



STATENS OFFENTLIGA
UTREDNINGAR

The Commission against Antiziganism

A 2014:03

Third interim report

To the Minister and Head of the Ministry of Culture

On 20 March 2014, the Swedish Government decided to establish the Commission against Antiziganism. The Commission is to supplement and reinforce Swedish society's efforts against antiziganism.

The Commission has been established in order to coordinate efforts to tackle antiziganism and to bridge the gap in trust that exists between Roma and the rest of society.

In the Commission's terms of reference, the Government declares that the Roma in Sweden are victims of prejudice and discrimination, as they are in many other countries. This is expressed in forms such as acts of violence and harassment against Roma. The Government also states that government authorities have implemented measures in recent years that have contributed to improving the situation for Roma to some extent. The work to tackle antiziganism has primarily been conducted in conjunction with work to tackle racism, but it has often taken a back seat. In light of this way of viewing the problem, the Government concludes that further measures are required to intensify efforts to tackle antiziganism.

The Commission's role includes gathering information about antiziganism, assisting relevant actors with distributing and improving the impact of existing knowledge as well as identifying and disseminating good examples and measures to counter and prevent antiziganism.

The Commission's role also involves participating in the public debate and contributing to various forms of educational and informational activities. In addition, the Commission is to decide on initiatives to counter antiziganism in the civil service and schools. Finally, the Commission is to monitor developments and compile the investigations and measures concerning the issue of the registration of Roma on ethnic grounds.

Supplementary terms of reference were adopted by the Government on 21 August 2014. The Commission was tasked in supplementary terms of reference with drawing up and distributing a resource based on *The Dark Unknown History – White Paper on Abuses and Rights Violations against Roma in the 20th Century* (Ds 2014:8). This assignment also involved producing and distributing a teachers' guide.

Thomas Hammarberg chairs the Commission. The other members of the Commission are Marianne Eliason, Eleonor Frankemo, Gunno Gunnmo, Domino Kai, Erland Kaldaras, Stefano Kuzhikov, Soraya Post and Christian Åhlund. Andrés Zanzi is the special advisor.

The Commission has a reference group composed of members appointed by the Government. These are Rosmari Axelsson, Hans Caldaras, Lars Demetri, Rosita Grönfors, Britt-Inger Hedström Lundqvist, Djura Ivanov, Silvija Jansson, Bagir Kwiek, Gunilla Lundgren, Ingrid Schiöler, Elvis Stan, Tuula Schwartz, Nuri Selim, Emir Selimi, Michael Stankov, Angelina Dimiter Taikon, Kati Dimiter Taikon, Fred Taikon and Marian Wydow.

The Commission also has a reference group linked to the implementation of the supplementary terms of reference. Its members are appointed by the Government and it consists of Mona Danielsson, Nadja Ek, Albert Idic, Majlis Lindberg, Manuel Tan Marti and Angelina Dimiter Taikon.

The Commission's Principal Secretary is Heidi Pikkarainen. The secretariat also consists of inquiry secretaries Katarina Hammarberg, Anna Holmlin Nilsson, Anneli Tillberg and assistant secretary Būsra Kaya.

This report is the third operational report the Commission has submitted to the Government regarding how its work is proceeding and which measures have been implemented over the course of the period

September 2015–January 2016. The report also contains the observations and conclusions the Commission would like to draw attention to at this stage.

Stockholm, February 2016.

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Gunno Gunnmo

Domino Kai

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Stefano Kuzhiov

Soraya Post

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The Commission's activities

The Commission's primary task is to run an organisation that contributes to challenging the antiziganistic barriers Roma come up against. This involves revealing the ways in which antiziganism involves violations of the human rights of Roma and identifying measures that make it possible for Roma to live a life that is free of such violations and free of antiziganism.

An important basic premise of the Commission's activities is that they are permeated by Roma participation and empowerment. This basic premise guides both how the Commission is organised and how its activities are conducted.

