



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Albania - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 19 June 2018

Treatment of Roma

A report issued in 2018 by *Freedom House* reviewing events of 2017 points out that:

“Roma face significant discrimination in education, health care, employment, and housing” (Freedom House (2018) *Freedom in the World 2018, Albania*, p.6).

Amnesty International in February 2018 reviewing events of 2017 points out that:

“...most Roma lacked clean water and many were at risk of forced evictions” (Amnesty International (22 February 2018) *Amnesty International Report 2017/18 – Albania*).

A document issued in April 2018 by *Freedom House* states that:

“The Roma community remained the most discriminated community in Albania...” (Freedom House (April 2018) *Nations in Transit 2018, Albania*, p.7).

A document produced by the *United States Department of State* in April 2018 reviewing events of 2017 notes that:

“There were allegations of discrimination against members of the Romani and Balkan-Egyptian communities, including in housing, employment, health care, and education” (United States Department of State (20 April 2018) *2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Albania*, p.16).

A document issued in January 2018 by *Bertelsmann Stiftung* notes that:

“Existing discrimination and de facto marginalization of particular groups, particularly LGBT and Roma people, reflects the lack of sufficient resources and social services more than a legal or institutional problem” (Bertelsmann Stiftung (2 January 2018) *Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI) 2018 Country Report – Albania*, p.4).

A document released in April 2018 by the *European Commission* states that:

“Living conditions for Roma and Egyptians need to be improved” (European Commission (17 April 2018) *Albania 2018 Report*, p.6).

A report issued in April 2018 by the *United Nations Development Programme* states that:

“Marginalised Roma continue to live in more overcrowded households; however, there has been improvement in 2017” (United Nations Development Programme (20 April 2018) *Roma at a Glance: Albania*, p.4).

A document issued in May 2018 by the *United Nations Development Programme* points out that:

“Marginalised Roma continue to face limited access to opportunities in virtually every aspect of human development such as basic rights, health, education, housing, employment and standard of living...” (United Nations Development Programme (17 May 2018) *Marginalized Roma community still most excluded in Albania*).

In May 2018 the *European Commission against Racism and Intolerance* states in a report that:

“ECRI is deeply concerned following several new reports about potentially illegal evictions of Roma, which took place after the adoption of ECRI's monitoring report” (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (15 May 2018) *ECRI Conclusions on the Implementation of the Recommendations in Respect of Albania Subject to Interim Follow-Up*, p.2).

In June 2018 the *European Roma Rights Centre* states in a report that:

“Roma, especially Romani women, are significantly underrepresented in the labour market...and long-term unemployment mostly affects Roma. Many Roma are unable to access employment in Albania due to low educational qualifications and the discrimination they face. Being Romani is in itself a disadvantage when looking for a job” (European Roma Rights Centre (8 June 2018) *Statelessness, Discrimination and Marginalisation of Roma in Albania*, p.22).

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
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