

ERRC TRAINS YOUNG ROMA ACTIVISTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

"Please", "How to talk with Racists", "They are selling us". If you are wondering what this is all about, you just got a glimpse into the ERRC Human Rights Education Programme. In 2003, ERRC decided that as a central activity in its Human Rights Education Programme, a pan-European Human Rights Summer School would be put in place to welcome concerned Romani youth in the hope of creating a strong network of informed Roma that will together stand up to challenge discrimination and injustice in their communities.

This year, the Summer School welcomed 21 participants who were introduced into the complex and fascinating field of human rights law and philosophy, and were provided a safe space to try out in practice what a human rights defender's life is all about.

Participants discussed and received guidelines on how to talk with racists and generally how to talk in public, they were exposed to the practical steps that create an advocacy campaign in order to change the status quo of human rights and power in their communities, entered into the specifics of project management, looked at the realities of community organising and finished by looking at what exactly one human rights activist can do to change the world into a better place for everybody.



ERRC 2013 Summer School participants in the courtyard of the European Youth Centre, Budapest.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERRC

The Summer School, through its participatory approach and experiential learning methodology thrives to give its participants a space where new knowledge is added and clarified, where new techniques and tools are offered and where ideas and innovation are treasured and encouraged.

As one of the participants reminded us, in the words of Martin Luther King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" and we must stand up and challenge oppression no matter where it arises.



Summer School participants take part in active discussions.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERRC

THE ERRC COMBATS RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROMA AND EMPOWERS ROMA TO DEFEND THEIR OWN RIGHTS.

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ERRC DELIVERS TRAINING FOR ROMA ACTIVISTS IN SERBIA

In the context of Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA) funded project activities, the ERRC organised training in Serbia on 11-13 July 2013. The training was a part of a research project aimed to map out the situation of Roma children in special education and to highlight challenges faced by Roma children in the education system.

The training gathered 16 young Roma activists coming from more than 10 towns or locations in Serbia. After the training, these 16 activists visited more than 100 Roma families whose children attend the special schools. The aim of this visit was to talk with these families and to consider the reasons and ways in which Romani children are be-

ing wrongfully placed in special education. The purpose of this research is to shed light on and to document the number of Roma children in the special education system in Serbia, to understand the systemic mechanisms by which they end up there and to analyse what impact special schooling has on Roma pupils who are being placed in special schools. Based on the facts gathered during this research, the ERRC will publish a report to provide an accurate picture of the circumstances of the special school system in the country.



Young Roma activists get ready to research special education in Serbia.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERRC

ERRC PUBLISHES NEW COUNTRY PROFILES ON ROMA RIGHTS

The European Roma Rights Centre has published a set of **country profiles** which outline some of the major issues affecting Roma in 10 countries. The short reports indicate that, despite some efforts to improve the situation of Romani individuals and communities, they still are denied basic human rights. According to the findings presented in the country profiles, Romani individuals and communities still have to face violence and hate speech and cannot enjoy the same opportunities and standards as the rest of the society in access to essential services such as education or housing.

The ERRC country profiles are produced to give a snapshot of the situation of Roma and the work of the ERRC in the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Macedonia,

Serbia, Slovakia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine in 2011-2012, focusing on ERRC core themes such as education, housing, violence and the state response to violent incidents.

Sub-standard housing and ongoing evictions continue to be one of the major problems affecting Roma in most of the countries we work in. In most cases, the evictions that took place violated international standards. Segregation of Romani children in education is still widespread across Central and Eastern European countries. In the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovakia, Romani children are placed in special schools where they are taught a reduced curriculum which lowers their chances of fulfilling their potential,

and teaches them and their peers that it is acceptable to label, stigmatise, and segregate. In Russia and Ukraine, many Roma lack proper identification documents, which prevents them from accessing basic services such as education and health care. In Slovakia and Romania, Romani settlements are segregated by walls, creating new ghettos. In Turkey, little progress has been made towards a comprehensive strategy and action plan to address the problems that Roma face.

