

Racialisation of the Roma population in Hungary

Introduction

This research report will explore the process of racialisation experienced by the Roma within Hungary. The selected thematic approach this report will take will focus on key dimensions of racism and racialisation relevant to the context of Hungary. This report will begin by introducing the history of the Roma within Hungary, exploring their establishment and settlement within the country. Then, the dimensions which have been effected due to the process of racialisation will be explored. The dimensions which will be discussed in this essay will now be introduced.

Firstly, an introduction to Racialisation within Hungary and the discrimination experienced will be analysed, exploring their history as a population and introducing the Roma within the context of Hungary. The second dimension will explore the segregation of the Roma, illustrating how the Roma are segregated demographically and how their housing opportunities are limited because of discrimination within Hungary. From here, the discrimination within the education system and labour market in Hungary will be explored by demonstrating how Roma are deeply discriminated against within the education system which in turn impacts upon their transition as a population into the labour market and discrimination experienced here. The final dimension will explore the Roma and the State, illustrating how the Roma have been discriminated against within the state encompassing areas regarding the criminal justice system and politics. To conclude, this research rationale will summarise the overall implications of such racialisation which has occurred for the Roma population within Hungary.

Within these sections, the selected dimensions will be theoretically analysed using academic scholarship and an extensive bibliography of sources to explore and analyse their origins, impacts and outcomes on the Roma population. The focus of argument within this report will centre upon the continuing process of racialisation existing within Hungary which has resulted in deep rooted and unavoidable discrimination of the Roma population.

An introduction to the Roma population and their relevance to contemporary sociological and academic debate

Over time and to date, tens of thousands of Roma have fled to Hungary due to the misery and poor quality of life experienced elsewhere, however this has remained unavoidable which will be evidenced within this report. Although Hungary has become a host country for such high figures of Roma communities, discrimination is still present (Spiegel Staff, 2014). Thus identifying the relevance and contemporary importance of this issue to be discussed within this research rationale. Who are the Roma?

Before addressing specific issues of Roma discrimination within Hungary, it is essential to identify and categorise who this report is referring to when using the term "Roma". As identified within Law (2009, p47) "Identify, category and names matter" and are "vitaly important in the struggle for fundamental rights". Therefore identifying how categorisation of the population is key before evaluating experiences of discrimination.

Although several categorisation methods are used regarding the Roma, three common themes emerge. Firstly, a historical, common "origin and descent" (Law, 2009, p46). Secondly, alternative avenues argue how the Roma are distinctive due to their "affection for travelling", thus identifying them as a nomadic population with specific migration and movement characteristics. This is often accompanied by their distinctive "cultural practices and musical traditions" which are easily distinguishable. Finally, biological avenues are used to identify the Roma. Others have argued that the Roma are "genetically related" and hold a "biological kinship" (Law, 2009, p46). From these categorisation avenues identified within Law (2009, p46) it has been presented as to who the Roma are and how they

are identifiable. Thus contributing effectively when introducing issues of this population's inherent discrimination experienced within Hungary.

Defining discrimination

However, before introducing discrimination specific to the context of the Roma within Hungary, it may be key to define the concept of discrimination. As identified within Law (2009, page 167) discrimination within the context of race and ethnicity refers to the "differential and often unequal, treatment of people who have been either formally or informally grouped into a particular class of persons". As this rationale will focus specifically on the Roma, this definition identified by Law (2009) will be applied directly to this population and their experiences within Hungary.

The History of the Roma

The Roma population are often referred to as gypsies, a label coming from the word Egyptian, which is the land that some Europeans mistakenly understood this population to be from (Test Tube News, 2015). The term "Roma" refers to persons describing themselves as Roma, Gypsies, Manouches, Kalderash, Machavaya..." and other groups within this collective categorisation (Law, 2009, p165). However, to date, the word encompasses a broad amount of individuals, most commonly the Roma. Genetic evidence suggests that the Roma are from Northern India, further shown as the Roma language bears similarly to the Hindi language. From India, experts believed this population travelled to Russia (Test Tube News, 2015). From here, the population dispersed, spreading itself across the globe into a wealth of countries, as in this case; Hungary. The Roma population on a whole experience significant oppression and discrimination wherever they reside. As will be demonstrated within this rationale, regarding the case of Hungary.

