



### What are the messages “4Children-by-Children”?

- *It is important to understand that we can change things by speaking out, supporting the fight against anti-Gypsyism.*
- *We need to reduce the conflict and reverse the situation.*
- *We can do something! It is important to speak out and not to be silent.*
- *Give nothing to racism. STOP anti-Gypsyism!*
- *Redraw the stereotypes! Disprove stereotypes of Roma by challenging them.*
- *Don't put people in boxes! It doesn't matter how different you are. What matters is the person you really are!*

**These messages form the bases of 3 campaign video spots**

Video Spot Number 1: Open your mind - go beyond stereotypes!



Video Spot Number 2: Open your mind - go beyond prejudice!



Video Spot Number 3:  
Stop the hate. Give nothing to racism. Fight anti-Gypsyism



<https://www.coe.int/en/web/roma-and-travellers/dosta-child-friendly-campaign>



### DID YOU KNOW?

” Roma in Europe form the largest ethnic minority group with some 10-12 million people, present in almost all Council of Europe member states. As a culturally diverse group, they have a common language called Romani.

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PREMS 167919

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# DOSTA!

## OPEN YOUR MIND! GO BEYOND PREJUDICE

Child-friendly DOSTA! Campaign initiative

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

*Rethinking stereotypes  
Challenging prejudice  
Fighting racism  
Combating anti-Gypsyism*



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



## What is the DOSTA! Campaign ?

«Dosta», is a variant of the Romani language meaning «enough».

■ DOSTA! is an awareness raising campaign, aimed at bringing non-Roma and Roma citizens closer by breaking down the barriers caused by deeply rooted prejudice and stereotypes.

■ The DOSTA! campaign is a response to the need to combat racism, discrimination and intolerance that many Roma face in Europe today.

### Why a campaign?

■ Although Roma have been living in Europe since at least the 13th century, they are not always recognised by the majority society as citizens with full rights and responsibilities. Historically entrenched stereotypes and prejudice have contributed to the social exclusion of Roma. They are often the victims of discrimination, abuse and racially motivated violence.

■ Prejudice and stereotypes are the bases of the **specific form of racism towards Roma** which the Council of Europe refers to as 'anti-Gypsyism'.<sup>1</sup>

■ **Anti-Gypsyism** is deeply rooted in negative and biased beliefs, prejudices, misconceptions and discriminatory attitudes towards Roma.

### Why is it important to address anti-Gypsyism in schools and tackle racism early?

■ For children, the whole world is their cognitive puzzle. They are constantly trying to figure out visible differences among people and discerning their own identities, including racial concepts.

1. ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.13 on Combating Anti-Gypsyism and Discrimination against Roma

■ As children get older and depending both on social and family influences, **racial conceptual understanding can lead to intolerance and discrimination.**

■ By the time they enter school, children have already learned stereotypes from important adults in their lives, from the media, from books and from peers. These attitudes are then brought into the school environment.

■ **Schools and education** play a vital and critical role in reversing any negative trends. They have the responsibility to create a harmonious and inclusive learning environment, rich in opportunities for exploring diversity, appreciating cultural and linguistic difference, understanding tolerance, promoting solidarity, and fostering mutual respect.

■ Schools should be part of any process of countering negative stereotypes with positives models.

■ Interventions to reverse prejudice and stereotyping with children need to be based on an understanding of **how, why, and under what conditions**, children make decisions to exclude others

### What is the child friendly DOSTA! campaign initiative?

#### “4Children-by-Children”

**One of the most powerful influences on the development of children’s attitudes, are children themselves.**

The child friendly DOSTA! campaign initiative is a child centred approach to developing campaign material countering prejudice and challenging stereotypes about Roma.

Working with the Children’s Rights Division, the Roma and Travellers Team reached out to Roma and Non-Roma children to develop child-friendly material. 70 children between the ages of 12 and 15 from Albania, Hungary and Spain took part in specially designed ‘think tank’ activities through a child consultation process.

Children were given the space and the support to express their ideas and concerns about racism, discrimination and anti-Gypsyism and critically challenge misconceptions and beliefs about Roma by sharing, comparing, contrasting, reflecting and drawing conclusions.

Campaign and learning material developed for children by children forms part of the child friendly DOSTA! initiative to assist children to confront prejudice and challenge stereotypes about Roma.

### What are the children saying?

- *They need child-friendly information on human rights;*
- *They often don’t have the opportunity to challenge beliefs and misconceptions on Roma in schools;*
- *They need to understand stereotypes, discrimination and human rights better;*
- *The right to be heard as children is missing from the education system;*
- *Bullying due to difference has become part of everyday life for all children in schools;*
- *No one needs to suffer discrimination. It is important to understand we are all different but equal at the same time.*