The ERRC reports underline that long-rooted negative stereotypes and strong anti-Romani sentiments are the chief obstacles in improving the life standards of Roma. Discrimination in all fields of life is still a common factor in all countries.

<p>CZECH REPUBLIC A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>	<p>FRANCE A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>	<p>ITALY A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>	<p>MACEDONIA A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>	<p>ROMANIA A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>
<p>RUSSIAN FEDERATION A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>	<p>SERBIA A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>	<p>SLOVAKIA A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>	<p>TURKEY A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>	<p>UKRAINE A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE</p> <p>Country Profile 2011-2012</p>



ROMA ORGANISATIONS DISCUSS HOUSING RIGHTS IN TURKEY

The European Roma Rights Centre organised a two-days training for Roma rights organisations from all over Turkey on housing rights. During the event, which took place on 10-11 June 2013 in Ankara, representatives of 25 Roma rights organisations discussed the international and national legal and policy framework on housing rights with experts.

The focus of the workshop was Law 6306 regarding “Transformation of Areas under Disaster Risk”, how it may effect Romani settlements, and which legal and administrative mechanisms exist to challenge actions under this law. In addition, advocacy tools to promote Roma rights in accessing quality housing were tabled.

During the meeting, representatives of Roma rights organisations provided information on housing conditions in their settlements and briefed the group on any steps taken by authorities to implement the Law 6306. Issues raised by representatives included, property matters and legalisations of property, quality of housing, infrastructure problems, prejudices, the negative reputation of Romani settlements, problems faced in accessing public services and de facto “Roma-only” schools in the settlements.

The final meeting of the workshop, which took place in the afternoon session on 11 June 2013, brought together the Romani participants with human rights and housing rights organisations and inter-governmental organisations.

The aim of the meeting was to present the Romani perspective on the housing rights matter to other organisations, to learn about their activities in the field and to seek approaches for possible cooperation.



The ERRC's training on housing rights brought together Roma organisations.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERRC

ERRC BRIEFS TURKISH MINISTRY ON ROMA STRATEGIES IN EUROPE

ERRC staff met with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, tasked in May 2012 to produce a Roma Strategy in Turkey, within the overall frame of the SIDA funded project activities. The ERRC introduced the work of the organisation

across Europe as well as in Turkey. The Ministry representatives outlined the current state of work in regard to Roma and, in particular, the process for adopting a Strategy on Roma. There was a great interest related to the subjects presented,

in particular what are the expectations from a Roma policy. Besides the meeting in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Family, the team also met with several Embassies and partners.

NEW TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK LAUNCHES TO HELP ROMA CHILDREN ACCESS EDUCATION

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) is involved in a newly launched initiative, the **DARE-Net project**: Desegregation and Action for Roma in Education-Network in partnership with Romani CRISS (Romania), the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University, Antigoné (Greece), Life Together (Czech Republic) and Integro Association (Bulgaria).

The project is financially supported by Lifelong Learning: Comenius, ICT, Languages and Programme Coordination, with the aim of creating a transnational network of Roma and non-Roma civil society and academic organisations to analyse practices and initiatives relating to Roma education

and school desegregation of Roma children in Romania, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria.

During the project, the DARE-Net partners will advance desegregation and litigation projects in their countries and advocate for concrete actions by institutions to integrate Roma students, through desegregation and qualitative education, in the six European countries.

The Network partners gathered in Bulgaria in July 2013 to discuss successful practices concerning school desegregation and access to quality education for Romani children.

Integro Association, a Roma NGO from Bulgaria, shared with the Network members their successful practices, experiences and projects for secondary school and reintegration of dropouts. The organisations also visited settlements in Razgrad region. On 15 July 2013, the group visited Kavarna, where they met local Roma and local authorities. They also visited the local kindergarten and the local school which are close to the Roma quarter. On 16 July 2013, the partners visited Razgrad, the city where the office of Integro Association is located and met volunteers from the Roma women's organisation “Karmen”, established by Integro, which is also called “Mother Center” (MC). The women from

the MC shared their experience with the partners. Karmen's work focuses on the Roma minority in Razgrad, in particular on the mothers and their children. They also work to empower Romani women.

