



THE RIGHTS OF ROMA WOMEN IN UKRAINE

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WOMEN 

The publication provides an overview of the situation of Roma women in Ukraine. It was prepared in collaboration with the International Charitable Organization Roma Women's Fund Chiricli, which engaged 300 Roma women in collection of the first-hand information about their experiences, problems and needs. The publication also includes the results of the joint analysis by the UN Women Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and Chiricli of the progress with the implementation of the Strategy on the Protection and Integration of the Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society up to 2020 and its National Action Plan from a gender equality perspective.

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UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

International Charitable Organization Roma Women's Fund "Chiricli" is a non-governmental organization that works to address the legal and social issues of the Roma women and Roma community through affecting the state policy and building the capacity of the Roma community. Chiricli works in 15 regions of Ukraine and has 5 representatives in Moldova, Latvia, Macedonia, Russia, Belarus and Hungary.

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THE RIGHTS OF ROMA WOMEN IN UKRAINE

OVERVIEW ON THE SITUATION OF ROMA WOMEN IN
UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Abbreviations

ATO	Anti-Terrorist Operation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDAW Committee	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDAW COs	Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee
Chiricli	International Charitable Organization the Roma Women's Fund "Chiricli"
COE	Council of Europe
CSO	Civil society organisation
ECRI	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
NAP	National Action Plan on Implementation of the Strategy on the Protection and Integration of the Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society up to 2020
NAP 1325	National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325
ODIHR	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
The Strategy	Strategy on the Protection and Integration of the Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society up to 2020
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Verkhovna Rada	Parliament of Ukraine

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

There is a lack of official, comprehensive and accurate data available on the number of Roma in Ukraine and their socio-economic situation. According to the 2001 census in Ukraine, 47,917 people indicated their nationality as Roma¹. Some unofficial sources² claim the number of Roma ranges from 200,000 to 400,000 with half of them women. Roma live throughout the country, but population density varies. Zakarpattia, Odesa and Kharkiv regions have the highest concentration of Roma population. Roma women in Ukraine face multiple forms of discrimination – based on their gender, ethnicity and social status.

From April to June 2016, the International Charitable Organization the Roma Women's Fund "Chiricli" (hereinafter referred to as Chiricli), with the help of the Roma mediators, conducted the research on the situation of Roma women in Ukraine. The research was conducted in six regions of Ukraine, including regions with the highest density of the Roma population Zakarpattia, Odesa, Kharkiv – as well as, Kyiv, Kropyvnytskyi, and Donetsk. The Roma mediators interviewed 300 Roma women of different age groups through the focus groups and individual meetings. The collected data and the findings were further validated through a number of consultations and public discussions with Roma women, the representatives of the line ministries, oblast administrations and the civil society organizations, which were organized with the technical and financial support of UN Women Ukraine.

These findings and recommendations informed the Written Comments of the European Roma Rights Centre and Chiricli Concerning Ukraine (Shadow Report) to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW³) and were presented at its 66th session.⁴

This research highlighted the following trends: the majority of Roma women across Ukraine face intersecting forms of discrimination based on the gender, ethnicity and social status, which deepens their vulnerability and pushes them to the margins of the society. Among the many problems of Roma women face are:

- lower level of education, with a high percentage of those dropping out of high school and irregular school attendance compared to non-Roma girls and women in the country
- higher unemployment rates and limited employment opportunities
- lack of civil registration documents and, in particular, birth certificates
- difficulties in accessing quality education and employment, health care and the other related services.

According to the research, while Roma people have always been one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in Ukraine, the conflict and the enduring crisis have exacerbated the situation with violation of the human rights of Roma women and

¹ All Ukrainian National Census (2001). Available at <http://2001.ukrcensus.gov.ua/results/general/nationality/>

² OSCE/ODIHR Situation Assessment Report on Roma in Ukraine and the Impact of the Current Crisis (August 2014). Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Situation%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20Roma%20in%20Ukraine.pdf>

³ A/RES/34/180 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (18 December 1979). Available from <http://www.un-documents.net/a34r180.htm>

men. Awareness of specific factors that contribute to the vulnerability of Roma is limited and the outreach activities by relevant actors is insufficient.

Roma women represent a particularly vulnerable group among the internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially when they are pregnant or have to take care of children. About 55.6% of Roma IDPs interviewed by Chiricli did not register as IDPs fearing that it will result in the confiscation of their property by the police or other authorities. Displaced Roma face particular challenges to access the humanitarian assistance, due to the lack of civil registration and valid residence registration documents confirming their displacement from eastern Ukraine.

At the policy level, in 2013 the Government adopted the Strategy on the Protection and Integration of the Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society up to 2020 (the Strategy), and its National Action Plan (NAP) on Implementation of the Strategy aiming to address the situation of Roma⁵. However, the Strategy, failed to integrate an impactful anti-discrimination and gender-sensitive approach or to respond to the specific needs of Roma women. Neither the Roma women's needs have been addressed through the national gender equality policies, such as the State Program on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men till 2016, the National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security till

2020, nor the others.

The State Social Programme to Ensure Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men for the period until 2021, which was adopted in April 2018 integrates measures to implement the CEDAW Concluding Observations (hereinafter referred to as CEDAW COs) related the education of Roma girls – “conducting of the assessment regarding the education of girls and boys of Roma nationality and conducting activities to encourage them to get education and to continue learning at all levels of education”.⁶

Considering the lack of general comprehensive data about the number and situation of Roma women and men in Ukraine, including sex-disaggregated data and data on their socio-economic situation, there is a need for specific research and studies on the problems faced by Roma women in Ukraine. This publication aims to address this gap and to improve the information on the status of Roma women in Ukraine in order to inform and to design national policies to address the situation of Roma women in the country. Sex-disaggregated research and data is necessary to ensure that regional and local socio-economic development programs, budgets and service delivery are responsive to the needs of their beneficiaries and integrate specific measures and budgets to address them.

