

# Ara Art z.s., and the Fight against Antigypsyism

The organization connects  
art with activism,  
promotes Romani identity  
and fights discrimination,  
including against the  
LGBTQ+ minority.

**Project Oda Na Kames - You don't want that!** focuses on combating hate speech and violence against the Roma population, protecting their rights and supporting the advocacy of their interests. The project will run from October 2023 to September 2025.

## Problems addressed by the project:

- **Persistent hate speech and anti-Roma sentiment** – Roma people in the Czech Republic face prejudice-driven violence, while the state fails to adequately address the situation.
- **Multiple Discrimination** – Roma who are LGBT+, women, or otherwise disadvantaged face even greater exclusion, including within their own community.
- **Lack of Legal Aid and Trust in Institutions** – Low awareness of defense options and fear of reprisals prevent victims from reporting discrimination.
- **Lack of Systematic Hate Speech Monitoring** – Czech law fails to regulate the monitoring and sanctioning of hate speech, especially online.

## MAIN FINDINGS

The project focused on a key change in thinking - **hate speech and discrimination are not just individual problems, but a deeply rooted structural problem in society.**

The project showed that combating bias violence and discrimination is not just a matter of individual cases, but **requires systemic change, legal protection and long-term education.**

**Making the issue visible** helps to change the attitudes not only of the majority, but also of Romani men and women themselves.

**Legal support and advocacy** bring concrete results by strengthening rights protection and increasing pressure for systemic change.

**Awareness raising and education** allow sharing good practice, drawing inspiration and, above all, to practice concrete procedures to effectively combat discrimination.

**The challenge for the future** is to ensure that these **changes are sustainable** and that accountability not only the NGOs, but the state as well.

## 5 WAYS TO FIGHT MULTIPLE DISCRIMINATION

Monitoring and  
sanctioning  
multiple  
discrimination in  
the legal system

Strengthening  
legal support and  
access to  
assistance for  
victims

Education  
and  
awareness

Active  
advocacy and  
pressure on  
political  
representation

Strengthening  
the voice of  
Romani men  
and women  
themselves



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## CHANGES IN THE LIVES OF THE TARGET GROUP

The project exposed **widespread online hate speech**, exceeding official assumptions, and brought the issue into public debate through experts and politicians.

**Free legal advice** motivated some victims to take legal action, proving that well-targeted support has a direct impact.

**Advocacy activities** have exposed cases of discrimination and **increased pressure for systemic change**. The project showed that **institutions respond more to data and evidence** than to testimonies, which is key to driving legislative changes.

The project has created a **network of LGBT+ Roma consultants** who provide support in regions previously without available help. The Roma community is now more open to LGBT+ issues, as evidenced by a shift in responses from negative to predominantly supportive. Young people are venturing out earlier but need a safe environment, increasing demand for new services.

Training participants gained **practical skills to recognise and address discrimination**. Real-life stories and a participatory approach made the training more effective than theoretical courses.

“The newly adopted definition of antigypsyism is still a living, evolving concept. What makes us different is how we connect things – legal counselling with the fight against prejudice. No one else here is really working with multiple discrimination, except for ARA ART – and that’s not just about the Roma LGBT community. Multiple discrimination also affects, for example, an older woman with dark skin.”

(Project Coordinator on multiple discrimination)



## IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCE

Strategies for the Roma minority and the LGBT+ community exist, but their **actual implementation lags behind**. Strategic documents have been rewritten for years without real impact, slowing down and weakening social inclusion.

Instead of systemic assistance, the state relies on the non-profit sector, whose **grant funding is uncertain and hinders the long-term stability of services**.

**Roma involvement is crucial** - real help only works when it is provided by those who know the reality of their communities. "About Roma without Roma" does not lead to effective solutions.

Working in the project was emotionally challenging, especially because of the daily confrontation with hatred. **The team therefore introduced psycho-hygiene processes to promote emotional stability**.



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