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**Council of Europe Dialogue  
with Roma and Traveller<sup>1</sup> Civil Society**

**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Strasbourg, 11-12 April 2019  
Room G05, Agora Building**

**PROTECTING FAMILY LIFE  
by securing housing and preventing evictions**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Thursday, 11 April 2019**

**08.30 - 09.00**



**Registration of participants**

**09.15 - 09.45**

**Welcome and Opening Addresses**

Chair: **Hallvard Gorseth**, Head of Department a.i. for the Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe

- **Satu Mattila-Budich**, Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe, on behalf of the Finnish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers
- **Jeroen Schokkenbroek**, Director of the Directorate of Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe

**09.45 - 11.30**

Topics to be discussed:

- *What minimum standards do public authorities have to respect when effectively implementing fundamental social rights and, more specifically, the right to*

**Setting the scene – Securing the rights to housing**

*This session will attempt to list the norms set by international and European jurisprudence on important matters related to housing such as legal protection, material living conditions, equal treatment, respect for diversity, etc.*

Moderator: **Hallvard Gorseth**, Head of Department a.i. for the Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe

- **Introduction: “Understanding Social exclusion through the denial of access to decent living conditions”** by **Philip Martin**  
Research Assistant / Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit

<sup>1</sup> 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, Roma, Sinti/Manush, Kale/Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; and, on the other hand, groups such as Balkan Egyptians and Ashkali, Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal), Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies, Boshia or Garachi. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

<p>housing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the role of housing in breaking the multidimensional poverty cycle of Roma families</li> </ul> <p>Reference page:  <a href="http://www.housingrightswatch.org/page/council-europe-housing-rights">http://www.housingrightswatch.org/page/council-europe-housing-rights</a></p>	<p>(SHUSU), University of Salford, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Housing-related binding obligations on states” by <b>Bianca Boji-Tahvanainen</b>, European Court of Human Rights<sup>2</sup></li> <li>“Using the European Social Charter to Defend Social Rights for Roma and Travellers” by <b>Henrik Kristensen</b>, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<p><b>11.30 - 12.00</b>  <b>12.00 - 13.00</b></p> <p><u>Topics to be discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What further measures need to be defined to support Roma and Travellers in accessing housing and public utilities?</li> <li>What legal instruments and benchmark indicators reverse the severe housing deprivation conditions endured by Roma and Traveller families?</li> <li>How anti-Gypsyism and discrimination prevents equal access and/or the right to housing?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tea/coffee break</b>  <b>Securing the minimum standards to housing provision and decent living conditions</b></p> <p><i>This session will attempt to discuss adequate housing concepts and measures that are needed to prevent homelessness, prohibit forced evictions, address discrimination, ensure security of tenure to all, and guarantee access to adequate housing.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Thorsten Afflerbach</b>, Head of Division for the Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Addressing structural discrimination in accessing housing rights through monitoring of the member states obligations under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) by <b>Michaël Guet</b>, Administrator, Secretariat of FCNM and Resource Person on Roma and Traveller Issues within the Anti-Discrimination Department and <b>Ben Freeman</b>, Secretariat of FCNM</li> <li>“The CoE's contribution to Albanian Law 22/2018 On Social Housing: obstacles and strategies for overcoming them” by <b>Theodoros Alexandridis</b>, Expert on International Human Rights Law</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<p><b>13.00 - 14.30</b>  <b>14.30 - 17.30</b></p> <p><u>Topics to be discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stable homes for securing family life: Interpreting good practices into policies which include the needs of women, children and the elderly</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lunch break</b>  <b>Action based policies and initiatives to housing rights claims</b></p> <p><i>This session will attempt to present good practices and measures regarding access to housing and public services. These measures can require intervention from the Government at various levels: legislative, administrative and policy.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Chrisoula Arcoudis</b>, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe</p> <p>Screening of Documentary "<a href="#">Ant's Neighbourhood</a>" - Roma community in Rural Portugal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Forthcoming Report: Discrimination against Roma and Travellers in the field of housing” by <b>František Kopřiva</b>, (Czech Republic, ALDE), Rapporteur on housing appointed by the Parliamentary</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) includes specific rights that guarantee a right to housing, including Article 8, the right to family and private life and protection of the home; Article 6, the right to due process in the case of eviction; Article 3, the right to be protected against inhuman and degrading treatment; Article 2, the right to life; and Article 14, the right to protection against discrimination. The right to housing is also grounded in the right to property. An individual's substantial interest in a 'good' can cover in certain situations the protection of one's home irrespective of the tenure status (Article 1, protocol 1).

