

Census of Forced Evictions of Roma in Italy *2021-2025*

CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION PROMOTING EQUALITY

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2021-2025

INTRODUCTION

This latest census of forced evictions of Roma in Italy, covering the period from April 2021 to March 2025, shows that Italian authorities have carried out at least 129 evictions of living spaces inhabited by Romani people, affecting approximately 696 people, comprising 67 families, who were in most cases made homeless, or otherwise put into unstable housing conditions.

This census is a non-exhaustive list of evictions of formal and informal camps, compiled from media, activist, and NGO reports over the past four years. It is very likely that more evictions and displacements took place between April 2021 and March 2025, but that such incidents went unreported and unrecorded, and due to methodological and resource limitations, do not feature in this census.

The data in this census show a clear shift from the mass forced evictions that characterized the previous decade, and a marked decrease in the number of Roma living in mono-ethnic official and unofficial camps. This latest census also reveals a welcome decrease in the number of Roma forcibly evicted. The data from the previous ERRC census, covering the period from 2017 to March 2021, revealed that Italian authorities carried out at least 187 evictions, affecting 3,156 Romani people. This latest data reveals a 78% decrease in the number of Romani persons forcibly evicted between April 2021 and March 2025.

However, some caution is warranted before this welcome fall in the numbers can be hailed as evidence that the authorities have 'overcome the system of the camps' as promised more than a decade ago.



In 2012, the Italian government adopted its [National Strategy for Roma Inclusion \(NRIS\)](#) which stated that *"the liberation from the camp as a place of relational and physical degradation of families and people of Romani origin, and their relocation to decent housing, is possible."* In 2023, there were still at least 119 segregated camps and shelters (housing approximately 13,300 people) operated by local authorities in Italy, according to [estimates by Associazione 21 Luglio](#). A further 2,500 Roma are estimated to live in 'informal camps', many because of previous evictions of local-authority-run 'nomad camps.' In 2024, the [Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights \(ECSR\)](#) found Italy guilty of violating the European Social Charter over anti-Roma discrimination in housing (see below).

Evictions persist in Italy; they remain numerous but affect far smaller numbers of people. In the upper range, dozens are displaced rather than hundreds; more often the typical eviction involves small groups or individual families, and many incidents go unreported with many families rendered 'invisible' as they are moved on without any provision made for alternative accommodation. Other families simply shift and move on before a threatened eviction takes place. One definite trend that has emerged with many municipalities is the issuing of effectively pre-emptive anti-Roma ordinances and the placing of physical barriers to prevent access to trailers and caravans in several cities, in some cases temporarily, in others on a permanent basis. The following is a sample of such actions taken between March 2021 and May 2022:

30 March 2021: *Vicenza, No more camping*

The Municipality extended an ordinance prohibiting the vehicles of about twenty families from parking in a large area of the capital, the so-called red zone. This announced measure - which adds to the measures against illegal parking and excessive begging - is reportedly intended to prevent deterioration and potential thefts. Over the past six months, local police patrols have carried out over 50 interventions, including two which resulted in violations of the Urban Police Regulations *"for loitering and defiling public land,"* and the removal of people and vehicles located in the red zone.

12 June 2021: *Padua, Barrier erected to block the caravans of nomads*

The [municipality of Padua](#) spent €50,000 on an anti-nomad barrier. *"We finally put up a barrier on Via Geremia, at the entrance to the Plebiscito,"* explained Diego Bonavina, Councillor for Sport and Security. *"We did it to prevent campers and caravans belonging to the Roma and Sinti communities from entering the parking lot, which were unwelcome."*

18 November 2021: *Sesto San Giovanni, Mayor cracks down on nomadism in the city*

The mayor of Sesto San Giovanni, Roberto Di Stefano, [signed an anti-nomad ordinance](#) prohibiting the parking and storage of campers and caravans, used as homes by nomadic families.

27 April 2022: *Mayor's Ordinance: Nomads and their Campervans out of Paternò*

The [mayor of Paternò, Nino Naso](#), ordered the removal of unauthorized individuals, homeless people, and nomads from municipal areas. The officers of the Public Force and the Municipal Police Corps are charged with enforcing the ordinance by carrying out the immediate and forced eviction of all caravans, campers, vehicles of any type and their occupants, consisting of entire families of Nomads stationed throughout the urban and extra-urban territory within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Paternò, who engage in proven behaviour in violation of the regulations protecting the environment and health and hygiene, public health, urban decorum and safety, and road safety.

15 May 2022: *Nomads at Lavello: Barriers are being erected*

The [mayor of Calolziocorte](#) has instructed municipal technicians to search for suitable barriers to install at the entrances to a parking lot. According to media reports, the mayor is responding to complaints from Calolzio residents that have been *'pouring into City Hall for days about occupied parking lots, smoked chickens, makeshift laundries, and excrement in public parks.'*

18 May 2022: *Anti-Roma ordinance in Rivalta*

In response to complaints and a petition – a 'battle made up by Fratelli D'Italia' – the municipality of Rivalta has introduced an ordinance for the "Prohibition of permanent parking and parking throughout the municipal territory for caravans, motorhomes, caravans and vehicles still equipped and transformed for residential use, with the purpose of camping or waiting". The petition demanded the inclusion of bar-bollards in order to prevent the entry of campers into municipal parking lots. To prevent vans or trucks that simply want to stop from being penalized, the ban in force specifies that people cannot halt their vehicles and turn them into their homes, "as happens with nomads."

THE INTERNATIONAL VERDICT

ON ITALY'S FAILURE TO 'OVERCOME THE SYSTEM OF CAMPS' AND ITS RACIST LEGACY

In its [2023 submission to UNCERD](#), ERRC research found that families living in informal camps were persistently evicted without respect for the protections prescribed by international standards. Residents were not consulted prior to eviction and they did not receive formal eviction orders, making it difficult to challenge the evictions legally: *"The situation of schoolchildren, elderly people, pregnant women and people with health issues was not taken into consideration. Most of the time the evictees were not offered alternative accommodation, which forced them into an endless cycle of evictions from one camp to another."*

The 2024 European Commission against Racism and Intolerance ([ECRI Report on Italy](#)) noted that while the number of Roma living in camps decreased considerably, the housing situation for Roma remained 'a matter of concern': *"Many Roma still reside in formal and informal settlements, which often lack basic amenities and are located in city outskirts with limited access to public transportation. Moreover, forced evictions of Roma in violation of international standards have continued."*

On 13 May 2024, in a damning indictment the [Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights \(ECSR\)](#) unanimously concluded that Italy's persistent discriminatory mistreatment of Roma in its housing policies amounts to serious violations of the [European Social Charter](#). The Committee's decision was in response to a [complaint](#) filed by Amnesty International, and it concluded that Italy had violated Article E of the Charter as regards the continuation of forced evictions of Roma, segregated and sub-standard housing, and concerning the lack of equal access to social housing for Roma.

The information provided by the authorities about the allocation of resources to specific projects to improve access to social housing for Roma failed to impress the Committee that such resources have effectively and significantly improved access of Roma and Sinti to social housing without discrimination; further, on the issue of forced evictions, the Committee found that: *"The State has failed to adopt a comprehensive and adequate legal framework allowing to ensure sufficient remedies in cases of forced evictions. Moreover, as a result of these practices, Roma and Sinti are largely stigmatised and remain marginalised, which constitutes discriminatory treatment."*

The [2025 Roma Civil Monitor](#) estimated that approximately 10,000 Roma and Sinti still live in seriously precarious housing conditions throughout the country, and continue to reside in formal and informal settlements that often lack essential services and are located in urban peripheries with limited access to public transport. The report notes a growing awareness of Italian municipal administrations to move away from mono-ethnic camps, and plan for viable housing solutions; and that in the two-year period 2022-2023, the municipalities of Asti, Lamezia Terme, Prato, and Rome have implemented innovative actions to overcome Romani settlements in their respective territories.

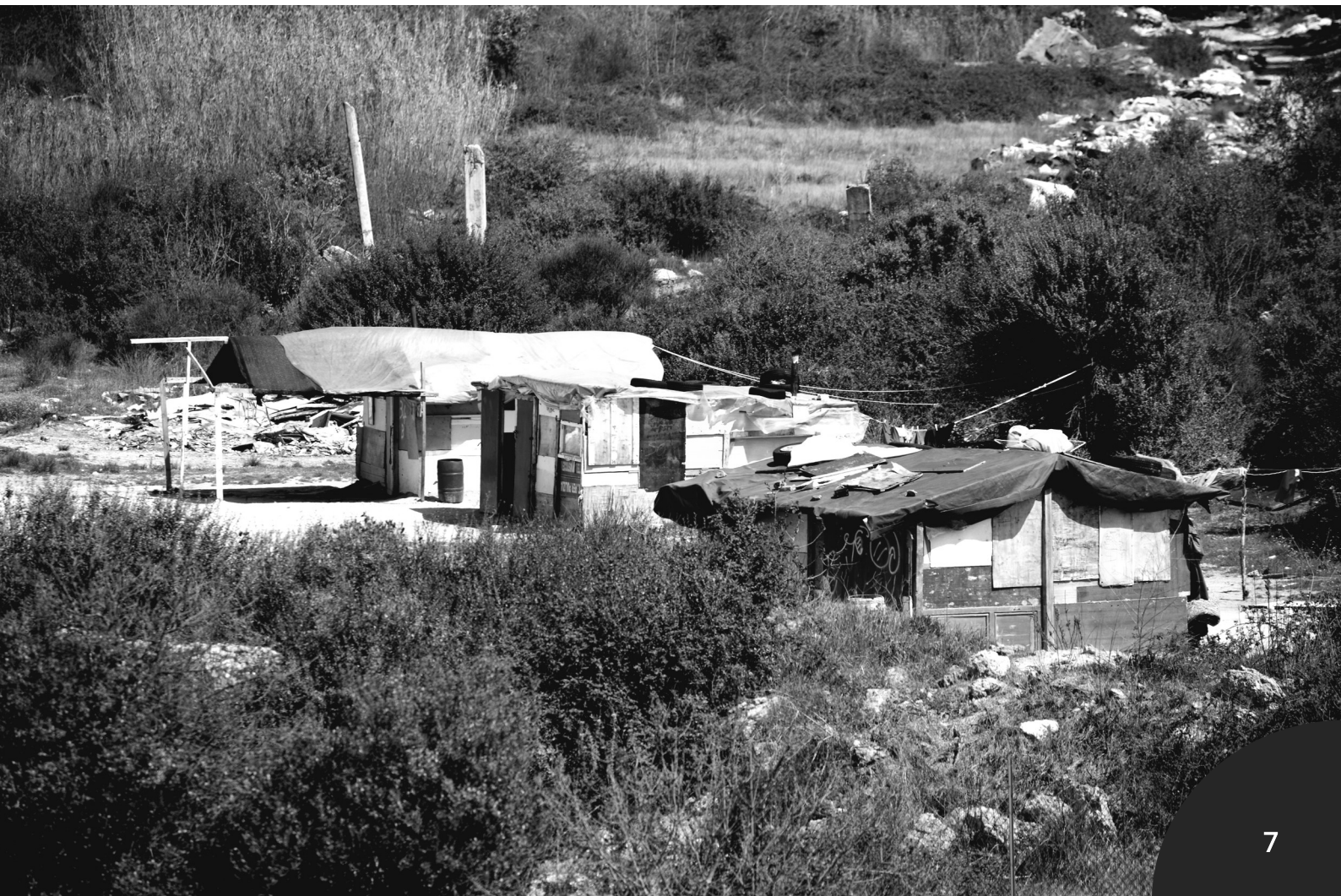
However, the report finds that such actions, *"although promising, appear insufficient to generate a significant shift away from the past"*; while in many other municipalities, *"actions appear to be poorly defined both in terms of timing and implementation methods."* Many administrations have yet to distance themselves from the policies and practices that gave rise to the 'system of the camps', and deeply-rooted antigypsyism remains a formidable obstacle to meaningful and sustainable inclusion. Recent developments cited below illustrate how much remains to be done to overcome the 'system of the camps', to combat racial discrimination against Roma, and to deliver human-rights-compliant solutions to housing provision.

THE PERSISTENCE OF INJUSTICE

The December 2024 [eviction and demolition of the Guidonia Montecelio camp](#) in the Albuccione area, stood as a direct act of defiance against the ECSR conclusions, and direct proof that the oppressive legacy of the illegal '[Nomad Emergency](#)' was still strong. This camp, which existed for 15 years, and one of nine active settlements registered in the Lazio region, was home to 220 people, including more than 100 children, many of whom were enrolled in school. On 12 August 2024, following a fire in the [camp](#) which left about 50 persons homeless, the mayor issued an order for the removal of people and vehicles from the affected area, as well as the fencing off of the site with concrete structures to prevent the affected residents from rebuilding their homes. The people affected by the fire were offered a one-off contribution of €500 per person to help them find new accommodation. Subsequently the same offer was made to all families in the camp, some accepted the offer, and left the camp voluntarily, others refused and remained. Their refusal led to an escalation of the conflict, accompanied by acts of vandalism by unknown persons, who defaced the entrance to the Albuccione camp with Nazi graffiti.

[Associazione 21 luglio](#), described the actions of the municipality as a "*clumsy and damaging attempt to displace families who have, for over a decade, been tolerated in the Albuccione area*". The eviction took place just days before Christmas 2024, with a massive deployment of law enforcement. **Within three weeks, all the shacks had been demolished and the families forced to leave, without any alternative solutions being offered.**

On [17 July 2025](#), the European Committee of Social Rights' (ECSR) [decision](#) ruled that the collective complaint by the ERRC and *Associazione 21 luglio* against Italy was admissible, and granted the request for immediate measures to protect Romani families facing homelessness and severe health risk in Giugliano in Campania (Naples). The Italian Government was instructed to provide immediate safe and adequate temporary accommodation, with access to essential services such as water, sanitation, heating, waste disposal, and electricity to 120 Romani families who had been living in via Carrafiello until a court ordered their eviction by 30 April 2025.




Italian authorities failed to provide adequate safeguards or alternative housing. To avoid yet another eviction from their homes, most families left before the deadline and moved to nearby land where living conditions are even more severe. Residents, including children and adults with chronic illnesses, live in tents and shacks without access to electricity, sanitation, and safe water, and are exposed to serious health risks. A particular concern is that part of the land within the 'Terra dei Fuochi' is known to be contaminated with asbestos. Some families include individuals who have diabetes and cardiovascular disease, as well as two children with tumours. Additionally, the location of the land has forced several children to stop attending school.

There is plenty of [evidence](#) that dehumanising language accompanies violent behaviour towards despised and distrusted groups. There can be little doubt that the dehumanising anti-Roma rhetoric that is commonplace among right-wing politicians and public officials across Italy facilitates injustice and cruelty among the truly committed, and cultivates ambivalence and indifference to the plight of the Roma among the many. When dehumanisation becomes an everyday social phenomenon, rooted in ordinary social-cognitive processes, there is little outrage when a [Lega city councilor](#), calling for a camp eviction, declares that the *"The Roma are the parasites of our society."*

Much of the Italian public has long become inured to the hardships inflicted upon the Roma, and remains oblivious to the human tragedies that are a feature of such immiseration. So, there was little sympathy when, on the Saturday before she was due to start school, a [six-year-old named Michelle](#) died by electrocution in the Romani camp in via Carrafiello di Giugliano in Naples (this camp would be the subject of the collective complaint to the ECSR in 2025, mentioned above). Despite desperate attempts to resuscitate the girl, who had brushed against exposed electrical cables, she was pronounced dead at about three p.m. on the 13 January 2024. After a disturbance by emotional family members at the hospital, the alleged 'chaos' quickly became the focus of local media attention, and coverage of the tragic death of a child quickly morphed into an issue of public order and security.





After a meeting of the committee for public order and safety, [the prefect of Naples, Michele Di Bari](#), set the objectives for the local administration *"Clean the camp from waste in the next few weeks and start the transfer of a Romani family of around 40 people, to an asset confiscated from organized crime."*

The authorities responded with a blitz on the camp coordinated by local police, and supported by Carabinieri, military personnel and employees of the water company. Waste was removed, electrical cables made safe, vehicles seized, and the water supply was disconnected, leaving about 450 Romani people without access to water by 25 January. Behind the expressions of concern about the safety of children, the official stance is – to borrow a phrase from Matteo Salvini – one of *"Legalità, ordine e rispetto prima di tutto!"* (Legality, order and respect before all).

Beyond providing a sense of the scale of injustice, the raw numbers in this latest census alone cannot convey the tragedy of the short life and sudden death of a girl called Michelle, a Romani child born in a camp. Beyond the cold distortions of the official version, a reporter from [Avvenire](#) told a different story, of bereaved families, wrongly accused of affray at the hospital, routinely scapegoated and repeatedly evicted. After the seventh eviction they ended up on this long-abandoned industrial site, amongst the rubble and mud, without water or electricity, except for illegal connections – an 'informal settlement' in officialese. In reality, a squalid and precarious site, where 200 Romani children subsisted in conditions that did nothing to nurture "an atmosphere of happiness" for the "full and harmonious development of his or her personality", envisaged in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE

In recent years there has been a positive trend towards overcoming mono-ethnic housing settlements, and there are a few examples that merit replication. While such efforts are insufficient in terms of scope to repair Italy's housing policies so that they no longer violate the European Social Charter, they stand as actually existing examples that there is an alternative. ECRI noted in its [2024 report](#) on Italy that *"most successful projects included close cooperation with civil society and a participatory approach, providing for active involvement of the beneficiary families and various public and private actors."*



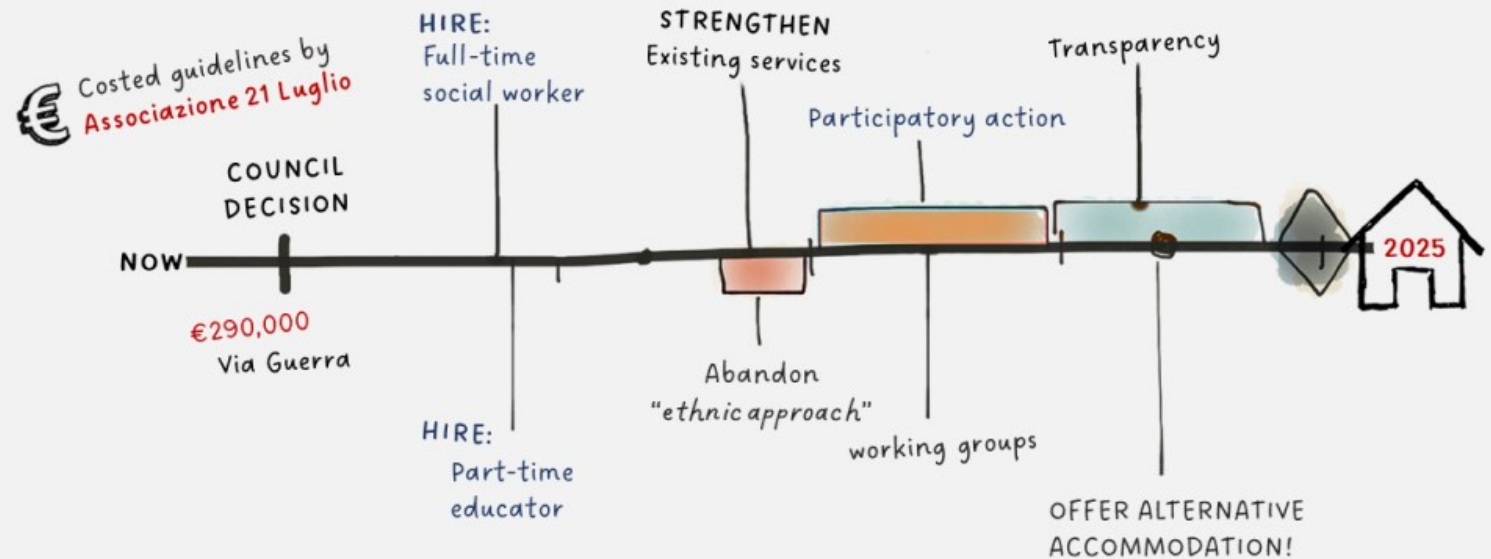
In September 2023, [Associazione 21 Luglio](#) reported on the 'overcoming' of the Romani camp in the Turin municipality of Collegno. The intervention by the municipality was defined by two characteristics: the abandonment of an ethnic approach and the implementation of a participatory model, which saw the active involvement of the beneficiary families and various public and private actors. Following the intervention, all of the 70 people who left the settlement were gradually placed in conventional housing; in some cases permanent, in others temporary. *21 Luglio* has followed the plan closely since its inception and has identified it as a 'case study' for Europe that demonstrates *"how in Italy the overcoming of mono-ethnic settlements is possible, where there is a clear willingness to carry out housing and work inclusion processes that affect families residing in marginalized areas."*

They also noted that with this action promoted by the Administration of Collegno, there still remain *"109 open-air settlements inhabited in Italy by approximately 12,000 Roma and Sinti."*

In November 2023, [Associazione 21 Luglio](#) provided the authorities in the Piedmont town of Asti with costed guidelines for '[overcoming the Roma camp](#)' in Via Guerra, which accommodates 62 adults and 83 minors, including several small children. Representing *21 Luglio*, Carlo Stasolla stated that the plan, costed at €290,000, would comprise six phases over two years, and an operational team with a full-time social worker and part-time educator, would necessitate the abandonment of 'the ethnic approach' for a participatory action *"that benefits everyone, with a strengthening of the already existing services."*

ASTI, ITALY

6 phase plan for Roma Inclusion



Councillor Mario [Malandrone](#) from the group *Ambiente Asti*, stated that it was important to move forward with the proposal “to strengthen the alliance between minority and majority regarding how to deal with overcoming the Roma Camp; to give back to associations, groups and also to the city councillors, who participated in the working groups to draw up the project; for a question of transparency; to be able to share a choice, in the style that the majority and minority have adopted throughout the journey; to show the fruit of precious, voluntary, virtuous work that lasted months”.

The following two examples illustrate the need for vigilance in the face of discrimination, and the prospect for accommodation beyond the zero-sum option, and viable alternatives to heavy-handed oppression. For about 25 years, the [Villaggio delle Rose \(Village of Roses\)](#), known as the ‘Chiesa Rossa’ formal camp in Milan, has been home to more than 250 Italian Romani people, including 80 families and more than 100 children. In December 2024, the municipality unilaterally decided to close the camp on the grounds of urban safety, social hardship, and environmental degradation. The reality is completely different: the neighbourhood is clean and organised, and the prefabricated homes are well-maintained, legal, and were built by the labour and investment of a self-sufficient community of Romani families.

Many of the residents are descendants of anti-fascist partisans and Holocaust survivors, and the Village of Roses is the site of Italy’s first monument commemorating the Romani genocide. More than a neighbourhood, it is a place of remembrance that welcomes schools, associations, and institutions for the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies on 27 January. In asserting their right to remain in their homes, the residents responded to the eviction plan with an alternative proposal: to form a cooperative and transform the area into a sustainable, community-driven housing model. Their proposal would replace the outdated and racist ‘nomad camp’ framework and become a recognised residential zone in Milan’s urban area.

In discussions with the municipality, several city councillors expressed interest in the redevelopment plan. However, talks were unfortunately frozen at the end of 2025 after it became apparent that the subsoil in the camp displayed signs of environmental contamination. The future for the Romani residents remains uncertain, but the deliberations up until this juncture do point to an alternative to the ruthless template of eviction without warning, demolition of the dwellings, and dispersal of the tenants.

On 20 March 2025, a project to evict Romani residents from a segregated camp and rehouse them in new, segregated social housing units, using EU funding, was modified by the Region of Calabria following an intervention from the European Commission at the request of the ERRC and the local Stop Ghettos Committee. They informed the EU that the Calabria Region had decided to use significant European funds to create segregated social housing in Scordovillo. The project was to be realised through an allocation of European funds amounting to a total of €36 million, and envisaged the relocation of tenants to a newly

built ghetto with 120 public housing units while the authorities carried out environmental remediation of the area. As a result of the intervention, the project has been rectified, the idea of building a new ghetto has been abandoned, and replaced by planning for fair housing relocation or 'scattered housing' through the recovery of existing public housing assets and/or the purchase of new housing. The ERRC and the Stop Ghettos Committee welcomed the modification but called on the regional authority to address weaknesses to make fair housing relocation a truly feasible solution.

“THOSE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE MADE OVERCOMING CAMPS A CLEAR POLITICAL CHOICE ARE THE SAME ONES THAT HAVE RECORDED THE MOST POSITIVE RESULTS.”

In its 2023 report, [*Vie di Uscite: Comunità rom negli insediamenti formali e informali in Italia*](#), Associazione 21 Luglio found from their study of interventions to overcome the camps, failures occur where interventions are disconnected from specific situations and inhabitants are presented with 'take it or leave it' choices and abrupt ultimatums: *“If the objective is to overcome a settlement, thus guaranteeing a path of inclusion for those living in it, it is unthinkable that this may be achieved by only providing a one-off economic contribution or proposing impracticable solutions for the majority of people in the settlements (such as residents finding a housing solution on their own within an extremely compressed timeframe)”*.

On the other hand, where there is explicit political commitment and determination to initiate and see the process right through to completion, success was far more likely: *“Those local governments that have made overcoming camps a clear political choice are the same ones that have recorded the most positive results.”* In terms of concrete implementation, they found what mattered most was well-targeted social policy interventions, tailored to the specific context and the diverse needs of families and individuals, leading to the development of individualised inclusive pathways that involve not just housing, but employment opportunities, access to education and health services, and legal requirements.



CENSUS: APRIL 2021-MARCH 2025

This list of evictions includes, where available, the number of people evicted in each instance, whether minors were present, and the number of families and tents affected. In cases where this information is unavailable, the eviction is still included without these additional details.

#	Date	Location	No. of people evicted	Minors	No. of families	No. of tents / dwellings
1	15 April 2021	Cesano Boscone				
2	19 April 2021	Rome				
3	21 April 2021	Rimini				
4	22 April 2021	Rome				
5	22 April 2021	Rome	15			
6	28 April 2021	Rome	18	8		
7	29 April 2021	Baggiorava (Modena)				
8	4 May 2021	Milan				
9	5 June 2021	Legnano (Milan)				
10	22 June 2021	Rimini				
11	24 June 2021	Collegno				
12	24 June 2021	Rome				
13	29 June 2021	Padua	11	9		
14	1 July 2021	Bastia Umbria	10			
15	19 July 2021	Agropoli			2	
16	21 July 2021	Rome				15
17	26 July 2021	Porto D'Ascoli				30
18	5 Aug 2021	Turin	15			
19	5 Aug 2021	Padua			1	
20	7 Aug 2021	Rome	30			
21	25 Aug 2021	Foggia				
22	24 Aug 2021	Ascoli				32
23	25 Aug 2021	Rimini				
24	23 Oct 2021	La Spezia				
25	23 Oct 2021	Vicenza				
26	11 Nov 2021	Salerno			1	
27	24 Nov 2021	Rome				
28	29 Nov 2021	Rome	8			
29	23 Dec 2021	Foggia	32	22		
30	14 Jan 2022	Rome				
31	3 Feb 2022	Vicenza				
32	23 Feb 2022	Milan				

CENSUS: APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2025

#	Date	Location	No. of people evicted	Minors	No. of families	No. of tents / dwellings
33	4 March 2022	Rome	45			
34	13 March 2022	Abbiategrasso (Milan)				
35	30 March 2021	Modena				
36	1 April 2022	Oristano			2	
37	22 April 2022	Rome				
38	9 May 2022	Perugia				
39	15 May 2022	Lecco				
40	25 June 2022	Ospitaletto (Brescia)				
41	13 July 2022	Rome				
42	20 July 2022	Aquila				
43	25 July 2022	Usini				
44	28 July 2022	Pioltello				
45	30 July 2022	Olginate				
46	10 Aug 2022	Giugliano (Naples)	140		36	
47	14 Aug 2022	Massafra (Taranto)				
48	3 Oct 2022	Sassari				
49	3 Nov 2022	Milan	90			
50	9 Nov 2022	Giugliano (Naples)	10			
51	10 Nov 2022	Villaverla				
52	18 Nov 2022	Ancona				
53	23 Jan 2023	Rome	2			
54	3 Feb 2023	Salerno				
55	4 Feb 2023	Thiene				
56	22 Feb 2023	Rivoli			1	
57	23 Feb 2023	Turin	50			
58	4 March 2023	Rome	10			
59	8 March 2023	Bellusco				
60	22 March 2023	Rome	20			
61	14 April 2023	Turin				
62	20 April 2023	Rome				
63	18 May 2023	Rome				
64	3 June 2023	Avezzano				
65	3 June 2023	Avezzano				
66	16 June 2023	Genova				
67	19 June 2023	Naples				

CENSUS OF FORCED EVICTIONS OF ROMA IN ITALY

#	Date	Location	No. of people evicted	Minors	No. of families	No. of tents / dwellings
68	19 June 2023	Prato				
69	20 June 2023	Naples				
70	5 July 2023	Rimini				
71	5 July 2023	Rimini				
72	25 July 2023	Turin			15	
73	22 Aug 2023	Rome				
74	7 Sept 2023	Rome				
75	9 Sept 2023	Jesi (Ancona)				
76	20 Sept 2023	Frosinone			1	
77	20 Sept 2023	Rimini				8
78	28 Sept 2023	Rome				
79	29 Sept 2023	Turin				
80	6 Oct 2023	Rome	1			
81	11 Oct 2023	Cesano				
82	19 Oct 2023	Turin				
83	24 Oct 2023	Nichelino (Turin)				
84	1 Nov 2023	Trento	4			
85	4 Nov 2023	Montecchio Maggiore				
86	1 Dec 2023	Turin	30			
87	3 Dec 2023	Nettuno			1	
88	19 Jan 2024	Rome	6			7
89	26 Jan 2024	Varese				
90	16 Feb 2024	Giugliano (Naples)	5		1	
91	18 March	Turin				
92	19 March	Agropoli			1	
93	27 March 2024	Gallarate				
94	30 March 2024	Turin				
95	4 April 2024	Rome				
96	18 May 2024	Milan				
97	28 May 2024	Rimini	20			
98	28 May 2024	Rimini				
99	28 May 2024	Rimini				
100	30 May 2024	Rome				
101	2 June 2024	Ardea				

CENSUS: APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2025

#	Date	Location	No. of people evicted	Minors	No. of families	No. of tents / dwellings
102	5 June 2024	Milan				
103	12 June 2024	Turin				
104	14 June 2024	Milan				
105	1 July 2024	Rome				
106	16 July 2024	Turin				
107	23 July 2024	Rimini				
108	4 Aug 2024	Modena				
109	14 Aug 2024	Rome				
110	21 Aug 2024	Rome				
111	24 Sept 2024	Turin			2	
112	29 Sept 2024	Rimini				
113	5 Oct 2024	Albuccione (Rome)				
114	30 Nov 2024	Ravenna				
115	6 Dec 2024	Collegno			2	
116	10 Jan 2025	Rome				
117	13 Jan 2025	Turin				
118	15 Jan 2025	Macerata				
119	1 Feb 2025	Milan	2			
120	4 Feb 2025	Rome	9			
121	16 Feb 2025	Arzano	88			
122	20 Feb 2025	Caserta				
123	28 Feb 2025	Milan			1	
124	28 Feb 2025	Guidonia				
125	10 March	Cinisello Balsamo				
126	17 March	Sassari	20			
127	22 March 2025	Rome				
128	24 March 2025	Rome	5			
129	29 March 2025	Giugliano (Naples)				
Total: 129 Evictions			696	39	67	92

ANTI-ROMA RACISM, HATE SPEECH, & DISCRIMINATION

2021–2025

Former Minister of the Interior Matteo Salvini , June 2023

Forced evictions and demolition of dwellings occur against a background of deeply embedded and long-established routines of anti-Roma racism. The ERRC has documented and litigated these human rights abuses against Roma in Italy for over two decades; and its [monitoring](#) shows that anti-Romani statements by public figures became increasingly common over the past decade, including public insults, defamation and dissemination of ideas based on racial hatred and racial superiority. Political parties often instil anti-Roma sentiments in the population during their electoral campaigns and contribute to inciting hatred. This is particularly true for the Lega party. Demonstrations by political movements encouraging people to protest against Roma and the production and dissemination of material inciting violence ('games' on social media, online hate commentary, posters and flyers against Roma and camps) are dangerously common in Italy.

The extent to which anti-Roma racism had become normalised in Italy has long been evident not just in the persistence of mass evictions and demolitions of Roma camps, but in the dehumanising language that accompanied threats of expulsion and banishment targeting Roma, from the highest

level of political office, such as one-time Foreign Minister [Mateo Salvini](#) with his infamous call in 2018 for a *"mass cleansing street by street, piazza by piazza, neighbourhood by neighbourhood."* That a population, singled out for extermination by the Nazis and their fascist allies in the mid-20th century, can now be targeted in such a manner by the Italian far right in this first quarter of the 21st Century speaks volumes about the resilience of racism targeting Roma.

Two recent reports attest to the persistence and virulence of anti-Roma racism and discrimination in Italy. In [UNCERD's 2023 Concluding Observations on Italy](#), the Committee expressed deep concern *"about the persistent and increasing use and normalization of racist hate speech against persons from ethnic minorities in the media and on the Internet."*

Serious concern was raised concerning racist political discourse by politicians, including members of the Government and other high-level public officials, against persons from ethnic minorities, in particular Roma, migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees, and the fact that the increasing use of racist speech in public discourse is leading to a proliferation of racist hate incidents. In addition to its concerns about the persistent and widespread structural discrimination against Roma, the Committee noted the reportedly high number of cases of racist abuse and ill-treatment, including the excessive use of force against persons from ethnic minorities, in particular Roma and people of African descent.

In a similar vein, the [2024 ECRI report on Italy](#) noted with “*serious concern that Italian public discourse has become increasingly xenophobic in recent years, and political speech has taken on highly divisive and antagonistic overtones*” particularly targeting visible minorities including Roma. Of particular concern to ECRI was the fact that many of the hateful comments came from high-profile politicians and public officials, especially during election periods, both online and offline: “*This reportedly led to a form of ‘trivialisation’ of hateful remarks in public life and generated sentiments of marginalisation and exclusion among several segments of the population.*”

The following provides a sample of reported incidents of anti-Roma racism, hate speech, and discrimination for the period from March 2021 to November 2025.

25 March 2021: *Judgment for “acts of inhuman violence” committed against a Romani camp*

The [Italian Supreme Court of Cassation](#) confirmed the sentences of four people, who were part of a mob that completely destroyed an informal camp near Turin in 2011, forcing the inhabitants to flee. This shocking mob violence was sparked by a completely false allegation of sexual assault. The Court confirming the first instance judgment as well as the opinion of the sentencing judge, Paola Trovati, that the hate crimes committed were “*the product of an ancestral and never subsided ethnic hatred towards Gypsies*” which led “*normal citizens*” to carry out “*acts of inhuman violence*”.

3 October 2022: *Police undertake a dawn raid due to waste disposal*

Dozens of police officers carried out a dawn raid on the homes of Romani families in [a camp in Sassari, Sardinia](#). Lines of Carabinieri riot vans, accompanied by municipal and state police cars lined the nearby road. Ten men were arrested and the camp evicted and seized, with women and children put in temporary accommodation. The reason? Some of the men had been illegally disposing of waste without a license.

THE HATE CRIMES COMMITTED WERE “THE PRODUCT OF AN ANCESTRAL AND NEVER SUBSIDED ETHNIC HATRED TOWARDS GYPSIES” WHICH LED “NORMAL CITIZENS” TO CARRY OUT “ACTS OF INHUMAN VIOLENCE.”



23 November 2022: *Four police officers accused of torture and lies in the 'Hasib case'*

Hasib Omerovic, a 36-year-old Romani man, who has been deaf since birth, remains in an alert coma since 25 July, due to injuries sustained when he 'fell' nine metres from his bedroom window during an unauthorised police raid on his apartment. For more details on this case see [here](#) and [here](#).

23 March 2023: *Salvini vows to tighten rather than lighten 'Roma law'*

When far-right parties sabotaged a bill by the Democratic Party to improve conditions for imprisoned mothers, [Matteo Salvini's](#) promised a tightening rather than a lightening of the law: *"The Democratic Party frees Roma pickpockets who use children and pregnancy to avoid prison and continue to commit crimes. Shame on you. The League had passed the law in the Justice Commission and will immediately resubmit the text: it is a question of health, justice and common sense."* In response, the [Ombudsperson for prisoners Mauro Palma](#) condemned Salvini's comments, and described attributing a crime to an entire category as a 'serious cultural setback', because *"it is never a minority or a social group as such that commits a crime"*. For more details see [here](#).

10 May 2023: *Police denounce 'fake news' about 'Zingari' kidnappers*

[Police in Puglia](#) were prompt to denounce rumours circulated on WhatsApp of Romani child abductors as 'fake news'. [The messages](#), which warned that 'Zingari' kidnappers were loose in certain parts of the town, claimed that the police had intervened, and caused some panic among parents. In their statement, the Cerignola Police swiftly debunked the message as false, and issued a categorical denial there was any such case of attempted kidnapping.

13 May 2023: *Near-lynching of a Romani women accused of pickpocketing*

The incident occurred on the [metro in Rome](#). Passengers who intervened set upon the woman, angrily beating and kicking her. She had to be rescued from the fury of the mob by transport staff who saved her from more serious injury. How commuters could deem such extreme violence to be a proportionate reaction to the alleged crime, and how so many participated in publicly meting out mob punishment against a Romani woman, who had by that stage been rendered defenseless, is particularly chilling to contemplate.

18 May 2023: *Five charged with incitement of racial hatred*

Five defendants are currently on trial in the [Court of Latina](#) in the Lazio region, facing charges of spreading propaganda and incitement to commit racially-aggravated crimes against Roma. The case goes back to July 2020 when the accused posted calls on social media for the Campo di Castel Romano on the Pontina to be burned down and everybody there to be napalmed. The investigators concluded that these posts constituted incitement, and that the authors had propagated supremacist ideas based on racial hatred. For more details see [here](#).