The partners also travelled to Vazovo where they met representatives of "Roma

Vazovo 2007", a local Roma NGO. Roma Vazovo 2007 defines its mission as supporting the local Roma people and to create conditions for dialogue between local authorities and the Roma.

The DARE-Net project succeeded in creating a transnational network of

Roma and non-Roma civil society and academic organisations to analyse practices and initiatives relating to Roma education and the school desegregation of Roma children in Romania, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria.

ERRC CONTRIBUTES TO SELF-EMPOWERMENT OF ROMA IN CLUJ, ROMANIA

In 2012 the community of Roma from Pata-Rât, placed at the margins not only of Cluj, but also of society, started to transform and organise itself. With the support of the ERRC, the people from Pata-Rât managed to found a non-governmental organisation called the Community Association of Roma from Coastei, in order for them to have a strong voice and the means to advocate for their rights.

At the beginning of 2013, the City Hall and the City Council launched a financing scheme for local NGOs and the Association submitted a proposal for a project. The ERRC advised in the project-writing process. As a result of this collaboration the project received funding.

The project had the aim of contributing to the development and empowerment of the community in order to support its desire to re-integrate into the city life of Cluj. As the main resource of any community is its people, the project focused on them, assuring that they acquired a body of knowledge and skills in areas that can increase their capacity to self-organise. The younger segment of the group was not left out, as creating opportunities for children to take part in extra-curricular educational activities was also a target. As a third component of the project, there was the introduction of the community to a large audience, through various means.



Members of the Roma community asserted their common cause with Rosia Montana by displaying a large poster on a central building.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERRC

The beneficiaries of the project were 15 people who were trained in human rights, 15 people who were trained in drafting and implementing projects and 32 children, which attended summer camp. Although a small number of people are directly involved in the project, the range of beneficiaries is significantly larger, reaching the entire community of 240 people. The training these people go through is aimed at afterwards improving the life of the group as a whole.

The ERRC is responsible for running the training on human rights and offering support for the project implementation. In this line of thinking, after completing the training course, the Association sought other

similar groups. They found a cause that they joined, specifically, that of **Rosia Montana** - a proposed mining project in this Romanian village had led to national protests. They asserted their common cause with Rosia Montana by displaying a large poster on a central building which announced that the community of Roma from Pata-Rât joined the march for Rosia Montana. Members of the community used slogans such as "The Roma from Pata-Rât support human rights and Rosia Montana". The ERRC also played an active part in the organisation of the summer camp for children. This activity was highly interactive and diverse, comprising a variety of team games (focused on strategy, imagination, and thinking), sports, music and dance, painting, creative workshops, karaoke and camping.

There was also a second part of this action, where the materials created by children during summer camp were exhibited in the City Hall.

Among these activities, the project also concentrates on making the community and the Association more visible in the landscape of NGOs. For that purpose, an informative leaflet is to be drafted and disseminated, which offers details about the community, its life and its objectives. This is considered relevant for possible future collaborations with other NGOs and also with the authorities.



Children from the Roma community of Pata-Rât participated in summer camp activities.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERRC

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES OPEN TO PROMOTE EDUCATION ON NON-DISCRIMINATION AND ROMA MINORITY

The European Roma Rights Centre participated in a comprehensive workshop held in Predeal, Romania on 27-30 June 2013 by ADIS (Association for Development and

Social Inclusion) in order to evaluate and replicate the teaching course entitled "Ethics and the non-discrimination of vulnerable groups in the health system".

Part of a wider project funded by the Open Society Foundations, the course has been successfully delivered during a two year period in three Universities from Romania. The workshop gathered representatives from the Medicine and Pharmacy "Gt. T. Popa" University from Iași, the "Iuliu Hațieganu" University from Cluj Napoca, the "Carol Davila" University from Bucuresti, the Medicine and Pharmacy University from Targu Mures, the Medicine University "Victor Papiilian" from Sibiu and the Association of the Resident Doctors from Romania and the National Council for Combating Discrimination.

