



EQUALITY OF ROMA AND TRAVELLER WOMEN AND GIRLS

Roma and Traveller women and girls experience particularly serious forms of discrimination, hate and violence. They also face specific obstacles to effectively exercising their rights. Antigypsyism is one of the most significant causes of these inequalities, but Roma and Traveller women and girls are also subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in particular on the ground of gender. As such, they may face sexism and violence combined with stereotypes, prejudice and discriminatory behaviour or norms which are related to their ethnic origin, nomadic way of life, migration or refugee status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, sex characteristics, age, disabilities, or other personal characteristics. This intersectional discrimination aggravates the inequalities experienced by Roma and Traveller women and girls, and it leads to particular vulnerabilities.

The Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)1 focuses on areas in which Roma and Traveller women and girls are most exposed to multiple and intersectional discrimination, and aims to assist member States to take effective measures to address those specific vulnerabilities.

**Council of Europe
policy framework**

**Equality of Roma and Traveller
women and girls**

Anti-discrimination

EQUALITY OF ROMA AND TRAVELLER WOMEN AND GIRLS



The recommendation

■ Provides **guidance to governments** and other **relevant stakeholders** to promote and achieve equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls.

■ Emphasises the need to **adopt and implement legislation and policies** that **address the specific inequalities faced by Roma and Traveller women and girls**, including in the fields of housing, health, education, social protection and protection against violence.

What should be done

■ **Ensure that civil registration and documentation procedures are accessible** for Roma and Traveller women and girls and take effective measures to **regularise their legal status**.

■ **Remove financial or administrative barriers to accessing social assistance** and protect Roma and Traveller women and girls from extreme poverty.

■ **Address inequalities regarding the adoption and placement** of Roma and Traveller children in alternative care and avoid removal from families.

■ Take **effective measures** to ensure that Roma and Traveller women and their families live, on an equal footing with the general population, in **healthy living conditions** and in adequate, safe and culturally appropriate housing and **accommodation**.

■ **Ensure** that early childhood education and care institutions, primary and secondary schools, vocational training centres and higher education institutions take effective special measures to **ensure the equal participation of Roma and Traveller girls in quality education**.

■ **Prohibit, prevent and sanction** forced sterilisation and other human rights violations, as well as **discrimination and segregation of Roma and Traveller women and girls in the health sector**, especially in maternity and reproductive healthcare settings.

■ **Develop employment strategies** including temporary special measures to ensure the **sustainable employment** of Roma and Traveller women and girls.

■ **Effectively investigate and prosecute all forms of violence against Roma and Traveller women and girls, prevent harmful practices** and inform them of existing protection and complaint mechanisms, including their right to legal aid; co-operate in particular in this context with Roma and Traveller communities, organisations, social workers and mediators.

■ **Support the personal development and empowerment** of Roma and Traveller women and girls and **strengthen their digital, legal and financial literacy**.

■ **Encourage and support civic and community engagement**, political participation, participation in elections and the **presence of Roma and Traveller women and girls in public spaces** that are safe from violence, harassment, hate speech and sexism.

■ **Collect and analyse gender-disaggregated statistical data** on Roma and Travellers and use such data to assess and improve policies, strategies and action plans concerning Roma and Traveller women and girls.

■ **Develop strategies, action plans and budget lines** for the implementation of this recommendation that contain clear and measurable goals, indicators, baselines and targets, in consultation with Roma and Traveller communities and organisations.

More on the recommendation
and the Council of Europe's work
on Equality of Roma and Traveller
women and girls:



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE