

THE JOHN FLEMING CENTRE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF
LEGAL RESEARCH PRESENTS:



PUBLIC LECTURE

TACKLING DISCRIMINATION

The Roma of Eastern Europe

Professor Jack Greenberg
Columbia University



Tuesday 12 August, 5.30pm

Sparke Helmore Theatre 1

ANU College of Law, Fellows Rd, ANU

This event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the lecture.

Please **RSVP** (by 8 August) to Yee-Fui Ng E: ngy@law.anu.edu.au

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Roma, known also as Gypsies, emigrated from India to Eastern Europe and beyond a thousand years ago, became enslaved in what now is Romania, and were emancipated there in 1865, almost exactly when African-American slavery ended in the US. They now are perhaps 6% to 8% of the population in Eastern Europe (governments are forbidden to ask individuals about their ethnicity) and increasing while the population around them is going down. Marginalized because of colour, in part by language, lack of education, living conditions, their own folkways and discrimination, they now suffer astronomical levels of unemployment, very low mortality and high morbidity, widely segregated and inferior housing and education. As a condition of admission to the European Union and under various international human rights documents, nations in which Roma reside have been required to raise them to full equality. All countries of the region have lagged in compliance (the Czech Republic was last country to enact anti-discrimination legislation, but its President has vetoed it) although there has been progress in a few countries. With some comparison to the US desegregation experience, this lecture will examine: reasons for failure to progress, progress where it has occurred, and what might be done to accelerate change.

THE LECTURER

Jack Greenberg is Alphonse Fletcher Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. His areas of expertise include: constitutional, civil rights, and human rights law; civil procedure; Kafka and the Law; and South Africa's post-apartheid constitution. Jack's more recent publications include: *Crusaders in the Courts*; *Legal Battles of the Civil Rights Movement*; *Brown v. Board of Education*; *Witness to A Landmark Decision*, and articles on civil rights and capital punishment. He was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2001.

The views expressed in this seminar are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.

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