



The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)



“The Protection of Roma Populations”

Study Guide

Contributors: Giorgos Margaritis, Christos Anastasiadis, Angeliki Papaioannou

All rights reserved, © ARCMUN 2020

Table of Contents

1. Welcoming letter	4
2. Introduction to the Committee	5
3. Introduction to the Topic	5
4. Definition of Key Terms	6
5. History of the Topic	7
6. Legal Framework	8
7. Discussion of the Topic	10
7.1 Access to Education	10
7.2 Access to Labour	11
7.3 Access to Decision Making	12
7.4 Recent Incidents	13
8. Actions Already Taken	14
9. Conclusion	15
10. Points to be Addressed	16
11. Recommended Reading	16
12. Bibliography	17

1. Welcoming letter

Honourable delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you all in this year's UNESCO of ARCMUN 2020. As members of the board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, we look forward to meeting and working with all of you. Within this study guide you will find all of the important information, as well as guidelines about our topic "Protecting Roma Populations" and it also offers you a starting point for your research. We believe that UNESCO is a fascinating Committee, as its main objective is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice. We are confident that we will all manage to collaborate excellently during the conference. Your board wishes you all a fruitful beginning, while reading this study guide and writing your position paper. Do not hesitate to communicate with us, if you need any clarifications or help, we remain at your disposal!

Sincerely,

Giorgos Margaritis, Main Chair

Christos Anastasiadis, Co-Chair

Angeliki Papaioannou, Junior Chair

2. Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation is a specialised agency of the United Nations based in Paris, France, founded in November 16, 1945 in London United Kingdom and formed in November 4, 1946. UNESCO's mission is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, cultural communications and information. Also, UNESCO's World Heritage goal is to encourage States Parties to establish management plans and set up reporting systems on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites, as well as provide emergency assistance for World Heritage sites in immediate danger^{1,2}. The Executive Board is one of the three constitutional organs of UNESCO and it is selected by the General Conference. Acting under authority of the General Conference, the Board examines the programme of work for the Organisation and corresponding budget estimates submitted to it by the Director-General. Last but not least, it consists of 58 Member States each with a four-year term office.³

3. Introduction to the Topic

The Romany, also known as Roma or Gypsies are an ethnic group of traditionally nomadic people who originated in northern India but live in modern times, worldwide, principally in Europe. Most Roma speak some form of Romany. Available evidence suggests that many Roma live in overwhelmingly poor conditions on the margins of society and face extreme levels of social exclusion. Most of Roma are currently faced with the rather severe economic situation in most of the member countries of the European Council. In central and eastern Europe the economic and political transition has aggravated their socially disadvantaged situation. Discrimination and racism against Roma come in many different forms, ranging from silent indifference to hate speech and violence against individuals or entire communities⁴. In addition, growing populism and extremism in many countries with significant Roma populations have deepened societal divisions, causing more stigmatisation of Roma communities. This has led to a desensitisation of the public and resurgence of unacceptable myths about Roma criminality, unworthiness and inferiority. The Assembly has stressed the

¹ Centre, U. (2019). *The World Heritage Convention*. [online] Whc.unesco.org. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/convention/> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

² Centre, U. (2019). *World Heritage*. [online] Whc.unesco.org. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/about/> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

³ UNESCO. (2019). *Executive Board in brief*. [online] Available at: <https://en.unesco.org/executiveboard/inbrief> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

⁴ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2019). *Roma*. [online] Available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/roma> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

need for special protection for the Roma and condemned the various forms of discrimination suffered by them in the member states of the European Council. Although international organisations, national governments, local authorities and non-governmental organisations have made great efforts, the aims set by this recommendation have been achieved to a restricted extent⁵.

4. Definition of Key Terms:

In order to fully grasp the situation behind the miss-treatment of Roma populations, it is pivotal that we elaborate on some key definitions that are connected with the topic area at hand.

4.1 Diaspora:

Encyclopaedia Britannica defines diaspora as groups of people sharing a common religious, ethnic or other background, who have emigrated from their place of origin and have settled in various locations around the world.⁶ Some historic examples of this phenomenon include the diaspora of Jews, African diaspora, Greek diaspora, and so on.

