

# IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

International Affairs Committee

2017 Edition Vol. 3

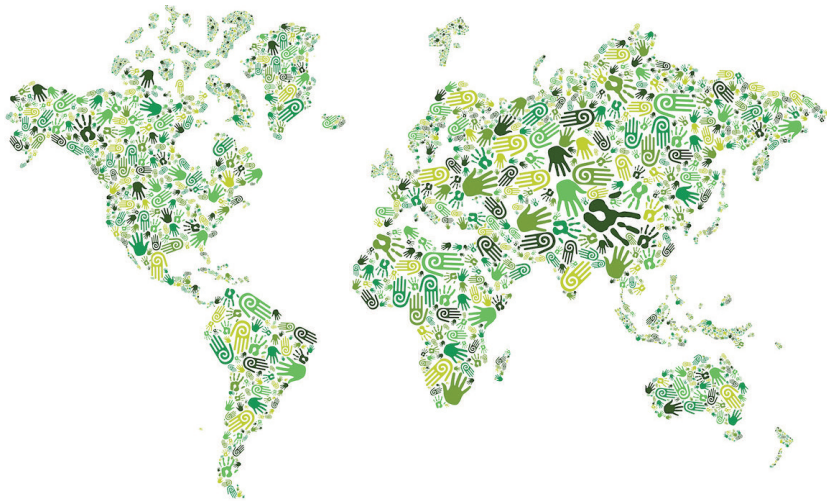
*For the Lord your God... loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

## Roma People in Hungary and the Ukraine

The Roma are the largest ethnic minority in the European Union (EU). Most Roma live in Central and Eastern Europe. "Roma" can refer to a number of different groups of people who identify themselves (or are identified by others) as Roma: Sinti, Kale, Romanichels, Boyash, Ashkali, Egyptians, Yenish, Travellers, Dom and Lom. They have been pejoratively called "gypsies."

In Hungary, the Roma people have been openly discriminated against by state authorities and have been the target of extreme-right parties and neo-nazi groups. In Germany, Italy and France,



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In Hungary, the Roma people have been openly discriminated against by state authorities and have been the target of extreme-right parties and neo-nazi groups. In Germany, Italy and France,



there is increased opposition from right-wing organizations against the immigration of Roma from the eastern periphery of the EU. Roma people who are citizens of EU countries cannot be legally barred from entering other EU nations.

## The Church Responds

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through International Ministries, supports the work of missionary staff David and Anna Pandy-Szekeres who work with church partners. One part of their ministry assists Roma children struggling in school by providing educational assistance with the goal of building their confidence for academic success.

Following the recommendation made by General Assembly, the Moderator wrote to our partners, the Reformed Church of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine and the Reformed Church in Hungary, encouraging them in their mission and ministry and expressing our concern at the ongoing discrimination against the Roma people.

## Prayer

God of Compassion, we lift up to you the Roma people, and pray that ministries directed to the care of children can counterbalance the discrimination they face each day.

*The International Affairs Committee is mandated by General Assembly to monitor and draw the church's attention to international issues. Its full report is found in the Acts & Proceedings 2016.*



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