



East European Roma Culture Awareness Guide

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Roma Support Group

This East European Roma Culture Awareness Guide provides basic information about Roma history, culture and tradition. It aims to help Metropolitan Police Officers to engage with Roma families in a positive way. It is important to acknowledge that Roma community is very diverse and that it is impossible to describe all aspects Roma culture and tradition within this guide. Instead, information provided should be used as a starting point in a learning process about this diverse community.

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1. Basic Historical Information

1.1 Historical timeline

700s – 1100s Many of the ancestors of the Roma were members of various groups across the range of castes who joined migrations out of India during the warfare and movement of peoples during first four centuries of Islam

1100s - 1200s Romani language emerges among Indian emigrants in Anatolia and the Balkans. The only plausible historical speculation as to why their different dialects converged is that the different caste groups, from grooms to washerwomen and tent-makers, and metalworkers and musicians to fighters, were part of a military formation led by Kshatrias (members of the military caste) who imposed their language on the whole group, but this hypothesis is still disputed by some non-historians. This period may be seen as the beginning of Roma identity.

1300s -1400s Roma begin to arrive in Europe beyond the Ottoman Borders as they were being enslaved, especially in the Christian fringes of the Ottoman Empire in south-east Europe. Since the 15th century, Romani groups have migrated to all countries in Europe, and many in other continents. Some are, and have always been, settled, and lived in permanent camps or housing, while others survived the break-up of the original group in Anatolia by practising their commercial-nomadic trades by negotiating protection from other feudal rulers.

1530 The first laws expelling Roma from England are introduced under Henry VIII, and strong anti-vagrancy laws.

1554 Under Queen Mary, the English Parliament passed the first Egyptians Act which made being a Gypsy a felony (i.e. punishable by death). These acts were not formally repealed until 1780. Genocidal laws also occurred in other West European countries from the 16th century up until 1945.

1783 H.M.G. Grellmann's *Die Zigeuner* develops European scientific racism to provide a new kind of explanation for the culture and history of Roma.

1800s The development of steam power opens up trade with the Americas, and leads to mass migration from poorer countries in Europe, which includes the "second wave" of migration of, perhaps, a million East European Roma. In 1899 the setting up in Munich of a

clearing house for information on actions to combat “the Gypsy Menace” leads ultimately to the foundation of Interpol, and ever strong anti-Roma measures in many countries.

1933 - 45 - Figures from the US Holocaust Memorial Research Institute put the number of Roma lives lost at between 500,000 and 1.5 million.

From 1956 – Attempts to settle the few remaining nomadic Roma by force in most Eastern European countries.

1971 - The First World Romani Congress was held near London, during which an international Romani flag, motto (*Opré Roma - Roma Arise*) and Anthem (*Gelem, Gelem*) were formally approved. It was attended by delegates who called themselves Roma, and other Romani Groups like Sinte and Romanichal Gypsies who did not, and by some Irish Travellers who rejected Romani identity but felt they suffered the same anti-Gypsy racism.



Romani flag

1989 - Fall of socialism and the migration of Roma from Eastern Europe towards the West the “Third wave”, greatly increases

2008 - Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month, taking place in June, established in the UK.¹

1.2 Population

The Roma are an ethnic group more numerous than the population of many states in Europe and are among the most vulnerable and marginalized. UNICEF asserts “Though they exist in all countries of Europe with a total population of approximately 12–15 million, 70 per cent are concentrated in Central/South Eastern Europe. The greatest proportions in this region live in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and TFYR Macedonia and large numbers of them live in the Czech Republic and Poland. They are also one of the fastest growing

¹ GRTHM started as a local initiative in LB of Brent. In 2008 DCSF awarded funding for the initiative to become a national event.

populations in Europe, with an increasing share of the Roma population being comprised of youth.”²

There are no reliable official statistical data about Roma in the UK. However, estimates vary from 300,000 (including the Gypsy and Traveller population) to 1 million³. In 2010 the Department of Health, through their Pacesetters Programme, estimated that there were about 300,000 Gypsies, Roma and Travellers living in the UK. In 2013 University of Salford conducted a research study “Migrant Roma in the United Kingdom” and estimated 200,000 Roma and 200,000 Gypsies and Travellers living in the UK.⁴

2. Position of Roma in Europe; European Initiatives for Roma Integration

Although Roma are the largest ethnic group without their own state in Europe, they are worse off than most other ethnic groups when it comes to education, health, employment, housing and political participation. They have possibly the lowest educational attainment, the shortest life expectancy and a level of unemployment significantly higher than any other comparable ethnic group in Europe. The political participation of Roma is still at a very low level. For instance, there are currently only two Romani Members of the European Parliament.⁵

² [Towards Roma Inclusion](http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/ROMA_PAPER_FINAL_LAST.pdf), UNICEF, Geneva, 2010, http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/ROMA_PAPER_FINAL_LAST.pdf. Of course, all statistics depend on who self-identifies and who is identified as Roma in often very mixed populations.

