

# WHO?



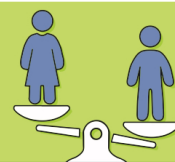
## Who can be a Roma activist?

**Any Roma person can become an activist.**

Every activist has a **different story** and there are **many different paths to activism**. Some activists can be driven by experiences of discrimination, some people become activists through meeting other active people, others have experiences of being active themselves in helping others or standing up for other causes. The path to pro-Roma engagement is different for people who are surrounded by activists, who have already engaged in some form of action, and those who have not yet begun their journey. They may feel the urge to do something, but don't know how to start yet. **NGOs and other institutions** can provide you with training, resources, support, advocacy, or job opportunities.



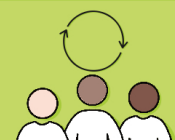
Even though every person identifies with many different groups (e.g. community, family, friends etc.), having a **collective identity**, i.e. thinking and acting in **terms of your community**, and forming an **opinion-based identity** that is driven by a **common cause** and **oriented towards change** is important on the path to activism. Most successful movements have members that strongly feel that they are **part of the group**. Although activists have many reasons to be **angry**, you can build a movement on feelings of **pride** for being a Roma as well.



## Who can be a non-Roma ally?

**Any non-Roma person can become an ally.**

Every ally has a **different personal story** to their engagement. Importantly, allies are also members of many groups and can have personal experiences of discrimination in these groups (e.g. as a woman). These experiences can lead to the recognition of their own privileges and power to speak up for Roma rights.



As an ally, it's also important to have an **opinion-based identity** that is motivated by a **common cause** and oriented towards **change in the society**. For example, you support the idea that Roma children should be educated in non-segregated classrooms, so you join as an ally a Roma movement that shares the same opinion, and is advocating for the cause. **Identification as an ally to Roma people** is the key to long term engagement.



The path to allyship is different for indifferent people, for non-prejudiced bystanders, and for already engaged **citizens who have been active in standing up against any form of injustice**.