

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.

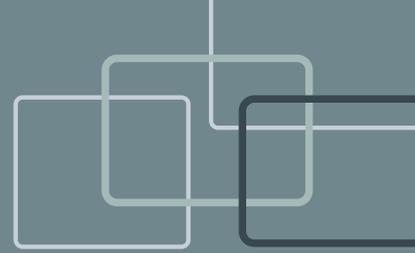
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The complainant of Roma nationality had lived with his family for more than 20 years in a rented municipal flat, which had been demolished by the municipality because it had become unsafe. In view of the winter eviction moratorium, the family was housed in an emergency flat after the demolition, from which they had to leave after the moratorium expired. The family did not accept the replacement accommodation offered by the municipality because of the condition of the house and its surroundings, therefore the complainant moved back into a caravan on the site of the demolished house.

The complainant complained about the demolition of the dwelling and their eviction, as well as the municipality's request to leave the area within 60 days. In addition, the eviction caused the complainant difficulties in finding a job and accessing health care due to the lack of a valid address card.

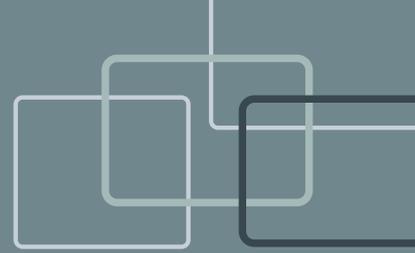
The Minority Ombudsman cannot review the decisions of the local government taken under the rules of civil law in relation to housing management, but she has jurisdiction over municipal measures to prevent homelessness. On this basis, the Minority Ombudsman requested information from the Mayor of the municipality concerned and the head of the local family assistance centre.

On the basis of the request, the local family assistance officer informed the Minority Ombudsman that the staff of the centre had visited the area where the caravan was located on several occasions, but had not met the complainant in person.

In his response letter, the Mayor informed the Minority Ombudsman in detail about the family's previous housing difficulties and indicated that no alternative housing had been offered because the complainant had not been living in the caravan (presumably due to the cold winter weather).

CASE LAW MOSAIC

QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN HUNGARY , 2022/1



In her closing letter, the Minority Ombudsman drew the attention of the Mayor to section 7 (1) of the Act III of 1993 on Social Administration and Social Benefits, according to which **the municipal government, regardless of its competence and jurisdiction, is obliged to provide exceptional municipal assistance, meals or accommodation to persons in need, if the lack of such assistance would endanger the life or physical integrity of the person concerned.** The Minority Ombudsman also informed the complainant of this and, in view of the difficulties he had encountered in registering his address, **drew his attention to the possibility of registering a municipal-level address without temporary accommodation and the steps to be taken.**