³ [Mapping Survey: Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England](#), European Dialogue, August 2009

⁴ [Migrant Roma in the United Kingdom: Population size and experiences of local authorities and partners](#), Philip Brown, Lisa Scullion and Philip Martin, University of Salford, Manchester, October 2013

⁵ The first Romani M.E.P. was Juan de Dios Ramirez Heredia from Spain, who served from 1994-1999. Two Hungarian Romani women Livia Jaroka (Fidesz) and Viktoria Mohacsi (Socialist) were elected to the European Parliament in 2004. Mohacsi lost her seat in 2009 and is currently seeking asylum in Canada, while the increasingly anti-Roma Fidesz effectively de-selected Jaroka in 2014. MEPs of Romani heritage elected in 2014 were Soraya Post, the sole representative of the Swedish Women’s party (who is vice-chair of the European Roma and Traveller Federation) and Jim Carver (UKIP) from the UK.

Although there have been several initiatives on the European level attempting to improve the position of Roma, such as The Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015)⁶, they continue to suffer from widespread discrimination which feeds the cycle of their disadvantage, exclusion, segregation and marginalisation:

“There is a shameful lack of implementation concerning the human rights of Roma. The issue has been put on the agenda of all major international organisations and national governments in Europe, for example through national action plans, but without much impact.”⁷

3. Roma Communities

Roma is the word that many Roma use to describe themselves and it means “**people**”. Traditionally, the word is used to refer to most of those who are called Gypsies from Central and Eastern Europe whose ancestors originally came from north-west India.

They are known collectively in the majority of dialects of the Romani language as **Rom** or **Roma** (depending on the dialect concerned) and also as **Romany, Romanies, or Roms**. Other Romani groups call themselves Sinte, Romanichals or Kale. There are many different Romani groups who can have very different cultural norms and customs. Around 5-7 million speak dialects which are mutually inter-comprehensible and together constitute the Romani language. Another 2-3 million speak dialects mixed with other languages.

4. Language

4.1 The Romani language

The Roma language is called Romani or Romanes; it belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family of languages, including Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and Bengali, with its roots in the Sanskrit languages.

⁶ The Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015 is the most substantial political commitment by European governments to eliminate discrimination against Roma since the collapse of the EU programme promised by resolutions of the Council of Ministers of 22 May 1989. The Decade focuses on the priority areas of education, employment, health, and housing, and commits governments to take into account the other core issues of poverty, discrimination, and gender mainstreaming. The twelve countries currently taking part in the Decade are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Spain. Slovenia and the United States have observer status.

⁷ Positions on the human rights of Roma, Position Paper from the Commissioner for Human Rights, Strasbourg, 30 May 2010, <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1631909>

The Romani language has always had many dialects, reflecting the diverse origins of its original speakers, and many Roma speak one of these as a first language. Over time some of these dialects became more standardized while others, under the influence of other local languages, became less so. Since the migrations of the late 19th century, the opening up of European borders in 1989 and the growth of a written Romani literature including dictionaries and language course, standardization has been increasing, especially as Roma interact on the internet and in international organisations.

Just as Romani has borrowed words from other languages, it has donated words of its own. For example, English has a number of Romani loan words including 'pal', (brother) 'cosh', (stick) 'mush', (man) 'chav' (boy) and 'lollipop' (from lolo-phabai-cosh = red apple on a stick).

The following are a few phrases in one of the Romani dialects:

Roma phrase	pronunciation	meaning
<i>Latcho dives</i>	<i>/latfo dives/</i>	Good Day
<i>Sar tu san</i>	<i>/sar tu san/</i>	How are you?
<i>Shukar</i>	<i>/jukar/</i>	Good
<i>Mishto</i>	<i>/mifto/</i>	Well
<i>Devlesa</i>	<i>/devlesa/</i>	Goodbye/May God be with you

4.2 Working with Interpreters

There is lack of qualified Roma interpreters working in the UK. This is further complicated by the fact that there are many dialects of Romanes and speakers of one dialect may not necessarily be able to fully understand speakers of another Romanes dialect.

Non-Roma interpreters, who will use second or the third language of a Roma speaker, might not know how to effectively communicate with Roma and misunderstand or mistranslate the subject discussed.

There may be an element of distrust between Roma and non-Roma interpreters. A small number may let their personal opinions about the Roma community impact on their professionalism.

www.romasupportgroup.org.uk

5. Culture, Traditions and Taboos

5.1 Roma Lifestyle

Important parts of the original Romani-speaking population were groups who had been travelling from village to village in India to make a living under the protection of local feudal lords. Different castes were skilled in many trades and services, such as: wheelwrights, blacksmiths, mending pots and pans, music and dance, puppeteering, carpet-dealing, trading in transport animals etc. These traditions still exist over most of the developed world.

In Eastern Europe the majority of Roma were settled from at least the 18th century, and many for centuries before, but a minority continued to travel until under the post-Stalinist communist regimes Roma in east and south European countries were forced to settle. Most of them no longer travel.

Most have kept a strong belief in their customs and traditions and have maintained their skill and their love for music and dance.

