

**Mgr. Lenka Jaremová**  
**Social and Health Commission**  
**Municipality of Usti nad Labem**  
**Czech Republic**



Brussels, 4 June 2018

**Involving inhabitants of two residential hotels in deciding about their future**

Dear Madame Chair of the Social and Health Commission,  
Dear Head of the Planning Department,

I am turning to you in the matter of the eviction of tenants from two residential hotels in your city. One facility is located in the center of town and the other in Střekov. From media reports we know that today, 4 June, a meeting will take place between your department and representatives of nonprofit organizations who are meant to aid you with finding a solution for the future accommodation of approximately 230 people, many of whom are children.

For us, as representatives of a Europe-wide network of local organizations run by and for Romani people, it is very important to alert you to the fact that an approach to this solution is called for that will take into account the requirements of this target group, i.e., the tenants of the accommodation facilities mentioned above. It is very important not to favor solutions that are not designed together with the people whose lives will be influenced by your decisions.

We are hereby asking that you establish a dialogue with the residential hotel tenants. Local organizations, naturally, should play an important role in facilitating such contact and organizing a series of meetings. At those meetings solutions could be found that will satisfy all sides.

We are aware of the situation in the Czech Republic. Romani people face antigypsism daily and their chances at being included in the fair housing market are almost zero. Nevertheless, the fact that Romani people do not have that opportunity and that they pay much higher rents to be accommodated in shocking conditions is something that must be underlined in this case. Who else besides City Hall and nonprofit organizations is able to give a helping hand with aiding the inclusion of these people onto the housing market?

We believe you will accept this as a positive reminder of the fact that addressing situations about the Roma without including them will not yield the desired results, as was demonstrated in 2013 during the Krásné Březno eviction.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have questions or should you want to consult on how to proceed, we would be glad to take advantage of our international experience in order to help. You can also contact the representative of the Konexe organization, Miroslav Brož, with whom we collaborate very closely.

Thank you in advance for taking a helpful approach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G.L.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mgr. Gabriela Hrahaňová  
Director, ERGO Network