

- × Every third Roma older than 16 (33 %) felt discriminated against because of being Roma when looking for a job.
- × More Roma women than men experience discrimination in Romania
- × 16% of Roma women who had used experienced discrimination when accessing healthcare services than 13% Roma men

(Source: Fundamental Rights Agency, 2022)

- More than 21 years since its adoption, the capacity of the Romanian antidiscrimination law to combat racial discrimination remains very limited.
- The term ‘antigypsyism’ – as a specific form of Roma discrimination and racism did not receive recognition from state institutions, and the society at large. The manifestations of antigypsyism significantly broader than the legal definition of discrimination.
- On 4 January 2021, the Romanian Parliament adopted a law containing measures to combat antigypsyism yet it does not include provisions on what antigypsyism is and its manifestations (including cumulative and intersectional discrimination).
- Both the European Union Roma Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the 2021 Council Recommendation on Roma, ask the Romanian government to introduce antigypsyism as a horizontal objective and to set quantitative targets by 2030 to combat and prevent it! We expect that Romania, a country with a high Roma population to engage into more ambitious actions



In order to make social inclusion measures more effective and increase their sustainability, the Romanian Government should officially **recognize antigypsyism as a specific form of racism against Roma**, treat it as a horizontal issue in all policy areas and ensure its mainstreaming in all relevant policies and legislation including funding instruments.



The Romanian Government to **strengthen the enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation and ensure access to justice for Roma**.



The Romanian Government to monitor antigypsyism and to **collect gender-disaggregated data on antigypsyism**, as well as to include Romani women both in policy making mechanisms and consultation processes, and as targets in national programs and strategies.



× According to the data from the National Agency for equal Opportunities, Roma women in 2018 represented 46.5 % (1,569) of the total victims of a certain ethnicity (3374 victims) and in the first half of 2019 Roma women accounted for 35% (611) of 1753 victims of other ethnicities, the same data showing that in general, women/ girls represent approximately 60% of victims of domestic violence of which 83% are minors.

- The National Strategy for Inclusion of Romanian Citizens Belonging to the Roma Minority 2021-2027 does not contain a concrete and intersectional approach of the Roma women's needs in education, health, housing, employment or discrimination.
- It fails to further propose concrete specific and cross-cutting measures or special indicators for Roma women and does not include any measure to tackle domestic and gender-based violence against Ending violence against Roma women and children is a legal, ethical and economic imperative.



Include in the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion a gender perspective translated in **dedicated objectives, measures and indicators concerning Romani women** in all its areas of intervention, such as education, employment, housing, health care, access to justice, antigypsyism, etc.



Ensure that violence against Romani women is an area of intervention of the National Strategy with **specific measures of prevention and combating of all forms of violence**, such as domestic violence, trafficking, forced marriage, etc.



Make sure that **appropriate funding is allocated in the state budget for the implementation of the National Strategy** (every year, during state budget development) and that line ministries should be accountable for specific budget allocations and report on spending.

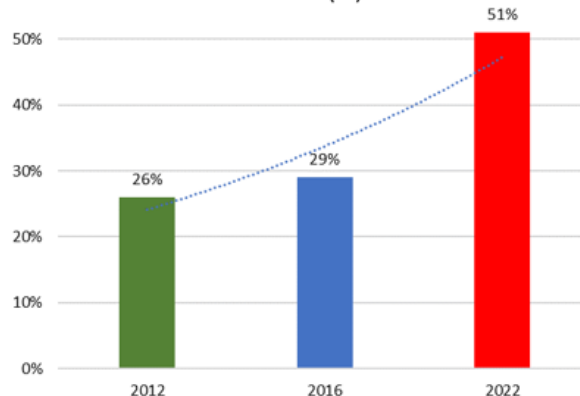


Mainstreaming Romani women concerns and priorities into national policies concerning gender equality or with gender perspective and include specific measures, indicators, and allocated budget for Romani women empowerment.



× The most recent report presented to the Romanian Parliament by the Association Center for Advocacy and Human Rights (CADO) found that 285 schools out of 805 in 11 monitored counties register at least one form of segregation.

Roma children aged 6–15 from Romania who attend schools where all or most pupils are Roma (%)



Source: Fundamental Rights Agency, 2022

- Roma students continue to face problems in the education system, namely early school leaving, poor quality of education, racism, and ethnic segregation despite the many public policy measures implemented in recent decades.
- Racial segregation in education in Romania represents a clear manifestation of antigypsyism.
- The repeated adoption of administrative regulations indicates the persistence of segregation in the Romanian education system.
- No accurate data is available regarding the extent of school segregation; in spite of the legal obligation of the Ministry of Education to report annually on the state of education in Romania.



Implement the existing legal framework on school segregation and take sufficient preventive measures to protect Roma children against discrimination by reporting on the status of Roma children's education on an annual basis.



Stop delaying and apply nationally as soon as possible the Educational Ministerial Order no. 5.633/2019, which approved the Methodology for monitoring school segregation and initiate the desegregation process



Activate the National Commission for Desegregation and Inclusive Education established by Order no. 3.141/2019 and Order 4.789/2019 of the Minister of Education which is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan for school desegregation in pre-university education units.



- × About 70% of Romanian Roma live in housing deprivation
- × 86% of Romanian Roma live in overcrowded households
- × Across Europe the share of Roma living in households that were forced to leave their homes is 5%
(Source: Fundamental Rights Agency, 2022)

- In addition to precarious living situations, Roma often live in substandard housing, face obstacles when looking for new accommodation (many landlords explicitly state no Roma), and experience (and fear) evictions (reportedly) more often than the general population.
- Roma face evictions because of a lack of property documents (which highly associated with a lack of identity documents), because of the illegality of the construction, the development real estate projects – in many cases associated with corruption, etc.
- There are many Roma households who do not have formal legal rights to their land and buildings, even when they have been living on the land for years, decades or centuries.
- Lack of formal property rights contributes to marginalization of Roma, as it denies access to infrastructure, social services, and credits, and restrains economic opportunities.
- If evicted Roma are not provided adequate alternative housing and many continue to live in makeshift barracks for years after they have been evicted, highly exposed to environmental hazards.



Adopt and implement legislation to **ensure that evictions are carried out in compliance with international human rights standards** and take safeguards against Roma discrimination and marginalisation.



Increase the annual budget allocation for social housing and immediately **relocate to safe and sanitary environments those who were forcibly evicted** and placed in unsuitable living conditions.



Amend law on public housing to establish a clear national framework of **allocation of social housing that prioritize vulnerable groups, including Roma people**, in line with human rights international standards.



Strengthen administrative support to Roma communities to **legalise their housing titles and increase access to alternative housing**, including social housing, making sure that there is no discrimination in the awarding of social housing leases.