5.2 Romani pen/Romani Courts of Elders/Romani Kris/Feuds

The majority of Roma have strict codes of justice and propriety (Romani- pen) and misconduct is often dealt with internally. In some groups elders are responsible for resolving conflicts and administering punishment, which is based upon the concept of honour and can mean a loss of reputation and at worst expulsion from the community. For some other groups the family itself is the primary focus of all discipline and families in conflict agree on respected community leaders who will preside over a tribunal (the Romani Kris) which resolves issues. In other groups which do not have courts of elders or the Kris, personal combat or the threat of violence (known in English as feuding) resolves (or fails to resolve) conflicts. Groups with different traditions often find it hard to respect or understand the traditions of others.

5.3 How to get a message across when there are no easily identifiable community leaders?

Petr Torak, a Czech Roma police officer from the Gypsy Roma Traveller Police Association says:

There are many subgroups within the Roma community. Some subgroups (for example Vlachi Roma) have their community leaders, called Vajda (= leader, judge) or Baro Rom (= great man). Every time I need to spread a message into the Vlachi community in Peterborough, I contact local Vajda.

When it comes to other groups, such as Romungro, there are no official leaders, but there are often influential individuals that are able to speak on behalf of large families or parts of the community.

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The issue is that only people from within the Roma community, or someone that had been working with the community for a long time, will be able to identify the Vajdas and true leaders.

As Petr Torak says, there are not always easily identifiable community leaders, or if there are they may not necessarily be willing to engage with agencies. In any case, we are finding that this is not always the best way to proceed. It can be much more effective to engage with members of the community in a “bottom-up” rather than “top-down” way, through community groups and organisations, outreach projects and neighbourhood initiatives. Work with young people is often a very successful approach.

5.4 Examples of Good Practice: Police Work with Young People in the Czech Republic and the UK

In Brno in the Czech Republic, the City Police worked with the DROM [= road) Romani Centre on a ‘Mission Project’ to build bridges between the police and seven- to ten-year-old Roma children in schools. The children who participated were chosen on the basis of strong character and leadership potential that sometimes manifested as difficult behaviour. Led by a team of adults consisting of one Police Constable, one Romani Centre worker and one teacher, the activities were designed to help children learn about law, the police, self-defence and avoiding crime. Through this, police officers were also able to build up relationships with Romani adults from the community who might have been much harder to engage with if the children had not already been involved.

(Practical Examples in Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Roma/Gypsies, European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance, 2001, p. 59, available at http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/good_practices/3-roma_gypsies/CRI%282001%2928.pdf)

Currently in the UK, West Yorkshire Police runs an initiative for young people aged 16 to 18 who would like to learn more about careers in the police. The Explorers programme runs for 25 weeks every year, during which time young people learn about the work of the police while doing voluntary work in their communities. The programme is open to young people from all ethnicities and backgrounds; it does not have a particular focus on Roma. However, it is an example of excellent engagement with Roma communities through the example of Tomas Gregor, who won the West Yorkshire Police Explorer of the Year award for 2014. Tomas is a young Czech Roma man who came to Harehills in Leeds aged nine, speaking only Czech; he is now fluent in three other languages including English. A dedicated community volunteer since the age of 16, he is now a qualified youth worker who has set up his own youth club as well as working as a mentor and translator in a local primary school. Tomas
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Gregor's example is a powerful antidote to prevailing stereotypes (both of Roma and young people more generally) and West Yorkshire Police Explorers is a great example of an inclusive and empowering community engagement programme. See <http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/news/west-yorkshire-police-explorers-awards-2014-0>

Petr Torak reports that in his experience it is much easier to get young Roma to participate in IPAGs than older people; he is currently working with three young Roma who actively participate in public meetings and other activities and says that the best way to recruit enthusiastic young people is through local colleges, particularly Public Service courses.

5.6 Family life

The culture and traditions of the Roma revolve around close family ties and traditional values.

In traditional families, if a family member is getting married or dies, children and adults are expected to attend a community event and children are most likely to be taken out of school. Adults are equally obliged and might miss important meetings and appointments. If they did not attend family/community events this could be understood as a sign of disrespect and would isolate a family from the wider community.

5.7 Age

Traditionally, as a token of respect, many issues (such as health problems) are not discussed in groups of Roma where the age gap is greater than 10 years.

No matter how old and reliant on others an elderly Roma person is, they are looked after in the family unit and usually not placed in a care home.

5.8 Puberty

In many Roma groups a girl who reaches the age of puberty is expected to wear long skirts and dresses.

5.9 Marriage

A wedding does not necessarily happen in a church. The celebration is very traditional with many customs and rituals to be observed. The celebration of the wedding may last for two days. In some groups the wedding is only the regularisation of a relationship established by elopement; in other groups marriages are arranged and elopement is impossible.

5.10 Death

A death in the family is felt very strongly and deeply; for instance, relatives will sit in vigil during the night so that the body is never left alone.

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5.11 Music and dance

Among the many skills that Roma people have, music and dance is probably one of the most known and celebrated.