18 September 2023: Arson attack on Romani camp

In the Italian city of Prato in Tuscany, *"on the night between 18 and 19 September a dark Punto slowly passed alongside the entrance to Sinti camp of San Giorgio a Colonica, and from the car someone threw a Molotov cocktail, setting it on fire."* According to the regional councillor of the Democratic Party, [Iacopo Melio](#), it was fortunate that 'only' a work truck was incinerated, *"because if some caravan had caught fire, it would have been the end"*. Local far-right Fratelli d'Italia MP Giovanni Donzelli, who wanted to raze the camp to the ground and *chanted "Look for a job, a house, the fun is over..."*, escaped censure for incitement to racial hatred thanks to parliamentary immunity. For more details see [here](#).

18 November 2023: Digital violence against Romani women

Far-right web 'vigilantes' in [Brindisi](#) have taken to posting photos of young Romani women on social media, making baseless accusations, and branding them as 'thieving Gypsies'. The victims, whose faces are clearly identifiable, are falsely accused – in lurid detail rendered in *malcerto* Italian – of a range of illicit activities ranging from pickpocketing to stealing children. These young women are publicly pilloried, unable to refute such allegations, and vulnerable to racially-motivated attacks in the street.

24 November 2023: Inciting hatred against Romani women

The government voted for yet another 'security decree' directed against Romani women accused of theft, that allows for the detention of mothers with children under the age of three. Judges will decide on the advisability of detention, and whether it is better for the detainees' minor children to be placed in a 'more suitable family'. For more details see [here](#).

13 January 2024: Death of a six-year-old in Giugliano

Following the tragic death by electrocution of a six-year-old child in the Romani camp in via Carrafiello di Giugliano in Naples, distressed family members were accused of causing a disturbance at the hospital. This alleged 'chaos' quickly became the focus of local media attention, and coverage of the tragic death of a child quickly morphed into an issue of public order and security. [Deputy Francesco Emilio Borrelli](#) of the *Alleanza Verdi Sinistra*, weighed in by describing the Giugliano camp *"populated by violent people whose lifestyle is many times beyond the law"* as one of many *"outlaw settlements where children are abandoned to degradation."* For more details see [here](#).

6 March 2024: Anti-Roma posters in a small Italian town, dark reminders of fascist past

The ERRC filed a complaint concerning anti-Roma racist posters plastered on the entrance door of the Mondragone Town Hall. According to [media reports](#), on 24 February, posters appeared containing the following slogans: *"Basta Rom a Mondragone per un paese migliore"* ("No more Roma in Mondragone for a better country") and *"Mondragone è fascista"* ("Mondragone is fascist"). For more details see [here](#).

"ON THE NIGHT BETWEEN 18 AND 19 SEPTEMBER A DARK PUNTO SLOWLY PASSED ALONGSIDE THE ENTRANCE TO SINTI CAMP OF SAN GIORGIO A COLONICA, AND FROM THE CAR SOMEONE THREW A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL, SETTING IT ON FIRE."

19 September 2024: *Scandal of newborns in prison – far-right jubilant as Meloni’s ‘anti-Roma’ law gets passed*

Italy’s Chamber of Deputies passed article 15 of its controversial Security Bill, that makes the postponement of sentences optional and no longer mandatory for pregnant women and mothers with children under one-year-old. Patrizio Gonnella, president of [Antigone](#), dismissed the provision as a propaganda rule *“conceived, and publicly reported, as an anti-Roma law, starting from the prejudice that all Romani women are dedicated to theft and choose motherhood to escape imprisonment. In reality, the numbers of Romani women in prison are so low, a few dozen, that they undermine any prejudice.”* For more details see [here](#).

23 March 2023: *Salvini vows to tighten rather than lighten ‘Roma law’*

When far-right parties sabotaged a bill by the Democratic Party to improve conditions for imprisoned mothers, [Matteo Salvini’s](#) promised a tightening rather than a lightening of the law: *“The Democratic Party frees Roma pickpockets who use children and pregnancy to avoid prison and continue to commit crimes. Shame on you. The League had passed the law in the Justice Commission and will immediately resubmit the text: it is a question of health, justice and common sense.”* In response, the [Ombudsperson for prisoners Mauro Palma](#) condemned Salvini’s comments, and described attributing a crime to an entire category as a ‘serious cultural setback’, because *“it is never a minority or a social group as such that commits a crime”*. For more details see [here](#).

31 October 2024: *Far-right leaders furious as ECRI report accuses police of racism*

In response to the latest [ECRI monitoring report](#) from the Council of Europe on racist discrimination in Italy, deputy prime minister [Matteo Salvini](#) reacted with fury to his police force being ‘dragged through the mud’ by what he called a ‘useless organization also paid for by the taxes of Italian citizens’: *“To be told that law enforcement agencies are racist pisses you off, we are always with uniforms, if these gentlemen like Roma and illegal immigrants, take them to Strasbourg”*. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and other leaders of the far-right governing coalition also chimed in to condemn the report, which highlighted how public discourse and political speech had become increasingly racist and antagonistic, *“targeting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, as well as Italian citizens with migration backgrounds, Roma and LGBTI persons”*, and how often hate speech from high-level politicians remains unchallenged, especially during election periods, both online and offline. For more details see [here](#).

6 November 2024: *Interior Ministry accused in case of police torture and defenestration of Romani victim*

The [Ministry of the Interior](#) was named as a responsible party at a preliminary hearing of the ‘Omerovic’ case, where a 37-year-old disabled Romani man ‘fell’ nine metres from a bedroom window during a police raid in 2022. Three officers have been accused of false testimony and torture following the unauthorised raid on the family home in Primavalle on 25 July 2022. For more details see [here](#).

13 February 2025: Milan: Ninety-year-old Romani couple evicted and left on the streets after bulldozers destroy their caravan

Under the supervision of local police and Amsa waste management personnel, on 17 January bulldozers demolished a caravan belonging to a Romani couple in their nineties to make way for a dog park, as part of a major municipal redevelopment plan to *"bring new life to the neighbourhood."* The couple's belongings, ID papers, and medicines were trashed, and the remains strewn all around in a so-called 'anti-decay operation'. [MilanoToday](#) described the eviction as *"a grotesque mix of bureaucracy, political propaganda and bad management"*. For more details see [here](#).