4.2 Human Rights:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights defines the fundamental rights of all human beings as inalienable, inherent to all people, indivisible and interdependent. Some of the most basic human rights include the right to live, to property, the freedom of thought and expression, the right to democracy, and the right of education.⁷

4.3 Minority:

A group of people with the same cultural, ethnical or racial background, that coexists with another group to which it is subordinate. A minority does not necessarily imply that the subordinate group is smaller in terms of population, with a prime example being the black minority in South Africa under the apartheid (1950-91)⁸.

⁵ Assembly.coe.int. (2019). *Legal situation of the Roma in Europe*. [online] Available at: <http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewHTML.asp?FileID=9676&lang=EN> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

⁶ Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019). *Diaspora / social science*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/diaspora-social-science> [Accessed 30 Sep. 2019].

⁷ Un.org. (2019). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/> [Accessed 2 Oct. 2019].

⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019). *minority / Definition & Facts*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/minority> [Accessed 3 Oct. 2019].

4.4 Discrimination:

By discrimination we mean the prejudicial and negative treatment of people based on their race, ethnic or religious background, sex etc.⁹ For example, racial discrimination may involve unequal treatment as regards job opportunities or may even lead to harassment through the use of hate speech and abuse, all because of a person's race.

4.5 Antigypsyism:

Also known as Anti-ziganism, anti-Romanyism, and Romaphobia, Antigypsyism is outlined by the EU Alliance Against Antigypsyism as a tendency of racism against groups of people identified under the pejorative term “gypsy” or other similar terms.¹⁰ Antigypsyism implies:

- a) the homogenizing of said groups as one;
- b) the attribution of specific characteristics to them;
- c) the creation of discriminatory, even violent, social structures, degrading said groups, leading to systemic economic, social, and other disadvantages.¹¹

4.6 Civil Society:

Civil society refers to the space for collective action around shared interests, purposes and values, generally distinct from government and commercial for-profit actors. Civil society includes charities, development NGOs, community groups, women's organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations etc. Despite its complexity and heterogeneity, the inclusion of civil society voices is essential to give expression to the marginalized and those who are often not heard. Finally, civil society actors can enhance the participation of communities in the provision of services and in decision-making processes¹².

5. History of the Topic

The history and culture of the Romany people is surrounded by stereotypes and misnomers. Because of such images spread by mass media's misunderstandings of the Romany, it is often believed that the Romany people are to be feared, exiled and avoided. The Roma seem to have migrated from northern India to Persia in the

⁹ Dictionary.cambridge.org. (2019). *DISCRIMINATION* / meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary. [online] Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/discrimination> [Accessed 30 Sep. 2019].

¹⁰ Antigypsyism.eu. (2019). [online] Available at: <http://antigypsyism.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Antigypsyism-reference-paper-16.06.2017.pdf> [Accessed 2 Oct. 2019].

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² World Health Organization. (2019). *Civil society*. [online] Available at: https://www.who.int/social_determinants/themes/civilsociety/en/ [Accessed 15 Oct. 2019].

11th Century, from there, moving into and populating Europe by the 1400's¹³. Nowadays for a variety of reasons, most Romani choose not to register their ethnic identity in official censuses. There are an estimated 3.8 million Romany people in Europe although some high estimates by Romany organisations give numbers as high as 14 million. Significant Romany populations are found in the Balkans, in some Central European states, in Spain, France, Russia and Ukraine. Several million more Romanies may live outside Europe, in particular in the Middle East and in the Americas¹⁴.

Roma from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and other parts of Europe were transported to what was known as the "gypsy camp" in the BIIe section of the Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp. On 2 August 1944, 2897 people were taken to the gas chambers and exterminated. Only a few months earlier, on 16 May 1944, the detainees of the "Gypsy Camp" had refused to obey the orders of the SS soldiers who had come to kill them. Knowledge about both the Roma uprising and liquidation of the "Gypsy Camp" remains limited in European societies today. Furthermore, most people do not know, for instance, that Roma were banned from the Holy Roman Empire in 1501 and, as of this date, they could be caught and killed by any citizen. In France, Louis XIV decreed in 1666 that all Roma males should be sent for life to galleys without trial, that women should be sterilised and that children should be put in poorhouses. In Spain, it was decided in 1749 to detain all Roma in an operation known as the "Great Gypsy Round-Up". Moreover the Roma "Pharrajimos"-the Roma Holocaust- carried out during the Second World War was a culmination of these policies of exclusion, elimination and forced assimilation. However, 70 years after the end of the Second World War, memory work regarding the fate of the Roma is still incomplete. Also, some mainstream politicians in a context of growing populism in Europe, have publicly allowed themselves to condone the Roma's¹⁵.

