

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

## Agenda - Day 1 (7 December 2020)

### **Session 1: Understanding racial discrimination and anti-gypsyism in criminal justice systems**

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

Despite the prevalence of racism and anti-gypsyism across the EU, there is only limited acknowledgement in Member States that there is racial discrimination in their criminal justice systems. This is partly due to the lack of statistical data in most countries, but also a tendency to view other factors, such as economic disadvantages, as the primary cause of racial disparities. In this session, we will discuss the causes of racial disparities in criminal justice systems and the impact these have on criminal justice outcomes. We'll also explore the broader societal context of anti-Roma discrimination in Europe, how it is likely to affect perceptions of Roma in the criminal justice system, and how experiences of Roma might compare with those of other ethnic groups.

Moderator: Bruno Min (Fair Trials)

#### ***Speakers:***

- Krassimir Kanev (Bulgarian Helsinki Committee)
- Marek Balaz (European Roma Rights Centre)
- Mustafa Yakupov (ERGO Network)
- Ojeaku Nwabuzo (European Network Against Racism)

### **Session 2: Racism, anti-roma discrimination and policing**

7 December 15:30-16:30 GMT/ 16:30-17:30 CET

The European Union has recently recognised the need to tackle structural racism in law enforcement, acknowledging discriminatory policing as a serious challenge in many EU Member States. Racially-motivated and biased police practices have a direct impact on individuals' rights, but decisions on where policing takes place, and how policing is done also have a significant impact on who enters criminal justice systems. In this session, we will be discussing how discriminatory attitudes in the police affect policing strategies and decisions that lead to the over-representation of Roma and other minority ethnic groups in criminal justice systems. We will also look at examples from various countries of measures to tackle structural racism in the police and discuss their impact.

Moderator: Bruno Min (Fair Trials)

#### ***Speakers:***

- Eirene de Prada (Rights International Spain)
- Anthony Drummond (Leeds Beckett University)
- Rachel Neild (Open Society Justice Initiative)



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

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## Agenda - Day 2 (8 December 2020)

### Session 3: Criminal justice professions and structural discrimination

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

There is a growing understanding across Europe that policing disproportionately targets Roma and people of certain racial and ethnic groups. What is less discussed and understood is the discrimination and structural racism faced by people once they are in the criminal legal system: It is rarely the case that people targeted by the police simply go home and can move on with their lives—instead, they often face criminal sanctions. In this session, we explore the findings from our report that Roma face considerable explicit and implicit bias in criminal legal systems, from judges, prosecutors, and from their own attorneys. Researchers from the US will discuss how data can be used to better understand the structural causes of disparities and structural racism.

Moderator: Mitali Nagrecha (Fair Trials)

#### *Speakers:*

- Livia Popa (APADOR-CH)
- Brook Hopkins (Harvard University)
- Felix Owusu (Harvard University)

### Session 4: Tackling anti-gypsyism in criminal justice systems and emerging challenges

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

Our report about the discrimination Roma face in criminal legal systems across Europe tells a devastating story. We also know that other racialised and ethnic groups in Europe are similarly discriminated against by our punishment systems. But what can we do about it? In this session, we will consider: What specific measures can member countries adopt to advance justice? What action could the EU take to tackle these challenges? What are the emerging challenges, for example rising populism, and what can be done to address them? What is the impact of the increased use of artificial intelligence?

Moderator: Mitali Nagrecha (Fair Trials)

#### *Speakers:*

- Eszter Kirs (Hungarian Helsinki Committee)
- Benjamin Ignac (Open Society Roma Initiative)
- Yvonne MacNamara (Traveller Movement)
- Romeo Franz (European Parliament)

