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**10th Meeting of the Council of Europe
Dialogue with Roma and Traveller¹ Civil Society**
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**Combating hate speech directed against Roma and Travellers
Prevalence – Characteristics – Measures**

Conclusions and Recommendations

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The 10th meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society focused on discussing hate speech and understanding its impact on Roma and Traveller communities, as well as on identifying efficient and comprehensive measures to combat hate speech, in particular by strengthening the role and tools of Roma and Travellers civil society.

The conclusions and recommendations of the 10th Dialogue Meeting contribute to the drafting process for a new Committee of Ministers Recommendation on combating hate speech through a comprehensive approach, which is prepared in 2020-2021 by the [Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech \(ADI/MSI-DIS\)](#), as well as to the implementation of the Council of Europe [Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion \(2020-2025\)](#).²

The 10th Dialogue Meeting built on the conclusions and recommendations of the [General Policy Recommendation no. 15 on Combating Hate Speech](#) by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)³, which developed a wide set of measures on preventing and combating hate speech, on the [Parliamentary Assembly resolution](#)⁴ on the role and responsibilities of political leaders in combating hate speech and intolerance and on the work of the [No Hate Parliamentary Alliance](#), as well as on the experiences of the [No Hate Speech Movement campaign](#) of the Council of Europe.

A. Conclusions

1. Social acceptance of hate speech and antigypsyism

Monitoring reports of public, political and media discourses of recent years show a significant increase of hate speech against various societal groups undermining democratic culture and the rule of law. The

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, 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.

² Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) [CM\(2019\)161](#) approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 22 January 2020 at the 1365th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

³ Council of Europe – European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (2016): ECRI General Policy Recommendation no. 15 on Combating Hate Speech, adopted on 8 December 2015, [CRI\(2016\)15](#).

⁴ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: [Resolution 2275\(2019\)](#), "The role and responsibilities of political leaders in combating hate speech and intolerance", adopted by the Assembly on 10 April 2019 (15th Sitting).

social acceptance of hate speech and antigypsyism remains very high in mainstream society and even among political leaders and democratic institutions, constituting a major obstacle for the equality, inclusion and participation of Roma and Travellers. This situation was particularly highlighted through the increased amount of hate speech during the COVID-19 pandemic when some non-Roma aimed to scapegoat Roma and Traveller communities by alleging they were a potential threat to public health. This particularly dangerous form of hate speech does not only impact societal discourses and attitudes towards Roma and Travellers but serves as a concrete function and aids the political goals of the perpetrators, which include political leaders, aiming to legitimise discriminatory acts of local municipalities and state institutions. As experiences of discrimination, stigmatisation and violence against Roma and Travellers during the COVID-19 pandemic show, hate speech can lead to further incitement against Roma and Travellers, an increase of racially motivated violence and collective punishment, and therefore constituting a serious threat to the basic security and well-being of Roma and Travellers.

Antigypsyism does not only manifest itself in these very visible forms of harassment, discrimination, exclusion, hate speech and hate crimes, but also appears in many hidden, subtle forms such as implicit language, historically established and reproduced public images and bias, false representations of Roma and Travellers as a group, as well as in various forms of institutional behaviour such as serious neglect of Roma and Traveller issues and other forms of structural racism. While the definition of the [European Commission against Racism and Intolerance](#)⁵ describes the direct manifestations of antigypsyism, the more recent working definitions of the [Alliance against Antigypsyism](#)⁶ and the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance](#)⁷ (IHRA) aim to identify complex and interlinking mechanisms and the systemic nature of antigypsyism, including its historical roots, and different dimensions and manifestations.

Hate speech and antigypsyism continue to be the norm rather than the exception in public discourses all over Europe and one common denominator to it all seems to be that the Roma and Traveller victims are being blamed for their own suffering, exclusion and poverty and the many different kinds of historical and structural injustices that they face. Roma and Traveller civil society and activists report how they mostly feel left alone to counter and fight hate speech and antigypsyism. While we can see a slowly growing recognition of antigypsyism as a specific form of racism, we need to affirm that hate speech and antigypsyism⁸ are not "minority issues" but a problem of society as a whole, and one of the root causes leading to the exclusion of Roma and Travellers. In future, all European societies and their democratic institutions and leaders have to demonstrate more responsibility and accountability to prevent, mitigate, sanction and counter any form of hate speech against Roma and Travellers, while strengthening the voices of all those who are dramatically affected and silenced by hate speech and antigypsyism.

