

## CASE LAW MOSAIC

Complainants of Roma nationality complained that the guardianship authorities had terminated the placement in family of two of their grandchildren/children by their grandparents and decided to take them into foster care. The complainants also complained that they were not informed of the decision of the guardianship authority and that when they received it later, they were unable to interpret the appeal notice. They also complained that the guardianship authorities did not try to find guardians for the children within the family.

The Minority Ombudsman, following the police's rejection of a report of atrocities against a Roma family, has sent a signal to the competent prosecutor general to investigate whether the case involves a suspicion of violence against a member of the community.

A Member of Parliament has complained to the Minority Ombudsman that a teacher in a primary school in a town in northern Hungary is treating Roma pupils and their parents inappropriately. Most of the parents have good daily contact with the teachers, and there are a number of projects for children's development in addition to the compulsory lessons. However, a few years ago, the complaint report indicated that, in addition to the good experiences, there were many problems with one of the mathematics teachers in the institution.

A complainant of Ukrainian nationality living in Hungary turned to the Minority Ombudsman for help, complaining about the actions of the common representative of the condominium property she owned and the statements she made in public at the condominium's general meeting, which insulted her Ukrainian nationality.

A Roma complainant with a lung disease and his spouse turned to the Minority Ombudsman for help in settling the rent arrears of an oxygen concentrator they had rented, sharing their difficulties in making a living. In their petition, they indicated that they felt that they had been discriminated against because of their Roma origin.

**One complainant complained that the districts of Tetenvár and Ózugró in Miskolc are not connected to the city's public transport network, which raises the possibility of discrimination against Roma residents living there, primarily in terms of access to public education, employment, health and social services.**



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In the petition sent to the Minority Ombudsman, the complainant complained that the Tetemvár and Ózugró segregated settlement parts in Miskolc are not connected to the city's public transport network, so people living there have to walk several kilometres to use local public transport. According to the complainant, the inhabitants of the area suffer discrimination on the grounds of their Roma origin by the Miskolc City Municipality, as they have to walk several kilometres to go to the shops or to take their children to nursery or school.

Upon the request of the Minority Ombudsman, the mayor replied and described in detail the current operational and financial situation of public transport in the City of Miskolc and its development possibilities. He indicated that the municipality is trying to provide public transport services as far as possible as a voluntary task within the current tight budget framework, and is also providing subsidies to support the use of the services. He stressed that the municipality is committed to helping deprived neighbourhoods to catch up, to promote the integration of the population living there and, in this context, to effectively improve their living conditions.

In his reply, the mayor gave a detailed presentation of the Integrated Settlement Development Strategy (ITS) of the City of Miskolc, which deals with the situation of the segregated areas and the improvement of the quality of life and social situation of the residents living there. In terms of remedying the transport difficulties identified in the complaint, the ITS is forward-looking in that, in the context of the rehabilitation of neighbourhoods classified as segregated, the aim is to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants and to eliminate further segregation where possible. The mayor pointed out that the road network in the areas concerned does not allow for the provision of the public transport services available in other parts of the city. At the same time, the ITS identified the paving of gravel roads in the Tetemvár and Bábonyibérc districts as a planned intervention to improve the road network.

The Minority Ombudsman indicated that she was not in a position to resolve the discrepancy between the current forms of action formulated in the mayor's reply letter and the action plan indicated in the ITS, even in the light of the information available to her, but she considered it important to resolve this discrepancy within the competence of the local government, and to mitigate and improve the difficulties affecting public transport services indicated by the complainant and also formulated in the ITS, as far as possible, by means of targeted measures.

In the light of the above, the Minority Ombudsman will continue to pay special attention to the significant transport problems raised by the complainant concerning segregated areas in Miskolc, the measures to promote the development of public transport in this area, and their practical implementation, in view of the seriousness and importance of the concerns regarding the exercise of fundamental rights.