

Skåne Stadsmision

Skåne Stadsmision is a non-profit foundation that works with people living in vulnerable situations. Every day, year round, focusing on the needs of individuals; we meet and help the most vulnerable people in society.

Skåne Stadsmision runs Crossroads, an open centre where vulnerable EU-citizens can receive a free breakfast, take care of their personal hygiene and seek advice and support in contact with authorities. Read more at www.skanestadsmision.se.

Civil Rights Defenders

Civil Rights Defenders is an apolitical, non-religious international human rights organisation. We defend people's civil and political rights and strengthen human rights defenders at risk. We are active in Sweden and those countries where there is least respect for human rights. Within the framework of our operations in Sweden, Civil Rights Defenders works for minority rights and against hate crime and discrimination. This includes working to strengthen the protection of the rights of vulnerable EU-citizens. Read more at www.crd.org.

This project is implemented in collaboration with the Southern Police Region.



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Hate Crime against Roma migrants in Malmö

An EU-project combating antiziganism



Over the period 2019 - 2020, Skåne Stadsmision and Civil Rights Defenders will implement an EU-project titled "Tackling Anti-Gypsyism against Roma Migrants in Malmö" (TAG-ARM), with the aim of combating hate crime directed towards vulnerable EU-citizens of Roma origin living on the streets of Malmö, Sweden.



What constitutes hate crime against the Roma?

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) describes it as "crimes committed out of fear, hostility or hate towards Roma people, which provokes a reaction against their property, institutions, themselves or those perceived to be Roma or to represent them."

Hate crime is a unifying concept for various types of crimes where the underlying motive for the criminal act is hate of a racist, xenophobic or homophobic nature.

The reports are few

"The propensity to report hate crime is low in general and especially so when it is directed towards the Roma."

- Swedish Police, 2015

The fact that only few hate crimes against Roma EU citizens are reported is problematic for several reasons. For those affected this means that they do not receive justice or compensation for crimes committed against them. For the wider public, it means they do not get a full picture of the extent of the issue because the number of unreported cases is so great.

We have seen that the attitude towards Roma EU-migrants has hardened in recent years and this has increased their vulnerability.

"He comes every morning and every evening, on his way to and from work. He calls me ugly things in my own language; I think he looked them up online. I am ashamed to repeat the things he calls me. He makes vulgar signs and spits at me. This has been happening for over three years now. I am scared that one day he'll do something worse."

- Woman age 50, visitor at Crossroads

For four years Crossroads Malmö, which is Skåne Stadsmision's centre for vulnerable EU-migrants, has been gathering testimonies that paint a clear picture of broad and systemic discrimination against Roma migrants from other EU-countries living on the streets of Malmö. Hate crime, both verbal and physical, is the common thread through the majority of these testimonies.

Around 2016 the occurrences were so numerous that we decided to document these cases specifically.



Photo: Apelöga

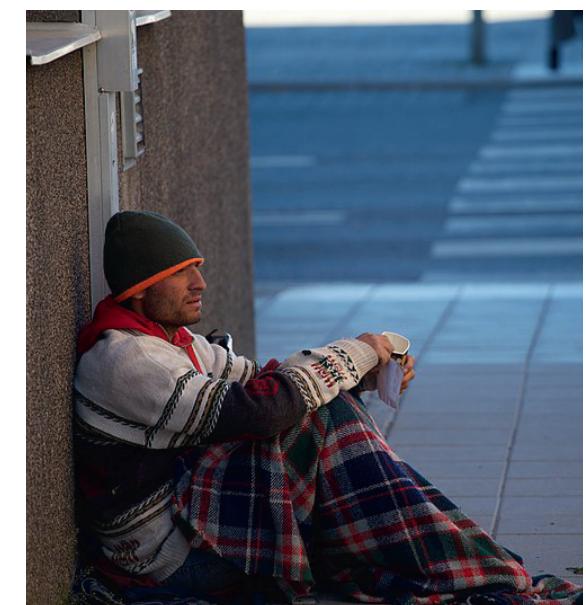


Photo: Carl Ridderstråle

We want to:

- Map and respond to prejudices and stereotypes that often underpin hate crime against Roma migrants.
- Actively support vulnerable individuals before and during the legal process.
- Improve the vulnerable groups' knowledge of their rights through outreach activities.
- Increase the number of people reporting hate crimes and the level of trust they have in the justice system.
- Increase the level of awareness, amongst authorities and the public, of the vulnerability of Roma EU-migrants to hate crime.
- Establish effective collaborations with the police and judicial system on the issue of anti-Roma hate crime.