



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



Launch of first human rights education manual for young people to combat antigypsyism

The first human rights education manual for young people on combating antigypsyism – racism and discrimination against Roma – is to be launched on 21 April.

The manual – *Mirrors - Manual on combating antigypsyism through human rights education* – will be made public for the first time at a side event on *The Roma between memory and rights*, during the Council of Europe's April Parliamentary Assembly session. (The event will be held from 1 p.m.- 1.45 p.m. in Room 10 of the Palais de l'Europe).

Designed to empower 16 to 30 year olds to tackle individual and institutional racism against Roma, the manual provides educators, teachers, trainers and youth organisations with comprehensive educational activities for groups of all types; those with or without Roma participants, as well as mixed groups.

It has been produced as part of the Council of Europe's Roma Youth Action Plan to help Roma young people participate in political decision-making and to confront the multiple forms of discrimination they face on a daily basis. The overall aim is to boost the inclusion, participation and standing of Roma in the wider community.

The Council of Europe has already published two popular human rights education manuals – *Compass* and *Compassito* (<http://www.eycb.coe.int/compass/>) – which have been translated into over 30 languages, as well as a human rights training manual on tackling hate speech, *Bookmarks*. (<http://nohate.ext.coe.int/Campaign-Tools-and-Materials/Bookmarks>). A manual specifically tackling antigypsyism was also necessary, however, given the persistence and scale of the racism and discrimination faced by Roma.

In his preface to the book, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland wrote: "Every day Europe's Roma suffer discrimination, humiliation and hatred. Not only is this an affront to our values, it is banned by our laws, including the European Convention on Human Rights...I hope as many educators and youth organisations as possible will use this manual to spread a simple message: Roma are at home in Europe; antigypsyism is not".

Note to Editors:

The book's author, Ellie Keen, will be available for interview, as well as Juan Ramon Flores, a Roma activist and member of the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth, part of the Organisation's pioneering co-management structure, in which youth leaders share decision-making powers on youth policies and programmes with government representatives.