

A complainant of Roma nationality turned to the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights about discrimination at work, but withdrew his complaint, claiming that he had managed to resolve the conflict in the meantime. Subsequently, another employee of the institution concerned requested that the case be investigated further.

CASE LAW MOSAIC

A complainant of Roma nationality who had been evicted due to the demolition of a flat owned by the local government and was living in a caravan in the same place asked for help to resolve his housing situation. On the basis of a signal by the Minority Ombudsman, the local family assistance service visited the family and drew the attention of the Mayor to the municipal care obligations of the municipality in case of circumstances endangering the life and physical integrity of the person in need.

A complainant of Roma nationality had his contract for a municipal rental apartment terminated due to rent arrears and was placed under temporary guardianship. In his complaint, the complainant asked the Minority Ombudsman for help in resolving his housing conditions and his problems with guardianship.

A petitioner of Roma nationality complained that the building authority had ordered him to demolish his residential building within 180 days. He reported that they were raising four minor children, one of whom was severely visually impaired, in difficult financial circumstances. They are afraid that if their property is demolished, they and their children could end up on the street.

A public statue of emblematic value for a nationality community was removed from the façade of a property under renovation without prior consultation with the nationality self-government. In response to a request from the Minority Ombudsman, the property investor replied that the statue would be preserved and that it would be housed in a museum in the future. In her reply to the parties, the Minority Ombudsman stressed the importance of direct dialogue and consultation with the representatives of the nationality community concerned on the final placement of the work of art.

A petitioner spoke on behalf of Roma refugees from Ukraine. In his complaint, he complained about the discriminatory treatment of Roma at the Nyugati railway station, where he was told that Roma from Ukraine were received differently by volunteers and police officers than Ukrainian refugees. Due to the reorganisation of refugee care in Budapest, the Minority Ombudsman was no longer able to investigate the specific complaint, but indicated that she would keep a close eye on the conditions of provision of services to refugees.

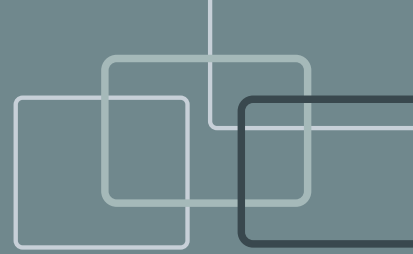
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In the complaint presented in person, the complainant challenged the decision of the building authority to demolish the residential building on his property. The complainant also attached a copy of his request for equitable relief, in which he asked the building authority to allow the property to remain. The grounds for his application were that they have four minor children, one of whom is severely visually impaired and that they live in difficult financial circumstances. The complainant wrote that if their property was demolished, the family would not be able to provide housing for their children and could become homeless. In his petition, he also referred to their disadvantaged situation and their Roma origin.

In order to prevent the family from facing a housing crisis and to learn more about the situation, the **Minority Ombudsman contacted the Government Commissioner of the relevant county government office, the mayor of the municipality concerned and the head of the Family and Child Welfare Service.**

According to the information received, **the property on which the residential building subject to demolition is located is in an area subject to "plot rezoning" according to the local building code, where in case of new construction or extension of an existing building, the plot rezoning must be carried out on the block bordering the public or private road, according to the parameters set for the building zone.** The block of land in question has not been rezoned, and therefore the building in question cannot be granted a permit to remain under the current regulations.

However, the Government Commissioner has indicated that he has contacted the Chief Architect of the municipality concerned and drawn his attention to the problem of the areas affected by the rezoning and to the possible revision of the relevant provisions of the local building code. According to the information available – for the reasons described above – there are several residential buildings without building permit in this part of the municipality, where the majority of inhabitants are Roma families living in well-settled conditions.

In order to clarify the local building regulation issues raised in the case, to obtain the opinion of the Chief Architect and to resolve the problems raised, the Minority Ombudsman repeatedly contacted the Mayor of the municipality and the notary. The Minority Ombudsman's investigation is currently ongoing.