The History of the Roma within Hungary

The Roma population, comprise Hungary's largest minority group of between 500,000 and 800,000 between 5% and 8% of the population (Koulish, 2012). The Roma have been present within Hungary since the 13th century, residing for the past 700 years since first entering the Carpathian Basin during the period of King Zsigmonds reign (1387-1437). During the late 17th Century, the Hapsberg monarchy defeated the Ottoman Turks launching an aggressive assimilation campaign against the Roma (Koulish, 2012). This discrimination advanced, and under Maria Theresa, the Roma lifestyle was prohibited by banning Roma names and traditional practice. During the collapse of the Hapsberg Empire and Hungary's loss of territory, such policies against the Roma intensified, leading the Roma being banned from cities and deported. Furthermore, issues of discrimination for the Roma exaggerated during the Nazi genocide campaign which accounted for the extermination of up to 70,000 Hungarian Roma (Koulish, 2012) due to the view of the Roma seen as a devalued life (Test Tube News, 2015). From this summarised historical timeline, it is evident that discrimination for the Roma population is deep rooted within Hungary's history.

Continuing this historical timeline, the emergence of a new democracy in the early 1990s, made clear that Hungary was keen to amend political inclusion and liberal norms of equality by recognising its existing inadequacies. Focus was placed upon outlawing discrimination against minorities and guaranteeing equal opportunities for all members of society (Koulish, 2012).

Hungary took action by introducing the Act of Minority Rights, to include the race of Roma which protects minorities by ensuring they are able to choose to lead a life that is good for them, alongside promoting liberation and political participation (Koulish, 2012). However, although this strategy has been put into place to reduce discrimination for the Roma within Hungary, little change has been evident (Koulish, 2012), which will be shown in this report. This is significantly impacted by the fact that most strategies are of an advisory nature and therefore their effectiveness is dependent upon institutions to implement them successfully.

However, it is also key to identify who is evaluating the successfulness, as within research by Koulish (2012) perceptions regarding discrimination found that the non Roma are more likely than the Roma to feel that such minority rights are successful in promoting cultural autonomy and integration and in some cases the non Roma population felt that Roma are treated the same/even better in some social spheres (Koulish, 2012). However self-identified Roma strongly disagree, identifying contrasting interpretations of the position of the Roma within Hungary. This research by Koulish (2012) introduces how important and contrarily the social problem of the Roma is viewed by the population

of Hungary, significantly inherent to this rationale. This research also demonstrates how although the act of minority rights has adapted to include the Roma this has been limited due to structural and functional limitations, reducing its successfulness. Thus identifying how relevant this topic is to contemporary sociological debate upon race issues.

The position of the Roma to date

The Roma have been identified as a 600 year old issue (PBS News Hour, 2014). However there present situation and contemporary relevance have compounded this issue as of key importance to debate. Hungary has experienced a rise in anti Roma positions, negativism and hatred of the Roma population (Mihalik, 2014) which intensify over time.

The Roma have remained throughout history and to date, deeply rooted in poverty and direct and indirect discrimination, falling behind in social, cultural and economic conditions within society. Thus introducing how the Roma are significantly disadvantaged in an accumulation of spheres within Hungarian society; to be explored within this rationale.

Segregation of the Roma

This section will outline the issues of demographics and geographical segregation experienced by the Roma within Hungary which produce significant consequences of both a social and economic conditions nature.

Wherever the Roma reside, they are identified as problematic due to their high rates of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. A case study supporting such a claim was undertaken by Timmer (2003) who conducted ethnographic field research in Hungary for a period of 18 months from July 2004 to July 2008 during a period of great expansion of programs to encourage housing integration for the Roma. A notified social housing organisation within this research was called the “Open Roma” (Timmer, 2003) which aimed to empower Roma residents in order to improve living conditions and integration whilst emphasising the need for the organisation and community to work efficiently alongside each other (Timmer, 2003).