Over the last years, actions have been taken in order to further the development and integration of the Roma population. These years of implementation and development of comprehensive programmes and projects have yielded positive results, but still remain inadequate. In 1989, the Spanish Roma Development Programme was launched. This programme represented a significant step forward in improving the living conditions of the Roma populations, with a constant and continuing allocation of resources and the cooperation and participation of all public administrations, along with economic support aimed at strengthening the Roma associative movement. In recent years, progress has been made regarding the participation of Roma associations in the public sphere, with

¹³ Ancient-origins.net. (2019). *The Real History of the Romani People and the Misnomer of Gypsies*. [online] Available at: <https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-famous-people/romani-people-0010492> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

¹⁴ En.wikipedia.org. (2019). *Romani people*. [online] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romani_people [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

¹⁵ Commissioner for Human Rights. (2019). *Time to cure amnesia about the history of Roma in Europe*. [online] Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/time-to-cure-amnesia-about-the-history-of-roma-in-europe> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

the creation of the State Council for the Roma people in 2005 and the Foundation Institute for the Roma culture in 2007 acknowledging their culture and enhancing their contribution to the Spanish culture in general¹⁶.

Although, all these achievements are contributing to improving the social situation and living conditions of the Roma community, it is necessary to promote new actions to correct the existing imbalances and advocate new forms of participation and social development.

6. Legal Framework

The protection of minority groups has been an utmost priority on an international level. This is reflected in a wide range of legislative texts in the form of Covenants and Declarations. The purpose of this section will be to highlight some of the most significant ones.

6.1 International Bill of Human Rights:

It is the name given to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 217(III) and two international treaties established by the United Nations. It consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The International Bill of Human Rights is a milestone document in the history of human rights and influences the decisions and actions of Government, State and Non-State actors to make civil, economic and social rights a top priority in the formation and implementation of national, regional and international law.¹⁷

6.1.1 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

The ICCPR is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966. The ICCPR protects a wide range of rights, many of which are similar to rights often called civil rights or civil liberties in domestic law, including the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of religion etc. The Covenant has 173 states-parties and 74 signatories while being a part of the International Bill of Human Rights. Finally, the ICCPR is monitored by the UN Human Rights Committee based on regular reports submitted by states-parties concerning the implementation of civil and political rights.¹⁸

¹⁶ Mscbs.gob.es. (2019). [online] Available at: https://www.mscbs.gob.es/ssi/familiasInfancia/PoblacionGitana/docs/INGLES_ACCESIBLE.pdf [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

¹⁷ ESCR-Net. (2019). *International Bill of Human Rights*. [online] Available at: <https://www.escr-net.org/resources/international-bill-human-rights> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

¹⁸ Treaties.un.org. (2019). *UNTC*. [online] Available at: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-4&chapter=4&clang=_en [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

6.1.2 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):

The ICESCR is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966. There are 71 signatories and 170 states-parties to the Covenant which are obliged to work towards the granting of economic, social and cultural rights to the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories and individuals including labor rights, the right to health, the right to education and the right to an adequate standard of living. It allows states a wide degree of discretion in determining the most effective way to protect the aforementioned rights, given the different circumstances in each country. The ICESCR is monitored by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and is a part of the International Bill of Human Rights.¹⁹

6.2 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD):

The ICERD is a UN Convention which obliges its parties to eliminate racial discrimination and promote understanding among all races while requiring them to outlaw hate speech and criminalize membership in racist organizations. It is important to highlight the inclusion of an individual complaint mechanism in the ICERD which makes the Convention effectively enforceable against its parties. In addition, the ICERD specifically allows states to adopt special measures to ensure that certain racial or ethnic groups or individuals can enjoy equal rights in practice, provided that such measures do not lead to the permanent maintenance of separate rights for different racial groups. There are 88 signatories and 181 states-parties to the ICERD which is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)²⁰.