The Commission has mainly dedicated its third operational period to three areas: accomplishing its remit to produce and distribute a resource based on the white paper; produce and distribute knowledge about hate crimes with antiziganistic motives; and begin its work to provide a foundation to the Government containing proposals for concrete measures to challenge the antiziganism that is part of the everyday lives of many Roma.

The school textbook *Antiziganismen i Sverige* [Antiziganism in Sweden] and a teachers' guide

Over the course of autumn 2015, the Commission has conducted a fairly intensive and extensive effort to complete the task of producing a resource based on the Government's white paper *The Dark Unknown History, on Abuses and Rights Violations against Roma in the 20th Century* (Ds 2014:8) and distributing this to schools and other parts of society. In accordance with this remit, the Commission has also produced a teachers' guide that provides suggestions about how the resource can be used in the classroom.

The Commission's review of existing teaching resources used in social studies in lower-secondary school indicates that knowledge about the national minority Roma and about antiziganism is largely non-existent. At the same time, knowledge about the national minorities' situation in Sweden and the significance of their exceptional position and rights in contemporary society is clearly set out through the central content in the subjects history and social studies in the curriculum (Lgr11) for lower-secondary school.

It is against this background that the white paper has been processed based on the perspective that looking back at history can give pupils the opportunity to reflect on the way in which the antiziganistic history that is behind us affects our view of the human rights of Roma today. In addition, the material has been processed in order to be made accessible to pupils in school years 8 and 9, but also to pupils in upper-secondary school.

A not insignificant part of the work on the textbook has been devoted to obtaining relevant images and articles from archives. New portrait photographs have also been taken with the aim of bringing to life the struggle for human rights that many Roma are involved in today. A great deal of time has also been devoted to finding a suitable layout for presenting both the historical and contemporary course of events.

The book is called *Antiziganismen i Sverige – Om övergrepp och kränkningar av romer under 1900-talet och i dag* [Antiziganism in Sweden – Abuses and Rights Violations against Roma in the 20th Century and Today]. Its chapters are arranged thematically in the same way as those of the white paper and each begins with an image that captures the chapter's content. The idea behind this format is that it provides the opportunity to also discuss how antiziganism is expressed on the basis of an analysis of these images. Another similarity with the white paper is that the text book reproduces some experiences of Roma with regard to what it was, and is, like to be affected by antiziganism. Some of the interviews have been adapted from the white paper. The Commission has also conducted a further eight interviews in order to supplement the historical material, as well as to clearly set out antiziganism's contemporary connections and how Roma are currently working for human rights. The book concludes by reproducing the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and thus serves as a basis for discussion about the significance of human rights to identifying and countering violations.

The teachers' guide describes the background to and the aim and the format of the book. It supports teaching by providing suggested lessons, suggestions for context and prior knowledge, questions to use when analysing images, interpretations and reflection and study questions. It also links to the curriculum's basic values, remit, objectives and guidelines, as well as the relevant aims and central content of history and social studies.

While working on this resource, the Commission has consulted with the Equality Ombudsman, the Forum for Living History and the National

Agency for Education with regard to the focus of the textbook and teachers' guide. In addition, what has emerged at meetings with the reference group has guided the book's focus and format and how work with the material has been conducted.

Two editions of the textbook and teachers' guide have been printed. The first edition of the textbook and teachers' guide comprised 2 000 copies of each. The Commission subsequently conducted a linguistic review of the textbook and teachers' guide. Following this, 13 000 copies of the textbook and 6 000 copies of the teachers' guide were printed.

Distribution of the material

As one aspect of distributing the material to relevant actors, the Commission has participated in the National Agency for Education and Forum for Living History's series of conferences for teachers, head teachers and municipal senior management concerning the reinforcement of schools' work to counter xenophobia and racism. The Commission conducted seminars in Helsingborg, Luleå, Sundsvall, Karlstad and Örebro. At these the Commission set out how the book and the teachers' guide are tied to the curriculum and how, as part of a learning process, this material can contribute to improving pupils' knowledge of the significance of human rights to a functional society. The seminars were delivered by the Commission's members, secretariat and Roma experts. They were attended by 230 participants.