When identifying this need for integration it becomes significantly important as the issue of segregation unfolds numerous negative limitations for the Roma. This is shown as Law (2009, p180) identifies how this population are “one of the most at risk health groups”. Timmer (2003) claims that as a consequence of demographic segregation, limitations in healthcare occur due to health being directly predisposed by an individual’s lifestyle. This is further evidenced as the Roma population have poorer overall health than wider society due to unsafe and unsanitary living conditions. Furthermore, 18.6% of Roma live in areas without a general practitioner (Timmer, 2003) thus linking housing segregation directly with health. Thus linking directly to theory of Turner (1986 in Law 2009) where material conditions of life, such as healthcare are inadequately available for certain groups; in this case the Roma.

Timmer (2003) using interviews of the Roma and attitudes towards healthcare concludes how doctors are rude, neglect their needs and have been beaten by doctors and nurses. Furthermore, the Roma are discriminated against as emergency vehicles often refuse to go into Roma settlements due to fear of residents and histories of prank calls. Thus further identifying how demographic issues cause subsequent discriminatory conditions for the Roma population.

Further disadvantages which occur for the Roma encompass traditional and cultural characteristics held by Roma communities which link to segregation. Timmer (2003) identifies how the Roma as a community maintain strong bonds and are known for large extended families which they remain living with, often reluctant to move away (Test Tube News, 2015). Thus inciting their own segregation from wider society. Furthermore as identified within Petrova (2004) financial characteristics held by the Roma also entice discrimination due to their inherent lack of saving strategies and spending choices, often frowned upon by the wider population. Although this can be caused by elementary poverty and discriminatory, this is a misunderstood conscious choice made by the Roma in which they are judged upon, addressing how characteristics of the Roma entice such discrimination.

However it is also important to recognise how these characteristics may have formed due to external hostility and discrimination from outsiders, in this context; the Hungarian population. As a contemporary idea, Timmer (2003) identifies how within these tight knit communities, individuals are

not always successful in their community structure or formation, therefore if this culture cannot function internally, it may be unrealistic to expect a community to survive when linked externally amongst the wider population. From this research it has been identified that the Roma have been significantly discriminated against through various avenues of the housing sphere and often left out of society and the governments considerations (PBS News Hour, 2012).

Evidence of the Roma being disregarded from governmental considerations has been identified by Amnesty International (2014). During the year 2014, Amnesty International wrote to the mayor of Miskolc – the largest city within Hungary, calling for an immediate halt to evictions of 450 mainly Roma families, although the government claimed that the housing qualities were old and inadequate, Amnesty International insisted that the eviction violated human rights due to no adequate justification. Furthermore, all individuals under threat of eviction had not received sufficient opportunities to engage in genuine consultation of eviction and the alternatives available to them (Amnesty International, 2014), therefore as they are uninformed, the justification of such evictions is further weakened. The government remained with the view that their actions were just by offering compensation of up to 2 million HUF to purchase a property outside of the city, however tenants were not informed of this. This links directly to the theory of Harrison, Law and Phillips (in Law 2009) regarding deceptive discrimination, where deceit is used against a population. From this, Amnesty International argue that more guidance should be available so individuals can fully understand alternatives, ensuring no human rights are violated, including how no one should become homeless or vulnerable as a result of an eviction (Amnesty International, 2014). However, little improvement was made by the government, therefore Amnesty International (2014) called for a complete halt on eviction until expectations were met including a full and genuine consultation with individuals, alternative accommodation with access to services such as transport, education and healthcare and to ensure that housing does not lead to racial segregation (Amnesty International, 2014). Thus identifying how the human rights of the Roma population are violated, ignored and dismissed. From this section, it has been identified how the Roma face significant discrimination regarding demographical segregation, remaining marginalised from housing and concluding significant disadvantage within the Hungarian society. Concluding how although material conditions should remain equal across social groups, this is not the case, thus demonstrating how the “severity of deprivation and disadvantage” experienced by the Roma is “shocking” (Law, 200, p178). Thus further emphasising the “mundane reality of everyday discrimination, exclusion and marginalisation” (Law, 2009: 186) experienced by the Roma population.