All university representatives acknowledged the importance of the course and their openness to have it continued and piloted in their universities.



The workshop organised by Association for Development and Social Inclusion tabled the teaching course entitled "Ethics and the non-discrimination of vulnerable groups in the health system".

PHOTO CREDIT: ERRC

ERRC CHALLENGES EVICTIONS IN FRANCE BEFORE THE ECtHR

In the period of July-September 2013, the ERRC continued to be active in France, monitoring evictions, distribution of expulsions orders by French authorities and human rights violations faced by Roma. Evictions are on-going and numerous in France and the ERRC has observed a new trend applied by French authorities in order to make evictions much harder to challenge at Court: more and more eviction orders served to Roma only give 48-hours notice which does not allow enough time for Roma to prepare for their defence. Emergency housing solutions are still very scarce and almost never adequate.

In April 2013, the ERRC submitted a Rule 39 request for interim measures to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on behalf of seven Roma under an imminent threat of eviction. The



On 28 May 2013, the settlement in Porte de Paris, Saint Denis was bulldozed immediately after the residents were evicted.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERRC

eviction of their settlement located in La Courneuve (northern Paris) occurred the day after the request was submitted but the ERRC was asked by the Court to submit a full application of the case. In June 2013, the ERRC provided further details on the legal procedures and

the actual situation of the applicants on the request by the Court. The case is still pending.

Furthermore, the ERRC continued to monitor and keep record of hate speech against Roma in France. In this context, the ERRC strongly condemned a French politician's remarks about Roma suggesting that "Maybe Hitler did not kill enough." The ERRC stated that the comment, made by **Gilles Bourdouleix**, an MP and Mayor of the western town of Cholet, is completely unacceptable. However, the ERRC underlined in its **press release** that this incident did not reflect an isolated position and it was just

the latest example of racist and discriminatory remarks by French politicians targeting Roma and Traveller communities and individuals in France. The ERRC called France to promptly respond and to deal with racist, stigmatising language or behaviour that incites discrimination against Roma.

“GYPSY BOX” IN THEFT COMPLAINT FORMS REMOVED BY ITALIAN CARABINIERI AFTER ACTION BY ERRC AND PARTNER

Following reports made by the ERRC and its local partner **Associazione 21 Luglio**, the head of the Italian Carabinieri (one of two national law enforcement agencies) agreed to remove a box marked “Gypsies” from the complaint templates to report thefts. The two organisations welcomed the positive results of these reports as a fundamental step towards the dismantling of anti-Gypsyism and institutional discrimination.

Associazione 21 Luglio and the ERRC discovered, **through media reports**, that police in Liguria gave out pre-printed complaint templates for theft, which included a tick

box labelled ‘gypsies’ i.e. offering theft victims the chance to report Roma as the culprits. No other ethnicity was included on the form. This automatically linked the theft with Roma ethnicity, further encouraging negative, stigmatising stereotypes that all Roma are thieves. Associazione 21 Luglio sent a report to Senators Palermo and Manconi of the Senate’s Extraordinary Commission for Human Rights, while the ERRC sent a complaint to OSCAD, the law enforcement unit that investigates discriminatory crimes.

It emerged the same complaint forms are being used in every Carabinieri

station throughout Italy. This discriminatory feature was “explicitly requested by the Joint database of the Ministry of Interior,” according to the response given to the Senate’s Human Rights Commission by the Carabinieri’s General Commander. The requests to intervene addressing the General Commander, made by the two members of the Human Rights Commission, resulted in the definitive removal of “any referral to the field ‘gypsies’.”

You can find documents related to the case [here](#).

TORINO MUNICIPALITY SHUTS OFF WATER SUPPLY NEAR ROMA CAMP

The ERRC **stated its concern** on 12 August 2013 on reports that municipal authorities in Torino, Italy have cut the water supply of a public fountain providing water for approximately 300 Roma, including children and women. The Roma live in a nearby semiformal camp, Corso Tazzoli.

