

Forms of Anti-Gypsyism in modern Europe

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European Roma and Travellers Forum
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Size and representation of the Roma
community in the
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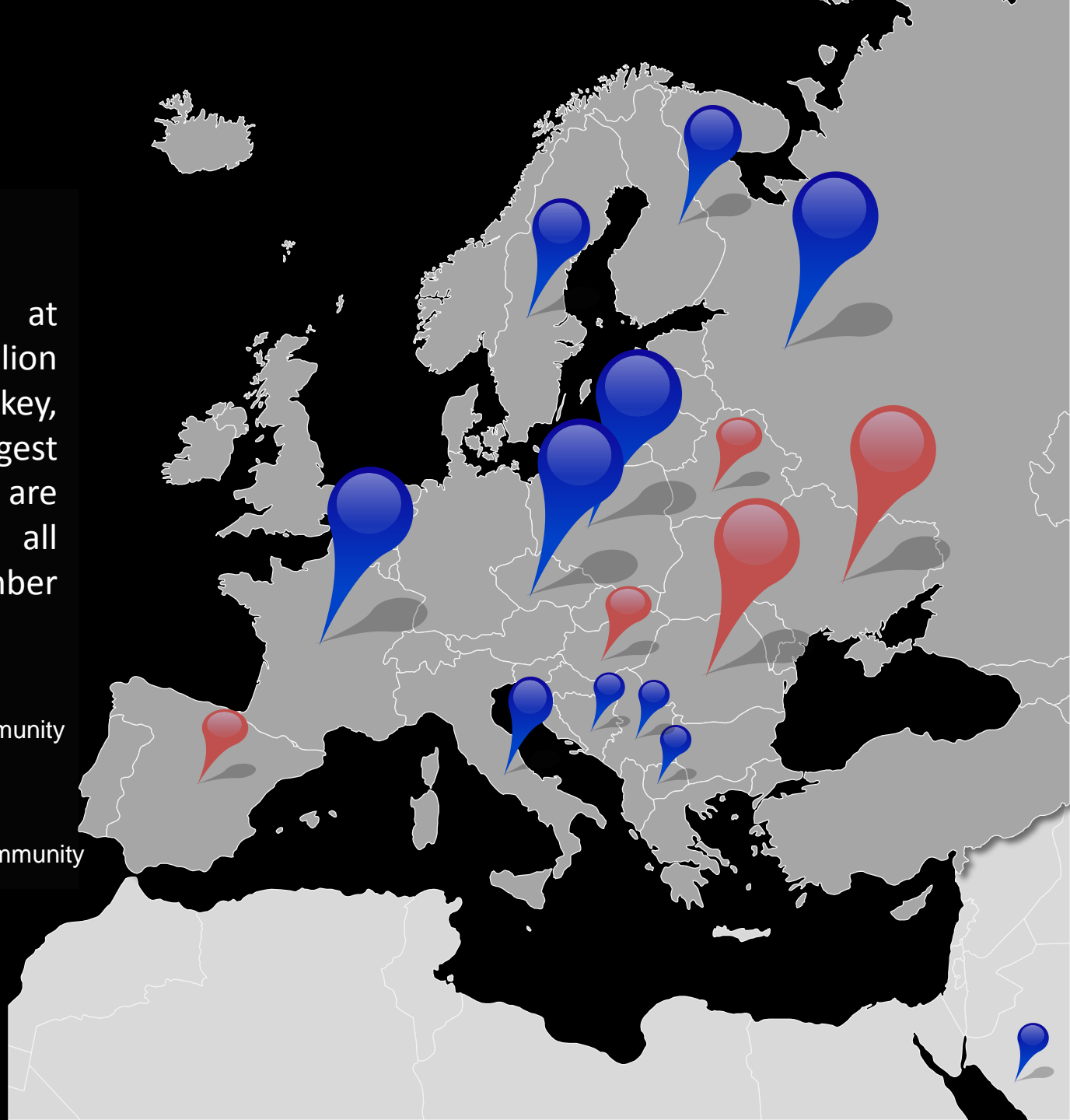
The Roma, estimated at between 10 and 15 million people, including Turkey, constitute the largest minority in Europe and are present practically in all Council of Europe member states.



