



NEWS REPORT

Date:	17 June 2010
Expert:	András Kádár
Title:	Equal Treatment Authority establishes that anti-Roma statements of the mayor of Kiskunlacháza amount to harassment
Country:	Hungary
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Anti-Roma statements of mayor of Kiskunlacháza qualify as harassment according to the Equal Treatment Authority
Ground of discrimination:	race/ethnic origin
Source:	national equality body (Equal Treatment Authority, decision EBH 187/1/2010)
Field:	other
Legislative provisions:	Articles 8 and 10 of Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities

Content

Case: In 2009, the mayor of Kiskunlacháza (Middle-Hungary Region) in relation to a murder of a young girl (with regard to which at present the suspicion is that it was committed by a non-Roma person) spoke at a public demonstration about the settlement's population having had enough of 'Roma aggression' and made other statements giving the impression that in his view the murder had been committed by Roma people.

On 19 October 2009, a lawyer of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee filed an actio popularis claim to the Equal Treatment Authority concerning the statements of the mayor, claiming that by making statements that are capable of raising negative sentiments against and creating a hostile environment for the Roma community, he had committed harassment in relation to the region's Roma population.

Decision of the Equal Treatment Authority : In its decision dated 19 January 2010, the Equal Treatment Authority established that harassment had been committed, forbade the continuation of the violation and ordered that the decision be made public. The Equal Treatment Authority stated



that it was clear on the basis of the facts and documents that the mayor knew that there was an ethnic tension in the city and that there was in general a strong negative approach against the Roma members of the community. The Equal Treatment Authority claimed that the mayor's statements were able to create fear on behalf of the Roma inhabitants and contribute to an environment that is hostile to them.

Internet link source and additional information:

http://helsinki.hu/dokumentum/EBH_hatarozat.pdf