2. Relevance and implications of intersectionality in combating hate speech

The experience of hate speech has become a reality of the daily lives of most Roma and Travellers, in particular online through social media platforms, in supposedly safe spaces of learning, such as in schools and universities, and also at work or in public life. In order to identify and counter hate speech and antigypsyism effectively, it is crucial to recognise the relevance and implications of intersectionality, drawing attention, for example, to the gendered nature of antigypsyism that adds to the vulnerability of Romani women and girls. The intersectional experience of antigypsyism negatively particularly affects young people and members of the LGBTQI+ community. This means navigating the world and integrating into it as individual becomes difficult when Roma and Traveller victims are simultaneously

⁵ Council of Europe - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (2020): ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 13 on combating antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma, adopted on 24 June 2011 and amended on 1 December 2020, [CRI\(2011\)37rev.](#)

⁶ Alliance against Antigypsyism (2016): Antigypsyism – A Reference Paper, www.antigypsyism.eu

⁷ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (2020): The non-legally binding working definition of antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination, [adopted on 8 October 2020.](#)

⁸ Some participants from UK and Ireland also referred to 'antinomadism' as a form of racism.

impacted by prejudice and discrimination against poor citizens, racism, sexism, homophobia and ageism. Hate speech dramatically affects the self-perception, especially of young people and children, creates a culture of fear and insecurity, and leads to a feeling of not belonging and to diminishing participation in public life, as well as to emotional and psychological consequences such as stress, trauma, mental health risks and other potential harm. The suffering remains often silenced, and anti-discrimination and victim-support structures and programmes are hardly prepared to meet the needs of individuals experiencing intersectional forms of hate speech and antigypsyism.

3. Inefficient policies and insufficient or missing institutional structures against hate speech

Public policies and counter-measures against hate speech often remain ineffective particularly when it comes to the regulation of national and transnational social media platforms. The increase and amplification of hate speech, in particular through algorithm-driven new technologies, requires an improved policy framework that ensures both the freedom of opinion and expression and the protection from racial discrimination and other harmful phenomena of society. This requires not only new media self-regulatory approaches but also an appropriate legal framework with clearly defined protocols and guidelines. It further requires sufficient institutional structures and different service capacities at national and international levels to monitor, record and criminalise hate speech in traditional and new forms of media. In particular the police force and different parts of the judiciary play crucial roles in sanctioning and prosecuting hate speech perpetrators irrespective of their position or societal status.

Historically rooted antigypsyism in institutional policies and behaviour have led to a lack of trust from affected communities towards the responsible authorities, as well as the continued lack of proper responses and the inefficiency of legal complaint mechanisms. Anti-Roma and anti-Traveller hate speech is still not fully recognised and covered in monitoring and recording processes and disaggregated data remains scarce and untransparent. The social acceptance of anti-Roma and anti-Traveller hate speech, the inefficient institutional responses and a culture of impunity, has led to the reinforcement of hate speech and a further deterioration of public discourse. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to counter and sanction hate speech, and to restore trust of affected Roma and Traveller communities and individuals in the respective, accountable authorities that protect our democracies and the rule of law.

4. The role of political leaders in combating hate speech against Roma and Travellers in the public discourse and especially during election campaigns

One of the major concerns of Roma and Traveller civil society from across Europe was the increased prevalence of hate speech propagated by political leaders within and beyond the work of democratic institutions, in particular in public discourse and election campaigns. This issue was addressed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in its [2019 resolution](#) on "The role and responsibilities of political leaders in combating hate speech and intolerance".⁹

The public authority and the visibility of politicians can amplify the scope and impact of hate speech leading to an increased risk of escalating ethnic tensions, an accelerated and deepened societal polarisation and to the perceived legitimisation of discriminatory or violent acts.

