedies and reparations to Roma, Sinti and Camminanti who have suffered human rights violations, including as a result of the implementation of the nomad emergency decree, taking into account judgment No. 6050 of the Council of State of 16 November 2011.

The ERRC maintains that the state party has failed to implement any of the recommendations in a manner that would have made any tangible difference for the better in the lives of Roma in Italy. On the contrary, the information below, covering the period from January 2017, would strongly suggest that living conditions have actually worsened and antigypsyism has been deliberately stoked by political elites for electoral gain, and as a significant component of a wider strategy of scapegoating racialized minorities.

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) submits this report to highlight key human rights concerns in Italy regarding its Romani population. The ERRC is deeply perturbed at the level of direct and indirect discrimination, segregation, forced evictions and general social exclusion, as well as incidents of racist violence and hate speech targeting Roma, which includes *“racist misleading propaganda against Roma and Sinti indirectly allowed or directly emanating from the authorities”* (European Committee of Social Rights). Based on the evidence gathered in this submission, the ERRC maintains that the state party continues to fail Roma drastically with regards to Article 2, and Article 11 of the Convention. Further, the discrimination, social segregation and appalling living conditions, inhibit Roma from exercising their right to work and the right to social security (Article 6); thwarts the rights of many Roma children to an education (Articles 13,14), undermines the right to family life, and greatly endangers the right to security for children (Article 10). The punitive and discriminatory policies adopted by national and regional authorities effectively exclude Roma from the right to participation in cultural and social life (Articles 13, 14), and force them to live in precarious conditions which deny Roma their right to physical and mental health (Article 12). Below is a list of main issues of concern, with supporting detail of specific events, based on monitoring and evidence gathered by the ERRC and its partners in Italy.

Forced evictions and camp clearances

ERRC field research has found that families living in informal camps were persistently evicted without respect for the protections prescribed by international standards. Residents were not consulted prior to eviction and they did not receive formal eviction orders, making it difficult to challenge the evictions legally. The situation of schoolchildren, elderly people, pregnant women and people with health issues was not taken into consideration. Most of the time the evictees were not offered alternative accommodation, which forced them into an endless cycle of evictions from one camp to another.

On 26 July 2018, the Municipality of Rome cleared the settlement of Camping River where for 13 years about 300 Roma people lived. The Municipality proposed the inhabitants of the camp the sum of 800 euros per month to find themselves a rented house as part of their 'Roma Plan'. The proposal was poorly implemented; without a regular income, or any sort of mediation on the side of the municipality it was nearly impossible for the Roma to find someone willing to rent to them. Only 9% of the 359 people in the camp found a solution as foreseen by the Roma Plan of the Municipality of Rome. Out of all the Roma who were evicted from Camping River on 26 July in Rome, 52% (152 people) ended up living on the streets, under bridges or in cars. A further 34% (99 people) were transferred to reception centres or temporary facilities.¹

On 20 May 2019, the European Court of Human Rights ordered the Italian Government to provide suitable accommodation for Romani families who were forcibly evicted from Giugliano the previous week. The court recognised the right to family unity and the need to provide adequate housing to Romani families. The emergency case was brought before the court by Associazione 21 luglio and the ERRC. The 73 families, some 450 people that were evicted were camped in an area with no shelter, and were forced to sleep inside cars or outdoors, despite the difficult weather conditions, without access to electricity, clean water or toilets. The 105 children who were attending school were forced to interrupt their school attendance.²

In June 2019, the mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala, stated that he would like to introduce the DASPO for Roma who are continually occupying public spaces. The DASPO is a measure by which a mayor – in collaboration with the prefect – can fine and establish a ban on access to certain areas of the city. This measure named DASPO was introduced by the former Minister of Interior in 2017 and confirmed by the Salvini's security decree. While the town councillor for social policies, Majorino, denied that this measure will be based on ethnicity targeting only Roma, he declared it "absolutely sensible and reasonable to experiment with instruments" that allow for decisive action against those who occupy space and create difficulties in some neighbourhoods, whether or not they are of Roma origin.³

On 4 July 2019, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) called on Italy to halt mass evictions of Roma. In response to a complaint lodged by Amnesty International, the Committee urged Italy to take "immediate measures to eliminate the risk of serious and irreparable harm to people who have been evicted."⁴

