



Doc. 14813 Second Edition

24 April 2019

Upsurge of violence against Roma communities in Europe

Written declaration No. 667

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

Recent violent attacks against Roma communities are a cause for serious concern. In Ukraine, at least two Roma individuals were killed in 2018 during armed attacks on their settlements or villages, and many more Roma lost their homes.

Political leaders, including members of governments of Council of Europe member States, use antigypsyist rhetoric increasingly, and often with impunity. Yet such discourse condones and sometimes even encourages discrimination against Roma.

Most recently, in Bulgaria, the authorities ordered the demolition of a Roma neighbourhood, following an attack on police officers by two members of that community. Yet it is always unacceptable to penalise an entire community for the misdeeds of some of its members.

In view of the escalating violence, anti-Roma prejudice and abuse should be addressed as a matter of urgency in all Council of Europe member States.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
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EMRE Yunus, Turkey, SOC
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Total = 28

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group