6.3 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:

Commonly known as UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT), it is an international human rights treaty, under the review of the United Nations, according to which states are required to prevent torture in their jurisdiction and to forbid the transportation of people to any country where there is reasonable concern that they will suffer torture. The UNCAT provides members of minorities with equal protection against torture as any other individual. The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1984 and since its entry into force the absolute prohibition against cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment consists one of the principles of customary international law. Last but not least, the implementation of the UNCAT is monitored by the Committee against Torture (CAT)²¹.

¹⁹ ibid

²⁰ ibid

²¹ ibid

6.4 Declaration on the Rights of People belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities:

The UN member states took a significant step towards ending discrimination against minorities when, in 1992, they unanimously adopted the aforementioned Declaration. This document sets out essential standards aiming to protect the rights of people belonging to minority groups and provides states with the necessary guidance in order for them to achieve diversity and non-discrimination in their jurisdiction. The Declaration is the fundamental instrument that guides UN activities in the field of minority rights²².

7. Discussion of the Topic:

The presence of Roma populations has been sonorous throughout the centuries, mainly in Europe, but also throughout the rest of the world, with people of Romani heritage populating parts of Asia, and even the Americas.²³ However, the treatment of said populations in the lands where they settled has rarely, if at all, been equitable. Discrimination against Romani people, and the emergence of antigypsyism overall, has been a phenomenon with a historical background far older than the recent ascent of nationalist sentiment.²⁴ The discriminatory practices that Romani citizens have been facing over the years have had a severe impact on their lives; poverty, poor quality housing, substandard education, and a disconnection from decision making are all but a few of the instances where most fundamental human rights have been compromised for Roma populations.

7.1 Access to Education:

Education, apart from comprising a basic human right, is an outlet towards self-fulfillment, the development of essential skills and values in order to adequately participate as a member of society. Although access to education is ensured, given that schools are compulsory up to an age, at least in most countries, Romani children exhibit alarmingly high drop-out rates, with many never actually enrolling in any form of educational institution at all. Reasons behind low attendance rates for Roma children vary widely. Factors leading to this situation may be external, like shortages in school equipment, and lack of proper commute, but also internal,

²² Ohchr.org. (2019). [online] Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Minorities/Booklet_Minorities_English.pdf [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

²³ Matras, Y. (n.d.). Romani. [online] p.1. Available at: https://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/downloads/2/Matras_Rmni_ELL.pdf [Accessed 3 Oct. 2019].

²⁴ Antigypsyism.eu. (2019). [online] Available at: <http://antigypsyism.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Antigypsyism-reference-paper-16.06.2017.pdf> [Accessed 2 Oct. 2019].

such as language and communication problems, a distrust of the educational system, early marriage and childbirth, or the need to contribute to family income. 'Figure 1' presents the percentage of Roma children aged 4 and up to starting-compulsory-primary-school-age, attending preschool or kindergarten during 2010-2011 in the EU.²⁵