The series of conferences offered a platform from which to achieve a good distribution of the material. Participation in the conference resulted in 2 875 textbooks in class sets and 110 teachers' guides being ordered. Otherwise, 350 textbooks and 350 teachers' guides were distributed.

The commission has also handed out the material at Skolforum, an exhibition at which teachers and school senior management share their experiences and find out about the latest in research, teaching aids and educational methods. The Swedish Union of Teachers, the National Union of Teachers in Sweden and the Swedish Association of Educational Publishers are behind Skolforum. At Skolforum, Thomas Hammarberg conducted a seminar about the resource together with Anneli Tillberg. The resource is also being distributed at the Swedish Forum for Human Rights in Gothenburg (more information below). This is being used to distribute 1 200 textbooks and 800 teachers' guides.

In November, the Commission sent out the textbook and teachers' guide to social studies teachers in all of the country's lower-secondary schools. Enclosed was a covering letter describing how it is possible to order a class set free of charge from the Commission's website. The textbook has also been sent to over one hundred civil society organisations. In conjunction with distributing the books, the Commission published a press release that led to an interview with Heidi Pikkarainen on Radio Sweden's (SR) main morning news programme, as well as one on the local radio news in Stockholm. The press release also led to articles in the publications *Skolvärlden*, *Lärarnas Nyheter* and the Swedish Union of Teachers' magazine *Alfa*.

The National Agency for Education's website "Information and inspirational material about Roma" and the website minoritet.se contain articles about the resource with a link to the Commission's website.

The Commission advertises the resource on *SO-rummet*, a website that is aimed at, among others, pupils and teachers in lower-secondary school and contains up-to-date information concerning the subject of social studies. The Commission has written three articles based on the textbook that are to be published through *SO-rummet*. The Commission is also advertising the resources in *É Romani Glinda* issue 6, Nov–Dec and a copy of the textbook was included with this magazine when it was sent out to subscribers. In addition, the Commission advertises the resource in *Skolvärlden*, a magazine reflecting current issues concerning schools from a teacher's perspective that is owned by the National Union of Teachers in Sweden.

The Commission also disseminates information about the resource in more than ten different Facebook groups targeted at teachers such as *Lärare mot rasism* [Teachers against racism], *SO-/SH-lärare* [social studies teachers] and *Lärarnätverket* [The teachers' network].

A total of 15 000 copies of the textbook and 7 500 copies of the teachers' guide have been distributed via the Commission's activities.

The Commission has been granted funds by the Government Offices to print further copies of the textbook.

Hate crimes with antiziganistic motives

Antiziganism is expressed in such forms as hate crimes and rights violations committed against people who either are or are perceived to be

Roma. Such crimes are particularly serious as they, aside from the fact that they affect an individual, also tend to spread fear throughout an entire group.

Hate crimes have been highlighted as a priority for the Commission in dialogue with Roma. The experience of many Roma is that it is not worth reporting hate crimes and there is a perception among them that hate crimes are not taken seriously.

At a women's conference organised by the Commission in May 2015, hate crimes were also highlighted as being one of five priority areas that require action to be taken in order to strengthen the human rights of Roma women.

The available statistics from the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) confirm that many cases go unreported and that there is a large gap between the number of cases reported and the number solved.

According to the Commission, it was thus obvious that further analysis would be required in order to identify measures that increase the legal rights of those affected and ensure hate crimes have consequences. Just as important are preventative measures that focus on countering the antiziganism that lies behind these hate crimes.

The Commission assessed that more detailed knowledge was required about which factors characterise antiziganistic hate crimes and why so few of these crimes are solved. The Commission also argued that hate crimes with antiziganistic motives needed to be highlighted from two different perspectives.

