

# Conference: Tackling racism and anti-Roma discrimination in the EU's criminal justice systems

7 - 8 Dec 2020

## Speaker biographies

### Session 1: Understanding Racial Discrimination and Anti-Gypsyism in Criminal Justice Systems

7 December 13:30-15:00 GMT / 14:30-16:00 CET



**Marek Balaz, Human Rights Monitoring Coordinator, European Roma Rights Centre**

Marek joined the ERRC in 2016 and currently oversees their response to human rights violations, research and litigation projects, and the internship program. Previously he was a human rights monitor, served as a Roma Decade focal point manager for Slovakia, project administrator, and also has experience as a Roma health mediator. He has completed a Master of Public Administration program at Central European University.



**Mustafa Yakupov, Policy and Project coordinator, ERGO Network**

Mustafa is currently managing the 'Peer education to counter antigypsyist hate speech online' project supported by DG JUSTICE and Google.org. His experience is in youth work, participation, antigypsyism, and empowering and mobilising young people, especially young Roma. He is also part of the trainers pool of the youth department of the Council of Europe and has been involved with many international civil society organisations, including MTV Staying Alive and the ternYpe-International Roma youth network.



**Ojeaku Nwabuzo, Senior Research Officer, European Network Against Racism**

Ojeaku is responsible for coordinating ENAR's research and policy analysis, including yearly Shadow Reports on racism in Europe. In recent years she has focused on policing and the criminal justice system. She is also a PhD candidate at VUB, where her doctoral research focuses on anti-racism advocacy and anti-discrimination policies in Europe. She previously worked at Runnymede, a race equality think tank in the UK, as a research and policy analyst where she led on various projects and supported a Deaths in Custody and mental health research project.



**Krassimir Kanev, Co-Founder, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee**

Krassimir was one of the founders of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and its chairperson after 1994. He has taught human rights at universities in Europe and the US and is the author and editor of books and articles on international human rights law, sociology of interethnic relations, law and education, aesthetics, and logic. He has been a board member of numerous human rights organisations, including the EU Fundamental Rights Agency the UN Fund for the Protection of Victims of Torture and many more. He has also participated in international human rights monitoring missions in Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East.



This event is funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020).

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### Session 2: Racism, anti-Roma discrimination and policing

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#### **Eirene de Prada, Researcher, Rights International Spain**

Eirene de Prada is a lawyer and political scientist with a multidisciplinary background. She currently works on anti-discrimination projects with a special focus in the criminal justice system and ethnic profiling. Since 2015 she has been part of the investigation network of the Instituto Ibero-Americano de la Haya headed by Prof. Olásolo, with whom she recently coordinated a commemorative publication on the evolution of the concept of genocide. Eirene also has extensive experience of working with minority groups both in Spain, Colombia and Honduras.



#### **Anthony Drummond, Senior Lecturer in criminology, Leeds Beckett**

Anthony is a member of the Yorkshire and Humberside Crown Prosecution Service Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel, and, a member of the Rainbow Rose Forum supporting LGBTQ staff and students at Leeds Beckett. He is also a member of the Centre for LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Education at Leeds Beckett University. Recently Anthony was invited to act as an advisor to London School of Economics Principal Investigator Dr. Coretta Phillips, and, Co- Principal Investigators: Dr. Zoë James and Dr. Becky Taylor on a major ESRC funded project: Gypsies' and Travellers' Experiences of Crime and Justice since the 1960s.



#### **Rachel Neild, Senior Program Advisor, Open Society Justice Initiative**

Rachel manages work across the globe addressing Rome Statute crimes and institutions; and national criminal justice reforms including: prosecutorial independence, accountability and effectiveness; due process and defense rights; and accountability for torture. Rachel also works with the Fair and Effective Policing project addressing issues of bias in policing, primarily in the EU. Prior to joining Justice Initiative, Rachel worked on police reform, crime prevention and human rights for a number of organisations in Latin America. She has published extensively on police reform and human rights in reports, journals and edited volumes, and the media.



