

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2015
Right of Reply Exercised
**Response of the Czech Republic to the Statements of the ARA Art, Slovo 21, TernYpe
and the Delegation of Azerbaijan**

Working Session 16: Tolerance and non-discrimination, including Roma and Sinti issues

Madame Moderator,

First, I would like to briefly reply to the statement of the ARA Art made during this session.

We are aware of the municipal decrees adopted in Duchcov and several other Czech cities which put restrictions on movement in specifically defined public areas. Whereas this is a competence of local authorities, the regional authorities, as well as the Ministry of Interior can assess if these municipal decrees are in accordance with the Czech national law. Moreover, the Ombudsperson of the Czech Republic currently started investigations on conformity with the law in two specific cases of municipal decrees.

I would like to thank the representatives of Slovo 21 and ARA Art for their valuable recommendations made during this session.

As it was emphasized in our national statement, the Czech Government is firmly committed to improving the overall conditions of the Roma population. In this regard, we would like to assure the distinguished delegate of Azerbaijan about our determination to implement all key measures specified in the Strategy of Roma integration up to 2020, which was adopted in February this year, be it in the area of education, employment, healthcare or housing.

I would like to briefly reply to the statement of TernYpe with regard to the commemoration of the victims of the Roma holocaust. We welcome this year's visit of the IHRA Committee on the Genocide of the Roma to the Czech Republic. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss among others the situation of the memorial site for the Roma victims in Lety u Písku.

Thank you for your attention.