



Press release

Paris, 23 September 2015

Ostracism: the French state and local authorities are condemning inhabitants of squat settlements and slums to exclusion

Today, the Collectif National Droits de l'Homme Romeurope (National Human Rights Collective Romeurope) will publish [two reports](#) on the situation of Eastern and Central European inhabitants of squats, settlements and slums in France.

One thing is clear: since the resurgence of slums 25 years ago, public policies regarding inhabitants are disastrous. Evictions without credible alternative housing solutions of squat settlements and slum inhabitants persist and worsen their situation each day. The CNDH Romeurope demands stabilization of the situation of these people, including secure living spaces: The only solution to move towards more social inclusion.

The continuation of this policy of evictions associated with other factors only reinforces social ruptures and banishment of these populations by increasing stigmatization and violent racist acts, barriers to education, non-protection of children, obstacles to access economic and social rights or healthcare, forced expulsions from French territory.

The situation of children living in squat settlements and slums is particularly critical. Both reports highlight the innumerable obstacles that are placed on children's lives: evictions, denial of education, lack of protection of children at risk and child victims of exploitation. State and local governments must not abandon these children!

The CNDH Romeurope welcomes the recent statements of the French State and certain local authorities concerning steps to welcome refugees. We hope this will translate into concrete measures regarding accommodation and schooling for children who do not speak French. These statements prove that when there is willingness, solutions can be found for all and that the issue of slums is not unsolvable.

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