On 16 July 2019, Matteo Salvini issued an order to local prefects to prepare "a report on the presence of Roma, Sinti and Camminanti settlements" in their areas within the next two weeks as a prelude to mass evictions. This move was condemned as shameful in the European Parliament by MEP Romeo Franz, and prompted warnings of legal action from the ERRC.⁵

On 24th May 2021, the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) released [a census of forced evictions of Roma in Italy](#) today, covering the period from January 2017 to March 2021. It shows that Italian authorities have carried out at least 187 evictions of living places inhabited by Romani people, affecting 3,156 people who were in most cases made homeless, or otherwise put into unstable housing solutions. The [census](#) is a non-exhaustive list of evictions of formal and informal camps, compiled from media, activist, and NGO reports over the past four years. There are very likely more evictions, which because of limitations in the methodology and resources, were not recorded in this census.

Racial discrimination during the Covid pandemic

The ERRC report, *Roma Rights in the Time of Covid*, revealed how the most vulnerable Romani communities in Europe were significantly affected by increased institutional racism and discrimination during the first half of 2020. In Italy, according to ERRC monitoring, in most cases no masks, hand-sanitiser, nor hygiene supplies

¹ SIR, Sgombero Camping river: Associazione 21 luglio, "fallimento del piano di superamento dei campi", 1 August 2018,

² ERRC, Press Release, *European Court Orders Italy To Rehouse Roma Evicted From Giugliano*, 20 May 2019.

³ La Repubblica, *La proposta del sindaco di Milano: "Daspo per i rom che rioccupano gli spazi pubblici."* 06/08/2019

⁴ Amnesty International, *Italy: Council of Europe Committee takes important steps to protect Roma from forced evictions*, 5 July 2019.

⁵ Hope not Hate, *Rights Body Condemns Salvini's Latest Move on Italy's Roma as a 'Flagrant Human Rights Violation'*.

were distributed to camps (even to those without access to water).⁶ This made following recommended hygiene guidelines difficult, if not impossible, for the Roma living there.

In addition, the government did not ensure there was adequate communication of public health messaging regarding the risks associated with corona virus to the residents of formal and informal camps. In the absence of a state response to segregated camps, the responses of local authorities in Italy were characterised by their disparate approaches to the particular needs of Romani communities.

In some cases the communities were simply left to themselves, without any formal intervention on the part of local municipalities. For example, during the entirety of the lockdown period the municipality of Vicenza provided no support of any kind to a group of approximately 70 Roma (including many children and pregnant women) living within their municipality. These people live in cars or caravans in particularly precarious living conditions. They do not have a permanent place to live because the municipality forbids them through ordinances to stop in most of the city. Despite the pandemic, the municipality did not provide them with a place to stop, and these people were left without access to drinking water, or to hygiene supplies such as masks or sanitizing gel. The municipality, although well aware of their situation, made no efforts to provide for this group of people.

As in most places, many Roma in Italy were not able to carry out the informal jobs they would normally rely on for a living (such as the collection of iron, informal markets, and construction work.) There was an absence of programs or policies from the government to address this, nor were there any structural rescue packages devoted to helping the most vulnerable groups in general. The government earmarked funds that local authorities could use to provide one-off support to people in need, normally in the form of shopping vouchers, but there was no long-term structural financial package available.

Evictions continued during lockdown

Between **February and June 2020**, evictions of Roma from informal camps continued, as they have for the past decade, despite the extraordinary situation brought about by the pandemic. Despite the government decree issued on 19th May (no.34, law no. 77/2020) which suspended evictions throughout Italy, the ERRC has recorded at least 7 evictions of Roma between February and June 2020.

- On **6 March**, Carabinieri forcefully evicted 15 Sinti who had parked their four caravans in an area in San Cesario near Modena. The eviction happened after a routine check carried out by the Carabinieri discovered that the children, despite being enrolled in a school in Syracuse, were not attending classes. The entire family group was subsequently removed from the area in question.
- On **10 March**, police were called by residents in the neighbourhood of vico Gelso, in Torre Annunziata, after Roma who were not resident in the area were seen visiting the homes of friends and relatives. The residents were concerned that the Roma had come from areas where there were many cases of coronavirus, so the police took them away from the city. At this point, the ministerial decree banning travel without an urgent reason had not yet come into force, meaning the Roma were not in breach of any emergency measures.
- On **21 April**, two Romani families illegally occupying empty social housing during lockdown were confronted and eventually driven out by other residents of the apartment block. The Carabinieri supervised their eviction from the building in the Quarto Oggiaro district and cleared the apartments of their belongings. Local councillor, Fabio Galesi, referred to 'nomads' in Milan occupying social housing without permission during lockdown as a "group of jackals around to identify vacancies to occupy."
- On **21 May**, 16 people were evicted from an informal camp in Nova Milanese by the police and Carabinieri. The camp was located on via Galvani and had been previously occupied and evicted in March. The displaced Roma were made homeless once again without alternative accommodation. The eviction was attended by Red Cross volunteers.