⁴ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 66th Session (13 Feb 2017 - 03 Mar 2017). Available from https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1071&Lang=en

⁵ Ukraine, Law on the Principles of Prevention and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine, Law № 5207-VI (2013). Available from <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/5207-17>

⁶ State Social Programme on Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men for the period up to 2021, adopted by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers #273, dated 11 April 2018, Paragraph 8: “Improving the situation of groups of people who suffer from multiple forms of discrimination, including gender discrimination” <https://kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-derzhavnoi-socialnoi-programi-zabezpechennya-rivnih-prav-ta-mozhliivostej-zhinok-i-cholovikiv-na-period-do-2021-roku>

METHODOLOGY

As in many other civil rights movements, the voice and representation of Roma women in civil movements globally as well as in Ukraine, is less heard and presented and the discourse was until recently dominated by men.

The reasons for this are different and interconnected. For example, the status of women in Roma communities does not allow them to publicly speak up and claim their rights. Additionally the lower level of education hinders Roma women to exercise their basic rights. Roma women face multiple forms of discrimination due to their race, gender, sex and social status.

Therefore, the Overview on the Situation of Roma Women in Ukraine in the Context of the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was prepared with a recognition that ensuring the rights of Roma women requires cooperation with the Roma mediators, Roma civil society organizations, Roma human rights defenders, the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, line ministries and the other executive authorities, international organizations.

In order to be able to reach out to Roma women and gather first-hand information on the needs and experiences of women in the different communities, Chiricli engaged Roma women's organization and grass-root Roma women for this

research.

The CEDAW⁷ was used as a key normative framework for conducting the research.

The Chiricli's field research was conducted in the six regions of Ukraine: Odesa, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kropyvnytskyi, Donetsk and Zakarpattia regions.

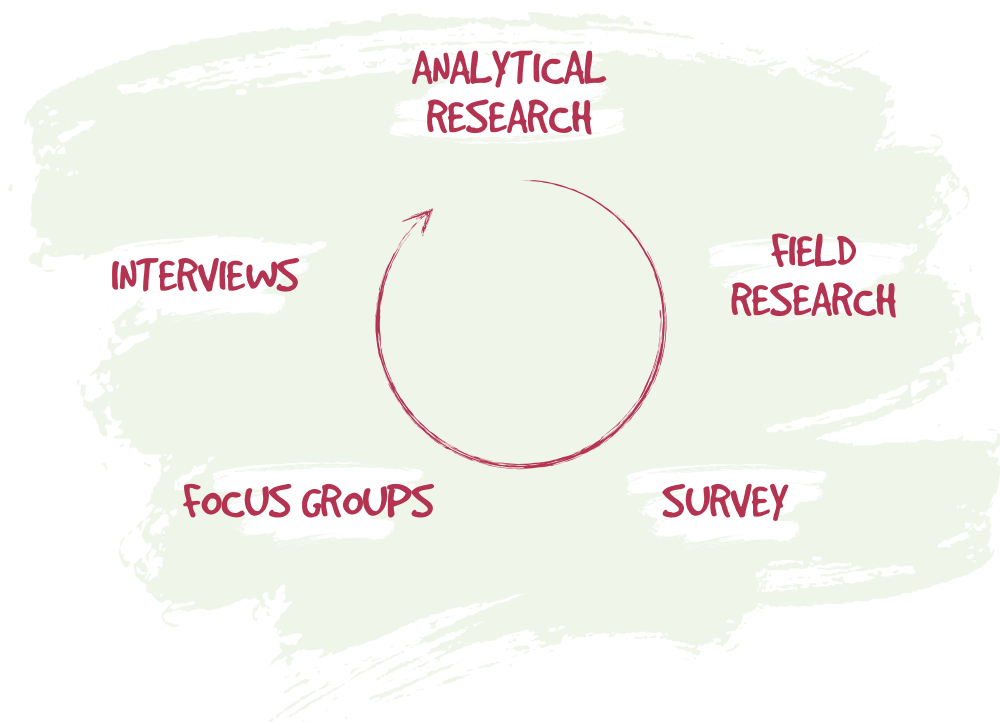
Respondents: grassroots Roma women above the age of 16, activists of Roma rights movement and the representatives of the Roma CSOs.

In total, 300 Roma women of different age were interviewed by Roma women mediators through focus groups and individual interviews. 100 women took part in the focus groups and 200 women were interviewed individually.

The results of the research findings were validated with Roma mediators, grass-root Roma women, the executive bodies and the civil society organizations with a technical support of UN Women.

The Overview also includes the results of the analysis of the progress with the implementation of the Strategy on the Protection and Integration of the Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society up to 2020 and its National Action Plan from a gender equality perspective. Upon receipt of the CEDAW COs in 2017, UN Women Ukraine undertook a joint initiative with the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and Chiricli to

⁷ A/RES/34/180 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (18 December 1979). Available from <http://www.un-documents.net/a34r180.htm>



analyze from the gender equality perspective the progress on the implementation of the Strategy and NAP. The Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination (Chairperson) sent requests to provide information on the progress of the implementation of the regional Roma action plans and programmes to 24 Regional State

Administrations. Twenty-Three Regional State Administrations provided responses, most of which were formalistic, non-informative and lacked gender-specific information. The analysis of the responses confirmed the lack of sex-disaggregated data available and lack of a gender sensitive approach towards implementing the Strategy.