6. Working with Roma in a Police Context

Relationships between police and Roma have historically been difficult. Throughout Europe, Roma have in the past been subjected to institutional racism and discrimination. This has over time led to a lack of trust in the Police. Roma are often the targets of racially motivated violence and discrimination in their countries of origin and often they are unable to rely on the police for protection and proper investigation of these hate motivated crimes.

Many Roma will avoid dealing with the police, even in situations where they need assistance such as incidents of hate crime or domestic violence. Some Roma will endeavour to resolve community issues internally and the use of internal Romani courts is not uncommon.

However things are changing. In the UK and other parts of Europe, there are some positive models of practice demonstrating that it is possible to break these barriers and create more positive and trusting relationships with the Roma population.

Case Study: Roma Support Group and Haringey Youth Offending Service - Young Roma Women's Project

This project has been initiated by the Roma Support Group and Haringey Youth Offending Service (YOS). It came as a result of significant challenge to the YOS in terms of reducing reoffending rates amongst their young Roma service users. There were also concerns raised about the use of custodial sentence for this group of young Roma.

The young people's offending was understood to be driven by their inability to access employment market, other than self-employment, combined with the lack of skills and information about possible ways of becoming financially self-sufficient.

Both agencies agreed that central to diverting young people from further offending is the ability to give them legal and positive means by which they can support themselves financially. In this context, both agencies designed a safe and meaningful programme which aimed to address these issues.

From June 2013- September 2013, we ran a three month programme which involved seamstressing classes and mentoring into self-employment. In addition to this, we also provided young people with information about their rights and entitlements in the UK as well as awareness about their safety.

More work needs to be done in order to encourage more positive initiatives within the police force, including recruitment of police officers from the Roma community and Roma participation in IPAG groups.

Case Study: The Gypsy Roma Traveller Police Association

July 17th, 2014 saw the official Westminster launch of an organisation unique in the UK: the Gypsy Roma Traveller Police Association. GRTPA was founded in 2013 by Jim Davies, an English Romany Thames Valley Police officer, and Petr Torak, a Czech Roma police officer working in the UK, as a support network for police officers from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller background. The organisation is UK-based but aims to have an international reach, with over 50 members from the UK and several from the EU. One of its major aims, as well as supporting its members, is to foster relationships of mutual trust between GRT groups and the police. The existence of this organisation and its work is a visible challenge to the perception held by some people that a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller background is synonymous with a criminal lifestyle or incompatible with mainstream values. See the website at <http://www.grtpa.com/>.

Petr Torak says: *Most Roma do not expect or need from the police anything else than any other person. Mainly the older generation are still very distrustful of the police, but with fair policing the fear can be broken. I personally believe that the key to improving the relationship and mutual understanding is within increasing number of Roma PCs, PCSOs and SCs.*

6.1 Police Procedures

It has been identified that Roma lack information about police procedures. For this reason, a set of simple tri-lingual information leaflets have been designed (please see appendix 1, 2, 3), focusing on some key aspects of police work. Information leaflets are aimed at Roma individuals:

- Reporting Hate Crime
- Roma in Custody
- Entering a Roma Household

When working with Roma, BE ...

- Positive
- Respectful of traditions and customs (e.g. Take off your shoes if you see no-one else in the house is wearing outdoor shoes. Do not refuse the offer of a non-alcoholic drink; to do so implies the person offering it is not clean.)
- Open and honest
- Aware of language issues (interpreting, first/second language issues, lack of vocabulary, illiteracy)

-
- Be mindful of age, gender, cultural taboos (consult the community if in doubt)

When working with Roma, DO ...

- Demonstrate commitment to treat Roma fairly in all activities including police searches, raids, stops, evictions, and management of tensions between different communities
- Challenge all forms of racism and report all racist incidents
- Encourage Roma to work in law-enforcement institutions/Involve Roma representatives in your work
- Engage with parents and explain what is happening (in case of youth offending)
- Invest time
- Make eye contact when talking
- Work in a multidisciplinary way
- Use word of mouth to spread information as it is often more effective than written information
- Provide follow up phone calls and contacts to ensure that relevant information is understood and that queries or concerns are addressed
- If appropriate, behave in an informal way
- Raise the community's awareness about relevant issues through individual and group meetings
- Use cultural references
- Explain why you are asking questions and what you will do with answers
- Dress modestly/If appropriate do not work in police uniform

When working with Roma, DO NOT ...

- Don't promise what you cannot deliver
- Don't use jargon, without explaining it (of course, learning jargon empowers people dealing with bureaucracy!)

7. The Roma Support Group (RSG)

The **ROMA SUPPORT GROUP** is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee which has been working with East European Roma refugees and migrants since 1998. The RSG was established by the Roma people and it is led by them today. Our projects include advice and advocacy, aspiration and education support, art and sport inclusion.

With 15 years' experience supporting Roma families and engaging with communities, we are best placed to support you to achieve the best outcomes for Roma families and children. We can offer:

- Specific support for practitioners
- Bespoke training for professionals (some of our previous clients include Metropolitan Police, London Transport Police, Newham First Response Teams, Youth Offending Teams, Medway Police, etc.)
- Consultancy support to public and voluntary sector organisations
- Workshops for children and young people in schools and in youth group settings
- Publications and resources - including learning packs, DVDs, CDs and books on Roma history, values and traditions.

