

CASE LAW MOSAIC

QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN HUNGARY, 2021/4

Complaint about discrimination against a minor child

In the complaint, **a Roma complainant reported that** – while waiting for the school bus – **they and their grandchildren were spoken to in an intolerable and degrading manner** by a parent, a person accompanying the pupils on the school bus and the bus driver.

According to the complainant, this was not the first time the incident had occurred, but the school did not address his complaints. The complainant also shared that their grandchildren are partly of Roma origin and because of this, in the complainant's view, they have suffered and continue to suffer disadvantage and humiliation for years.

In the case, the Minority Ombudsman asked the director of the relevant school district centre to investigate the complaint and requested detailed information in connection with the problems complained of. She also contacted the head of the relevant basic social services centre and the mayor of the municipality in order to obtain a fuller picture of the family's situation.

The school district's investigation found that the source of the conflicts stemmed from disputes with residents in the complainant's place of living. In order to resolve the difficulties raised, the director of the institution has initiated a number of measures. It was also found that the child concerned was vulnerable in several respects and had serious behavioural problems. Several case conferences were held with the relevant education and child protection authorities, the complainant and their legal representative to resolve the child's situation at school and to provide the family with appropriate support. On the basis of the recommendations, the child finally started the school year in another public education institution and the complainant, as the minor's guardian, concluded a cooperation agreement with the Family Support Centre.

On the basis of the above, the Minority Ombudsman found no violation of fundamental rights in the case, but drew the attention of the parties concerned to the importance and importance of mutual cooperation and made a proposal for further professional and child protection accompaniment of the family in difficulty and for the full provision of possible support. In order to follow up the case, and with a deadline set for the end of the school year, the Minority Ombudsman also requested information from the director of the school district centre on the child's integration and study circumstances after the change of school.