However, the initiative brought some positive results as well. The issue of discrimination and segregation of Roma identified in the medical institutions in Uzhhorod city, where Roma women were placed in separate hospital wards with poor sanitary conditions, was addressed through the follow-up request for action by the Chairperson to the Uzhhorod city administration and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. As the result, the city administration allocated funds from the municipal budget and renovated two hospitals to provide the same quality care for all women and to resolve the issue of discrimination and segregation of Roma women.

OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ROMA WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CEDAW

The United Nations (UN), the Council of Europe (COE) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) are committed to addressing a range of issues related to the protection of Roma and Roma women. They developed and adopted a number of normative frameworks on minorities and women's rights, which should guide the members states, including Ukraine, in implementation of the commitments on human rights of Roma in general and Roma women in particular. The list of the key UN, COE and OSCE treaties and guiding documents can be found in Annex 1.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is often referred to as the «Bill on Women's Rights». It is one of the main international human rights treaties within the framework of the United Nations treaties, which imposes on States Parties the legal obligation to ensure the respect, protection and realization of human rights.

Ukraine ratified the CEDAW in 1979 and since 1981 it is a part of the Ukrainian legislation. Ukraine has a binding obligation to implement the CEDAW provisions in practice and has to submit the national reports on the steps taken to fulfil these obligations every four years.

On February 14, 2017, during the 66th session the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms

of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) considered the reports from civil society organizations (CSOs) of Ukraine.

Ukrainian CSOs, including Chiricli, made the oral statement before the Committee presenting their recommendations. The shadow report on the situation of Roma women was structured in accordance with the articles of the Convention and covered the following areas:

- Civil registration documents
- Access to social services, including public health care
- Employment
- Education
- The situation of the internally displaced Roma women.

The CEDAW Committee reviewed the shadow report and took note of the issues brought up by the Ukrainian CSOs and included the related recommendations to the Ukrainian Government in the CEDAW COs to the eighth periodic report of Ukraine.⁸

Among the CEDAW COs to the state, the Committee expressed its concern that «women themselves, especially those in rural areas and those belonging to disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma women, are unaware of their rights under the Convention

⁸ CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/8 Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Ukraine, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (3 March 2017). Available from <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1286284?ln=en>.

and thus lack the information necessary to claim them»⁹. Therefore, the Committee recommended «To enhance women’s awareness of their rights and the remedies available to them to claim violations of their rights under the Convention, and ensure that information on the Convention, the Optional Protocol and the Committee’s general recommendations is provided to all women, including Roma and rural women».¹⁰

In its General Recommendations, the CEDAW Committee provides clear guidance to the states on what measures to take to prevent and address the discrimination against women. The following recommendations, specific to the situation of Roma women in Ukraine, can be found in the following:

- General Recommendation No. 21 on Equality in marriage and family relations,
- General Recommendation No. 24: Article 12 of the Convention (women and health)
- General Recommendation No. 30 on Women in Conflict prevention, conflicts and post-conflict situations
- General Recommendation No. 33 on Women’s access to justice.¹¹

In its CEDAW COs on the eighth periodic report of Ukraine the Committee also provided recommendations directed at addressing the discrimination against Roma women and girls:¹²

17 (a) – Address the specific needs of different groups of internally displaced women who are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, including widows, women with disabilities, older women, women belonging to Roma or LBT, and provide long-term interventions to address the needs of internally displaced women and girls;

35 (d) – Promote access for Roma girls to education and their retention at all levels of education, by raising awareness of the importance of education as a human right and as the basis for the empowerment of women and strengthen the implementation of re-entry policies enabling Roma girls who have dropped out to return to school.

The results of the Chiricli research, as well as of the analysis of the data collected from the regions, are important for the effective implementation of the CEDAW COs, the development of the national policy and legal measures, as well as the gender review and amendment of the National Strategy on the Protection and Integration of the Roma

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, General Recommendations 1-37. Available from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Recommendations.aspx>

¹² CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/8 Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Ukraine, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (3 March 2017). Available from <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1286284?ln=en>

National Minority into Ukrainian Society up to 2020 in close consultation with Roma women's groups and civil society and in line with the CEDAW, for integration of the gender and women's rights specific measures in the regional and local action plans for implementing the Strategy and NAP.

KEY AREAS OF CONCERN



LACK OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES



DANGERS OF POLICE
PERSECUTION AND ARREST DUE
TO THE LACK OF IDENTIFICATION
DOCUMENTS



LACK OF FUNDS TO PAY
PROCESSING FEES AND FINES



LACK OF REGISTRATION AND
RESIDENTS REGISTER



LACK OF PERSONAL
OR FAMILY HOUSING



DOMESTIC WORK
AND CHILDCARE DUTIES



LACK OF EDUCATION

Absence of civil registration documents

One of the main problems, identified by Roma women in Ukraine is their lack of state registration of civil records documents (passports, birth certificates, and registration at the place of residence). This applies to those who lived in Ukraine before 1990, and those who later moved from other Soviet Republics to Ukraine.