If you would like to talk about how we can work with you or how you can access any of the resources we offer, please call us on: **020 7511 8245** or **020 7511 6508** or email us at:

rsep@romasupportgroup.org.uk

For more information about our work, resources and publications, please visit our website

www.romasupportgroup.org.uk

8. Other organisations working with Roma or Gypsies and Travellers

- Roma Matrix <https://romamatrix.eu/>
- National Association of Teachers of Travellers + Other Professionals (NATT+) <http://www.natt.org.uk/>
- The Traveller Movement <http://www.travellermovement.org.uk/>
- Friends Families and Travellers <http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/>
- Equality <http://equality.uk.com/>
- The Gypsy Council / National Romany Rights Association <http://www.gypsy-association.co.uk/>
- Leeds GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange) <http://www.leedsgate.co.uk/>
- The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups <http://nationalgypsytravellerfederation.org/index.html>
- Gypsy Roma Traveller Police Association www.grtpa.com

9. Appendices

Appendix 1- Police procedures information leaflet in English

Reporting Hate Crime

If you are a victim of crime *because* you are Roma, or if you are targeted for any other reason, such as:

your skin colour
your language
your nationality
having a disability
being gay

Then this is called HATE CRIME.

If you think you've been a victim of hate crime, you should report it to the police as soon as possible.

- The police and the courts take hate crime very seriously and will treat it as a priority.
- If a crime is found to have been motivated by prejudice or hate against the victim, the courts can punish it more severely than other similar crimes.
- Any crime can be a hate crime, whether it's something extremely serious like murder or assault or something else such as vandalism of property, if you are targeted because of racism or some other prejudice.
- Some police forces have dedicated officers to deal with particular types of hate crime.
- By reporting it when it happens to you, you may be able to prevent it happening to someone else.
- If you do not want to go directly to the police, you can also report the crime online here: report-it.org.uk .

If you do not want to go directly to the police, you can also report the crime online here: report-it.org.uk .

But if you or anyone else are in danger or seriously hurt, if the crime is still going on or if the person or people who did it are still nearby, you need to **CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY TO GET EMERGENCY HELP** from the police (and/or ambulance and fire services).

If You Are Arrested

You usually be taken to a police station, held in custody in a cell and then questioned.

The police can hold you for up to 24 hours before they have to charge you with a crime or release you. This can be extended to 36 or 96 hours if you're suspected of a serious crime such as murder.

You'll be searched and your possessions will be kept by the police custody officer while you're in the cell.

The police can release you on police bail if there's not enough evidence to charge you.

You will have to return to the station for further questioning when asked and there might be conditions imposed, such as a curfew, depending on the situation.

You must be told about your right to free legal advice and in most cases you cannot be questioned by the police until you have got it.

Then the police may question you about the crime you're suspected of - this will be recorded.

You don't have to answer the questions but there could be consequences if you don't. The police must explain this to you by reading you the police caution:

You do not have to say anything. However, it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence.

The custody officer at the police station must explain your rights. You have the right to:

Get free legal advice

Tell someone where you are

Have medical help if you're feeling ill

See the rules the police must follow ('Codes of Practice')

See a written notice telling you about your rights, such as food and toilet breaks

Ask for a notice in your language or an interpreter to explain the notice.

If you're under 18 or an adult who needs special care, for instance because of mental disabilities, the police must:

Try to contact your parent, guardian or carer

Find an 'appropriate adult' to come to the station to help you and be present during questioning and searching. This can be your parent, guardian, relative, friend or carer, a social worker, or someone else who is over 18.

The police have the right to:

Take photographs of you
Take your fingerprints
Take a DNA sample from a mouth swab or head hair root from you
Swab the skin surface of your hands and arms

without your permission. They **do need your permission** to take samples like blood or urine, **unless** you are suspected of drink or drug driving.

If you feel that you have been badly or unfairly treated by the police, you have the right to make an official complaint. To do this, you will need to contact the individual police force which detained you.

Police Powers of Entry

Usually, police need a search warrant in order to enter your household.

This is an official document from the courts giving them legal permission to enter and search your property.

Under some circumstances they may be able to do this legally without a warrant, if a serious or dangerous incident has happened on your property.

Situations where the police would not need a warrant include:

If they are trying to arrest someone for certain serious crimes
If they are trying to recapture someone who has escaped
Where someone's life is in danger
If property could be seriously damaged.

The police should usually come at a reasonable time (e.g. not in the middle of the night), and must ask your permission for the search, unless that would prevent them from being able to carry out their search properly.

When they are carrying out a search police officers **must:**

Identify themselves
Show their warrant card if they are not in uniform
Explain why they want to search
Explain your rights as the occupier
Tell you whether they have a search warrant or not.

