

Non-discrimination | Equal beings, different rights?

Teacher's sheet

Values

Equality between ethnicities and minorities, Respect, Tolerance, Understanding, Social Inclusion

Objectives

Pedagogical: Promote the analysis, reflection and debate on equality and non-discrimination regarding ethnic or racial origin and minorities.

Practical: Analyse articles related with the topic of Equality – Races and Minorities; Prepare a awareness campaign about Roma Community in your country.



Participants

Minimum: 5 participants
Maximum: 30 participants

Time

90 to 120 minutes.

Material

Activity sheet for each student.

Briefing

The class should be divided in groups of 4 to 5 elements. Each group reads and analyses the articles, and then presents their conclusions to the class, taking all the elements part on the presentation. Afterwards, each group prepares a awareness campaign that should be presented to the class and commented together.

Notes

It is recommended that each group has 30 minutes for the elaboration and 5 minutes for the presentation.

For documental support, visit the following websites:

<http://hub.coe.int/web/coe-portal/roma/>

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/index_en.htm

Debriefing

What is your opinion about Roma community?

The way Roma community is treated in your country is fair or unfair? Why?

Would you accept to have a Roma colleague in your class? Justify your opinion.

How was the group preparation of the campaign?

Would the presented campaigns be effective?

Are there other ethnicities or minorities you think are victims of racism or xenophobia in your country? Why?

While working on the topic of Equality between ethnicities and minorities, did you change your previous mentality?

If you could do something about the questions raised by this activity, what would you do and why?

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Student's sheet

1) Analyse and discuss with your colleagues the following articles about Roma Community. Take note of your conclusions.



Europe's Roma community still facing massive discrimination

Amnesty International, April 8th 2009 (In: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/feature-stories/europes-roma-community-still-facing-massive-discrimination-20090408>)

“The Roma community suffers massive discrimination throughout Europe. Denied their rights to housing, employment, healthcare and education, Roma are often victims of forced evictions, racist attacks and police ill-treatment.

Living predominantly on the margins of society, Roma are among the most deprived communities in Europe. In some countries, they are prevented from obtaining citizenship and personal documents required for social insurance, health care and other benefits.

Romani children are frequently unjustifiably placed in "special schools" where curtailed curricula limit their possibilities for fulfilling their potential.

(...) **International Roma Day**, a celebration of Romani culture (...) aims to raise awareness of the issues facing Roma people. Held on 8 April every year since 1990, the Day draws attention to discrimination directed at Roma and Gypsy communities globally.

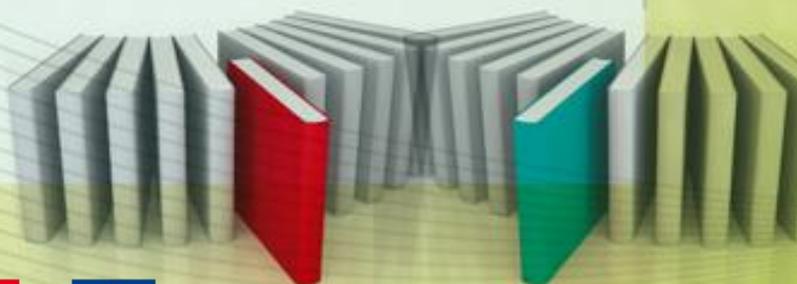
(...)”

EU and Roma

(In: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma/index_en.htm)

“For more than a thousand years, Roma people (including Travellers, Gypsies, Manouches, Ashkali, Sinti, etc.) have been an integral part of European civilisation. Today, with an estimated population of 10 to 12 million in Europe (approximately six million of whom live in the EU), Roma people are the biggest ethnic minority in Europe. Most Roma are EU citizens.

The Directive on Racial Equality prohibits discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin. All EU countries have transposed the Directive into their own national laws. Yet many Roma are still victims of prejudice and deep-rooted social exclusion.



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Student's sheet
(cont.)



Who are the Roma?

As it is most commonly used in EU policy documents and discussions, the term "Roma" here refers to a variety of groups of people who describe themselves as Roma, Gypsies, Travellers, Manouches, Ashkali, Sinti and other titles. The use of the term Roma is in no way intended to downplay the great diversity within the many different Romani groups and related communities, nor is it intended to promote stereotypes.

(...) Many face prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion in their daily lives. They are marginalized and live in very poor socio-economic conditions.

A joint responsibility

The European institutions and EU countries have a joint responsibility to improve the social inclusion and integration of Roma by using all the respective instruments and policies for which they are responsible.

In the past, the EU has repeatedly stressed the need for better integration of Roma, such as in its April 2010 Communication on the economic and social integration of the Roma in Europe.

Despite this, strong and proportionate measures are still not in place to tackle the deep-rooted problems facing a large proportion of the EU's Roma population. (...)"

2) After the reflection about the Roma community's situation in Europe, work in group to prepare a awareness campaign to be presented to the class.

Rules:

All the group members must take part in the presentation.

- 30 minutes for the preparation.
- 5 minutes for the presentation to the class.

