

SEGREGATION

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Representatives of local councils and political parties attended “Gypsy conferences” to address the problems confronting local authorities that were no longer able - or willing - to shoulder the financial burden created by their many destitute Roma inhabitants. The participants discussed what they saw as feasible solutions, such as creating a “Gypsy reservation”, deporting people to an island in the Pacific, or creating labour camps for unemployed Roma.

B.7

Did you know

... that the alleged “notorious criminality” of the Roma and Sinti was often the direct result of dedicated “Gypsy” laws and regulations, which penalised them for begging, travelling in large groups and working as musicians?

For you to do

Choose the perspective of one of the children, a member of the commission or a chance passer-by to explain what is happening in the photo.

The photo

Inspection of living conditions at the Roma settlement in Oberwart, Austria, on 15 January 1933 by members of a commission attending a conference on the “Gypsy problem”. Burgenland Regional Archives, Eisenstadt, Austria.