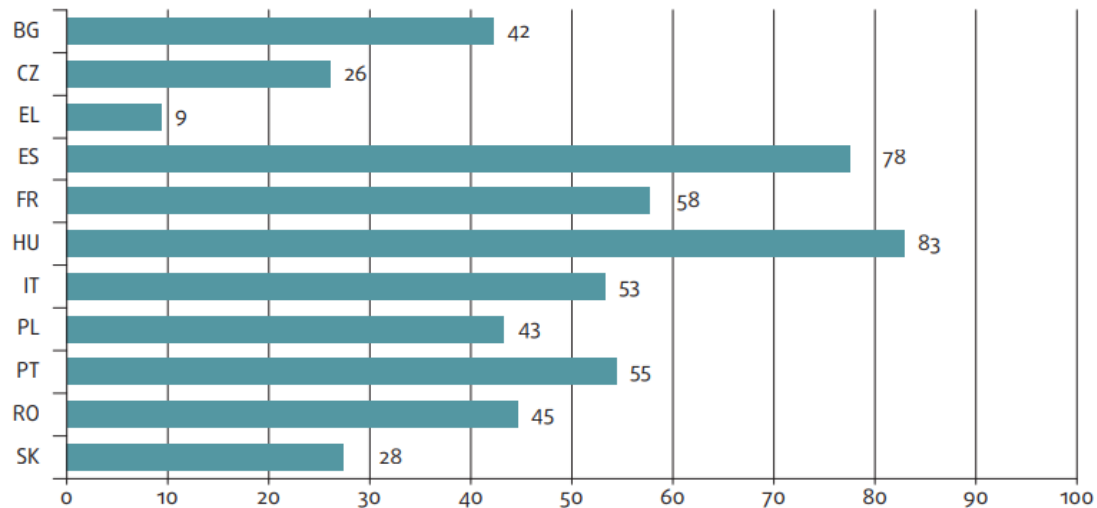


Figure 1

Thus, the issue of school attendance and enrollment is a phenomenon still persisting to this day for children of Romani descent, which leads to high illiteracy rates among their communities, enhancing the gap between Roma and Non-Roma citizens, ultimately creating a vicious cycle of marginalization, fewer opportunities, and, in turn, even lower school attendance.

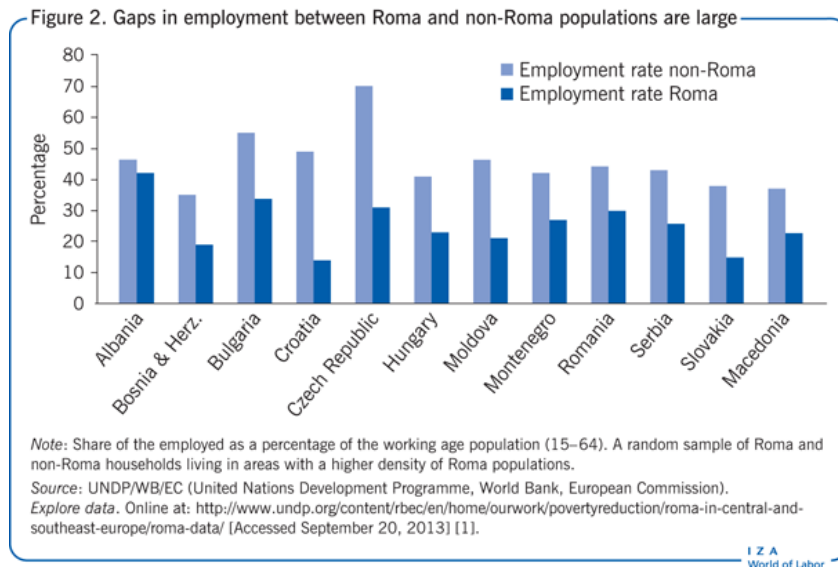
7.2 Access to Labour:

Data regarding the integration of Roma people in the labour force has been scarce or, in many cases, unreliable due to insufficient evidence and gross overgeneralisations.²⁶ What is certain is that Romani do have an obvious disadvantage as regards their presence in the labour market. 'Figure 2' showcases the employment rate gaps between Roma and non-Roma populations in the EU, indicating that in most countries the gap is at least 10%. This means that, for example in Bulgaria about 55% of non-Roma citizens are employed, while only around 30% of Romani participate in the labour force.²⁷

²⁵ Fra.europa.eu. (2019). [online] Available at: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014_roma-survey_education_tk0113748enc.pdf [Accessed 3 Oct. 2019].

²⁶ Kahanec, M. (2014). Roma integration in European labor markets. *IZA World of Labor*.

²⁷ ibi



Apart from employment rates, the case can be made that Romani are almost exclusively limited to manual labour and low-pay occupations, this being a result of pre-existing conditions, like low educational attainment, lack of domestic resources, and so on. In addition to having a difficulty in finding jobs due to the aforementioned factors, Roma workers face discrimination even inside the workplace. This can manifest in many different forms. For example, data has shown that Roma workers are subject to sub-optimal, unequal treatment in their work environment, while also receiving, on average, lower wages. Access to health care and insurance is also limited for said populations, further enhancing the gap between them and non-Roma citizens. This whole situation is even further exacerbated by the fact that political figures have little to no incentive to face the challenges of Roma integration, resulting in insufficient policies and the ever-untreated notion among the general public that promotes Roma inferiority, and the assumption that they live off of illegal practices, like scamming, and theft.