⁶ ERRC, *ROMA RIGHTS IN THE TIME OF COVID*, ERRC May 2020, pp 19-23. Available at: http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload_en/file/5265_file1_roma-rights-in-the-time-of-covid..pdf

- On **23 June**, eight people were evicted from an area on Via Tor Bella Monaca in Rome and their makeshift homes were destroyed. The eviction was carried out by local police and municipality workers who arrived ready with vans, bulldozers, and equipment to dismantle the camp.
- Over the weekend of **26-28 June**, a group of Roma living in campervans were driven from a carpark on the seafront in Porto Sant'Elpidio where they were staying by firefighters. The group had been staying there for around a week before they were forced to move. The reason for their eviction was to ensure the carpark could be used for tourists visiting the town, as the season was just beginning.
- In Turin, police officers continued to demolish the homes of around 500 Roma in Germagnano informal camp, as they have done since the camp was seized by a judicial order in 2016. Since then, the empty shacks have been routinely destroyed, even if the families have moved away and then returned. Law enforcement regularly place a sign on the shack that says it is "under seizure" but the affected people do not receive any formal document informing them of the eviction. Because the families are not present, they do not receive any offers of housing alternatives from local authorities. Due to the constant evictions many Romani families have been left homeless during the lockdown, forced to live in cars or caravans on the outskirts of the city.
- Local activists and witnesses report police officers frequently visiting Romani families living in camps (as often as 4 or 5 times a week) to try and convince them to leave the area. It is highly probable there have been more evictions during the lockdown which went unreported while media attention was diverted by the pandemic. Furthermore, many evictions of small groups of Roma are termed 'removals' rather than 'evictions' and go underreported.

Quarantine of nomad camps

In some municipalities, where a case of coronavirus was confirmed in a Romani camp, the decision was taken to quarantine the entire community. The overcrowding and poor housing conditions in the camps, caused by Italy's segregation policy, meant it was difficult to isolate a single person or family. The Roma were treated as a collective, and quarantined correspondingly, rather than being treated as individuals as any other citizen of Italy would be.

- In Cuneo, over 50 people living in a 'nomad camp' were quarantined by the municipality on 13 March after one person reported having been in contact with a friend from Nichelino (Turin) who had since tested positive for coronavirus.
- In Castel San Giovanni, in the province of Piacenza, a camp which is home to around 40 people was quarantined for four weeks according to Italian Roma rights activists in contact with the ERRC. The camp was closed off sometime during the lockdown period after someone was reported to have died from Covid-19 there.

Racially-motivated acts of violence against Roma

Reports from international and local NGOs and academics of incidents of daily discrimination and violence against Roma, confirm an ever-growing climate of intolerance in Italy. In May 2019, Italy's intelligence agency warned that attacks on migrants and minorities could rise in the run-up to the European elections. The intelligence agency report said the Italian far right was characterised in 2018 "by a pronounced vitality" and an increase in xenophobic propaganda "focused on the opposition to migration." It warned that there was "a real risk of an increase in episodes of intolerance towards foreigners". In January, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) repeated its concerns about the climate of racism in Italy, "*particularly with regard to racist misleading propaganda against Roma and Sinti indirectly allowed or directly emanating from the authorities*".⁷

The ERRC monitors cases of violence against Roma including: cases of violence by law enforcement officials, attacks against Romani camps and homes, and violence perpetrated by private citizens.

⁷ ERRC News, *Smells like Fascism II: New outbreak of anti-Roma mob violence in Italy*. 3 April 2019.