The size of the Roma community between 1 – 6 million



The size of the Roma community Less than 1 million



“No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite“

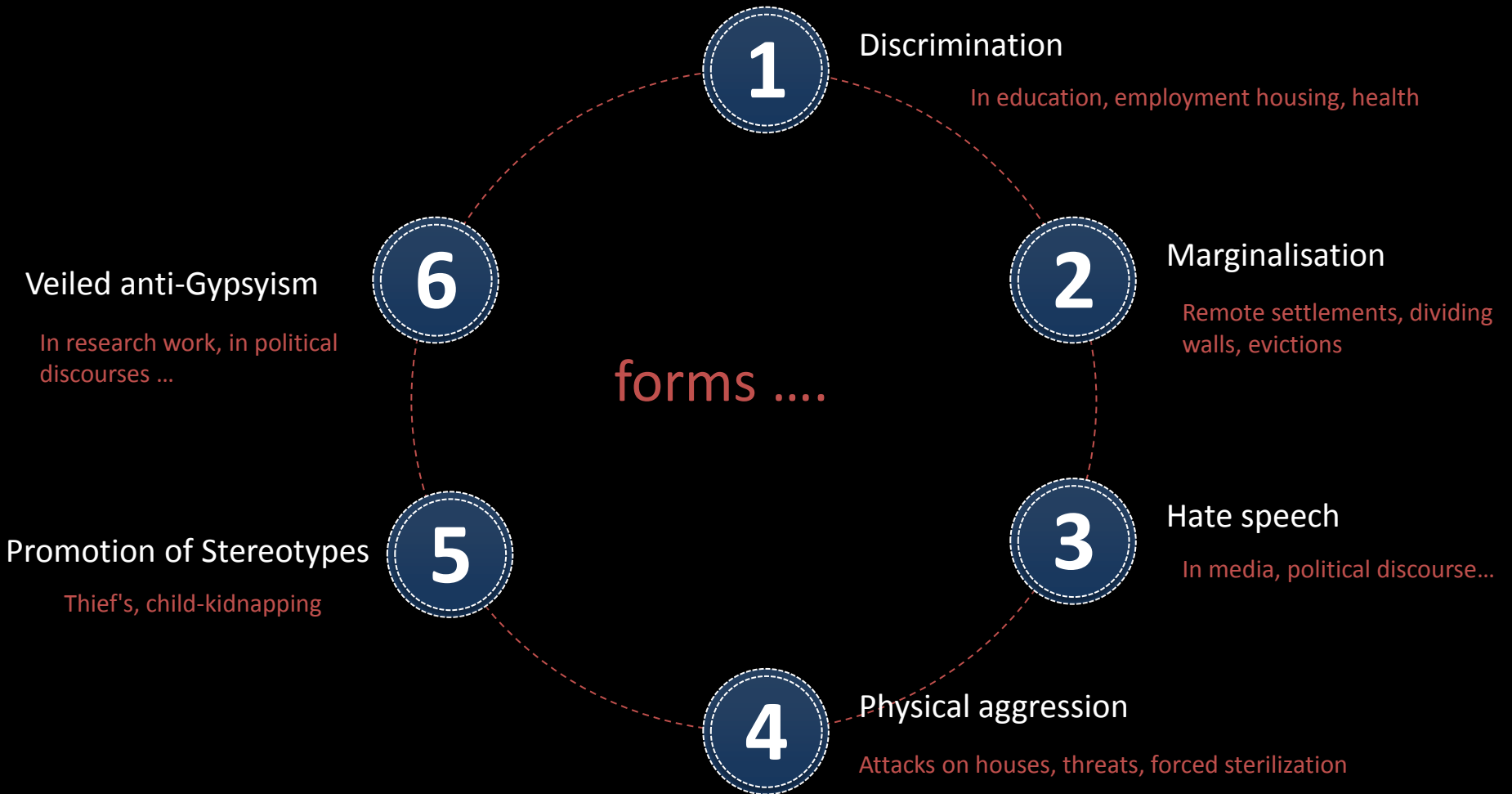
Nelson Mandela

.... anti-Gypsyism is a specific form of racism, an ideology founded on racial superiority, a form of dehumanisation and institutional racism nurtured by historical discrimination, which is expressed, among others, by violence, hate speech, exploitation, stigmatisation and the most blatant kind of discrimination.....

MODALITIES OF ANTI-GYPSYISM IN MODERN EUROPE

Examples from several countries

2





Czech Republic

Video presentation



Slovak Republic



Most recently in Košice, Slovakia's second largest city and one of two European Capitals of Culture for 2013, a wall was erected to separate a densely populated Roma housing complex from a nearby estate.

Last year city authorities had cut off water in the Roma neighbourhood, citing unpaid bills and illegal connections to water lines.



POLICE MISCONDUCT IN THE ROMANI SETTLEMENTS IN SLOVAKIA

...it is reported that a conflict involving some settlement residents with a police patrol after a party on the night of June 16 sparked a repressive police action two days later. The raid resulted in injuries to over 30 individuals including children...

...alleged racially-motivated police misconduct

EUROPE



MACEDONIA



Restriction of freedom of movement

Continued discrimination in employment was highlighted in March 2013 when Skopje City Mall instructed its cleaning contract agency to dismiss all its Roma employees following a spate of alleged thefts. Although the company refused, no criminal investigation was conducted into the thefts, and non-Roma workers were not targeted for dismissal.