Accordingly, Isabel Schoultz, PhD in criminology at Lund University, was tasked with producing a report analysing how police investigate reported hate crimes and specifically shedding light on why more of these crimes are not solved, but are largely being dropped instead. Tiberiu Lacatus, Roma expert, was tasked with drawing up a report based on interviews with vulnerable Roma EU citizens that reveals this group's experiences of hate crimes and serious rights violations and what actions they believe are necessary in order to improve the situation.¹

¹ Both these reports have been published on the Commission's website, www.motantiziganism.se. Isabel Schoultz (2015), *Polisanmälda hatbrott med antiziganistiska motiv – en studie av polisens utredningsåtgärder* [Hate crimes with antiziganistic motives reported to the police – a study of police investigatory measures]; Tiberiu Lacatus (2015), *Studie om hatbrott och andra allvarliga kränkningar riktade mot utsatta EU-medborgare* [Study of hate crimes and other serious rights violations targeting vulnerable EU citizens].

These reports were discussed in October with a group of twelve Roma. The group provided valuable feedback that has guided the reports' focus and conclusions.

In October 2015, the Commission held a round-table discussion in Malmö at which the reports were presented and discussed. Representatives from the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden, the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Brå, Expo, the anti-discrimination bureau Malmö mot Diskriminering, the police and the Roma Information and Knowledge Centre in Malmö participated in this discussion. A large number of Roma representatives also participated.

In January 2016, the Commission presented the report *Agera mot antiziganistiska hatbrott* [Take action against antiziganistic hate crimes]. The Commission summarises its observations concerning antiziganistic hate crimes in this report. In conjunction with the publication of this report, the newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* published an opinion piece by the Commission members (see below).

Consultations concerning a Roma institution

During the Commission's consultations with Roma in autumn 2014, the question of whether the creation of a new institution could be an appropriate initiative for reinforcing the human rights of Roma was raised. The Delegation for Roma Issues set out proposals in its final report for the establishment of an institution for the assurance of Roma rights. Over the course of the current operational period, this issue has been worked on by, among others, a working group whose Roma members have in turn discussed the issue further in their respective networks.

One hypothesis in the work on necessary measures is whether an institution or a secretariat for Roma issues – with an emphasis on Roma participation and influence – could be one way to create improved conditions for a sustained and conscious change process at a structural level in order to realise the goal for Roma to have the same opportunities and rights as the majority population.

Opinion forming

Opinion pieces

Over the course of the current operational period, the Commission has had four opinion pieces published. In the articles "*Tackla orsakerna till*

misären” [Deal with the causes of the misery]² and “*Måste finnas lagliga alternativ*” [There must be legal options]³, Thomas Hammarberg, who chairs the Commission, writes that repressive proposals against begging simply sweep the problems under the carpet. Political measures must target the causes of the misery that many vulnerable EU citizens are in. Firstly, their native countries, primarily Romania and Bulgaria, must be encouraged to implement necessary reforms in order to stop antiziganism. Swedish aid organisations that work in these countries should be supported. Secondly, a “special EU representative” within the European Commission should be appointed to coordinate and concentrate the EU's work for the human rights of Roma. Thirdly, additional action should be taken in Sweden, for example initiatives regarding hate crimes, further information centres should be organised and the sharing of experiences between affected municipalities should be intensified. There must also be legal options for overnight accommodation and opportunities for EU citizens to obtain adequate healthcare.

In the opinion piece “European history of anti-Roma repression must be recognised”, Thomas Hammarberg emphasises the significance of initiatives that shine light on the history of antiziganism and the ways in which this still affects the rights of Roma.⁴

In the opinion piece “*Polisen måste agera mot antiziganistiska hatbrott*” [The police must take action against antiziganistic hate crimes], the Commission's chair and members stress the importance of police taking hate crimes more seriously and implementing measures that ensure more Roma receive redress.⁵

Press releases

The media is an important channel through which the Commission get its messages out. Over the course of the period, the Commission has published four press releases. The aim of the first was to draw attention to the Commission's second interim report (“*Hatbrott, socialtjänst och romska kvinnor prio för kommissionens framtida arbete*” [Hate crimes, social services and Roma women are priorities for the Commission's future efforts]). The second was about revealing the Commission's attitude with respect to antiziganistic hate crimes in conjunction with the publication of the two hate crimes reports the Commission had ordered (“*Hatbrott en del av romers vardag*” [Hate crimes are part of the

² Published in Svenska Dagbladet on 17 September 2015.

