

**KAREL AND ANDREJ'S  
SCHOOLBOOK  
CZECH REPUBLIC 2015**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



This schoolbook is based on the true stories of two boys we spoke to in the Czech Republic. The names have been changed to protect them, but their experience is sadly typical of many Romani children in the country.



**NAME: KAREL**

**AGE: 11**

Me and my little sister Jana are the only Romani kids at our school. The other children bully us, especially Jana. They push her around and call her “black mouth”.

They tell her that she doesn't know anything, that she looks disgusting. One day, they hid her shoes – it was snowing so I had to bring her home on my back.





Jana's afraid to go to school now.

My mum makes us breakfast and takes us to school, but Jana starts crying and throwing hysterical fits.



Sometimes, I cry too.

**fer**

**Jana**

**Vincent**

**Roman**

We told the head teacher but she won't listen to us. I fight the bullies, but when the teachers find out I'm the only one who gets told off.

It's got so bad we've stopped going to school, pretty much. The people from social services have come to take us away from our family and put us in a children's home.





**NAME: ANDREJ**

**AGE: 15**



I'm from Slovakia, but now my family lives in the Czech Republic. I love playing football at school and I win lots of trophies. I dream one day I'll be a footballer.






I'm in the 5th grade, but I struggle with the Czech language and nobody helps me with it. When I fail the class, they give me a special test to see if I should stay here.

In the test they show me pictures that I have to match together. It feels like they think I'm an idiot. It's so simple. Then they put me in what they call a "practical" school.

My grandma doesn't want to send me, but they force her. All my friends are there so I want to go. At least half the children are Roma.

I didn't realize it's a school for children with mental disabilities. They teach slower and make idiots of us. It's really easy.


$$9 + 8 = 9 + 1 + 7 = \underline{17}$$

$$9 + 4 = 9 + 1 + 3 = \underline{13}$$

$$9 + 9 = 9 + 1 + 8 = \underline{18}$$

$$9 + 5 = 9 + 1 + 4 = \underline{14}$$

$$9 + 2 = 9 + 1 + 1 = \underline{10}$$

$$9 + 1 = 9 + 1 = \underline{10}$$

$$9 + 5 = 9 + 1 + 4 = \underline{15}$$

$$9 + 2 = 9 + 1 + 1 = \underline{12}$$

$$9 + 5 = 9 + 1 + 4 = \underline{15}$$

$$8 + 9 = 8 + 2 + 7 = \underline{17}$$

$$8 + 8 = 8 + 2 + 6 = \underline{16}$$

$$8 + 6 = 8 + 2 + 4 = \underline{14}$$



I would like to go to high school and university. But they tell me it's impossible. I'll have to go to a school where they teach other skills, like how to stack shelves in a shop and talk to customers.

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All photos are of Roma communities and schools across the Czech Republic.  
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Romani children in the Czech Republic are not getting the same education as other children. They're bullied just for being different, kept separate from other pupils and even placed in schools for children with learning disabilities. It means they can't fulfil their potential and build a better future – for themselves, their families and communities, and Czech society.

Tell the Czech Prime Minister to end discrimination of Romani children in schools.

Learn more and take action today:  
[www.amnesty.org/MustTryHarder](http://www.amnesty.org/MustTryHarder)

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