Discrimination within the education system and labour market in Hungary

Scholarly articles within academic research continue to claim that "Roma parents frequently do not regard education as necessary and do not encourage their children to stay in school" (Stiftung, 2002, p19). This, as will be evidenced within this rationale, is a dangerous myth, masking the real issues of discrimination against the Roma with regard to education. This further demonstrates how misconceptions of the Roma are held and the acknowledgement and understanding of the real disadvantages placed upon them are limited.

To introduce this area, it is key to consult the concern which has been expressed regarding segregation of Roma children within the education system in Hungary (United Nations, 2002a). Within the report of the committee on the elimination of racial discrimination by the United Nations (2002a) it was recommended that the state party takes effective measures to prevent this within the system by addressing high dropout rates and encouraging integration. Koulis (2012) identifies how only 22.6% of Roma children continue school after the 8th grade and only 2-3% of Roma men and women have a higher secondary or high educational level attainments (Kiezenkowski, 2012) therefore significantly weakening future prospects.

Within the education system, disadvantaged backgrounds of the Roma children's population are not catered for (Kierzenkowski, 2012) often due to Roma children being labelled as mentally ill or disabled with little medical evidence resulting in them being directed towards special needs schools without justification (Kiezenkowski, 2012). Thus further disadvantaging them by segregating them from mainstream schooling and children which has emerged as a “worrying phenomenon” within Hungary (Law, 2009: 183).

This calls for integration and intervention beginning at preschool level. Therefore it is recommended by Kierzenkowski (2012) that Roma children should be encouraged to attend mainstream schools. AFP News Agency (2011) support this by identifying how it is necessary to assist the Roma maintaining them at the level of the wider population, therefore adapting to their needs rather than further disadvantaging them.

Furthermore, it has been recommended to recruit Roma teachers in order to prevent further barriers (United Nations, 2002a) and to encourage integration of the Roma population in all areas of the school. From this, the skills gap will then close and contribute to lessening discrimination (Kierzenkowski, 2012). Although efforts have been made little real life application has been successful (United Nations, 2002a).

Alongside recruiting Roma teachers, the curriculum itself should accommodate for the Roma culture to encourage awareness and understanding (United Nations, 2002b). Furthermore, teaching on societal issues such as prejudice will increase vulnerability of society's members being influenced to hold and action such prejudiced views. This in turn, will represent the face of the Roma, avoid discrimination and ensure the process of racialisation is hindered (United Nations, 2002b).

Following on from issues within the education system, the flow of the Roma population into the labour market is also affected. The economic crisis in Hungary has deepened the rift between wider society and the Roma minority (Euro News, 2010) resulting in the Roma being significantly underrepresented within the labour market sphere. During the planned economy, identified by Kierzenkowski (2012) the Roma experienced high labour market participation. Yet after the economic transition marked by a decline for unskilled labour, this group suffered, resulting in widespread unemployment and by the year of 1994, the gap in employment rates between the Roma and non Roma reached almost 40% for both men and women.

This employment gap is also driven significantly by education, specifically a 1/3 (Kierzenkowski, 2012). This is evidenced within Bodogri and Kadar (2014, p12) who claim that "42% of the Hungarian Roma respondents aged 16 and above looking for work in the past 5 years said that they had experienced discrimination because of their Roma background" when asked about employment conditions.