- **On 22 February 2019**, an 11-year-old Romani boy was attacked by a 29-year-old Italian man in Rome. The man accused the boy of stealing 70 EUR from him and verbally assault the child using offensive racist slurs: “You (gypsies) are always here to steal, we will kill you, gypsies” and “I want to kill the gypsies because they broke my dick”. Two security guards decided to take the boy and his attacker into custody, in the meantime the man took a blade from his pocket and cut the boy in the neck. The boy started to lose blood and was taken to the hospital. The health authorities applied five stitches to the injury on his neck. No trace of the alleged theft was found in his pockets. At first, the attacker was arrested by the police on charges of aggravated injuries. He was released the next day with the obligation to remain registered with police station while awaiting his trial, accused of causing injuries aggravated by the fact that the victim is a minor. The ethnicity of the victim is not being considered and the attack was not treated as a hate crime.
- **On 18 July 2018**, a one-year-old Romani child was shot in the back by a compressed-air projectile in Rome. The child was hit while she was in her mother’s arms in via Palmiro Togliatti. She required immediate hospitalisation and urgent surgery due to the severity of her wounds. A 59-year-old man was charged after he admitted to committing the crime. The incident was not treated as a hate crime.
- **On 7 May 2018**, a camper was set on fire in the suburbs of Turin in an act of arson. The three adults and four children living in the camper were unharmed. They had been evicted, without provision of alternative housing solutions, from Beinasco municipality in March 2018.
- **On 10 May 2018**, a 27-year-old Romani man named Tobbias was attacked and severely beaten on a tram in Rome. He was playing music for money with his child and wife. He stated: “I was on tram 8 when three people blocked me, grabbed by the arms and threw me out of the tram, I was beaten and insulted. They called me “gypsy shit” while they continued to hit me with kicks and punches. An inexplicable violence, I had only been singing a song on the tram without, I think, bothering anyone.” The three men who attacked him also broke his accordion.
- **On 30 June 2018**, a 12-year-old Romani girl was attacked near a McDonald’s restaurant in Dragona, Rome. Following an innocuous verbal exchange an adult couple began to racially abuse the girl, making specific references to her residence in the nearby Ortolani camp. The man then pulled out a bat from his car and struck the girl with it. She suffered injuries from the blow and from her fall to the concrete. The man attempted to reach the other two children but was unable to, so he returned to the 12-year-old, striking her again, this time on the legs, before finally fleeing the scene.
- **On 3 April 2019**, a screaming 300-strong far right mob, set fire to dumpsters and a car service centre to prevent the placement of 70 Roma in a local reception centre in the rundown Torre Maura suburb of Rome. In the face of the violent protests, backed by neo-fascist groups CasaPound, Forza Nuova and Frontal Action, the municipality announced that the group of Roma which, according to *la Repubblica* includes 33 children and 22 women, would be moved to other city facilities “within seven days”.

Many cases of violence against Roma remain unreported because Romani individuals fear retaliation against themselves and their families. Victims are often convinced that no one would believe them, or there would be problems because they lack identity documents.

Anti-Roma Hate Speech

According to the ERRC’s monitoring activities, anti-Romani statements by public figures became increasingly common in this reporting period, including public insults, defamation and dissemination of ideas based on racial hatred and racial superiority. Political parties often instil anti-Roma sentiments in the population during their electoral campaigns and contribute to inciting hatred. This is particularly true for the Lega party and its leader, Matteo Salvini, who was interior minister of the Italian republic. Demonstrations by political movements encouraging people to protest against Roma and the production and dissemination of material inciting violence (“games” on Facebook, blogs, and flyers against Roma and camps) are dangerously common in Italy. One of the most prominent frequent offenders has been the leading Lega politician Matteo Salvini:

- **On 8 April 2018**, on the occasion of International Roma Day, Salvini tweeted: “If many of them worked harder and stole less, if many of them sent their children to school instead of educating them to theft, it would be a celebration.”³⁶ And some days before: “These Gypsies ‘work’ also at Easter ... I

have a democratic and peaceful scrapper ready”, referring to acts of aggression by policemen in a camp in Rome.