According to the Monitoring the Human rights situation of Roma in Ukraine¹³, conducted by the Roma mediators in three cities – Odesa, Kropyvnytskyi and Uzhhorod – from 30% to 40% of local Roma (10%–15% of women) reported that they did not have at least one of the documents necessary to access a range of services. In Mukachevo (Zakarpattia region), only 1,500 of 10,000 Roma (15%) had passports.¹⁴

Roma women face the following obstacles in acquiring identity documents (passports and birth certificates):

The absence of state registration of civil records documents prevents them from enjoying social and economic rights (formal employment, education, medical care, social assistance and pensions).



¹³ Chiricli, Monitoring the Human Rights Situation of Roma in Ukraine (2014). Available from <http://chirikli.com.ua/index.php/en/library/item/93-monitoring-the-human-rights-situation-of-roma-in-ukraine>

¹⁴ Written Comments of the European Roma Rights Centre and the International Charitable Organization Roma Women Fund "Chiricli" Concerning Ukraine For Consideration by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Page 4. Available from https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/UKR/INT_CEDAW_NGO_UKR_26221_E.pdf

The absence of birth certificate in practice deprives children of the right to education, which excludes the possibility of further socialization and social integration and ultimately makes it impossible to obtain higher education and employment. Education is a key factor for the social integration

of Roma. Women without documents cannot receive birth certificates for their children and, consequently, cannot access social assistance for the child, which in some cases represents one of the main financial sources for women.

Lack of or limited access to health care services

The health problems caused by poverty are widespread among the Ukrainian Roma population. Characterizing the health of the Roma population, one cannot ignore its social context, since health problems are often associated with poor nutrition, low quality water, and unacceptable living conditions.

The problem of access to health care is often caused by the absence of documents, passports and registration, as well as the lack of funds for medical services and purchase of medicines. The Constitution of Ukraine guarantees free health care¹⁵, but, it is almost impossible to get free medical services. In addition, Roma do not

trust the official medical institutions: the fear of alienation and discrimination by medical professionals is widespread. For those Roma women who don't speak Ukrainian or Russian, this creates an additional obstacle to accessing the health care. Such cases were mentioned by the Roma intermediaries from Zakarpattia and Odesa regions.

The situation of women is worsened by the fact that Roma women are traditionally treated only by female doctors. In addition, the absence of documents can become a serious obstacle to receiving treatment in maternity hospitals. Hospitals can accept Roma women without

¹⁵ The Constitution of Ukraine, article 49. Available from https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/eoir/legacy/2013/11/08/constitution_14.pdf



40 OF THE 60

ROMA WOMEN INTERVIEWED IN ZAKARPATTIA REGION REPORTED THAT THEY FACE DISCRIMINATION, INHUMANE OR DEGRADING TREATMENT BY DOCTORS AND OTHER HOSPITAL STAFF

AS A RESULT OF THE RESEARCH, CHIRICLI REVEALED THE EXISTENCE OF SEPARATE WARDS IN HOSPITALS FOR ROMA IN THE ZAKARPATTIA REGION.

documents, but in this case they cannot issue the official birth certificates¹⁶ without which the child cannot enjoy rights and access services.

There are other problems that Roma face when they apply to health institutions: inadequate treatment and discrimination by the medical professionals; difficult social and economic conditions and financial situation compared to the majority of population; physical segregation of Roma settlements and a long distance from medical institutions.

Discrimination against Roma by medical staff particularly affect the access of Roma women to adequate medical care. Within the scope of this survey, 40 of the 60 Roma women interviewed in Zakarpattia region reported that they face discrimination, inhumane or degrading treatment by doctors and other hospital staff, which in some cases led to the refusal to provide treatment altogether. One hundred seventy of the 300 women interviewed noted that doctors treat Roma women differently from other ethnic groups, that they often hear disparaging remarks about Roma in hospitals. They also noted that doctors refuse to visit Roma settlements, arguing that they are afraid of Roma communities. As one Roma woman remarked: «doctors do not come to our settlement, even in some cases when we need emergency medical care».

¹⁶ This information was collected by Roma medical intermediaries working in 12 regions of Ukraine.

EXAMPLE

Young woman with a child turned for help to the children's ward of the Svalyava central regional hospital, Zakarpattia oblast. She was placed in the "Roma room" with considerably worse conditions (sewage smell, unsanitary conditions).

Only women of Roma ethnicity were placed in this hospital room. When this young woman requested for her and her child to be transferred to a different room she was rudely refused.

Limited access to employment

There are no official statistics on the current unemployment rates among Roma, but according to the estimates of Roma non-governmental organizations, only 38% of Roma men and women are employed. For many Roma, only seasonal jobs or informal employment are available due to the lack of proper education, documents, and because of discrimination. In addition to discrimination based on ethnicity, Roma women are subjected to gender discrimination on the part of employers because Roma women usually have many children. For this reason, most Roma women are self-employed, earning by selling goods, collecting scrap metal, divination or begging.

Currently, there are no government programmes in Ukraine aimed at improving employment opportunities and gaining or enhancing the professional skills of Roma people and Roma women, or programs that strengthen the incentives for employment in line with the CEDAW, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area¹⁷ and the Council of Europe Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019)¹⁸.

Limited access to education

According to the results of this research, the level of illiteracy among the Roma remains high. Few Roma children attend pre-school, and the proportion of Roma in secondary education is significantly lower than among the general population. Although education is free in accordance with the Law on Education¹⁹, many schools require an unofficial monthly contribution

from parents to cover maintenance costs. For the poor Roma parents, such monthly contributions are not feasible.

