

**Statement by the members of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Education
(CDEDU)**

Education about the Roma Holocaust and Roma and Travellers history¹

Recalling that the last Roma and Sinti in the German Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau were murdered by the SS on 2 August 1944 and that in memory of all Roma and Sinti murdered in Nazi-occupied Europe, this date is commemorated as the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day;

Commemorating the 80th anniversary of this dark date;

Acknowledging that the commemoration of the victims and recalling of the Nazi crimes and the Holocaust must be considered as an integral part of upholding human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the present day;

Recognising that the memory of historical events inherently carries the responsibility of anchoring it for the future and has the purpose of learning from it; that remembrance is a “..key to the future through the efforts to keep its remembrance, particularly with the aim of avoiding further crimes against humanity” as stated in the CM/Rec (2022)5;

Reiterating that teaching about the longstanding presence in Europe of the Roma and Travellers, about their history and contribution to our societies is an effective tool to counter antigypsyism and other forms of hatred, discrimination and prejudice,

The Committee:

- **Recalls** Rec(2001)15 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on history teaching in twenty-first-century Europe, which defines the multiple aims of history teaching and highlights crucial issues, such as teaching and remembrance , identifying the ways to shape, develop and coordinate the relevant initial and in-service training for history teachers and help pupils develop knowledge and awareness of the events and their causes.
- **Recalls** the emphasis given by the 2030 Council of Europe Education Strategy “Learners First” to enhancing the social responsibility and responsiveness of education by prioritising responses tailored to the needs of learners, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, thereby promoting equity and inclusion and ensuring that education remains accessible to all and helping to shape autonomous, critical and enlightened citizens.
- **Welcomes** the results of the Romani-Plurilingual Policy Experimentation Project, the Curriculum Framework for Romani (CFR), the intergovernmental programme on

¹ The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Passing on the Remembrance of the Holocaust and prevention of crimes against humanity, as well as the HISTOLAB project under the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, and related resources under the CDEDU history programme.

- **Acknowledges follow up work of** the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity, and Inclusion to support the effective implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)2 **on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials.**
- **Acknowledges the contribution of the** Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion in guiding member States, teachers and educators to map good practices for teaching Roma and Traveller history and including it in teaching and learning materials.
- **Reiterates the importance for the Steering Committee for Education** to pay special attention to Roma and Travellers related topics when developing and implementing its Programmes of Activities.