

**ALLIANCE AGAINST  
ANTIGYPSYISM**

**ANTIGYPSYISM -  
A REFERENCE PAPER**

VERSION JULY 2016

**A REFERENCE PAPER ON ANTIGYPSYISM.**

**A WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTIGYPSYISM.**

**BUILDING AN ALLIANCE  
AGAINST ANTIGYPSYISM.**

Regional Workshop:  
“Addressing Discrimination and  
Anti-gypsyism in the

# ALLIANCE AGAINST ANTIGYPSYISM

The aim of the Alliance is to advance a better understanding of **antigypsyism as a specific form of racism**, and to strengthen the political will, institutional mechanisms and civil society in order to address, monitor, combat and sanction antigypsyism in Europe.

ZENTRAL RAT [ Deutscher Sinti & Roma



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# ANTIGYPSYISM

Antigypsyism is the specific racism towards Roma, Sinti, Travellers and others who are considered 'gypsies' in the public imagination.

Antigypsyism is not only about what is being said, but also about what is being done and what is not being done

# GRADUAL RECOGNITION

This **current gradual recognition** of antigypsyism is a momentous step in the struggle for equal rights.

- 2005 European Parliament resolution on anti-Gypsyism
- *OSCE, CoE + ECRI Recommendations no. 13 (2011)*
- *EC - Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies*
- *2015 EP Resolution on the occasion of the Roma Day*

LIBE (Soraya Post) own-initiative report on “*Fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism*”, calling upon the European Commission and EU Member States to put the fight against antigypsyism at the forefront of efforts for the social and economic inclusion of Roma.

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# ANTIGYPSYISM

1. **Not a minority issue:** phenomena and problem of majority society
2. **antigypsyism is not the result of the poor living conditions** of many Roma, or from 'how different they are'. Danger of reversing cause and effect.
3. addressing the effects of discriminatory treatment –poverty, poor quality housing, substandard education, to name a few–  
**does not eradicate the root causes**
4. antigypsyism has a high level of **social acceptance** and legitimacy in public
5. we need to address the **headwind**  
(combat the virus)

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# WORKING DEFINITION

"Antigypsyism is a historically constructed, persistent complex of customary racism against social groups identified under the stigma 'gypsy' or other related terms, and incorporates

1. a homogenizing and essentializing perception and description of these groups;
2. an attribution of specific characteristics to them;
3. discriminating social structures and violent practices that emerge against that background, which have a degrading and ostracizing effect and which reproduce structural disadvantages."

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# DEFINING ANTIGYPSYISM

**Working Definition:**

**Notation:**

*Why we use antigypsyism, not Romaphobia,  
anti-Romaism or anti-Roma racism*

Why we use antigypsyism without hyphen: “antigypsyism”

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# KEY ASPECTS AND BACKGROUND OF ANTIGYPSYISM

1. Historically rooted
2. An essentialist ideology
3. Hierarchy
4. Attitudes and social practices
5. Systemic nature
6. Internalization

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# DIMENSIONS OF ANTIGYPSYISM

1. Negative and positive
2. Malevolent and Benevolent
3. Implicit or explicit in its intent
4. From right-wing to mainstream
5. Moral – functional/economic
6. From denial to over-acceptance

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# WAYS FORWARD

- to strengthen alliance-building among civil society and the capacity of civil society to respond to antigypsyism
- strengthen links to academia and knowledge-production
- to collect evidence that captures the multifaceted character of antigypsyism
- to establish structures for an effective monitoring

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# THANK YOU

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