7.3 Access to Decision Making:

Despite the fact that Romani minorities are quite sizeable in many countries, they are far from being proportionally represented in the political sphere. Being elected in positions of power is almost impossible for a person of Romani descent, and although some progress has been made in recent years, the fact is that Roma officials are often hindered by barriers set out by other colleagues - members of the majority.²⁸ This, however, is not the sole obstacle that Romani participating in

²⁸ Veselý, I. (2019). *Roma and Politics: Where is the Real Power of the Romani Movement?* - European Roma Rights Centre. [online] European Roma Rights Centre. Available at: <http://www.errc.org/roma-rights-journal/roma-and-politics-where-is-the-real-power-of-the-romani-movement> [Accessed 5 Oct. 2019].

decision making face. It is usually the case that Roma officials in high seats of power are viewed with distrust and suspicion by members of their own communities, who accuse them of seeking their own personal interest, neglecting the community's needs. Therefore, although representation of Roma populations is lacking, it seems that merely including some of them as members of the elite has little to no effect. Instead, Romani communities as a whole have to organise themselves politically, in order to independently, and consciously participate in democratic procedures. However, there is another issue that plagues Romani populations as regards democracy and decision making. It has to do with the political manipulation of said people, by means of bribery, police action and attacks.²⁹ Indeed, in many Eastern European countries such phenomena are commonplace, with Roma citizens selling their votes, neglecting to participate in elections, and failing to bring forth qualified candidates, consequently eroding the democratic backbone of the states, creating immense domestic corruption. This, in turn, leads to the levelling of Roma voters' democratic rights, stripping their votes of any essential value, causing the division between them and the majority to increase.

7.4 Recent Incidents:

It is an undeniable fact that the climate revolving around the perception and acceptance of Roma populations worldwide has bettered. Explicit assimilationist agendas have been condemned and abandoned by governments, while the direct persecution of Romani solely based on their ethnic background is, too, considered a thing of the past. This, however, does not imply that discrimination, harassment, and hate against said people has been eliminated, especially when examined as a social phenomenon within communities. The up-rise of conservative ideology in recent years, has led to Roma, and other minorities being targeted by far-right groups who use them as scapegoats, aiming to further their political narrative and agenda. Euronews writes that protests were held in Rome, Italy in April 2019, in order to prevent the housing of 60 Roma people, most of them women and children, in a government-owned centre.³⁰ The Guardian, reporting on the same issue, reveals that protesters prevented the transfer of Romani families by “set[ting] fires to cars and bins, [and] destroy[ing] food that was meant for

²⁹ Sudetic, C. (2019). *Roma in Political Life: Bulgaria—Political Manipulation and the Damage Done*. [online] Opensocietyfoundations.org. Available at: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/roma-political-life-bulgaria-political-manipulation-and-damage-done> [Accessed 5 Oct. 2019].

³⁰ euronews. (2019). *Violent protest against Roma families in Italy triggers investigation*. [online] Available at: <https://www.euronews.com/2019/04/04/violent-protest-against-roma-families-in-italy-triggers-investigation> [Accessed 6 Oct. 2019].

Roma.”³¹ More and more incidents of such nature have been taking place among countries: Anti-Roma protests were recently held in Hungary, as a response to the commemoration of shootings against innocent Roma families,³² while a police officer in Czechia was not convicted by his region’s District Court, despite beating up a legally-working Romani man.³³ All of the examples given above indicate not only that violence against Roma populations still persists, but that it might as well be regaining momentum at an alarming rate.

8. Actions Already Taken³⁴

In order for the protection of minority groups like the Roma to be achieved, many actions have taken place. Organisations like the EU and UN have been striving to ensure that such groups be properly integrated and treated in a fair and respectful manner. The following are some notable examples of the international community’s response.

8.1. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner (OHCHR):

The High Commissioner of the UN has the lead responsibility within the UN system for implementing the UN human rights program. The OHCHR plays a pivotal role in protecting the rights of minorities, ensuring that minority issues are regularly placed on the international human rights agenda, as it creates dialogue with governments and other UN bodies. It provides minority rights advocates who have concerns about the protection of minority rights with the option to contact directly the OHCHR and, finally, enables minorities to communicate directly with UN staff and participate in relevant programming, training and monitoring activities.