However, even if the Roma are able to make it into the labour market, they remain disadvantaged, facing high job insecurity and labour market marginalisation (Kierzenkowski, 2012). Negative views of the Roma further impact workplace opportunities, exemplifying how prejudice exists within the labour market (Euro News, 2010). Furthermore as identified within Bordidg and Kadar (2014) discrimination remains regarding hiring, responsibilities and firing at work, barring individuals from accessing necessary areas of society, maintaining the Roma population at a disadvantage and hindering chances of social mobility. This is further shown within the work of Vajda and Dupcsik (2008) who identify how the formation of a Roma middle class is an extremely slow process, often non existent within Hungary. This can also link directly so theories of Marger (2000 in Law 2009) where discrimination involves denial of access to social opportunities. Further shown within the theory of Turner (1986 in Law 2009) where equality of opportunity of important social worlds is denied.

From this section, it has been identified how the Roma population experience deep rooted discrimination within the education system, which follows unavoidably into the labour market, demonstrating how racialisation of the Roma has been injected into institutions which fail to compensate for the Roma population within Hungarian society. Furthermore linking directly to Law (2009, page 167) where treatment of a population involves "denial of access to societal opportunities".

Roma women's discrimination

Following on from general issues regarding the discrimination of the Roma within education and the labour market. The significance of women's discrimination becomes significantly prevalent. Roma women experience more intense disadvantages when compared to Roma men and to non-Roma women (Bodrogi and Kadar, 2014) leaving them particularly vulnerable facing multiple avenues of discrimination (ERRC, 2013). Data and research around this area is limited and Roma women remain an invisible group. Fabian (2009) identifies this as of prominent concern due to the emergence of women's to help stop their long standing oppression whilst not undermining their traditional

communities. Although laws have been drawn up, it is the enforcement of such laws which remain limited. Shown as in 1994, a Roma woman candidate was selected to enter politics however this had limited impact due to the patriarchal Hungarian society which limits women's ability and authority over society, reducing inclusivity (Fabian, 2009).

As identified by the United Nations (2011) discrimination against Roma women is of significant importance regarding employment, identified in relation to their low education level often reflecting traditional influences of early motherhood and gender discrimination. Status for women is often achieved via other routes, including child bearing and rearing (United Nations, 2011), therefore there is no necessity for education/labour market status.

Regardless of this deep rooted gender authority issue, women's organisations have remained present and participation is growing due to recognition of such existing gender disparities. Hungarian women's groups have created and enlarged public spaces to which women are welcomed and their participation acknowledged and valued. Specific issues within such groups focus on issues women feel within work place discrimination and violence within the home, mirroring the issues of Roma women's needs.

Violence, identified by Fabian (2009) is put forward by the ERRC (2013) as a key area in order to protect vulnerable women who significantly disadvantaged when comparing to men due to their ability to bear children. Coercive sterilisation is a prominent issue for Romani women, therefore, the ERRC (2013) have advised to cease all negative interference with women's reproductive rights. From this, education has been identified as a key tool to combat women's oppression and spur liberation using lectures and training to empower women and to celebrate gender characteristics (Fabia, 2009). Further advising ERRC (2013) the government to eliminate stereotypical attitudes and prejudices against Roma women.

Within this section, the significance of Roma women's experiences have been addressed, demonstrating how deep rooted traditional gender discrimination, reflects that of the Hungarian society in which the Roma population have resided.

The Roma and discrimination within the State

Anti Roma violence and the Police

"Racist violence against Roma is one of the most important problems in Hungary" (ECRI, 2015, p9) with paramilitary groups and the public consistently harassing and intimidating the Roma. Between the dates of January 2008 and September 2012, 61 attacks took place resulting in the death of nine Roma and dozens of injuries (ECRI, 2015). This violence can be linked to theories of the FRA (2005 in Law 2009) who identify this as an example micro (social psychological) explanations, which rest with the individual. This is because the Roma are often targeted by wider society due to characteristics of them as individuals.

Although the intention of the police is to serve a bridge between the population and the state, this is not always successful. Szikinger (2000) identifies how serious problems exist regarding anti Roma violence. Relations between the police and the Roma are hostile with the Roma experiencing discriminatory treatment and oppressive policing.