The public fountain, the closest source of safe drinking water for the Roma, has been out of use since 29 July 2013. The ERRC called for the tap to be reconnected immediately. The Municipality cut off the water after several requests and complaints they received from the non-Romani residents

in the area, who according to local media reports, claimed that they were uncomfortable seeing a regular line of Roma using the fountain to get drinking water or wash themselves. According to reports, after these complaints, the municipal police cut the water supply for “public order” reasons.

ERRC ATTENDS REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR HURBANOVO MASSACRE

On 16 June 2012, an off-duty municipal police officer shot three Romani individuals dead, and seriously injured two others in a killing spree in the town of Hurbanovo, Slovakia. The ERRC staff, lawyers of the victims and the Roma Parliament in Slovakia held an event at the site of the town of Hurbanovo on June 16, 2013, paying respect to the victims of the massacre and holding a media briefing on the constitutional complaint. The ERRC and the Roma Parliament in Slovakia also sent open **letters** to Slovak and international authorities, pointing out the shortcomings of the Special Court’s proceedings and judgment, and asking for their advocacy to establish justice for the victims.

The perpetrator, Milan Juhász was **sentenced** to just nine years in prison, an

exceptionally low sentence. The minimal penalty under the Slovak Penal Code for this crime is 25 years. During his examination for the purpose of expert opinion, he frequently stated his calling to ‘solve the Roma problem’ and to ‘finally deal with the Roma in Hurbanovo’. Despite this, no racial motivation was considered during the case.

The Roma Parliament in Slovakia launched a **petition** calling on the Ministry of Justice to re-open the case. The surviving family members have limited standing at the penal court proceedings and their perspective and interests were not adequately considered by the court during the Juhász case.

During the media briefing with several Slovak media, the ERRC representative

spoke not only about the particularities of Juhász case, the reasons for the ERRC involvement and objecting the ruling, but also about the broader context of police brutality as well as cases of inadequate police investigations, including missing racial motivation. The ERRC representative reported on other similar cases, CERD recommendations and challenge several assumptions concerning the Juhász case spread by Slovak media.

The ERRC representatives also participated at the remembrance ceremony at the cemetery where the victims are buried. Together with the victims’ relatives, members of Roma Parliament Slovakia, and other Roma and pro-Roma activists, we paid tribute to the victims of this mass murder.

FIELD TRIPS

During the period of June-September 2013, ERRC teams continued visiting target countries to monitor and document the situation of Roma for further action.

Czech Republic

The ERRC team travelled to Ostrava in order to collect missing evidence – tes-

timonies, school documents, powers of attorney from the Romani children and their legal guardians, who have been collaborating with the ERRC on a new

litigation case in the area of school discrimination – lower quality of education and segregation in only-Roma schools. During this trip on 15 July, the ERRC team visited most of the 34 clients who the ERRC is considering for litigation.

The team not only visited most of the clients who have been collaborating with the ERRC in the course of the last two years, but also investigated potential new clients – Romani children placed in special education facilities and known for being clever – and identified four more potential clients. The team also met with Roma teaching assistants and discussed the situation in their particular schools. Furthermore, the ERRC representative participated in a meeting with young Roma activists in Ostrava, who are trying to organise a working group which would represent the Roma community in Ostrava.

Serbia

The ERRC team met with embassies, Roma partners, human rights organisations and state authorities in Serbia from 11-13 July 2013. The ERRC delegation also met with representatives of the Commission for Protection of Equality as well as with the Deputy Ombudsman in Serbia and members of the Serbian Parliament. In these meetings the ERRC introduced the work of the organisation across Europe as well as in Serbia, highlighting aspects related to discrimination against Roma, specifically in education, housing, border control checks and violence.

The ERRC also presented its report addressed to the European Commission in April 2013 in relation to Serbia's accession process to EU.