If the police have a warrant, they **can enter without your permission** or with force under certain circumstances. These include:

If you have refused to let them in
If they are not able to communicate with you
If no-one is in
If they have good reason to believe that they need to force entry in order to search properly or because someone would be in danger otherwise.

Appendix 2- Police procedures information leaflet in Polish (translated by Maria Marais)

Zgłaszanie zbrodni nienawiści

Jeśli wyrządzono Panu/Pani krzywdę *ze względu na fakt, że jest Pan(i) Romem*, lub jeśli przestępstwo popełniono z innej przyczyny takiej jak np. Pana/Pani:

kolor skóry
język
narodowość
wyznanie
niepełnosprawność
orientacja seksualna

Przestępstwo to stanowi ZBRODNIĘ NIENAWIŚCI.

Jeśli doświadczył Pan(i) zbrodni nienawiści, należy to jak najszybciej zgłosić na Policji.

- Policja i sądy traktują zbrodnie nienawiści nadzwyczaj poważnie i priorytetowo.
- Jeżeli udowodniono, że zbrodnię dokonano na podstawie uprzedzenia lub nienawiści w stosunku do ofiary, sąd może wyznaczyć surowszą karę niż w przypadku innego, podobnego przestępstwa.
- Każde przestępstwo dokonane z powodu rasizmu lub innego uprzedzenia jest zbrodnią nienawiści, dotyczy to zarówno bardzo poważnych aktów, jak morderstwo czy napad jak i innych czynów np. aktu wandalizmu.
- W niektórych jednostkach Policji, funkcjonariusze prowadzący dochodzenie w sprawach przestępstw z nienawiści posiadają specjalizację z określonego rodzaju zbrodni nienawiści.

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- Zgłoszenie przestępstwa popełnionego wobec Pana/Pani, pomaga w zapobieganiu takim incydentom w przyszłości.
- Jeśli woli Pan(i) nie zgłaszać się na Policję osobiście, przestępstwo można zgłosić przez stronę internetową: www.report-it.org.uk

Jeśli woli Pan(i) nie zgłaszać się na Policję osobiście, przestępstwo można zgłosić przez stronę internetową: www.report-it.org.uk

W nagłych przypadkach, gdy istnieje zagrożenie życia lub zdrowia wobec własnej osoby lub innych, jak również w sytuacji, gdy sprawcy są w trakcie dokonywania zbrodni lub nadal przebywają w pobliżu, należy bezzwłocznie DZWONIĆ POD NUMER 999 W CELU UZYSKANIA POMOCY DORAŻNEJ od Policji (lub/oraz pogotowia i straży pożarnej).

W przypadku aresztowania

Zostanie Pan(i) zabrany na komisariat policji, zatrzymany w areszcie a następnie przesłuchany/a.

Policja ma prawo trzymać Pana/Panią w areszcie przez 24 godziny, po tym okresie ma obowiązek postawić zarzuty lub zwolnić osobę zatrzymaną. Czas zatrzymania może być przedłużony do 36 lub 96 godzin, w przypadku podejrzenia o popełnienie poważnego przestępstwa np. morderstwa.

Zostanie Pan(i) przeszukany a Pana/Pani przedmioty osobiste zatrzymane przez funkcjonariusza aresztu na okres Pańskiego pobytu w celi.

Jeśli Policja nie będzie posiadać wystarczających dowodów, aby postawić Panu/Pani zarzuty, zostanie Pan(i) zwolniony/a z aresztu.

Będzie Pan(i) miał/a obowiązek stawić się na komisariacie Policji, gdy wezwany/a, mogą również zostać na Pana/Panią nałożone warunki, np. godzina policyjna, zależnie od sytuacji.

Policja jest zobowiązana powiadomić Pana/Panią o przysługującym Panu/Pani prawie do bezpłatnej porady prawnej (kontaktu z adwokatem). W większości przypadków przesłuchiwanie nie odbędzie się dopóki nie uzyska Pan(i) porady prawnej.

Następnie Policja może przesłuchać Pana/Panią w związku z domniemanym przestępstwem – przesłuchanie zostanie nagrane.

Nie ma Pan(i) obowiązku odpowiadać na pytania jednakże, mogą z tego wyniknąć konsekwencje. Policja musi Pana/Panią o tym poinformować, czytając następujące pouczenie:

Nie musi Pan(i) odpowiadać na pytania. Jednakże, może zaszkodzić Pana/Pani obronie, jeśli podczas przesłuchania nie wspomni Pan(i) o czymś, na co później powoła się Pan(i) w sądzie. Wszystko, co Pan(i) powie może zostać wykorzystane w postępowaniu dowodowym.

Funkcjonariusz aresztu na posterunku Policji ma obowiązek wyjaśnić przysługujące Panu/Pani prawa. Ma Pan/Pani prawo do:

Bezpłatnej porady prawnej/darmowego adwokata
Powiadomienia osoby bliskiej o fakcie zatrzymania
Pomocy medycznej, jeśli źle się Pan(i) czuje
Zapoznania się z obowiązującymi Policję przepisami (o nazwie „Kodeksy Postępowania”)
Zapoznania się z pouczeniem o Pańskich prawach, np. do posiłków i przerw na skorzystanie z toalety
Poproszenia o przetłumaczenie pouczenia lub usługi tłumacza ustnego.

