



AT SCHOOL TOGETHER
NEXT STEPS FOR ROMA EDUCATION
IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

SEPTEMBER 2011

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expresses concern “regarding the persistent segregation of Roma children in education.”

NOVEMBER 2012

“I urge the Czech government to provide a realistic budget, concrete timeline and indicators in order to bring to an end the vicious circle of segregated education that affects Roma children and costs the whole country so much, both financially and socially.”

NILS MUIŽNIEKS, *European Commissioner for Human Rights*

NOVEMBER 2013

“The same lack of political will and foot-dragging that has bedeviled the implementation of the D.H. case for six years remains. The real losers from this continued inertia are Romani children, whose future hopes and opportunities are diminished with each passing year in which they are relegated to second-class education.”

NGO submission to Committee of Ministers

AFTER TEN YEARS, STILL WAITING FOR CHANGE

THE POPULATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC includes an estimated 300,000 Roma, making up around 4 percent of the population.

In 2007, the European Court of Human Rights found that the treatment of Roma children in the education system amounted to racial discrimination.

The government promised change. But after 10 years, Roma families and their children are still facing discriminatory treatment.

It's time for the Czech government to ensure that all Czech children have a fair chance at school, as required by international human rights law and the laws of the European Union. It's time to educate everyone. Together.

What the European Court of Human Rights said in 2007:

Roma students “were placed in schools for children with mental disabilities where a more basic curriculum was followed than in ordinary schools and where they were isolated from pupils from the wider population. As a result, they received an education which compounded their difficulties and compromised their subsequent personal development instead of tackling their real problems or helping them to integrate into the ordinary schools and develop the skills that would facilitate life among the majority population. Indeed, the Government have implicitly admitted that job opportunities are more limited for pupils from special schools.”

GRAND CHAMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
D.H. AND OTHERS V. THE CZECH REPUBLIC, NOVEMBER, 2007.

What the Czech Ombudsman said in 2017

“Over a quarter of Roma children are still being educated in very ethnically homogeneous schools. In a number of cities and towns, there is a continuing practice of educating the Roma outside standard elementary schools, or separately from non-Roma children within the same elementary school. They either have “their” schools close to their homes, or the school administration places them in separate classes.”

REPORT ON DISCRIMINATION BY THE PUBLIC DEFENDER OF RIGHTS, 2017



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APRIL 2014

“The enforcement of fair and equal access to education of Roma pupils is still hindered by obstacles having deeper roots than it might seem.”

ANNA ŠABATOVÁ

Czech Public Defender of Rights

APRIL 2015

“Segregation in education will not be resolved by tinkering with a flawed system. This has been tried and failed.”

SALIL SHETTY

Secretary-General, Amnesty International

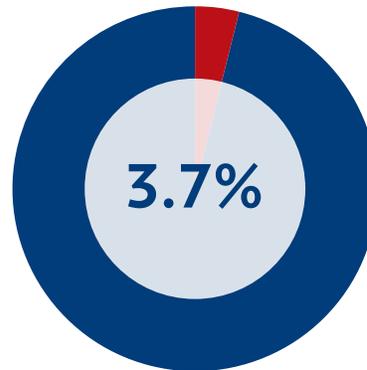
JULY 2016

“Ensuring Roma children have adequate access to education is essential to combat discrimination against Roma people in all areas of society. The Czech Republic has made some progress, but it needs to do more.”

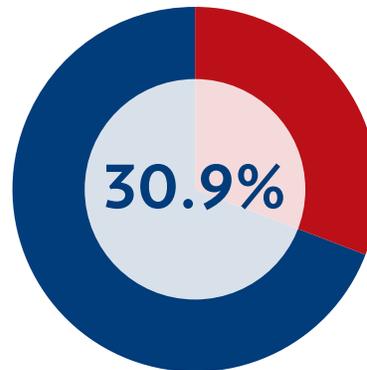
THORBJØRN JAGLAND

Council of Europe Secretary General

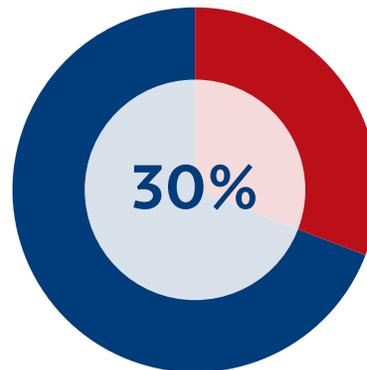
DISCRIMINATION BY THE NUMBERS: SCHOOL YEAR 2016–2017



3.7 % of the Czech Republic's 906,000 **primary school students** are **Roma**



30.9% of the 14,000 primary children **diagnosed with “mild mental disabilities”** are **Roma**



Just 30% of Roma aged 20-24 have had a **general or vocational secondary education**, compared to 82% of non-Roma.

Roma children were 15 times more likely than non-Roma children to be **diagnosed with “mild mental disabilities,”** and **placed in separate schools or classes.**

There are **83 elementary schools in the Czech Republic** where **over a half of all children are Roma.** Roma children form between a quarter and a half of all pupils in another 136 schools.