Slovakia

From 23 to 25 July 2013, an ERRC team attended a series of meetings with Slovak authorities in Bratislava and discussed topics related to the ERRC's seven pending cases in Slovakia. During the meeting with the Slovak Ombudsperson and her team, issues such as environmental evictions in Kosice, discrimination in education, a police raid in Moldava were tabled. The police raid in Moldava was also discussed at meetings with local organisations including ETP Slovakia, Poradna, and Equity OZ. The team also met with lawyers to discuss the collaboration on providing legal representation to victims of the police raid in Moldava. The meeting with the directors from the Inspection Department of the Ministry of Interior also focused on the case of alleged police brutality in Moldava. The team also met with the lawyers preparing the complaint for the environmental evictions case and discussed the developments. Furthermore, the ERRC team met with the Plenipotentiary of the Government for Roma Issues representatives of Amnesty International and local Roma to discuss the legalisation of houses and school discrimination matters in Plavecky Stvrtok. During the trip the ERRC team also came together with journalists to present the work of the ERRC in Slovakia.

Ukraine

In July 2012, the ERRC team travelled to Odessa, Ukraine to meet with the ERRC's community based paralegals, and the lawyer who is working with them. The team met three paralegals, who between them are assisting Roma in three local communities to apply for personal documents, such as birth certificates and internal passports.

During the visit, one woman received her passport, while another completed the final stage in the application process. Access to personal documents is a particularly serious problem in Ukraine, and the complicated and time-consuming process is difficult for many to negotiate. Roma are also often requested to make informal payments to passport authorities. The Odessa paralegal project is currently dealing with applications for personal documents for 21 adults and 14 children.

The team also visited a voluntary school in Korsunsi, Odessa, where Roma who have participated in ERRC human rights trainings are also taking adult literacy classes, supported by the ERRC. Classes are available three evenings per week, and take place in the community, making them more accessible for those who wish to attend.

The ERRC team then travelled to Kiev and met with NGOs including Chirikli Roma Women Fund, Ukrainian Step by Step Foundation, and the International Renaissance Foundation.

ERRC BRINGS NEW LEGAL CASES BEFORE MACEDONIAN EQUALITY BODY

The European Roma Rights Centre initiated two legal procedures in order to challenge instances of discrimination of Roma in access to public goods and services. Namely, on 23 June 2013 a group of Romani men and women was denied access to the "Snupi" swimming pool in Veles run by the local private business. The ticket seller refused to sell Roma the tickets, while the security guards blocked the entrance with an explanation that they were not allowed to let *them* in and that this order was received from the management of the facility. Although it was not explicitly said they are forbidden from entering because they are Roma, accord-

ing to the plaintiffs it was obvious that the reason was due to their ethnicity as other people, non-Roma were freely entering and exiting the recreational complex.

A similar incident occurred in Skopje on 30 July 2013 when a young Romani man was headed to the newly opened "Acqua Park" at the local sports centre (SC) "Boris Trajkovski" with his girlfriend and two small cousins, all Roma. The staff at the entrance did not allow them to enter without providing any explanation. When the incidents reached the media, director of the SC explained they were not allowed to enter because the children didn't have swimsuits.

However, the Roma testified that not they were properly dressed and brought the required equipment, however the staff at the entrance did not even ask them if they had swimsuits, or to show them.

In August 2013, on behalf of two Romani man involved in these incidents Mr. Berisa and Mr. Abaz, ERRC filed complaints to the Macedonian Commission for Protection against Discrimination against the restaurant-swimming pool "Snupi" and SC "Boris Trajkovski". According to the Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, the Commission has 90 days to respond to the complaint.

ERRC WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Adam Weiss
Legal Director

In August 2012, Adam Weiss joined the ERRC team as the Legal Director. Adam holds a JD from Columbia Law School (New York) and an LLM with distinction and a specialisation in public international law from King's College (University of London). He is a member of the New York State Bar and started the process of qualifying as a barrister in England and Wales. He worked as the Legal Director of the AIRE Centre from London from February 2012, as Assistant Director of AIRE from 2010 to 2012, as staff lawyer at AIRE from 2007 to 2012 and as Executive Committee member of the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association from 2009 to present.