¹⁷ Decision No. 4/13 on the enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area, With a Particular Focus on Roma and Sinti Women, Youth and Children (9 December 2013). Available from <https://www.osce.org/mc/109340>

¹⁸ SG/Inf(2015)38 Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers1 (2016-2019). Available from <https://rm.coe.int/1680684b5e>

¹⁹ Ukraine, Law of Ukraine on Education Law № 2145-VIII (5 September 2017). Available from <http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2145-19>

The research also highlighted the following issues:

- The school segregation and discrimination experienced particularly by girls were emphasized by the majority of women interviewed;
- The education for Roma girls and the gender gap was noted as a separate issue. Dropout rates are significantly higher among the Roma girls at high school level.

73% of Roma boys and 75% of girls attend elementary school (ages 6–10)

65% of boys and only 59% of girls continue education in high school (ages 11–15).

- The research showed that 240 from 300 women interviewed have incomplete secondary education, and in 90 cases this was due to their early marriages.
- Girls discontinue their education because of early marriages, which are still common in some areas. Thus, young Roma mothers in particular are in a worse condition due to the lack of education, institutional discrimination, and lack of State's protection of of their rights as minors.
- For Roma girls, education is considered a special issue, since many parents give preference to the boys' education, while the girls are "groomed for marriage".
- There is a lack of adult education programs for women. Often, Roma women who marry

early cannot continue their studies.

- Often families do not have funds to pay for kindergarten and school services, as well as to prepare children for school (proper clothes and school supplies).
- The lower quality of teaching and education in Roma classes and Roma schools is widespread.

The issue of segregation and discrimination in schools was emphasized by the majority of women interviewed. Today in Ukraine there are segregated schools in Zakarpattia and Odesa regions. In most areas in secondary schools, there are segregated classes for Roma children. The level of education of children in such schools is lower compared to other schools.

There is also a problem with the pre-school education of Roma children, especially girls, because of economic problems in families. According to interviews conducted in Kyiv Oblast, Uzhhorod and Kropyvnytskyi, 20 out of 32 families consider it more necessary to provide education, from preschool to senior, to boys, not girls.

It should be noted that the basic needs of Roma women interviewed are interconnected and interdependent, therefore, in the absence of proper education it is difficult to get any job and financial independence, to have adequate housing, protect their rights. Therefore, a comprehensive

and systematic policy is required to solve the problems of the Roma women, men, boys and girls in Ukraine. It should apply the international and regional norms and standards, as well as the international institutions, resources and opportunities, and include the issue of education.

Unequal participation in public and political life

As emphasized by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)²⁰, discrimination and the absence of appropriate identification documents deprive many Roma men and Roma women of the opportunity to participate in social and political life.

Of 120 Roma organizations officially registered in Ukraine, only 3 are Roma women's organizations, and 5 organizations are headed by Roma women. Among all regions of Ukraine, only in Zakarpattia there is a Roma woman who is the Adviser on Social Issues of National Minorities at the Regional Administration. A Roma woman is also a Councillor in the city of Berehove, but her work is practically stalled by the men in power. At the national level, only two Roma women are represented in the governmental institutions, one is the Deputy Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group on Roma Issues at the Cabinet of Ministers of

Ukraine, and another one is a member of this group.

Additionally, there are no institutional policies and programs in Ukraine to increase involvement and promote the participation of Roma women in governmental or local decision-making processes. The Strategy and the subsequent NAP though recognizes the need to address the situation of Roma through the development of specific policies, does not entail any specific anti-discrimination or gender-specific measures.

The only targeted initiative - the Roma intermediary program²¹ aimed at building capacity of women - trained 25 Roma women. In the course of 7 years they acquired the necessary skills to represent the interests of their communities, families, and promote advocacy efforts at the local level.

²⁰ CRI(2017)38 European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Council of Europe ECRI Report On Ukraine (20 June 2017). Available from <https://rm.coe.int/fifth-report-on-ukraine/16808b5ca8>

²¹ Chirikli, "Socio-Medical Mediators: Overcoming Roma Issues Together", 10 March 2018. Available from <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/novini/item/212-sotsialno-medychni-poserednyky-dolaty-problemy-romiv-razom>

Internal displacement of Roma women

The conflict in Eastern Ukraine raised serious concerns of human rights violations. Recent political developments in Ukraine have further negatively affected the situation of Roma, in particular of those displaced from Crimea and eastern Ukraine. The displacement of Roma communities as IDPs has sharply increased since the beginning of June 2014.

There is no accurate data available about the number of displaced Roma but reports from Roma civil society suggest that their number has increased following the deterioration of the situation in eastern Ukraine.

ACCORDING TO RESEARCH, CONDUCTED BY CHIRICLI IN 2014²², SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CRISIS, ABOUT 9,000 ROMA WERE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES IN EASTERN UKRAINE.

With the displacement of Roma from the Eastern regions to other regions of Ukraine, the negative attitude as well as violence against Roma community has increased.

ROMA WOMEN ARE A PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE GROUP AMONG IDPs, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE PREGNANT OR MUST TAKE CARE OF THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN.

As part of the cooperation with United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Roma mediators analyzed the needs of Roma communities²³. About 55.6% of the displaced Roma interviewed by Chiricli did not register as IDPs being afraid of consequences such as confiscating their property by the police or other authorities. Some are afraid of illegal detention and abuse by the law enforcement due to the absence of identification documents, such as passports and registration in the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) zone (research is dated to 2016 when the operation was called ATO). Unregistered IDPs are not able to receive social assistance, child support and state pensions, as well as face difficulties in re-registering their documents. That is why Roma IDPs in Ukraine mainly receive assistance only from Roma CSOs and donors.