- In **June 2018**, Matteo Salvini expressed regret that he cannot expel his fellow citizens of Romani ethnicity from their own country, saying: “Irregular foreigners will be deported via agreements with other countries, but Italian Roma unfortunately, we have to keep them at home.”
- On the **August 2018** eve of Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, Matteo Salvini caused further controversy when he threatened to bulldoze the home of a woman he called a “dirty gypsy”. The racist outburst on Twitter came in response to a news report which showed the woman, who lives in a Roma camp in Milan, saying Mr Salvini deserved “bullets in the head”. Using the term “zingaraccia”, which roughly translates into English as “dirty gypsy”, Mr Salvini tweeted in Italian: “Be good, dirty gypsy, be good, for the bulldozer is arriving soon.”
- In **September 2018**, the former Minister of Interior Matteo Salvini, following an incident when two Romani minors stole a car and hit a woman, the Minister posted on social media: “Someone claims that I should not say it, but I say it: the two juvenile delinquents come from a Roma camp, a place of illegality and degradation that raises criminals and that in Italy I have in mind should not to exist.”

Following a **2019 field visit** to Italy, the [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#) expressed serious concerns about the increase of intolerance, racial and religious hatred, and xenophobia, “*which in some cases is allowed or even encouraged by political leaders and members of Government.*” In November 2018, United Nations Special Procedures highlighted that “*this climate of intolerance could not be separated from the escalation in Italy in hate incidents against groups and individuals, including children, based on their actual or perceived ethnicity, skin colour, race and/or immigration status*”.

As regards hate speech, the OHCHR noted that the prevalence of problematic statements “*appears to indicate that they are not occurring sporadically or in isolated cases. Rather, they occur quite regularly in the public discourse, including at high political levels, leading to strong risks of increase in racial discrimination and hate crimes in society at large.*” This led to a situation where “hate speech has become normalized, and manifestations of hatred has become permissible.”

The OHCHR reviewed numerous inflammatory statements by politicians, including members of Government. This shocking litany of racist abuse included statements that black people and migrants “*should understand that we are racists and all go home*”; and that Islam is incompatible with Italian values and Constitution. As for Romani people, they should “*have their hands cut off*”, should “*work harder and steal less*”, and according to public statements by Italian Members of the European Parliament, “*Gypsies are the dregs of the society.*”

The extent to which anti-Roma racism had become normalised in Italy was evident not just in the persistence of mass evictions and demolitions of Roma camps, but in the dehumanising language that accompanied threats of expulsion and banishment targeting Roma, from the highest level of political office, such as [Salvini’s notorious call](#) in 2018 for a “*mass cleansing street by street, piazza by piazza, neighbourhood by neighbourhood.*”

Back in government, as a coalition partner of Meloni’s *Fratelli d’Italia*, Salvini continues to make racially charged statements. His intervention on **23 March 2023** was described by the Italian ombudsperson for prisoners as a ‘serious cultural setback’, when the Democratic Party withdrew its bill to improve conditions for imprisoned mothers, after it was sabotaged by amendments from the right-wing parties. As the bill folded, Salvini went on the attack, promising a tightening rather than a lightening of the law: “*The Democratic Party frees Roma pickpockets who use children and pregnancy to avoid prison and continue to commit crimes. Shame on you. The League had passed the law in the Justice Commission and will immediately resubmit the text: it is a question of health, justice and common sense.*” In response, the [Ombudsperson for prisoners Mauro Palma](#) condemned Salvini’s comments, and described attributing a crime to an entire category as a ‘serious cultural setback’, because “*it is never a minority or a social group as such that commits a crime*”.

Policing Roma

Research by ERRC has shown that police violence against Roma in EU Member States is a product of widespread institutional racism, brutality, and impunity amongst law enforcement concerning crimes. In each of the six countries, the report demonstrates the extent to which law enforcement agencies are saturated with institutional discrimination. The case files cited in the report common to all six countries including Italy, comprise a catalogue of official lies and botched investigations, testimonies concerning incidents of excessive, arbitrary, and sometimes lethal violence against young and old, deliberate attempts to discredit and intimidate victims, and protracted struggles through the courts for remedy, where justice for Roma is often denied and always delayed.⁸

In Italy, in a recent case, four police officers under investigation following a house raid, which left a 36-year-old Romani victim in a coma, now face charges of torture, giving false testimony and attempted murder. Hasib Omerovic, who has been deaf since birth, sustained serious injuries when he 'fell' nine metres from his bedroom window during an unauthorised police raid on his apartment on 25 July 2020.

As regards the charge of providing false information to the prosecutor, the police officers claimed in their initial statement that Hasib Omerovic, *"threw himself from window falling into the internal courtyard of the building, where he was then rescued by the 118 who transferred him to the Gemelli hospital"*.

