

Executive summary

The analytical report “Stereotypes, Hate, and Silence”, published by ARA ART in 2025, presents a comprehensive outcome of a two-year monitoring and analytical effort within a project focused on anti-Roma manifests and bias-motivated violence in the Czech Republic.

The document is based on systematic monitoring of both online and offline environments and provides a complex view of the scope, nature, and impact of antigypsyism (anti-Roma racism), while also formulating recommendations aimed at more effectively curbing hate speech and strengthening equal treatment of the Roma minority.

The Roma population in the Czech Republic has long been exposed to structural inequalities and discrimination, deeply-rooted in institutional, political, and social practices. These inequalities are reflected not only in the everyday lives of Roma men and women but also in narratives reproduced by the media and on social networks.

The online environment has become a crucial space for the dissemination of anti-Roma stereotypes, which often portray Roma as a threat, a burden, or parasites of society. The result is the entrenchment of normalized hatred toward the Roma minority, manifesting in diminished safety, increased stigmatization, and threats to dignity.

Methodologically, the report is based on a combination of daily monitoring of digital platforms through a specialized application and manual content verification, which made it possible to capture hidden forms of hate, such as intentionally modified vulgarisms or veiled expressions. Between December 2023 and July 2025, more than ten thousand articles and posts containing anti-Roma sentiments were analyzed. At the same time, a free legal counseling service was established, serving both as a data source for mapping offline incidents and as a tool of practical support for victims of discrimination and hate crimes. This approach combined analytical work with direct assistance, linking research findings with concrete human experiences.

The analysis identified three main types of anti-Roma manifests. The most frequent are pejorative terms and vulgarisms (58%), reflecting normalized verbal aggression. The second most common are stereotyping narratives (38%), which attribute negative traits such as “inadaptability” or “laziness” to the entire group, thereby legitimizing its social marginalization.

Least frequent (4%) but most serious are expressions containing calls for violence and dehumanization, which increase the risk of radicalization and may escalate into bias-motivated violence.

A significant finding is the strong intersectional dimension. Roma women are often targeted with attacks combining ethnic prejudice with gender discrimination, including narratives of “hyper-fertility,” misuse of social benefits, or sexual objectification. Another identified intersection is between ethnicity and sexual orientation/gender identity: Roma LGBTQ+ individuals are also subjected to homophobic and transphobic rhetoric intertwined with anti-Roma stereotypes.

Monitoring revealed that anti-Roma responses do not arise exclusively in connection with ethnically focused content but often emerge as preset interpretive frames among the public. For example, commenters themselves “insert” Roma identity into reports about crime, social benefits, or tragic events, even when ethnicity is not mentioned in the original content. This confirms the presence of deeply rooted prejudices functioning as a filter through which part of society perceives reality. A key role here is played by so-called predictive bias—the expectation that Roma are behind negative occurrences, regardless of the facts.

Online platforms play a crucial role in spreading these narratives. The highest concentration of anti-Roma manifests was recorded on Facebook, which combines broad reach with high levels of interaction and emotional reactions. X.com serves more as a distribution channel with significant reach but lower user engagement, while TikTok is a source of visually stigmatizing content, often using neutral labels yet clearly carrying humiliation undertones. Although traditional media account for a smaller share, their influence on public opinion remains significant.

The report further states that the current legal framework offers only partial protection. While the Czech Republic has an antidiscrimination law, a law on victims of crime, and is part of European legal structures, systematic enforcement and specific attention to antigypsyism are lacking in practice. Hate speech prosecutions often appear only in response to media-covered cases rather than as a result of continuous monitoring. Shortcomings are also evident in the implementation of the Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy 2021–2030, whose measures remain partial or declaratory and fail to address the digital environment as the main arena for the spread of hate.

The report's conclusions highlight that antigypsyism (anti-Roma racism) is a structural and long-term phenomenon that cannot be understood as a set of isolated incidents. It is a normalized societal pattern that legitimizes discrimination, fosters social exclusion, and undermines trust in the principles of equality and justice.

The recommendations target three key areas. First, it is essential to establish a permanent state supported system for monitoring anti-Roma manifestations and to regularly publish data, including research on mental health impacts.

Second, the antidiscrimination law and the law on victims of crime need to be amended, the Czech legal framework harmonized with European standards, and adaptation legislation adopted in connection with the EU Digital Services Act.

Third, investment in education and raising awareness is crucial: introducing minimum standards for antigypsyism training in public administration, supporting media and legal literacy within the Roma minority, and implementing long-term communication campaigns aimed at deconstructing stereotypes.

The analytical report thus clearly demonstrates that combating antigypsyism requires a combination of legal, institutional, and educational measures, and that the fundamental prerequisite is the recognition of hate speech as a structural problem of society. Without active political will, inter-ministerial coordination, and the involvement of both media and digital platforms, it will not be possible to achieve the goal of reducing antigypsyism and ensuring full equality for Roma men and women in the Czech Republic.