W przypadku zatrzymania osoby poniżej 18 roku życia, lub osoby wymagającej szczególnej opieki (np. z powodu niepełnosprawności umysłowej), policja ma obowiązek:

Skontaktować się z rodzicami lub opiekunem osoby zatrzymanej

Znaleźć „stosowną osobę pełnoletnią”, która może przyjść na komisariat, aby pomóc i być obecną podczas przeszukania i przesłuchania osoby zatrzymanej. Tą osobą pełnoletnią może być rodzic, krewny, przyjaciel, opiekun, pracownik opieki społecznej, lub inna osoba pełnoletnia.

Policja ma prawo:

Zrobić zdjęcie
Pobrać odciski palców
Pobrać próbki DNA (np. ze skóry głowy u podstawy włosów lub śliny)
Pobrać próbki ze skóry na dłoniach i ramionach

bez zgody osoby zatrzymanej.

W celu pobrania innych próbek np. próbki krwi czy moczu, **Policja musi uzyskać zgodę** osoby zatrzymanej, z wyjątkiem osób zatrzymanych na podstawie podejrzenia o jazdę pod wpływem alkoholu lub narkotyków.

Jeśli uważa Pan(i), że został/a Pan(i) źle lub niesprawiedliwie potraktowany przez policję, ma Pan(i) prawo do złożenia oficjalnej skargi. W celu złożenia skargi, należy skontaktować się bezpośrednio z jednostką policji, która dokonała zatrzymania.

Uprawnienia Policji do wejścia na teren prywatny

Zazwyczaj, policja nie ma prawa wejść do Pana/Pani mieszkania bez nakazu.

NAKAZ PRZESZUKANIA/REWIZJI to oficjalny dokument wydany przez sąd, który udziela Policji prawnego zezwolenia na wejście oraz przeszukanie Pańskiego mieszkania.

W pewnych sytuacjach, Policja ma prawo wejść na teren prywatny bez nakazu np. w przypadku, gdy na terenie Pańskiego mieszkania nastąpił poważny lub niebezpieczny incydent.

W następujących sytuacjach Policja nie potrzebuje nakazu, aby wejść na teren Pańskiego mieszkania:

Podczas próby aresztowania osoby za pewne poważne przestępstwa
Podczas próby ponownego złapania osoby, która uciekła
Jeśli komuś grozi poważne niebezpieczeństwo
Jeśli mieszkanie lub własności mogą zostać poważnie uszkodzone

Zazwyczaj policjanci przyjdą o rozsądnej godzinie (tz. nie w środku nocy), i będą zobowiązani poprosić o Pańską zgodę na wykonanie rewizji, chyba, że uniemożliwiłoby im to poprawne jej wykonanie.

W trakcie wykonanie przeszukania policjanci **mają obowiązek:**

Wylegitymować się
Pokazać nakaz, jeżeli nie są w mundurach
Wyjaśnić przyczyny przeszukania
Wyjaśnić Pańskie prawa, jako wynajemcy
Powiedzieć Panu/Pani, czy posiadają nakaz przeszukania

Posiadając nakaz, policjanci **mają prawo wejść na teren mieszkania bez Pana(i) zgody** lub siłą w pewnych okolicznościach np.:

Jeżeli odmówi im Pan(i) wejście
Jeżeli nie są w stanie się z Panem/Panią porozumieć
Jeżeli nikogo nie ma w mieszkaniu
Jeżeli mają uzasadnione powody by sądzić, że wtargnięcie siłą jest konieczne w celu przeprowadzenia rewizji lub jeżeli w przeciwnym razie komuś grozi niebezpieczeństwo.

Appendix 3- Police procedures information leaflet in Czech (translated by Peter Orascek)

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Hlášení zločin nenávisti

Pokud jste se stali obětí trestného činu, *protože* jste Roma, nebo jste vybrán pro jakéhokoliv důvodu, jako třeba:

Barva pleti
Váš jazyk
Vaše národnost
Vaše víra
Máte zdravotní postižení
Jste gay

Pak tohle se nazývá **zločin nenávisti**.

Pokud si myslíte, že jste se stali obětí zločinu nenávisti, měli byste ji ohlásit na policii co nejdříve.

Policie a soudy berou zločiny nenávisti velmi vážně a považují to přednostně.

Trestný čin motivovaný zaujatostí nebo nenávisti proti oběti jsou trestany soudy přísněji než jiné podobné zločiny.

Jakýkoliv zločin může být zločin nenávisti, ať už je to něco velmi vážné jako vražda nebo násilný útok nebo něco jiného jako je vandalismus majetku, pokud jste vybrán kvůli rasismu nebo jinou zaujatostí.

Některé policejní složky mají vyhrazené důstojníky k řešení typů zločinů nenávisti.

Hlášením, když se to stane vám, můžete zabránit podobný případ někomu jinému.