Hate speech, in particular nationalist and anti-Roma and Traveller rhetorics, continue to play a powerful role for populist and right-wing extremist politicians during election campaigns to win votes, to mobilise their support base, and to shift the public discourse away from societal problems towards the stigmatised scapegoats. Far-right political parties and politicians currently aim to undermine the human rights consensus and democratic values by denouncing 'political correctness' of the so-called 'political establishment' which is blamed for infringing on their freedom of speech and covering up what they call

⁹ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: [Resolution 2275\(2019\)](#), "The role and responsibilities of political leaders in combating hate speech and intolerance", adopted by the Assembly on 10 April 2019 (15th Sitting).

the 'real problems'. This strategy aims to shift and legitimise racist and nationalist public discourses and bring them to the centre of society.

So far, judiciary systems and democratic institutions in the Council of Europe member States mostly refrain from sanctioning public officials and political leaders and parliaments do not efficiently apply their own ethical codes to sanction and prosecute their own members for hate speech against Roma and Travellers within or beyond the institution. This contributes to the normalisation of hate speech in public discourse and to an apparent culture of impunity.

5. Role of the media in the combat against hate speech and in the reproduction of antigypsyism

Hate speech is reportedly often fueled by journalists, classical media outlets and television broadcasters. Roma and Traveller civil society identified the reasons for this being on the one hand, the general lack of societal reflection about mechanisms and patterns of antigypsyism; and on the other, the lack of awareness about history, cultures, civil rights struggle and emancipatory movements of Roma and Travellers. One reason for this is that the history of Roma and/or Travellers is not adequately included in the educational curricula. While the [Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities](#)¹⁰ postulates state obligations for the public representation of minorities, their voice and societal diversity are not only underrepresented when it comes to the content and production of different media, but also when it comes to their participation in different supervisory and self-regulatory media boards.

Furthermore, hate speech and antigypsyism often serve as a profit-making interest of media outlets that ignore their ethical obligations of the press' code of conduct and for balanced media representation. Media, and sometimes even law enforcement authorities such as police and courts, may try to associate acts of criminality with a perceived ethnic belonging or nationality such as in the context of the so-called "clan criminality" and "organised crime". This violates protocols for criminal investigation, as well as the protection policies for sensitive data and ethical press codes. Often contributing to the stigma of criminality being attributed to all Roma and Travellers, ultimately undermining the core principles of the rule of law according to which every person is individually responsible for his or her own actions and has the right to a fair trial.

A particular concern of Roma and Traveller civil society regarding hate speech and antigypsyism is the negative visual representation of Roma and Travellers in the media which has a strong impact on defining the minorities' public image. Antigypsyism does not only appear with typical patterns in the written and spoken media narrative, but also through images that reproduce implicit and explicit, malevolent and benevolent, as well as negative and positive stereotypes, victimisation and many forms of negative stigmatisation. Press image archives offer very limited stock images that are constantly used by print and online press which would require a critical analysis, and consequently their removal or substitution with more accurate and diverse images. Only limited efforts have been made when it comes to individual state's cultural and media policies to support the development of such physical and online archives for Roma and Travellers that could change the visual representation and create new visual and oral narratives in the public discourse.

6. Amplification of antigypsyism through hate speech online

Online media platforms have radically changed the primary medium of public discourse in the past 10 years. While social media platforms have created new opportunities for citizens to participate in public and media discourses, the proliferation and amplification of online hate speech has at the same time created an atmosphere of intimidation and insecurity which disempowers citizens and in particular members of different vulnerable groups. Monitoring exercises have already documented widespread

¹⁰ Council of Europe (1995): Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, adopted on 1 Feb 1995, [European Treaty Series - No. 157](#).

online hate speech and antigypsyism, and also Roma and Traveller civil society has repeatedly addressed the insufficient reporting, monitoring, removal and protection policies. The business-model based and algorithm-driven open content recommender system of online social media platforms values attention and virality which can lead to polarisation of societal discourses presenting itself as fake news and filter bubbles, as well as to the amplification of potentially harmful content. Currently, most of the existing algorithms and reporting guidelines of the platforms remain opaque. However, increased transparency is crucial to giving control back of data to users, and to empowering underrepresented groups. The amplification of hate speech is further increased through triggering events, and discussions can quickly escalate from neutral and fact-based commenting to incitement and calls for violence and hate crimes. At present, state and private institutions and classical media outlets do not sufficiently moderate the discussions on their social media presence, at least when it comes to anti-Roma or anti-Traveller hate speech. Counter-speech strategies have already been proven as meaningful for both the victims of hate speech and majority audiences and need to be scaled-up. Further investment is necessary for the empowerment of young Roma and Travellers, to ensure that their voices are present in all relevant mainstream conversations and structures concerning combating online hate speech.