The issue of police misconduct towards the Roma has become a highly prevalent issue, made worse by the vulnerable position of the Roma leaving them in fear and unlikely to come forward. Reported and investigated crimes are therefore just a snapshot of reality and not a true representation (Szikinger, 2000) as shown within the 1996 White Booklet published by the Hungarian National and Ethnic Rights legal defence Bureau documenting incidents of serious misconduct involving the Roma (Szikinger, 2000). Examples of this include individuals shot in crowds, fractured ribs and brutal beatings, thus identifying failure of the police in their ability to protect the Roma.

This trend has been recurrent over the years, despite recommendations to reform the policing system, as shown in the police act of 1994 where oppressive methods of policing remained. This may be explained from a survey of 1529 officers within Hungary which concluded that 10% of officers were racist and 27% were prejudiced, contributing to an understanding of police misconduct (Szikinger, 2000).

Policing issues extend further within the legal system and are also prevalent within the prosecution service which has failed to fully investigate allegations against the police and has failed 25% of cases. Further straining the relationship between the Roma and the state.

Furthermore, it is a commonly held view within the Hungarian population that the Roma are overrepresented in the prison population. However, it must be acknowledged that this trend is related to poverty and not ethnicity, a common misconception. This may therefore be an attitude held by authorities on the basis of ethnic profiling (Farkas et al 2002; Pap 2006). Furthermore, the Roma as a population are often more defenceless during judicial procedures and therefore are more likely to be sentenced to go to prison than the non Roma (Loss and H. Szilágyi 2001).

Although as identified by the United Nations (2002b) of the difficulty of altering such intrinsic social attitudes, attempts should be made within this area to ensure institutions set an example to the wider society regarding treatment of the Roma. This section has demonstrated the failure of the police and authorities to adapt and consider the position of the minority Roma population. Further evidencing how institutional failure of such a vulnerable group is present. Furthermore, this section has demonstrated widespread discriminatory aggression against a race as a severe act of discrimination (Law, 2009). Further involving “mass societal aggression together with violent racism and domestic violence” (Law, 2009, p167), further illustrating the categorical discrimination experienced by the Roma population.

Politics and the position of the Roma

Levels of anti Roma feelings have been consistent throughout history (PBS News Hour, 2014) further exposed regarding politics. In the 70s, Hungary experienced systematic changes in relation to the status and position of ethnic groups. Firstly in relation to political parties, although the leading party of Viktor Orban-Fidesz is receiving mass support. There has been a vast increase in the support of the Jobbik party, which constitutes itself as the most radically political party in Hungary (Mihalik, 2014). The Jobbik party is purely positioned towards ethnic issues, and incorporates elements of racism, antisemitism and homophobia. Continuing strength and support of the Jobbik group and those of its kind have been significant contributors towards the process of racialisation occurring against the Roma within Hungary. Therefore, the Jobbik party is used as a platform for the Hungarian population can use to capitalise their feelings (PBS News Hour, 2014). Mihalik (2014) identifies how this is influenced by the failure of the state to integrate the Roma population within society, thus giving giving legitimacy and basis towards these extremist groups.

The importance of politics to eradicate racial discrimination is key. This links directly to theory of WCAR (2001 in Law 2009) where a lack of political will is of key importance. Furthermore, although the causes for strong prejudices against Roma are complex, it is certain that political discourse contributes significantly. Every party which has come to power has to a certain extent contributed significantly to this deterioration in political discourse.

This is further enhanced by media portrayals of the Roma, which form as a consequence of political racialisation. As identified within Bodrogi and Kadar (2014) expressions such as "Gypsy crime" are still part of public discourse today and circulate Hungary's public sphere, contributing to a creation of hostility and exclusion for the population. This is further evidenced within Vajda and Dupcsik (2008: 30) who explain how 'Gypsy criminality' is an inherent stereotyp, holding the presumption throughout the public and politics that the Roma have a natural or cultural inclination to aggression and delinquency. This can link to the theory of Marger (2000 in Law 2009) where the use of offensive language and assumptions constitute discrimination.