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### Session 3: Criminal proceedings and lawyers in the fight against discrimination

8 December 13:30-14:30 GMT/ 14:30-15:30 CET



#### **Livia Popa, Legal Officer, APADOR-CH**

Livia works on national and international legislation research and analysis, monitoring visits in penitentiaries, domestic advocacy, national policy-making process and contributing to international projects on criminal proceedings. She graduated Law School (University of Bucharest) in 2014 and she has a master degree in International Public Law since 2017. Passionate about social justice and humanitarian aid, she is involved in many volunteering activities and she has been working in the NGO field for four years.



#### **Brook Hopkins, Former Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Policy Program at Harvard Law School**

Brook runs a pro bono practice, focusing primarily on criminal cases, including death penalty cases. Recently, she served as Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Policy Program at Harvard Law School, where she led a team studying racial disparities in the Massachusetts criminal justice system. After getting her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, she clerked for Judge Stephen Reinhardt and for Justices David H. Souter (ret.) and Stephen G. Breyer. Brook served as a Relman Civil Rights Litigation Fellow at Relman, Dane & Colfax, PLLC and Special Assistant to then-Solicitor General Elena Kagan. She also worked as a senior associate and counsel at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, where she specialized in appellate litigation.



#### **Felix Owusu, Doctoral candidate in Public Policy at Harvard University**

Felix is a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration at the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, a Fellow at the Lab @ DC, a Data Scientist at the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington DC, and until recently a Research Fellow at Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Policy Program. He studies the application of law and bureaucratic processes in law enforcement agencies and their impacts across race and class. Previously, Felix was involved in policy research at the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Research, and UC Berkeley's Institute for Research on Labor and Employment.



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### Session 4: Finding solutions and tackling emerging challenges

8 December 15:00-16:30 GMT/ 16:00-17:30 CET



#### **Benjamin Ignac, Researcher, OSF Roma Initiatives Office**

Benjamin is a scholar and Roma rights advocate from Croatia who is currently doing a research fellowship at the OSF Roma Initiatives Office. He is a data-optimist who is exploring the challenges, opportunities and possible innovations to generate reliable and safe data about and for Roma in Europe. Formerly he worked for three years at the European Roma Rights Centre as a digital communications manager. Benjamin holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Oxford and a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Oklahoma.



#### **Dr Eszter Kirs, Legal Officer, Hungarian Helsinki Committee**

Eszter's responsibilities include monitoring visits in detention facilities, international and domestic advocacy, transnational projects on the efficient prosecution of hate crimes, human rights training and the operation of National Human Rights Institutions. Since 2016, she has been an associate professor at the Department of International Relations of the Corvinus University of Budapest. From 2010 to 2015, she worked for a defense team at the ICTY. Currently, she is a member of the research group of the Hungarian Academy of Science "SPECTRA" on Social prerequisites for the effective fight against bias-motivated crimes through criminal law and minority rights protection.



#### **Yvonne MacNamara, CEO, The Traveller Movement**

Yvonne joined the staff team of the Traveller Movement as CEO April 2008. Yvonne is a well-seasoned practitioner within the field of community development and equality and has held a number of senior management roles. She currently sits on a number of advisory groups across government and within the wider sector. She is responsible for overseeing and leading the charity and all of its teams.



#### **Romeo Franz, Member of the European Parliament**

Romeo is the first Sinto from Germany to be elected to the European Parliament. He is the first vice chair of the Culture and Education Committee, substitute member of the Committees on Employment and Social Affairs and Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the chair of the Delegation for relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Involved in civil rights work for more than 20 years, he has been Managing Director of the Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation since 2014. He recently developed a resolution asking for an EU Law for the Equality Inclusion and Participation of Romani People and Combating antigypsyism. It was passed by the European Parliament on 17 September with a majority of 545 votes.

