

RESOLUTION

Kyiv International Forum on Roma Inclusion

Kyiv, Ukraine

May 27, 2021

We

representatives of Equality Bodies and Ombudsman Institutions from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine, representatives of international human rights organisations, who gathered in Kyiv on May 27, 2021 to reaffirm our joint interest in resolving the issue of Roma inclusion by establishing an international cooperation platform,

Referring to the General Policy Recommendation 13 on combating antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma and all the other relevant general policy recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and other Council of Europe's standards on human rights;

Recalling the recommendations, opinions and declarations of the Council of Europe on the Roma population (Strasbourg, October 20, 2010), EU Strategic Framework on Roma and Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025), the OSCE Action Plan for the Development of the Roma Population (December, 2003);

Bearing in mind the Special Report of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights "Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Roma Community in Ukraine", reports of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), and the report of OSCE ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI ODIHR);

Acknowledging that the Roma national minority, as one of the most segregated and marginalised, needs additional protection and urgent positive action to ensure the fulfillment of their human rights;

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened unequal treatment for the Roma in exercising their civil, political, economic and social rights and freedoms,

Reaffirm our interest in consolidating efforts to protect the rights of the Roma community members and their integration into the society of the countries we represent, addressing violence and discrimination against Roma, ensuring accountability for hate crimes and countering hate speech based on ethnic origin.

WE RECOMMEND:

National institutions of participating states that are responsible for the policy-making in the sphere of protection of rights of national minorities:

1. When developing or amending laws and regulations, strategic and program documents on the observance and protection of human rights and freedoms, to provide for the equality of such rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including the Roma national minority.
2. To prioritise the collection of comprehensive data on the demographics of the Roma national minority to form effective policy/decision making.
3. To stipulate legal rules on positive actions concerning members of the Roma national minority in obtaining their IDs, expanding opportunities for access to social protection and medical care, education, official employment.
4. To ensure respect for the principle to ‘leave no one behind’ that lies at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and represents an unequivocal commitment to end discrimination and exclusion of all groups, including Roma, including in COVID-19 response measures.
5. To provide the Roma community with information in a language they understand about the benefits of obtaining IDs, education, official employment, access to social protection, medical and legal assistance.
6. To support the involvement of representatives of the Roma communities in the making of strategic and program documents on Roma inclusion according to the principle: “nothing for the Roma without the Roma”.
7. To implement programs of inclusive education for the Roma children and to ensure access to education for the Roma young people and reduce the expulsion rates of Roma students.
8. To provide access to the labour market for the Roma population at the national and local levels.

9. To ensure inclusion in the programs of development and improvement of territories the issue of providing adequate housing conditions, sanitation, access to communication networks for residents of compact settlements of the Roma national minority.
10. To promote the dissemination of information on the inadmissibility of discrimination on the grounds of national origin in the media and in institutions that provide services, in particular provide social and medical care.
11. To extend the practice that racist and xenophobic motivation should be considered as an aggravating circumstance by national courts in the determination of penalties.
12. To support the participation of a gender-balanced representation of the Roma civil society organisations in political life and in national and local policy-making.
13. To address all above-mentioned issues with due regard to Roma women and girls in particular to reduce the intersectional forms of discrimination affecting them.
14. To foster international cooperation on Roma inclusion.

National Equality Bodies and Ombudsman Institutions:

15. To ensure coordination of the implementation of the recommendations set out in this Resolution, participate in the development of relevant laws and regulations, program and strategic documents, implement measures and initiate the involvement of representatives of the Roma civil society.
16. To carry out systematic monitoring of the observance and protection of Roma rights in all spheres of life, and inform relevant national authorities about the results of such monitoring.
17. To conduct information campaigns with the involvement of media to ensure equal rights of national minorities, including the Roma national minority.
18. To introduce the practice of exchanging views and developing mechanisms for cooperation in intergovernmental working groups in the areas identified during this Forum.

Done in Kyiv on May 27, 2021. Open for accession by national Equality Bodies and Ombudsman Institutions by letter of notification to the Ukrainian Ombudsman.