³ Published in Dagens Samhälle on 2 November 2015.

⁴ Published in ENARgy, the European Network Against Racism's webzine.

⁵ Published in Dagens Nyheter on 29 January 2016.

everyday lives of Roma]). The third concerned the Commission sending out *“Antiziganismen i Sverige”* to social studies teachers at all lower-secondary schools in Sweden (*“Alla högstadieskolor får ny bok om antiziganism”* [All lower-secondary schools receive new book about antiziganism]). The fourth was published in conjunction with the hate crimes report being made public (*“Kommissionen mot antiziganism: ’Polisen måste ta antiziganistiska hatbrott på större allvar’”* [The Commission against Antiziganism: the police must take antiziganistic hate crimes more seriously]).

The Commission's press activities have in turn led to articles and features in media outlets including Dagens Nyheter, Ekot, Radio Romano, Radio Sweden, SVT, Dagens Arena, TT, Lärarnas Nyheter, Skolportalen and several local newspapers.

Opportunities and an audience for Roma voices

An important part of the Commission's work involves being a platform for Roma voices and providing perspectives on antiziganism. One aspect of this is that the Commission continually publishes columns on its website about antiziganism, primarily written by Roma. Information about these columns is also distributed via the Commission's Facebook page.

The Commission has published six columns on its website over the course of autumn 2015. Britt-Inger Hedström Lundqvist, editor for Dik Manus and member of the association RUNG, wrote about how her qualifications and experience were devalued by a publisher when they learned that she was a traveller.

In his column, Erland Kaldaras, member of the Commission, describes how an incident in his childhood that took place in a department store made him understand what antiziganism looks like and how it works.

Sunita Memetovic, law student and Roma activist, wrote about how antiziganism puts her in a position of feeling like an outsider at the same time as her knowledge of antiziganism provides her with access to conversations with people in positions of power such as ministers and authorities.

Marie-Louise Weise, producer at Kulturhuset in Borås and project manager for the exhibition *“Vi är romer – möt människorna bakom myten”* [We are Roma – meet the people behind the myth], wrote a column about an incident of sabotage against the exhibition *“Starkare*

röst” [Stronger voice] and the inclination of the police to identify the sabotage as a hate crime.

In his column, Bennie Åkerfeldt, author and traveller Roma activist, criticises the stigmatising notions concerning “the beggar” among politicians and in the media.

In his column, Stefano Kuzhikov, member of the Commission, reproduces his own personal experiences demonstrating the various ways antiziganism is expressed and its continuity.

Registration of Roma on ethnic grounds

On 16 December 2015, Radio Sweden's (SR) news programme featured a report that the police had collected personal data from vulnerable EU citizens. The Commission communicated via its website that it, on the basis of its mandate to monitor the issue of registration of Roma on ethnic grounds and work to bridge the gap in trust between the Roma community and the rest of society, will be tracking developments in this area.

The Commission believe that some light has to be shed on the methods involved in this collection of personal data and how this has been processed. Why have people who are not suspected of any crime been asked to provide personal data? Why have they been photographed? Will their ethnicity be indicated? How have those asked been chosen? How will the collected data be stored? If the collected data is not immediately destroyed, who will have access to it? Were systematic questions asked of EU citizens about whether they have been victims of harassment or genuine hate crimes by members of the local community?

In conjunction with this revelation, several people from the Commission featured in the media. Christian Åhlund was interviewed on Radio Sweden (SR), Stefano Kuzhikov on Radio Romano and Heidi Pikkarainen and Gunno Gunnmo by the culture department at SVT.