B. Recommendations

1. Improve the institutional and policy framework to prevent, mitigate and combat hate speech

1.1 National governments should improve their hate speech policy and institutional framework to uphold the rule of law in democratic societies by applying both reactive approaches to sanctioning hate speech, and preventive approaches in order to address the root causes of hate speech; but also through institutional reforms and increased diversity in their institutional and other societal structures, and by ensuring effective civil society and political participation mechanisms for Roma and Travellers and other minorities targeted by hate speech.

1.2 International organisations such as the Council of Europe should set all-encompassing policy standards based on the existing human rights framework, and contribute to guiding policy-making, necessary institutional reforms and capacity-building at national level while giving particular attention to intersectional discrimination, a victim-sensitive approach and civil society participation. Taking into account the transnational dimension of online hate speech and an array of different risks and challenges caused by it, international organisations should play a decisive role in shaping common policy standards for states and the private sector, as well as to actively promote responsibility and accountability of transnational social and traditional media businesses.

2. Advance the recognition of intersectionality in combatting hate speech and antigypsyism

2.1 States and international organisations should recognise antigypsyism as a specific form of racism that affects Roma and Travellers and others stigmatised as “gypsies” in the public imagination, in particular by adopting the “Working Definition of Antigypsyism” of IHRA, the Alliance against Antigypsyism, or ECRI in order to guide all legislative, executive and judiciary public authorities.

2.2 States should develop strategies and measures to combat hate speech and antigypsyism as a specific policy field, as well as a horizontal issue. Thereby mainstreaming the recognition and fight against hate speech and antigypsyism in, among others, national equality and non-discrimination legislation, National Action Plans Against Racism, and in national strategic frameworks for Roma equality, inclusion and participation.

2.3 Particular attention should be paid in all policies and programmes to recognising intersectionality and the diversity of Roma and Traveller communities, thus, recognising the root causes and implications of intersectional discrimination and gendered hate speech and antigypsyism in all preventive and reactive approaches.

2.4 The decade/century-old history of antigypsyism expressed through structural exclusion and discrimination, the Holocaust of Sinti and Roma, and institutional records of collective stigmatisation and punishment of Roma and Travellers requires a thorough historical analysis, and should be addressed through a transitional justice approach, for instance through Expert Commissions on Antigypsyism or Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, in order to recognise the historical responsibility towards Roma and Traveller communities, and to advance truth, recognition and remedy for antigypsyism.

2.5 The Council of Europe should step up its efforts to fight antigypsyism by scaling up and mainstreaming the fight against hate speech and antigypsyism, in particular through the implementation efforts concerning the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on combating hate speech and the [Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion \(2020-2025\)](#), as well as by engaging its relevant inter-secretarial structures such as different task forces and by applying its tools such as the youth and educational programmes, [EU-Council of Europe joint programmes](#), the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and the [Declaration of Mayors against anti-Gypsyism](#) by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities¹¹.

3. Ensure equal access to justice, and improve hate speech and hate crime victim-support policies and programmes

3.1 State governments have to ensure equal access to justice for victims of hate speech and hate crimes by improving institutional accountability and effectiveness, and by fully involving Roma and Travellers in their regular victim-support mechanisms and research to evaluate the accessibility of the law enforcement and justice, thus to identify and remedy any hidden barriers and reasons for underuse of hate speech and hate crime victim-support services, and underreporting of hate speech and hate crime, different forms of structural discrimination and racist institutional behavior.

3.2 Governments should improve the victim-support policies and programmes, by ensuring that victims of hate speech can access proper assistance in order to file complaints without any barriers, and enjoy equal treatment by any public authority; this should include awareness-raising programmes and capacity building among Roma and Travellers about their rights, equality and anti-racism legislation and victim-support programmes.

3.3 Victim-support programmes should take into account intersectional discrimination and respond to the needs of Roma and Traveller women, youth, LGBTIQ+ and elderly people. Furthermore, support programmes need to address psycho-social consequences of hate speech and racism, in particular regarding mental health, trauma and its transition from one generation to another, as well as to establish a system of protection, support and safe spaces for young Roma and Traveller activists, as young human rights defenders are particular exposed to harassment and hate speech online.

