



## European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day: Statement by President von der Leyen, Vice-President Jourová and Commissioner Dalli

Brussels, 30 July 2021

Ahead of the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, on 2 August, Ursula **von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission, Věra **Jourová**, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, and Helena **Dalli**, Commissioner for Equality, stated:

*"Today, we mark the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day. We pay our respects to the hundreds of thousands of Roma victims of the Holocaust and renew our efforts and commitment for Roma equality, inclusion and participation."*

*Remembering the Roma persecution is a European collective duty that reminds us of the need to tackle their persisting discrimination. Hate, racially motivated violence and ethnic profiling have no place in our Union, built on the respect for fundamental rights.*

*Today, we once again invite the Member States to commit to our [EU Roma Strategic Framework](#) for equality, inclusion and participation from October 2020. Together we can make the European Union more equal, in particular for members of its largest ethnic minority."*

### Background

In 2015, the European Parliament declared 2 August as the annual "European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day" to commemorate the 500,000 European Roma – representing at least a quarter of their total population at that time– murdered in Nazi-occupied Europe.

On 2 August 2019, Věra **Jourová**, then Commissioner for Justice, joined the commemoration ceremony in Auschwitz-Birkenau to mark the 75th anniversary of the extermination of the last remaining Roma in the concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

This year on 2 August, Commissioner **Dalli** will speak via video message at the official virtual Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony of the European Holocaust Memorial Day of Roma and Sinti, at the initiative of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma.

### For More Information

[Roma equality, inclusion and participation in the EU](#)

[EU Roma strategic framework](#)

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