8.2. Universal Periodic Review:

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was established in 2006 by the Resolution 60/251. The Resolution instructed the Human Rights Council to "undertake a universal periodic review based on objective and reliable information, on the fulfillment by each state of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all member states. The UPR is conducted every four and a half years and it is a State-driven process which reviews the human rights situation in each country. Its

³¹ Tondo, L. (2019). *Neo-fascist violence keeps Roma out of Rome neighbourhood*. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/03/neo-fascist-violence-keeps-roma-out-of-rome-neighbourhood> [Accessed 6 Oct. 2019].

³² U.S. (2019). *Tension flares between Roma, extremists in Hungary*. [online] Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hungary-extremists/tension-flares-between-roma-extremists-in-hungary-idUSKCN1SR2DQ> [Accessed 6 Oct. 2019].

³³ romea.cz. (2019). *Czech court says police officer who beat Romani worker did not commit a felony* - Romea.cz. [online] Available at: <http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/czech-court-says-police-officer-who-beat-romani-worker-did-not-commit-a-felony> [Accessed 6 Oct. 2019].

³⁴ Ohchr.org. (2019). [online] Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR-PUB-12-07_en.pdf [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

aims is to safeguard human rights globally and to enhance State capacity and cooperation in this field.

8.3. The United Nations Special Procedures:

It is a term that covers a wide range of mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council to address specific country situations or thematic issues. They comprise one of the most effective ways of confronting with specific occasions of human rights violations. Some of the UN Special Procedures which are related to minority issues are:

- **The Independent Expert on minority issues**, who is requested to specifically target the situation of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the rights of such groups.
- **The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief**, who holds the authority to transmit urgent appeals to States on individual cases where freedom of religion or belief has been violated.
- **The Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights**, who is requested to cooperate with the States in promoting and protecting cultural rights at the local, national, regional and international levels.

8.4. UNESCO's International Coalition of Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance:

Cities are places where people from different background, origins, religions, social classes etc. live and work together. This project aims at assisting municipalities to develop and strengthen their policies in order to achieve greater social inclusion.

8.5. Roma Civil Monitor:

It is a pilot project with the full title of "Capacity building for Roma civil society and strengthening its involvement in the monitoring of national Roma integration strategies". The project aims to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms of the implementation of the national Roma integration strategies through systematic civil society monitoring by developing the policy monitoring capacities of civil society actors and by supporting the preparation of comprehensive annual civil society monitoring reports. The project is managed by the European Commission and will be implemented with active participation of around 90 NGOs from 27 European Union member states.³⁵

8.6. European Platform for Roma Inclusion:

The European Commission promotes the active involvement of Roma in European decision-making processes through the European Platform for Roma Inclusion. Platform meetings bring together representatives of national governments, the

³⁵ Cps.ceu.edu. (2019). *Roma Civil Monitor* / *Center for Policy Studies*. [online] Available at: <https://cps.ceu.edu/roma-civil-monitor> [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

European Union, international organizations and Roma civil society to enhance cooperation and exchange experience on successful Roma inclusion policies and practices. Following the adoption of an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, the European Platform has been reformed so as to give it a stronger role in connection with the Framework process and to give the Commission the leading role in its operation.

9. Conclusion:

Overall, on the basis of what has been analysed so far, Roma populations are dispersed among many diasporas worldwide. They boast a colourful, and complex culture, with a rich history that goes back many centuries. The discrimination and dehumanising practices they have had to face throughout all those years are undeniable facts which have pushed contemporary Romani people to live in society's margins. They have been systematically receiving fewer job opportunities, inadequate education, unequal and intolerant treatment in their communities, and have been viewed as a dangerous, and untrustworthy people. Although national and international actions have taken place, the situation is still far from being resolved. This becomes evident when one takes into consideration the recent acts of violence targeted against Roma populations. It is therefore, paramount to further enhance the position of Romani people in society, urging local and broader communities to accept them as the functioning and legitimate members of society they are.

10. Points to be Addressed:

1. What are the reasons behind the violation of Romani human rights?
2. Which are the consequences of antigypsyism and what is the role of education towards preventing them?
3. How can we safeguard equal access to education, ensuring that Roma people are granted their right to knowledge?
4. Which are the obstacles preventing Roma people from accessing the labour market? How can we ensure that they have equal rights and opportunities in this context?
5. How can the participation of Romani in the political sphere be enhanced? Is this enough to promote their social elevation?
6. What can be done to protect Roma from acts of violence and discrimination?
7. Is the existing legal framework competent enough to protect Romani people on a national and international level?