“I had an argument with one nurse, she yelled at me ‘why do you need to have so many children’, and I was with strong contractions. But, when she told me that I even forgot about the pain, we started arguing. This happened with my third child, no one said anything when I was with the previous pregnancies”
(Testimony from an interviews during a focus groups on Ante-natal healthcare services)

EUROPE



FRANCE

In France, the **calls for hatred** and even for **extermination** increase and Roma people still suffer from stigmatisations and even expulsions similar to the ones that took place under the former government. Some of the Roma are forced to go back to Kosovo, as a consequence of the on-going expulsions from Germany, Denmark or Sweden.

VALEURS ACTUELLES

"IL N'EST DE RICHESSE QUE D'HOMMES." JEAN BODIN

EGYPTE
Les chrétiens
face au péril islamiste

MARIAGE HOMOSEXUEL
Sur la route
avec les Veilleurs résistants

Roms L'overdose

Sondage exclusif : le ras-le-bol des Français

On 22 July 2013, in an exchange with a group of Travellers, Gilles Bourdouleix, Deputy Mayor of the City of Cholet, made horrifying statements which referred to the ideology of Hitler and the atrocities carried by the Nazi regime against Roma nearly 70 years ago.

French MP avoids jail after saying Adolf Hitler "maybe didn't kill enough"

On 14 July 2013, Christian Estrosi, a UMP parliamentary representative for Alpes-Maritimes and Mayor of the City of Nice, made public racist statements targeting the Roma and Traveller community and threatened, among others, to install surveillance cameras in Roma and Traveller camps.

EUROPE



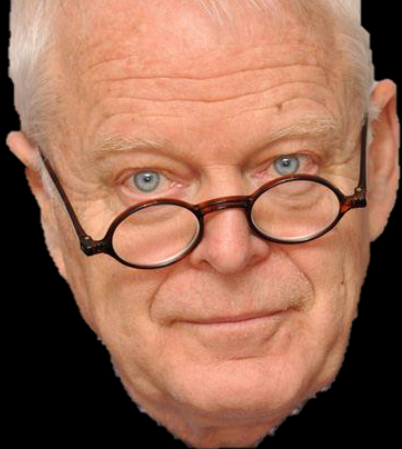
HUNGARY

Roma face discrimination in housing – according to the Roma Civil Rights Foundation (RCRF), many municipalities employ a variety of techniques to prevent Roma from living in the more desirable neighborhoods of their cities. Such techniques include the misappropriation by local governments of social housing designated for the poor by auctioning it off to the highest bidder, as well as the eviction of Roma from areas slated for renovation without providing enough financial compensation for them to move back once renovations were completed. The RCRF also reported that district councils threatened to take children away from Roma families to expedite evictions.



In January 2013, following a New Year stabbing incident, the journalist Zsolt Bayer wrote in a national daily that “a significant part of the Roma is unfit for coexistence... They are not fit to live among people. These Roma are animals, and they behave like animals... These animals shouldn't be allowed to exist. In no way. That needs to be solved - immediately and regardless of the method.”

On March 15, 2013, the Hungarian Government awarded Mr Szaniszló as the “journalist of the year in Hungary”. Mr Szaniszló is infamous for spreading Jewish conspiracy theories and describing the country’s Roma minority as “human monkeys.” The award was presented by the Minister of Human Resources, Zoltán Balog, who is also in charge of integration of Roma.



Thomas Hammarberg described the emergence of a climate of intolerance against Roma as a shift from 'traditional' prejudice to "outright racist attitudes, preached by marginal yet increasingly visible political groups and left largely unchecked by mainstream society". For Hammarberg what's especially disquieting that "today not even mainstream parties are immune from using anti-Roma rhetoric for short-term political gain – something that would not have been tolerated a decade ago."

WHY is anti-Gypsyism increasing ?

END OF COMMUNISM

- **New economic structures leading to loss of jobs, housing and creation of settlements**
- **Free pent-up feelings on nationalism, leading to extremism and xenophobia**

WHY is anti-Gypsyism increasing?

NATURE OF THE CONVENTION

2

FREEFOM OF MOVEMENT

- Economic crisis in Western Europe gives rise to rejection of outsiders, particularly poor ones

WHY is anti-Gypsyism increasing?

NATURE OF THE CONVENTION

2 PERCEPTION ROMA HAVE ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS

3 INCREASED VISIBILITY OF ROMA

- Modern media and internet allow the immediate transmission on of information, true or false, causing panic (eg. the case of “stolen” child in Greece, Serbia and Ireland)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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