In this context, it is important to recognize the particularly vulnerable situation that Roma and Roma women in particular face in displacement due to the lack of civil or residence registration documents, as well as their marginalized position in new host communities. The displaced Roma need to have access to proper housing, social services and medical care. This situation requires better management of resources and coordination between government agencies, international and non-governmental organizations.

²² Chiricli, Monitoring the human rights situation of Roma in Ukraine (2014). Available from <http://chirikli.com.ua/index.php/en/library/item/93-monitoring-the-human-rights-situation-of-roma-in-ukraine>

²³ The unpublished research was conducted as a part of the joint UNHCR-Chiricli initiative to identify the needs of the internally displaced Roma in Ukraine (2017).

Negative stereotypes and prejudices against Roma

In Ukraine, negative stereotypes and prejudices against Roma remain widespread. This leads to discrimination and unfair treatment carried out by state and non-state actors. It also leads to violent attacks targeting the Roma community members. This is especially true for Roma women who often suffer from multiple discrimination based on the multiple factors, including ethnicity, gender, social status and additional factors, such as disability, age and the others.

As part of the implementation of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan of the EU, dated May 13, 2014²⁴ the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine (on the Prevention and Counteraction of Discrimination)²⁵, which amended the legislative framework for combating discrimination (in particular the above-mentioned law on combating discrimination). Among other things, the law expanded the list of forms of discrimination, introduced the provisions on civil, administrative and criminal responsibility and in cases of discrimination shifted the burden of proof from the plaintiff to the defendant.

HOWEVER, THE NEW LAW DID NOT INTRODUCE PROVISIONS IN CASES OF MULTIPLE (INTERSECTING) DISCRIMINATION, WHICH APPLY TO ROMA WOMEN IN MOST CASES.

As was noted in the materials of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Roma in Ukraine are often stereotyped as criminals in mass media. Media coverage related to Roma focuses on crime, violence and immigration as a threat to public safety. Roma women are often accused of fraud, theft and kidnapping of children. Journalists and the media are only partially aware of their role and the contribution they make, both in inciting racism and discrimination, and their potential in combating them.

The Ukrainian government recognizes the problem of discrimination against Roma. In 2013, the Government of Ukraine adopted the Strategy on the Protection and Integration of the Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society for the Period until 2020 and the NAP for the implementation of a strategy²⁶ to address the situation of the Roma community in the country.

²⁴ European Commission, Ukraine Moves to 2nd phase of Visa Liberalisation Process (27 May 2014). Available from http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-613_en.htm

²⁵ Ukraine, Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine (on the Prevention and Counteraction of Discrimination). Law #4581 of 13 May 2017. Available from http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=50439

²⁶ Ukraine, Law on the Principles of Prevention and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine

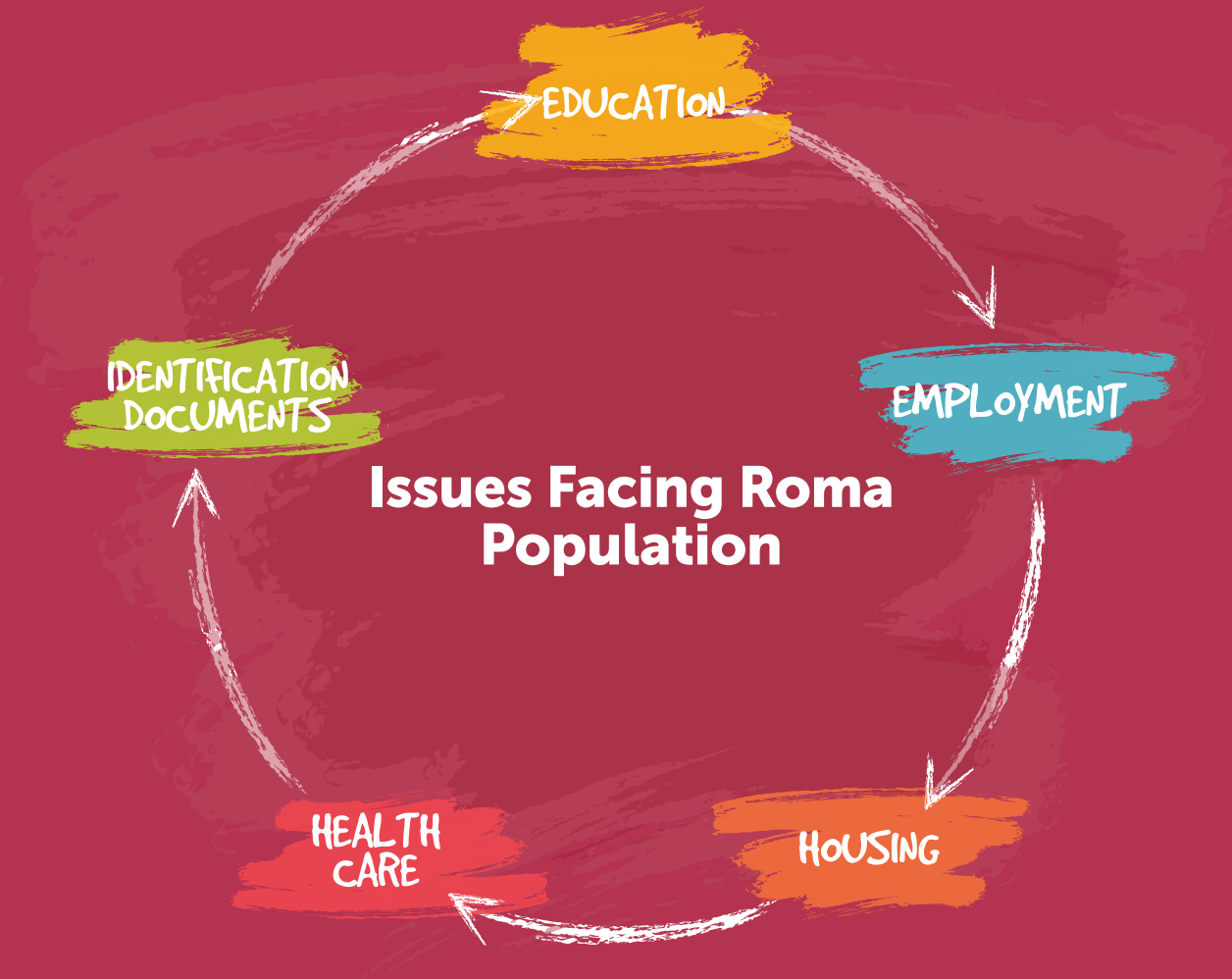
In December 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers issued an order to regional administrations to develop regional action plans with indicators and budget lines. However, the regional administrations faced problems in developing action plans because they lack reliable data on the number of Roma in the regions, as well as lack the knowledge and ability to develop targets and indicators.

