

Czech Republic

Ethnicity in Czech Republic

Power relations

Ethnicity is not politicized in the Czech Republic.

The Roma are discriminated against many facets of life. According to the US Department of State, Roma face widespread discrimination in education, employment, and housing (¹³²⁸). Also, conflicts between Roma and Czech nationalists have intensified: In Nov 2008, neo-Nazis have tried to attack housing estates populated mostly by Roma. These attacks have been stopped by the police (¹³²⁹, 190). Overall, it would be hard-pressed to say that the documented social discrimination is "with the intent of excluding the Roma from power." That is rather a side-effect of the overall discrimination. Until 2017, violence perpetrated by Czech nationalists against Roma continued to escalate. Also, Roma continue to face widespread societal discrimination (¹³³⁰). According to the US Department of State there is evidence for limited Roma participation in politics: "[Roma] were members of mainstream as well as Romani-specific political parties, although few of the country's estimated 300,000 socially excluded Romani were integrated into political life" (¹³³¹). Roma are not holding any seats in the Czech parliament and do not count members in cabinet ministers, Supreme Court justices (¹³³²). One of the Romani-specific political party is the Roma Democratic Party (RDS), gained recognition in 2013 but is unlikely to reach the 5% threshold necessary for parliament qualification (¹³³³). However, the RDS attempted to run candidacies in most of the country's 14 regions (¹³³⁴). In 2016, 23 candidates of the RDS were running on several candidate lists for regional councillors in three Czech regions (Central Bohemia, Liberec and Moravia-Silesia) (¹³³⁵). Despite these recent attempts to win national seats, the Roma remain primarily active on a local level. Therefore, they are politically irrelevant.

There is no political party or any political movement representing the Slovak minority. They are only organized in some sort of a cultural association (OS), which does not seem to be politically relevant. "The aim of OS activity in the CR is maintaining and growing national awareness of its members and create conditions for fulfillment of their cultural and societal needs. The main activities of the association is a growing Slovakness, reciprocity between Slovaks and Czechs, participation in public life in the CR, mutual cooperation and support." (¹³³⁶). Thus, the Slovaks are politically irrelevant.

¹³²⁸ [United States State Department, 2009]

¹³²⁹ [Freedom House, 2009]

¹³³⁰ [United States State Department, 2016]

¹³³¹ [United States State Department, 2016]

¹³³² [United States State Department, 2016]

¹³³⁶ [Obec Slovakeskej republike,2014]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Czech Republic

From 1993 until 2017

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Czechs	0.972	IRRELEVANT



Figure 258: Political status of ethnic groups in Czech Republic during 1993-2017.