15 July 2025: Lega's racist billboard

The governing Lega party has plastered a racist AI-generated billboard in the San Lorenzo neighbourhood of Rome. The image features a Romani woman, an African man, and a white man with locks being kicked out of a house, overseen by police officers. The text reads: *Occupy a house? We'll kick you out in 24 hours. GRAZIE alla LEGA!* The ruling party's response to a complex policy issue such as the housing emergency is according to the article in [fanpage.it](#), treated with racist and stereotypical images, *"a distorted and instrumental narrative whose only effect is to fuel hatred among the poor."* The association *Nonna Roma* condemned the poster as *"propaganda built on the attack on the weakest, which creates an unsustainable and deeply racist imagery. It's shameful and divisive. And it happens in the middle of the city."* For more details see [here](#).

11 August 2025: Tragic death leads to widespread condemnation of Romani camps

[A tragic accident occurred](#) in the Gratosoglio district of Milan when a stolen car struck and killed a 71-year-old woman. Reports indicate that four Romani children were in the vehicle, with a 13-year-old boy at the wheel. In the wake of the incident, [politicians resorted to racist calls for collective punishment](#). Among the first to call for an ethnic reckoning was Deputy Prime Minister and Lega leader [Matteo Salvini](#), who demanded the demolition of Romani camps, the arrest of parents, and the revocation of their parental rights: *"She was run over and killed by a stolen car, reportedly driven by Romani minors. If confirmed, it would be outrageous. The Romani camp must be cleared immediately and razed to the ground. After years of thefts and violence, these so-called 'parents' must be arrested and stripped of custody. Mayor Sala and the left, where are you?"*

[General Roberto Vannacci](#), Lega MEP, further fuelled the fire in an interview with *Affari Italiani*: *"Romani camps, in almost all cases, are strongholds of illegality, impunity, arrogance, and crime, where children grow up in degradation, without rules and without education. A certain progressive political faction has always tolerated and defended them in the name of integration, hospitality, and human rights, following its usual justifying stance that sides with criminals rather than honest citizens. The same left, in its politically correct drift, banned the word zingaro ('gypsy'), a term historically associated with begging, theft, robbery, and evil superstition, and imposed the word Roma, trying to link it to the perception of a valuable culture or even a romantic nomadic lifestyle."*

10 September 2025: *"Less Roma in Italy", says interior minister*

According to Minister Matteo Piantedosi, with the Meloni government there are fewer Roma in Italy, he claimed the government strategy has *"after years of immobility and the inability to design social and cultural alternatives"*, decreased the number of Roma in Italy by three thousand, and he promised further reductions: *"It is a matter of continuing and intensifying the inter-institutional action aimed at overcoming the settlements still present, creating concrete and lasting alternatives to restore legality and fight against degradation and marginalities"*. For more details see [here](#).



24 October 2025: *Lega MEP promises prison for pregnant Roma in the name of women's rights*

MEP [Isabella Tovaglieri](#) (Lega) during the plenary session of the European Parliament on the occasion of the debate on violence against women and the exploitation of maternity announced Italy's turning point to stop criminal activities of the Roma, 'which humiliate motherhood':

"The exploitation of motherhood is a form of violence against women, which must be fought without good-being and without hypocrisy. For this reason it must also be fought in Roma communities, where it is known that motherhood is often used as a pass to live with impunity from illegal activities, thus allowing certain men to exploit pregnant wives and daughters, perhaps sent to pickpocket in the subways, and saving them from justice thanks to a succession of endless and risky pregnancies. The left, champion of minorities, has always turned a blind eye to this plague, bartering women's rights with submission to political correctness. The League, on the other hand, has always opposed it and finally now, thanks to the Security DDL, even pregnant women will be able to face certain forms of detention." For more details see [here](#).

3 November 2025: *Lega councillor doubles down on racist abuse of Roma*

Complaints were filed in the Court of Rome by the associations 21 Luglio, Lunaria and ASGI against Lega Councillor Licopodio, who had posted defamatory videos where he repeatedly verbally attacked Roma, and in two instances referred to them as the "parasites of our society". When contacted by RomaToday about the charge of racist and discriminatory harassment, Licopodio was unrepentant, and in fact doubled down saying: *"The battle against these characters who live in illegality and the latest facts are proving it goes on with love and courage as I have always done, this is a political attack of which I am proud."*

7 November 2025: *Fratelli d'Italia* councillor called for incisive police action against 'nomads'

In a press release, Councillor Giovanni Colletti addressed the issue of the return of 'nomadic settlements' on a stretch of beach at Sperone, Palermo: *"Following the reports from residents and some merchants, I went to the place. What I observed is an unseemly spectacle that offends the sight of those who walk along via Messina Marine in that stretch. Clothes hanging along the fences of a nearby construction site, cars and vans parked without any respect for the bike path, music and coal fumes lit all day long. To make matters worse, the physiological needs carried out outdoors, without any regard for passers-by."* On behalf of 'exasperated citizens', the Councillor reported to the Municipal Police bodies, emphasizing the "urgency of a more incisive action to counter this sad phenomenon." For more details see [here](#).

8 November 2025: *"Romani mom in jail for theft? Pregnancy is not a criminal shield"*

Following the news from Venice that a pickpocket, caught *in flagrante delicto*, will remain in prison even if pregnant, Undersecretary of Justice and Lega senator Andrea Ostellari stated, "Our law works ... *We are certainly not against motherhood or against children. Unlike the left, we want to give dignity to motherhood and prohibit criminal organizations from still exploiting pregnancy to commit crimes. That's what the rule is for.*" For more details see [here](#).

"DURING THE PROTEST, SOME PEOPLE SHOUTED, "GET OUT!", "HOMES FOR ITALIANS!", AND "WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE."

RomaToday

20 November 2025: *Romani family forced out of social housing by residents*

For days a group of protesting residents and far-right activists have been manning a permanent blockade in Viale della Venezia Giulia to prevent a Romani family from moving in to the social housing assigned to them. The atmosphere in the neighbourhood was described as tense, with protestors chanting *"We don't want you here!"* and *"Homes for Italians!"*; the Romani family had become fearful and felt intimidated, after days of the resident blockade, and the growing presence of extreme right-wing groups, and they gave up the house. For more details see [here](#).

22 November 2025: *Salvini attacks the Roma (again)*

In a heated parliamentary debate about the removal of the three children of the so-called "wood family" of Chieti, which raised questions about the role of social services and judicial authority, deputy prime minister Salvini citing the Roma, declared there was an obvious double standard, a point driven home by Lega deputy Rossano Sasso:

"That mom and dad have only one fault: being English and not belonging to the Roma community. If they had been of Roma ethnicity, no one would have said anything to them; indeed, they would have justified them, saying that they live following their own customs and traditions". For more details see [here](#).



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