- *Overcoming barriers to legal tenure of housing*
- *Departmental strategy for Travellers in France (laws and measures that have an impact on mobility rights and the right to adequate housing)*

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- **“Family Economic Success-Housing”** by **Maria Metodieva**, Director Institutional Development, Trust for Social Achievement, Bulgaria
- **Approaching social housing criteria allocation for disadvantaged communities in Romania: “ROMACT guidelines for local authorities”** by **Florin Botonogu**, ROMACT expert
- **“Mapping of city initiatives of Roma in Europe”** by **Bianca Faragau**, Senior Policy Adviser – Eurocities
- **“Decoding halting sites and housing policies of Travellers in France”** by **Martine Serlinger**, representative of Gipsies and Travellers International Evangelical fellowship (GATIEF)

Screening of Documentary **“Housing is more than four walls and roof”** -  
Legalisation of Roma houses in North Macedonia

*Discussion*

**16.00 - 16.30**  
**17:30**

**Tea/coffee break**  
**End of the first working day**

<b>Friday, 12 April 2019</b>	
<b>09.30 - 09.40</b>	<b>Introduction to the working groups</b>
<b>09.40 - 11.30</b>	<p><b>Working group 1: The role of Civil Society in strengthening rights claims of Roma and Travellers in housing</b></p> <p><i>Room G.06, Agora Building   Working language: English</i></p> <p><i>The dynamics of migration, densification and segregation can be mutually reinforcing and powerful, creating intractable problems and yet also opening opportunities for governmental entities at all scales.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Robert Rustem</b>, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>“Collective complaints procedures under ESC”</b> by <b>Peter Verhaeghe</b>, Policy and Advocacy Officer, Representative of CoE INGO &amp; Caritas Europa</li> <li>▪ <b>“Connecting housing right to fundamental rights through European Charters and conventions”</b> by <b>Miranda Vuolasranta</b>, President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF)</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <p><b>Working group 2: Housing and Cities in a time of change: are we focusing on People?</b></p> <p><i>Room G.05, Agora Building   Working language: English, French, Romanes</i></p> <p><i>The overall objective of the working group is to explore and develop concepts for analysing institutional and organisational change and dynamics in affordable housing provision. Government policies, management reforms and rapidly changing social and economic contexts have placed new expectations on social and public landlords. Understanding the blurred lines between private and public house activities.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ana Oprisan</b>, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>“Pata-Cluj Roma Inclusion”</b> by <b>Enikő Vincze</b>, researcher and activist, Cluj</li> <li>▪ <b>“Adequate housing for Roma: Legalization of Roma housing in North Macedonia”</b> – by <b>Asmet Elezovski</b>, Executive Director of Roma National Centrum</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<b>11.30 - 12.00</b>	<b>Tea/coffee break</b>
<b>12.00 - 13.00</b>	<p><b>Taking stock of issues discussed during the 7<sup>th</sup> Dialogue Meeting: Preliminary Conclusions and Commitments to moving forward</b></p> <p><i>The session has the aim of interpreting the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dialogue meeting into concerted further efforts between the Council of Europe and Civil Society.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Tatjana Andjelić</b>, Chair of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation of the outcomes from the working groups &amp; proposals for follow up activities</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closing Remarks: <b>Thorsten Afflerbach</b>, Head of Division for the Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe</li> </ul>
<b>13.00</b>	<b>End of the meeting</b>