The significant influence of politics is further publicised within Law (2009) using the case study of the United Nations Third World Conference in Durban in 2001 which identified major obstacles to overcoming racial discrimination were lack of political will, weak legislation and poor implementation of relevant strategies by nation states” (Banton 2002 in Law 2009). These are all areas in which have been evidenced within this report in relation to the Roma in the context of Hungary.

This section has outlined the various avenues of discrimination which have occurred for the Roma within the state, linking directly to the theory of Marger (2000 in Law 2009) as an example of widespread discriminatory aggression. The police and political infrastructure as identified previously have remained discriminatory in both attitudes and behaviour towards the Roma, further demonstrating how the Roma remain racialized within all aspects of Hungarian society.

Who is discriminating against the Roma?

From this rationale it has been identified that within Hungary, discrimination has been rooted within a variety of social spheres. Those identified within this research rationale including housing segregation, discrimination in education and labour and the state have been identified as the most prominent.

As a contemporary avenue of discussion, it may also be relevant here to debate which individuals are taking part in such discrimination. Therefore, it is also important to recognise micro features and characteristics which increase likelihood of holding such discriminatory views. As identified by Mihalik (2014) it is young individuals within Hungary who are more likely to engage in attitudes of extremism as they are not engaged with historical connections. Furthermore, the youth only witness globalised migration threatening social institutions within contemporary society upon Hungary, therefore their views reflect the current context within Hungary. However it is also important to note that this support for radical solutions tends to remain based on words rather than actions in order to avoid stigma and labelling for seeking political alternatives (Mihalik, 2014). Thus, this research identifies how generational differences exist within racialisation of the Roma.

Conclusion

From this rationale it has become evident that the Roma population remain disadvantaged in the racial and ethnic hierarchy due to their experiences of the chosen spheres which have been analysed in this rationale (Law, 2009). This segregation and marginalisation of the Roma indicates severe conditions of contemporary racial divisions resulting in the current position of the Roma population within Hungary.

From this rationale, the story of the Roma within Hungary has been told. As identified within (Winant, 2006) the future remains uncertain as social practice and development around racialisation and its process is ever-changing, thus making the future unpredictable. Furthermore, future prospects for the Roma within Hungary appear bleak and restricted (Tanner, 2005). with the likelihood of such dramatic annihilation of discrimination being slim. As identified within Bodrogi and Kadar (2014, p12) 95% of the Roma claim discrimination on the basis of ethnicity is a widespread phenomenon in Hungary which has gained more momentum over the last few years and that “there is no hope of it changing for the better”. Hungary must therefore come forward and face head on contemporary multiculturalism, inherent due to the influx of the Roma (Tremelett and Messing, 2015).

To conclude, the purpose of this research rationale was to explore racialisation within Hungary and the discrimination of the Roma population. This research rationale has prepared and addressed this question by analysing a range of academic sources and debate. Firstly, this report introduced the historical timeline of the Roma; involving their categorisation, establishment and settlement within the country. Then, the dimensions and spheres which have been effected due to the process of racialisation were explored focusing specifically on areas of demographical, social and institutional discrimination. This proposal has covered the areas of housing, education, labour and discrimination within the state to demonstrate how widely spread the racialisation is within Hungary. Alongside this, other areas relevant to the Roma within the context of Hungary have been incorporated including who is discriminating and the significant impact of this upon women.

This report has concluded after exploring these dimensions alongside research, that the position of the Roma within Hungary can be directly attributed to the continuing process of racialisation. This has, as identified within the introduction, resulted in deep rooted and unavoidable discrimination of the Roma population within the context of Hungary.

This research rationale provides a significant contribution as it explores racialisation occurring internally within Europe rather than the overall west against the rest image which is the most commonly assessed within racialisation discourse and debate. Thus further emphasising how this report makes a valued contribution towards the sporadic and patchy picture of the racialized world, further advancing our understandings of the “ways in which the world works” (Law, 2009:236). Thus although a specific case study of the Roma population within Hungary, this rationale contains wider significance with an ability to be applied when mapping global racialisation.

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