The Commission notes that the Swedish Commission on Security and Integrity Protection decided on 15 December 2015 to begin a review of how the Swedish Police Authority's manages personal data because it was collecting data about offending linked to vulnerable EU citizens. The plan is for this review to be completed in April 2016.⁶

⁶ The Swedish Commission on Security and Integrity Protection, press release, 15/12/2015.

Participation in exhibitions, conferences, etc.

The Commission participated in the Swedish Forum for Human Rights in Gothenburg on 9–10 November by attending with a stand. The following products and resources were handed out there: The antiziganism text, the textbook “Antiziganism in Sweden – Abuses and Rights Violations against Roma in the 20th Century and Today” and the teachers' guide, pens, bags and sweets.

The Commission also organised a seminar. Thomas Hammarberg, Heidi Pikkarainen and Erland Kaldaras presented the Commission's work and the textbook at the Commission's seminar “*Antiziganismen då och nu – en bok för högstadiet*” [Antiziganism then and now – a book for lower-secondary school].

Representatives from the Commission also participated in many other seminars concerning Roma rights arranged by other actors. Heidi Pikkarainen was one of the panellists in the well-attended seminar organised by Civil Rights Defenders, “*Staten och svenskheten*” [The state and Swedishness], and in the UN Association of Sweden's “*Racism i Sverige – vad säger FN?*” [Racism in Sweden – what does the UN have to say?].

Thomas Hammarberg participated in the UN Association of Sweden's seminar “*Hur oberoende blir en svensk MR-institution?*” [How independent does a Swedish human rights institution become?] and was the moderator of the City of Gothenburg, the Roma Council in Gothenburg and the University of Gothenburg's seminar “*Romsk inkludering ur ett romskt perspektiv*” [Roma inclusion from a Romani perspective].

Soraya Post participated in the Government Offices' seminar “*Samling mot racism – samverka mot afrofofi, antisemitism, antiziganism och islamofobi*” [Coalition against racism – working together against Afrophobia, anti-Semitism, antiziganism and Islamophobia].

Heidi Pikkarainen and Erland Kaldaras were involved in the conference “*Romers rättigheter är mänskliga rättigheter*” [Roma rights are human rights] that was organised by Gävle Municipality, the County Administrative Board in Gävleborg County, Region Gävleborg and Hälsingland Museum. They talked about the Commission's work and the new textbook “Antiziganism in Sweden – Abuses and Rights Violations against Roma in the 20th Century and Today”. The conference was intended for civil servants and elected representatives from

municipalities, Region Gävleborg and other authorities and actors in Gävleborg County.

In October, Heidi Pikkarainen participated in the seminar "*Mediabiliden av romer*" [The image of Roma in the media] arranged by the Institute for Media Studies in Stockholm. The Institute has recently published a new study with the same name, one of the authors of which was Thomas Hammarberg. The seminar was targeted at journalists and during the seminar, Heidi Pikkarainen provided examples of how Roma media and Roma participation can contribute to changing their image in the media.

Anneli Tillberg took part in a conference on human rights organised by Örebro County Museum in October. Anneli Tillberg presented the Commission's work and the white paper. The lecture was part of the series "*Mänskliga Rättigheter @ÖLM*" [Human Rights @ÖCM] organised by Örebro Rättighetscenter, Örebro County Museum, RFSL Örebro and ABF Örebro County.

In December, Katarina Hammarberg, together with Erland Kaldaras, gave a presentation on the Commission and its activities at a conference for young Roma in Stockholm organised by Romska ungdomsförbundet.

Advice and support

Over the course of this operational period, the Commission has also received many telephone calls from Roma who want advice and support with regard to a variety of issues. The Commission also receives calls from anti-discrimination bureaus and municipal case officers for advice and support. These calls have mainly been about how to go about reporting hate crimes and discrimination within the social services and vulnerable EU citizens' right to schooling.