He has been involved in litigation of over 40 human rights cases against the UK, France, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Sweden, Cyprus and Russia and has trained lawyers, judges and NGOs in Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia. Most of the litigated cases involved people facing expulsion from the UK or other countries where there is a real risk they will be subjected to ill treatment (see, e.g., *N and others v United Kingdom*), or where their expulsion will constitute an unjustified interference with their right to respect for family life (see, e.g., *A.A. v United Kingdom*). He has experience of working with Roma from other EU Member States who are residing in the UK and have been refused social assistance, social security, housing or residence documentation and/or have been threatened with expulsion. This includes providing direct advice through advice surgeries to Roma families and representing Roma in the UK tribunals. He also litigated a case against Bulgaria in the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of several Roma families who were unlawfully evicted from their homes, working closely with an NGO in Varna.

He supervised the AIRE Centre's volunteer interns and since 2010 has supervised the legal work of all of the AIRE Centre's full- and part-time lawyers. As a member of the Executive Committee of the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA), has been responsible for supervising the General Secretary of the organisation and for serving on the Executive Committee's personnel subcommittee. Serving on ILPA's personnel subcommittee involves formulating recommendations to the Executive Committee in response to human resources issues and dealing with informal and formal grievances involving staff.

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Stefan Luca
Staff Lawyer

The ERRC's legal team was further strengthened by the appointment of Stefan Luca in August 2012. Stefan graduated the Law School (Bucharest) and holds a MA in international human rights law from Lund University (Sweden). He interned with the Helsinki Committee in Romania, worked as a lawyer with the BPV Grigorescu Law firm in Bucharest from 2007. From 2008 to 2011 he worked as an assistant lawyer with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and from 2011 to present worked with the Romanian Agent to the European Court of Human Rights.



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Crina Morteau
Romani Legal Trainee

Crina Morteau joined the ERRC team in August 2012 as a Romani Legal Trainee. Crina graduated from Law School (Sibiu) and has an MA in international human rights law from the CEU (Budapest). She worked as a legal assistant during 2006/2007 with the Anghel & Associates Law Firm, she interned with the Roma Education Fund, the European Commission, Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI). She worked as a consultant with the Roma Education Fund in Hungary (2009-2011), fellow at the Open Society Institute, Washington DC office, and project coordinator with the Chance for Children Foundation in Hungary (from January 2012).

INTERN REFLECTIONS



Radosav Basic (Serbia)

During my studies at Central European University, Budapest I found out about the ERRC, that it is one of the biggest organisations which endeavours to provide Roma with the tools necessary to combat discrimination and achieve equal access to justice, education, housing, health care and public services. This was my reason for applying for an internship at ERRC, also it was perfectly suited with my previous experience at the NGO Roma Centre for Democracy.

In April 2013 I applied for a position in Research and Advocacy. Beginning work as a member of the ERRC was a great experience. One of my main tasks was working on research about data collection in Serbia. The research was based on the Serbian law for data collection, which regulates how data is collected, saved and the protection of data. During this task I had the chance to apply my previous knowledge about research, and to improve it with the help of my colleges and supervisor. The ERRC also included me in its summer school, where I learned about the European Court and the national human rights law framework. My internship at the ERRC was a great experience, which gave me excellent support for my future plans.

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Zoe Billington (USA)

I arrived in Budapest hoping to learn about the current condition of Roma in Europe and to contribute to the ERRC's efforts to combat racism and discrimination. I was also looking forward to experiencing what it is like to work for an international NGO. I have come away from my internship having reached all of these aims.

During the past two months I worked on a variety of projects that each taught me something different about the way the ERRC achieves its goals. As an anthropology major, I was curious to learn how a human rights institution like the ERRC interacts with the group of people it serves. I was able to witness this firsthand, and am excited to say that my experience has sparked ideas for my senior thesis which I will write next year. Perhaps even more memorable were my everyday observations of, and interactions with, ERRC staff and fellow interns. Through these people I not only learned about the Roma and human rights, but also had my mind opened up to many new ways of thinking and living that will stay with me long after I leave Budapest. I had a wonderful summer and am very thankful to have had the chance to work and learn abroad in Budapest.