This was completely at odds with Hasib's sister's account of what happened: *"I opened the door and a woman and men dressed normally entered, the woman closed the door of the hall, asked for Hasib's documents, took the photos, they beat him with the stick, Hasib fell and started punching and kicking him... he ran into his room and shut himself up ... they broke the door ... they punched and kicked him, took him off his feet and threw him down."*

Neither does the police account square with the state of the apartment when the family returned that fateful morning to find their home in disarray, Hasib's documents scattered on a table, the door to his room smashed, a broom handle broken in two; in addition, a radiator pipe had been wrenched from the wall, window shutters forced open, and they found traces of Hasib's blood on a sweatshirt and his bedsheets.⁹

Recommendations

Law enforcement

When it comes to law enforcement, the authorities have, for decades, remained impervious to recommendations and concerns expressed by UN human rights mechanisms and Council of Europe committees. As a minimum 'good start', and in order to align its practices with commitments under international law, state authorities in Italy should take the following actions excerpted from UNCAT's Concluding Observations in 2017:

- Adopt effective internal policies and standard operating procedures for law enforcement officers that clearly define and prohibit racial and bias-based profiling. These should include clear guidelines for stops, identity checks and searches that include a reasonable suspicion standard; monitoring mechanisms to regularly assess profiling practices; and human rights-compliant collection of disaggregated data on identity checks, searches, complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions.

⁸ Bernard Rorke, *Brutal and Bigoted: Policing Roma in the EU*. ERRC, May 2022. Available at:

http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload_en/file/5397_file1_brutal-and-bigoted-policing-roma-in-the-eu.pdf

⁹ See: <http://www.errc.org/news/italy-four-police-officers-accused-of-torture-and-lies-in-the-hasib-case>

- Ensure that prompt, impartial, and effective investigations are undertaken into all allegations relating to the excessive use of force by police and other law enforcement officers and ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted and the victims are adequately compensated;
- Clarify the regulation on the use of force by the police and other law enforcement agencies, and ensure that members of the police and other law enforcement officers can be effectively identified at all times when carrying out their functions;
- Provide detailed information on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences handed down in cases of police brutality and excessive use of force;
- Take effective measures to ensure that all detainees are afforded, in practice, all fundamental safeguards from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty, in conformity with international standards, including the right to access to a lawyer, particularly during the investigation and interrogation stages, the right to have the assistance of an interpreter if necessary, and the right to promptly inform a relative or any other person of their choice of their arrest.

Racist Violence and Hate Speech

- Publicly condemn and sanction all forms and instances of racist violence and use of racist and xenophobic speech against members of the Roma community, by public and/or private actors, and guarantee Roma physical security and protection from racist violence;
- Set up a system for recording acts of violence against Roma and collect and publish disaggregated data concerning hate crimes against Roma;
- Guarantee free access upon request to legal aid for victims of what appear to be hate crimes;
- Give the police, prosecuting authorities and judges special training concerning the legal framework for punishing hate crimes and hate speech and its implementation regarding vulnerable groups such as Roma;
- Ensure that the police and the prosecuting authorities conduct thorough investigations of all acts of violence against Roma, including of the potential for racial motivation;
- Establish an independent police complaints body to investigate all allegations of human rights violations by law enforcement personnel, and sanction law enforcement officials that violate rules of procedure and the rights and dignity of Roma;
- Conduct targeted campaigns encouraging Roma to report cases of violence by state and non-state actors. Q Effectively and proactively implement anti-discrimination law.

Housing and Evictions

- Establish, monitor and enforce policies on the use of all housing-related funds, including prohibiting the use of funding to create or maintain segregated housing such as camps or shelters;
- Allocate funds to projects providing for integrated housing settings and inclusion paths ensuring family unity;
- Implement with appropriate, targeted measures, the NRIS to address the inclusion of Roma and allocate sufficient funds for their implementation and to effectively monitor their results;
- Empower Roma to take control of their own housing fate; involve members of affected communities in the planning and implementation of all actions to address their housing situation from the earliest stages;
- Immediately cease the practice of forcibly evicting Roma without undertaking any of the measures required by international human rights law to provide socially inclusive alternatives consistent with the commitments on housing for Roma made in the NRIS.