3.4 Governments and international organisations should strengthen and fund the work of civil society organisations engaged in litigation, advocacy and victim-support, as well as amend the legislative frameworks to enable the right for civil society to fully represent the interests and to litigate cases on behalf of victims of hate speech and racism.

4. Establish a comprehensive system of reporting, recording, monitoring and public documentation of hate speech

4.1 State authorities should recognise a working definition of hate speech, as well as of antigypsyism and other specific forms of racism, and collect disaggregated data in all reporting, recording and monitoring systems, including in private- and state-driven code of conduct monitoring mechanisms.

¹¹ Council of Europe - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities: Declaration of Mayors and Elected Local and Regional Representatives of Council of Europe Member States against anti-Gypsyism, March 2017.

4.2 National governments should annually publish the collected disaggregated data in a transparent and publicly accessible way; thus allowing the analysis of characteristics, causes, patterns and trends of hate speech in order to develop appropriate institutional and civil society responses.

4.3 Authorities should build a comprehensive reporting, recording and monitoring system by facilitating the co-operation and exchange between law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, policy-makers, civil society organisations and both public and private (social) media entities with the aim of improving the understanding of the problem and to combat, in particular, online hate speech effectively and timely by immediately removing all public hate speech content.

4.4 Governments should widen the mandate and increase the capacity of equality bodies, ombudspersons and national human rights institutions in data collection, monitoring and research concerning hate speech and antigypsyism with the involvement of academia and civil society, including by collecting quantitative and qualitative data on intersectional discrimination to allow analysis of trends.

4.5 Governments should strengthen and support the role of civil society organisations of Roma and Travellers to monitor and report hate speech (online), to train and empower young activists and community members to monitor and litigate cases of antigypsyism, to work closely with relevant authorities to remove hate speech online and help civil society to gain status as trusted flaggers and community-representing stakeholders among private social media enterprises and as partners in their self-regulatory system.

5. Improve media self-regulation and the related supervisory bodies, and ensure effective participation of Roma and Travellers in all relevant structures

5.1 States should promote ethical and balanced media reporting through the establishment of ethical codes or press codes of conduct ensuring the freedom of press while also prohibiting and preventing hate speech and racial discrimination, as well as through awareness-raising and capacity building programmes targeting media and journalists and leading to the recognition and knowledge of anti-Roma and anti-Traveller hate speech, and about antigypsyism.

5.2 State media policies should establish and improve self-regulatory mechanisms, and supervisory media boards with clear protocols and working definitions for hate speech and specific forms of racism, such as antigypsyism.

5.3 State media policies, building on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (where applicable), should define clear provisions to ensure the effective participation and hearing of Roma and Traveller civil society on all levels in self-regulatory mechanisms, ethical media commissions and supervisory media boards for public and private media channels, including social media.

5.4 States should amend legal provisions concerning social and digital media regulations to prevent and counter hate speech; thus, the provisions should establish independent social media regulators, and define clear duties and responsibilities of social and digital media platforms. The regulations should include transparency rules for content recommender algorithms, rules for data protection that allow users and underrepresented groups to take back control over data and to impact narratives and content, as well as clear and victim-sensitive reporting systems, allowing bulk reporting of hate speech and upscaling "grey area" content to a higher decision-making level.

5.5 States should hold any online information or service provider, including commercial businesses and (social) media, video gaming industry, streaming and virtual reality platforms, accountable for user-created hate speech, therefore, states should promote netiquettes and codes of conduct, as well as define obligations to moderate and remove harmful content in a timely and effective manner.

6. Strengthen the empowerment, participation and counter-narratives of Roma and Travellers in the public and media discourse

6.1 Governments and international organisations should promote and support the empowerment, visibility and participation of underrepresented Roma and Traveller voices in public and media discourse, creating a discourse culture and ethical standard that ensures the representation of societal diversity and take into account intersectionality.

6.2 Governments should promote and support the employment and career-development of Roma and Travellers working in the media sector, as well as their empowerment and participation in self-regulatory and supervisory media boards through capacity-building programmes and professional networks.

