

## DEFINITION OF ANTIGYPSYISM

Antigypsyism is defined as a type of racist classification of Roma who are stigmatized as “Gypsies” through this racist classification, to construct a false justification and legitimation for their dehumanization, discrimination, exploitation, and the possibility of violence against them.

Antigypsyism creates the non-existent, misleading, and negative descriptions, qualities and characteristics, the basis of which is:

- a supposedly common form of physical appearance;
- homogenising and generalising social, mental and character traits (Antisociality, criminality, high birth rate, lack of hygiene, poverty, superstition, primitiveness, tribal kinship, nomadism, music/dance in the blood, exuberance, etc.);
- essentialization of this common form of physical appearance and the social ones mentioned above, mental and character traits for the whole ethnic group.

Thus, antigypsyism is not based on real life and negative personal experiences, it is not a consequence of the life of Roma, but uses historical forms of discrimination and prejudice, Stereotypes and considers the common form of physical appearance and the above social, mental and character traits as essential or innate in every Roma. This means that even if some of the above descriptions or characteristics could be applied to any member of the majority (e.g. criminality + low hygiene + poverty), the social situation would not be understood as an innate characteristic of that majority member, as is the case Roma. For this reason, antigypsyism is a type of racist categorization, claiming that Roma collectively share a distinct racial essence that is not influenced by any form of socialization, upbringing and education, nor by any social, societal and financial measures. Antigypsyism attributes to the Roma an irreversible biological (racial) fate from which there is no escape. At the same time, it asserts that the Roma are not just because of these innate characteristics are unable to integrate into society.

Contemporary examples of manifestations of antigypsyism may include, but are not limited to:

1. misrepresentation and denial of Roma persecution or genocide,

2. glorification of the genocide of Roma,
3. inciting, perpetrating and condoning violence against Roma communities, their property and individuals,
4. forced and coercive sterilization, as well as other forms of severe physical or psychological treatment of Roma,
5. feeding and endorsing discriminatory stereotypes about and against Roma,
6. blaming Roma, using hate speech, for real or perceived social, political, cultural, economic or health problems,
7. stereotyping Roma as perpetrators of crime,
8. the use of the word 'gypsy' as a slur,
9. endorsing and promoting exclusive anti-Roma mechanisms based on based on racial discrimination, such as the exclusion of Roma children from mainstream schools or institutional practices and policies leading to the segregation of Roma communities,
10. adopting policies without a legal basis or setting conditions that allow arbitrary or discriminatory displacement of Roma communities and individuals,
11. holding individuals collectively responsible for real or perceived actions of Roma communities,
12. the dissemination of hate speech against Roma communities in any form, including on the internet and social networks.

(Sources: Hund, D. W. (1999). *Rassismus*. Münster: Westfälisches Dampfboot, s. 91-92 ▪ Winckel, Ä. (2002): *Antiziganismus. Rassismus gegen Roma und Sinti im vereinigten Deutschland*. Münster: Unrast, s. 10, 11, 16, 148 ▪ Arad, J. (2006): *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka*. Praha: BB/art ▪ INFORMAČNÁ KANCELÁRIA RADY EURÓPY. (2007): *Dost! Dosta! Prekonaj predsudky – spoznaj Rómov!* Bratislava: Ševt, a. s. pre Úrad vlády Slovenskej republiky (preklad Elena Gallová Kriglerová) ▪ Haupt G. (2008): *Tvorcovia pokoja v prostredí nepriateľskom voči Rómom*. Prednáška na výročnom stretnutí Medzinárodného katolíckeho výboru pre Rómov (CCIT) 28. – 30. marca 2008, Trogir / Chorvátsko ▪ Hrabovský, M. (2015): *Anticiganizmus ako bariéra k inklúzii Rómov*. In: Podolinská, T. – Hrustič, T. (eds.): „Čiernobiele politiky“. Diskurzy, postoje a možnosti participácie. Bratislava: VEDA., s. 40-58 ▪ European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), General Policy Recommendation No. 13 on combating anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma, 24 June 2011, available at [https://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation\\_N13/e-RPG%2013%20-%20A4.pdf](https://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N13/e-RPG%2013%20-%20A4.pdf) ▪ Alliance against Antigypsyism, *Antigypsyism – A Reference*

Paper, June 2017, available at <https://antigypsyism.eu/reference-paper/>, A non-legally binding working definition of antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) on 08 October 2020.)