

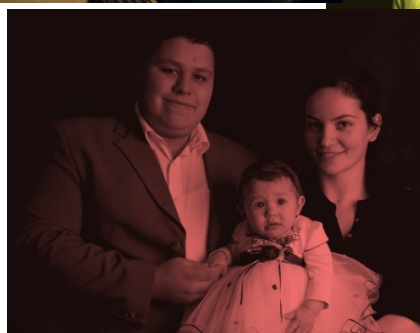
# ROMA



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Roma are a people with a nomadic tradition and their own culture and traditions - including their own language, Romani. Roma live in different countries across the world with 10-12 million in European countries such as Hungary, Bulgaria, France, the Czech Republic, Spain and Germany making Roma Europe's largest minority ethnic group.

Due to racism and discrimination Roma were targeted during the Holocaust and an estimated 500,000 Roma died in concentration and extermination camps.



“Europe has a shameful history of discrimination and severe repression of the Roma. There are still widespread prejudices against them in country after country on our continent. “

- Thomas Hammarberg,  
Council of Europe  
Commissioner for  
Human Rights  
2006-2012

Coercive sterilisation of Roma women has been documented across Europe. The Czech Ombudsman estimates that, since the 1970s, as many as 90,000 Roma women from Czechoslovakia became infertile due to coercive sterilisation up to as recently as 2007.

Roma continue to experience high levels of discrimination and racism in Europe including forced evictions, racist attacks and mass deportations.

Approximately 5,000 Roma now live in Ireland and also experience high levels of discrimination here finding it difficult to access jobs, education, health services and housing. Another major problem faced by Roma in Ireland is not being able to access Social Protection, including children's allowance, forcing some Roma families and children into desperate poverty and overcrowded living conditions. Stereotypes about Roma, and negative media reporting, provided a context in which two Roma children were removed from their families in 2013, for not looking like their parents. The Irish Ombudsman for Children subsequently identified this as 'ethnic profiling'.

Roma, from across Ireland, are working with Pavee Point as peer researchers in the first Government supported national needs assessment of Roma in Ireland, 2015.