6.3 Governments should support and fund long-term media programmes and productions of Roma and Travellers, including print, audiovisual and online media, with the aim of increasing the visibility of self-narration and positive narratives, as well as to change the visual representation of Roma and Travellers in the public image, including by establishing physical and digital archives of cultural heritage and visual self-representation that overcome the reproduction of antigypsyism in visual language and image stocks.

6.4 Governments should support peer-to-peer programmes that foster alliance-building and resilience among underrepresented groups that are foremost affected by hate speech, and that create safe spaces and self-protection approaches, in particular in youth programmes and youth organisations; underrepresented groups should be empowered to work on an equal footing with majority society allies in counter-speech, and to self-represent their intersectional experiences in all public spaces and debates.

7. Support and scale-up preventive approaches to prevent, mitigate and counter hate speech through awareness-raising programmes and training for duty-bearers in public authorities, for decision-makers and multipliers in public and media discourses, as well as among the wider public

7.1 Governments should promote and implement training for state officials, duty-bearers and multipliers in public authorities, in particular in law enforcement and in the judiciary, with the participation of Roma and Travellers in order to prevent, recognise, record and prosecute antigypsyism as bias motivation of hate speech, including intersections of antigypsyism with nationality, language, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability, or sexual orientation.

7.2 Governments should support awareness-raising programmes for journalists, multipliers and decision-makers in the media, arts and cultural field, including in media boards and in public arts, culture and film funds, to recognise antigypsyism, to counter hate speech, and to promote alternative and positive narratives of Roma and Travellers.

7.3 Governments should include the history of Roma and Travellers in educational curricula and teaching materials, address their status as national minorities in civic education, and highlight their cultural, political and economic contributions to societies, in order to promote diversity, the feeling of belonging and counter-narratives. Therefore, the Council of Europe should further promote the implementation of the [Committee of Ministers Recommendation](#)¹² to Member States on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials, and follow-up its implementation.

7.4 Governments should adopt a comprehensive approach to preventing, mitigating and countering hate speech in society, in particular through raising-awareness of the causes and effects of racism, antigypsyism and hate speech in formal and non-formal education, through improving the intercultural

¹² Council of Europe – Committee of Ministers (2020): [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2020\)2](#) to member States on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 1 July 2020 at the 1380th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

aspects of education and general media literacy of the population taking into account the needs of different generations and societal groups, and through strengthening a democratic societal culture and strong civil society that has the capacity and resources to counter hate speech while enhancing the voices of those affected by antigypsyism and hate speech.

8. Strengthen political leadership to advance equality and participation of Roma and Travellers, and to prevent, counter and sanction hate speech of political leaders

8.1 Political leaders and parties should confront hate speech and antigypsyism in public discourses and election campaigns by refraining from them, by condemning and countering any form of stigmatising and racist rhetorics from high-level governmental officials, municipal civil servants and politicians, as well as by promoting awareness-raising activities about hate speech, including among political leaders and duty-bearers, and positive narratives about minorities.

8.2 Political parties should endorse and actively promote the "[Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society](#)"¹³ on local, regional, national and European level to strengthen their power of self-regulation and to commit political leaders to democratic principles and human rights.

8.3 Elected local councils, regional and national parliaments and international parliamentary assemblies should establish codes of conduct and ethical charters, as proposed by the Parliamentary Assembly resolution¹⁴, with clear rules of procedure to investigate and sanction hate speech and stigmatising language by their members effectively and timely within and beyond the parliamentary work, including with sanctions for non-compliance and accessible complaints mechanisms, with monetary penalties, restrictions and suspension of the political mandate, and legal prosecution where applicable by civil and criminal law.

8.4 Political leaders should build cross-party coalitions to prevent and combat hate speech and antigypsyism in parliaments, political discourses and election campaigns, but also to strengthen equality and diversity in political leadership and public office by promoting political participation of Roma and Travellers, including as members and candidates of political parties.

¹³ Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society, [adopted on 28 February 1998](#), Utrecht; [revised version](#) by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities adopted on 29 March 2017 (Resolution 415 (2017)); the Parliamentary Assembly recommended an update and relaunch of the Charter in its [Resolution 2275\(2019\)](#), the No Hate Parliamentary Assembly started the initiative with a [Hearing on 30 Nov 2020](#).

¹⁴ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: [Resolution 2275\(2019\)](#).

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* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.