Pokud nechcete jít přímo na policii, můžete také nahlásit trestný čin zde:

www.report-it.org.uk

Ale pokud jste vy nebo někdo jiný v nebezpečí, nebo vážně zraněný, jestli zločin pokračuje nebo člověk nebo lidé páchající zločin jsou poblíž, musíte telefonovat 999 ihned a poprosit o pohotovostní pomoc od policie (a/nebo zdravotní záchranka a/nebo požární služby).

Pokud jste zatčeni

Pokud jste zatčeni, budete obvykle vzatý na policejní strážnici, ve vazbě v cele, a následně vyslýchaný.

Policie vás může držet po dobu až 24 hodin, než vás budou muset obvinít z trestné činnosti nebo vás propustit na svobodu.

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Budete osobně prohlídáni a váš majetek zadržen policií když jste v cele.

Policie vás mohou propustit na policejní kauci v případě že není dostatek důkazů vás obvinít z trestné činnosti.

Budete se muset vrátit na policii na další výslech jak řízení, a je možnost podmínek jako například zákaz vycházení z domova; to záleží na okolnosti.

Musí vám být řečeno o vašem právu na bezplatné právní poradenství, a ve většině případů výslech policie není možný beze poradenství.

Potom se vás policie může ptát o podezření zločinu - to bude zaznamenáno.

Nemusíte odpovídat na otázky, ale mohlo by to mít následky pokud neodpovíte. Policie vám to musí vysvětlit při čtení policejní upozornění/varování:

Nemusíte nic říkat. Avšak, můžete poškodit vaši obhajobu, pokud nechcete uvádět při výslechu něco, na co se později spoléháte u soudu. Cokoli řeknete může být poskytnuto jako svědectví.

Vazební policista na policejní stanici Vám musí vysvětlit vaše práva. Máte právo na:

Bezplatné právní poradenství

Někoho informovat, kde jste

Mít lékařskou pomoc, pokud se cítíte churavý

Vídat pravidla jak se má policie chovat ('Zásady správné praxe')

Přečíst si zmínky o vašich právech, jako stravování a záchody

Požádat o zmínky ve vašem jazyce nebo tlumočnicka k vysvětlení zmínek.

Pokud jste mladší než 18 let, nebo pro dospělé kteří potřebují zvláštní péči, například kvůli mentálním postižením, policie musí:

Se pokusit dát se do styku s rodičem, opatrovníkem nebo pečovatelem

Najít "vhodného dospělého" kdo přijde na policejní strážnici, aby vám pomohl, a byl přítomen během výslechu a osobním prohlídání. Může to být váš rodič, opatrovník, příbuzný, přítel nebo pečovatel, sociální pracovník, nebo někdo jiný, kdo je starší 18 let.

Policie má právo:

vás fotografovat

snímat otisky prstů

vzít od vás vzorek DNA z úst vatou na špejli, nebo kořen vlasů z hlavy

vzít od vás vzorek vatou na špejli povrch kůže ruce a paže **bez vašeho souhlasu. Potřebují váš souhlas** na vzorky kreve nebo moči, **s výjimkou** podezření jízdou vozidlem pod vlivem alkoholu nebo drog.

Pokud máte pocit, že jste byli obět špatně nebo nespravedlivě zacházení ze strany policie, máte právo podat oficiální stížnost. Budete muset kontaktovat policejní odbor, který vás zadržel.

Policejní Pravomoci Vstupu do Domova

Obvykle, policie potřebuje **POVOLENÍ K DOMOVNÍ PROHLÍDCE**, aby mohla vstoupit do vaší domácnosti.

To je oficiální dokument od soudu který policii umožňuje povolení od soudu ke vstupu a prohlídce domova a majetku.

Za určitých okolností mají právo to udělat legálně bez povolení, je-li závažná nebo nebezpečná událost se konala ve vašim domově

Situace, kdy by policie nepotřebují povolení k prohlídce, obsahují:

v případě snahy zatknout někoho za určitý závažný trestný čin
v případě snahy znovu zajmout uprchlíka
je-li někčí život ohrožen
kdy majetek by mohl být vážně poškozen

Policie by měla dorazit v přijatelné době (například ne v noci), a musí požádat o svolení k prohlídnutí, ledaže by se zabránilo tomu, aby měli schopnost řádně vykonávat svou prohlídku

Když se provádí prohlídka policisté musí:

se indentifikovat
ukázat legitimaci pokud nejsou v uniformě
vysvětlit proč chtějí prohlídnout váš domov
vysvětlit vaše práva jako obyvatel
říct zda mají povolení k prohlídce, nebo nemají.

Jestliže má policie povolení k prohlídce, mohou vstoupit bez vašeho svolení nebo násilně za určitých okolností. Včetně:

pokud jste je odmítl pustit dovnitř

v případě že nejsou s vámi schopný komunikovat
pokud nikdo není doma
v případě že mají dobrý důvod se domnívat že potřebují vstoupit násilím aby mohli prohlídku
konat důkladně, a nebo protože jinak by byl někdo v nebezpečí.