As concluded in previous operational reports, advice and support are an unavoidable aspect of the Commission's work and will probably continue to be so over the course of its continuing remit. These calls provide the Commission with a good idea of the situation and of the issues that are most pressing. In addition, it is obvious that the sheer number of calls indicates that the Commission is meeting a major demand by providing this service.

Other

The Swedish Academy

In October, the Commission made the Swedish Academy aware of the request to have 8 April listed as International Roma Day in the Swedish Academy's almanac. In its presentation, the Commission also expressed a desire for the almanac to also list 2 August as a memorial for the Roma victims of the Holocaust.

In November, Sara Danius, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, responded that the Swedish Academy intends to introduce 8 April as International Roma Day in its almanac from 2017. In spring 2016, the Commission will be following up on the request concerning 2 August.

The Council of Europe's letter

The Commission wants to remind readers that at the end of August 2015, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Roma Issues, Ulrich Bunjes, sent a letter to Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke in which the Government's white paper *The Dark Unknown History – White Paper on Abuses and Rights Violations Against Roma in the 20th Century* is described as an “outstandingly good example” and “an important milestone in the fight against antiziganism”. The letter indicates that the Council of Europe intends to distribute the white paper widely and support other member states in their efforts to make historical abuses and rights violations against Roma known to a wider target group.

In a comment on the Commission's website, Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke stated that it is gratifying that the Council of Europe is indicating its willingness to use the white paper as a tool and a good example in its work for Roma rights. She also states that “the fight against antiziganism continues and the work that the Commission against Antiziganism is conducting in Sweden is very important”.

Basic premises of the Commission's work up until May 2016

Throughout its remaining mandate period, the Commission intends to prepare proposals for how an effort that promotes the human rights of Roma can continue and be strengthened once the Commission's mandate comes to an end in May 2016.

The Commission's next report, the final one, will be published in the form of a Swedish Government Official Report. The ambition of this, aside from presenting the Commission's activities and observations, is to provide the Government with a foundation containing concrete proposals for measures that challenge the antiziganism that is part of the everyday lives of many Roma.

Consultation in Malmö

In December, the Commission held a discussion with about 35 people, primarily Roma, in order to increase Roma participation and influence in its work. Over the course of the day, the participants provided their points of view concerning the Commission's work thus far and about whether the creation of a new institution could be an appropriate initiative for reinforcing the human rights of Roma. The following points of view concerning what the Commission's final report should highlight were expressed at the meeting:

- A thorough analysis of antiziganism's complexity and how it affects the rights of Roma.
- A credible model of how a systematic effort can be implemented in order to bring an end to antiziganism and how such an effort can be monitored.
- A description of how an effort that involves acting and reacting against antiziganism can be pursued.
- How Roma participation and influence can be strengthened.

A survey of certain authorities' activities in relation to the work against antiziganism.

Roma bear witness to the authorities' limited action when the rights of Roma are violated. Antiziganistic incidents and discrimination pass unnoticed, without any accountability. One consequence is that many Roma do not receive redress for violations, which only serves to confirm their experience of an unwillingness and inability on the part of society to challenge antiziganism.

According to the Commission, it is therefore vital to get a good picture of how a selection of central government authorities are working to combat antiziganism and what is being done to guarantee the rights of Roma in each of these authorities activities. It is in this context that the Commission has tasked the consultancy Emerga with drawing up a report that shines light on both the success factors and the deficiencies in some central government authorities' efforts⁷ to guarantee the rights of Roma and fight antiziganism.

⁷ This study encompasses an analysis of Arbetsförmedlingen (the Swedish national employment agency), the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the police, the Equality Ombudsman, the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the Forum for Living History, the Counsellor for Cultural Affairs, the National Agency for

Emerga will also identify gaps in existing authorities' work. In addition, the company will propose measures and methods to ensure that the authorities take responsibility for their entire target group, including Roma, and that they comply with their specific responsibilities towards Roma as a national minority. Consequently, the intention is for the report to form the foundation of the Commission's work on proposals for future initiatives.