In 2017 the Verkhovna Rada Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination requested regional state administrations to report on the implementation of the Strategy in the regions across Ukraine. Based on the analysis of the answers, the following conclusions on the implementation of the Strategy are:

- There is no gender disaggregated data in the responses; the needs of women and men are not desegregated; the number of girls and boys who enrolled in schools is not provided;
- Action plans are formalistic, not actionable and do not account for the problems of women;
- There is information about issuing passports, but the number of issued documents is disproportionately small compared with the needs indicated by civil organizations;
- Marginalization of Roma's human rights and overwhelming focus on cultural rights - all responses indicated that measures taken to meet the cultural needs of Roma through

the participation of artistic collectives in the cultural activities across Ukraine are satisfactory, while the other human rights completely neglected;

- The human rights of Roma women and men and the need for their integration are only marginally covered during the annual commemoration of the international Human Rights Day. The anti-xenophobic, racial and ethnic discrimination measures in Ukrainian society and information campaigns on issues of protection against discrimination of Roma are only partially conducted;
- Legal awareness among Roma, including the knowledge about free legal aid centers is low;
- A small number of Roma girls and boys attend kindergartens and study at school; there is no data on the number of girls who have taken an external educational assessment;
- Health care service provision does not include any gender component or measures, such as, examinations by gynaecologists and mammologists, while the focus is made on the tuberculosis prevention and vaccination.



HOW THE COLLECTED DATA IS USED

The results of the Chiricli's research became the basis for the shadow report on the situation of Roma women in Ukraine, which was submitted to the CEDAW Committee in 2017.

The CEDAW Committee reviewed the report and took note of the challenges related to education, access to medical, social services and identification documents, and included below recommendations in the Concluding Observations to the eighth periodic report of Ukraine²⁷:

37 (a) – Intensify its efforts to create an enabling environment for women to become economically independent, including by raising the awareness of employers in the public and private sectors about the prohibition of discrimination in employment against women, including women with disabilities, and to promote the entry of women into the formal economy, including through the provision of vocational and technical training;

The CEDAW COs and the recommendations by the CEDAW Committee were further reinforced by the Recommendations to Ukraine received under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) - a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC) aimed at improving the human rights situation on the ground of each of the 193 United Nations (UN) Member States.

In 2017, under this mechanism, the human rights situation of Ukraine was reviewed during the Working Group session. The result of the Ukraine review was reflected in the Final Report of the Working Group, which listed the recommendations Ukraine will have to implement before the next review.²⁸

²⁷ CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/. Available from <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1286284?ln=en>

²⁸ A/HRC/37/16, 37th session of the Human Rights Council: Reports Responses to Recommendations to Ukraine during the Third Universal Periodic Review (2017). Available from https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/ukraine/session_28_-_november_2017/responses_to_recommendations_upr28_ukraine.pdf

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP DURING THE THIRD REVIEW ON THE RIGHTS OF THE ROMA SUPPORTED BY UKRAINE²⁹

Session 28, November 15, 2017

Adopted in the plenary session: March 19, 2018

Ukraine's responses to the recommendations as of March 27, 2018:

S – 116.173 To strengthen efforts to eliminate Roma historical and structural discrimination and to prevent the manifestation of racism and hatred and crime against religious minorities and property (Namibia);

S – 116.173 To strengthen efforts to eliminate Roma historical and structural discrimination and to prevent the manifestation of racism and hatred and crime against religious minorities and property (Namibia);

S-116.175 To fully respect the cultural, educational, religious and linguistic rights of all communities and minorities living in Ukraine, welcoming in this regard the submission to the Venice Commission of the recent Education Act for an expert opinion to be fully considered (Greece);

S – 116.177 To increase efforts to better integrate the Roma community into society (Hungary);

S – 116.178 To develop a progressive strategy to improve education and housing and living conditions of the Roma community (India);

S-116.179. Further strengthen the protection of minority rights, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, cross-sectoral persons and Roma communities through effective implementation of current legislation and effective law enforcement (Germany).

²⁹ Ibid.

