



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Norway
Title:	National report on the situation of Romanies/Gypsies as a national minority from 1850 until today
Date:	25 June 2015
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Promotion of acceptance of a minority group's culture and traditional way of life
Ground of discrimination:	Race/ethnic origin (national minority)
Source:	Policy development
Field:	Other

Content

Policy development: The Government White paper: *NOU 2015: 7: Assimilation and resistance – Norwegian policies related to Gypsies/ Roma from 1850 until today (Assimilering og motstand – Norsk politikk overfor taterne/ romanifolket fra 1850 til i dag)* was presented to the Minister of Local Government and Modernisation on 1 June 2015. This White Paper is the result of work by a national committee appointed by government in 2011 to examine and describe the development of the Norwegian authorities', institutions', organisations' and other businesses' policies and measures aimed at Gypsies / Roma from 1850 and until today. The Gypsies/ Romanies is considered a national minority in Norway. The work of this committee may be described as a Truth Commission.

The committee has examined the implementation of policies towards Gypsies/ Roma, and the subsequent treatment of these groups as. The policy of the national and local government towards the Gypsies/ Romanies during the 20th century helped to undermine the people's traditional way of life and culture. The committee has sought knowledge of what has happened in the past, in order to describe the situation of these groups today. The group consists today of between 4000 and 10.000 people. The Committee has made a number of recommendations to promote reconciliation and justice between the majority population and the minority group, of which several are linked to issues of non-discrimination. These include targeting prejudice and negative opinions towards the group as a whole. To increase the general knowledge in society about the culture and history of the group, through inclusion in the material used in primary education.

Key points of analysis: The report is important for the Norwegians belonging to this minority group, as it describes in all its horror the former policies introduced in order to diminish the value of the culture and traditions of this group, in which travelling formed a large part.

The work of the committee has led to a public excuse from the Minister of Local Government and Modernisation to the members of this minority group upon the presentation of the report.

Internet link source: See <https://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dokumenter/nou-2015-7/id2414316/?docId=NOU201520150007000DDDEPIS&ch=1&q=> and <http://www.jus.uio.no/smr/om/tater-romaniutvalget/index.html> (in Norwegian)