8. Is the monitoring of human rights violations in member states necessary and sufficient? How can it be enhanced?
9. Should states have an official national strategy for tackling abusive and violent acts against Roma?

11. Recommended Reading:

In order to further facilitate your research, we would like to refer you to two very useful sources which provide a clear outline of the topic, stressing the importance of the matter and providing further insight regarding its implications.

- 1) “The Struggle for Survival of the Roma People: Europe's Most Hated” by Vice. Available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALdlphTYdi4&feature=youtu.be>
- 2) “Antigypsyism - A Reference Paper” by the Alliance Against Antigypsyism. Available at:
<http://antigypsyism.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Antigypsyism-reference-paper-16.06.2017.pdf>

12. Bibliography

Anon., 2012. *OHCHR*. [Online]

Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR-PUB-12-07_en.pdf
[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., 2013. *Open Society Foundations*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/roma-political-life-bulgaria-political-manipulation-and-damage-done>
[Accessed 05 10 2019].

Anon., 2019. *Euronews*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.euronews.com/2019/04/04/violent-protest-against-roma-families-in-italy-triggers-investigation>
[Accessed 06 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. [Online]

Available at: <https://cps.ceu.edu/roma-civil-monitor>
[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *Antigypsyism.eu*. [Online]

Available at: <http://antigypsyism.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Antigypsyism->

reference-paper-16.06.2017.pdf

[Accessed 02 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *Assembly.coe*. [Online]

Available at: <http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewHTML.asp?FileID=9676&lang=EN>

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *Cambridge Dictionary*. [Online]

Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/discrimination>

[Accessed 30 09 2019].

Anon., n.d. *COE*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/time-to-cure-amnesia-about-the-history-of-roma-in-europe>

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *ESCR-Net*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.escr-net.org/resources/international-bill-human-rights>

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *FRA*. [Online]

Available at: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014_roma-survey_education_tk0113748enc.pdf

[Accessed 03 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *FRA*. [Online]

Available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/roma>

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *MSCBS*. [Online]

Available at:

https://www.msrebs.es/ssi/familiasInfancia/PoblacionGitana/docs/INGLES_ACCESIBLE.pdf

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *UNESCO*. [Online]

Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/convention/>

[Accessed 14 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *UNESCO*. [Online]

Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *UNESCO*. [Online]

Available at: <https://en.unesco.org/executiveboard/inbrief>

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *United Nations*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

[Accessed 02 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *United Nations Treaty Collection*. [Online]

Available at: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-4&chapter=4&clang=en

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Anon., n.d. *Wikipedia*. [Online]

Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romani_people

[Accessed 13 10 2019].

Britannica, T. E. o. E., 2014. *Encyclopædia Britannica*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/diaspora-social-science>

[Accessed 30 09 2019].

Britannica, T. E. o. E., 2019. *Encyclopædia Britannica*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/minority>

[Accessed 03 10 2019].

Brown, K., n.d. *Humanities Manchester*. [Online]

Available at:

https://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/downloads/2/Matras_Rmni_ELL.pdf

[Accessed 03 10 2019].

Dunai, M., 2019. *Reuters*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hungary-extremists/tension-flares-between-roma-extremists-in-hungary-idUSKCN1SR2DQ>

[Accessed 06 10 2019].

Gwendolyn, A., 2019. *romea.cz*. [Online]

Available at: <http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/czech-court-says-police-officer-who-beat-romani-worker-did-not-commit-a-felony>

[Accessed 06 10 2019].

Tondo, L., 2019. *The Guardian*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/03/neo-fascist-violence-keeps-roma-out-of-rome-neighbourhood>

[Accessed 06 10 2019].

Veselý, I., n.d. *errc*. [Online]

Available at: <http://www.errc.org/roma-rights-journal/roma-and-politics-where-is-the-real-power-of-the-romani-movement>

[Accessed 05 10 2019].

Winters, R., 2018. *Ancient Origins*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-famous-people/romani-people-0010492>