Based on the analysis of the progress on the implementation of the Strategy and NAP reported by the 23 State Regional Administrations the Verkhovna Rada Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination in partnership with UN Women Ukraine and Chirikli, have prepared the list of proposals for the revision of the NAP and the regional plans and programs for the implementation of the Strategy by introducing the following measures:

- To ensure gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equality in all programs and projects targeting Roma in Ukraine and particular the national and local policies, e.g. the Strategy
- To recognize the particularly vulnerable situation that Roma women face because of the intersecting discrimination due to the additional factors, such as sex, ethnicity, age, disability, displacement due to a lack of civil or residence registration documents, as well as their marginalized position in the society
- To provide Roma women with protection from discrimination in maternity hospitals and health facilities
- To provide socially disadvantaged citizens access to free medical services, especially for Roma women in disadvantaged conditions
- To ensure the issuance/support for obtaining civil registration documents, including birth certificates by all Roma without documents, paying particular attention to Roma women
- To establish an accessible mechanism for providing protection from and reporting on the discrimination based on ethnicity and gender
- To ensure equal access to quality education for Roma children, in particular Roma girls; in the event of a break in education, to create opportunities for the renewal of the educational process
- To develop and implement measures to increase literacy among the Roma women and men, and to reduce school dropout rates among Roma children
- To introduce women's self-awareness/help groups to empower young Roma women who encounter with multiple forms of discrimination. In addition, to provide young Roma women with practical help with employment, education and change in their qualifications, help in opening their own small businesses
- To provide support to Roma women – survivors of domestic and other forms of gender-based violence, conduct awareness about prevention outreach activities to Roma communities to inform them of existing assistance schemes and support for survivors
- To collect gender disaggregated data on the number of Roma in Ukraine, as well as their socio-economic status, if necessary in cooperation with Roma CSOs
- To conduct regional thematic monitoring visits on education, employment, housing, health care, state registration of civil records documents, in particular passports and birth certificates, Roma women's and youth issues
- To integrate existing programs of Roma medical intermediaries into national government programs and institutionalize the profession of Roma intermediaries
- To provide relevant information to IDPs, including Roma IDPs, regarding the procedure for obtaining a certificate of registration as an IDP and its practical value
- To build trust and understanding between the law enforcement, local and national authorities and the Roma, through training programs on issues combating discrimination, mediation, conduct campaigns to raise awareness.

GOOD PRACTICE OF ADDRESSING GENDER INEQUALITIES THROUGH THE STATE STRATEGY ON ROMA INCLUSION:

SWEDEN

In Sweden, in February 2013, the government adopted a coordinated long-term Strategy for Roma inclusion 2012-2032. The government allocated about 60 million Swedish kronor for the period of 2012–2015 to carry out activities in the interests of the Roma people, which is far higher than the amount that is usually allocated to the issues of national minorities. The overall goal of the Strategy is to ensure that the Roma people who are 20 years old in 2032 have the same opportunities in their lives as those who are not Roma. The main target group of the population are Roma who are in a position of social and economic isolation and are discriminated against. The primary focus is on women and children.

Implementation of the Strategy is aimed at increasing the participation and influence of representatives of the Roma minority. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions was instructed to support the work of the municipalities in developing methods for consultation and dialogue. The Government Office established a Roma Information Group (of 9 women and 11 men) to gather information and opinions on how the government can develop administrative measures and activities within this strategy.

In November 2013, the government instructed the Stockholm County Administrative Board to work in close cooperation with the Roma people to gain in-depth knowledge of current gender inequality issues between women and men, girls and boys in the Roma community.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the strategy and ensuring access of Roma women and men to human rights at the local, regional and national levels are under way, with a focus on how regular services provide Roma with access to their rights.

ANNEX 1: INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND STANDARDS CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF ROMA AND ROMA WOMEN

THE UN STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO ETHNIC MINORITIES

- Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities³⁰
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination³¹
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women³²
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights³³
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³⁴
- Convention on the Rights of the Child³⁵
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities³⁶
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families³⁷
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment³⁸
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance³⁹

KEY NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WITH REGARD TO ROMA PEOPLE

- Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities⁴⁰, one of the most comprehensive treaties designed to protect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities;
- Recommendations and Resolutions of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to the member states⁴¹;
- Recommendation Rec (2001)17 and Rec (2005)4 on the improvement of the economic situation and the employment of Roma and Travellers in Europe
- Rec (2008) on public policy regarding Roma and Travellers in Europe
- Recommendation No. 1557 (2002) on the Roma legal situation in Europe

³⁰ A/RES/47/135 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (18 December 1992). Available from <http://www.un-documents.net/a47r135.htm>

³¹ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (21 December 1965). Available from https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-2&chapter=4&clang=_en

³² A/RES/34/180 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (18 December 1979). Available from <http://www.un-documents.net/a34r180.htm>

³³ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (23 March 1976). Available from <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/unts/volume%20999/volume-999-i-14668-english.pdf>

³⁴ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (19 December 1966). Available from https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-3&chapter=4&clang=_en

³⁵ United Nations Resolution 44/25. Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 November 1990). Available from https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en

³⁶ A/RES/61/106 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (24 January 2007). Available from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/general-assembly/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-ares61106.html>

³⁷ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (18 December 1990). Available from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cmw.aspx>

³⁸ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (10 December 1984)

³⁹ International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (20 December 2006). Available from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/ced/pages/conventionced.aspx>

- Recommendation No. 1924 (2010) on the Roma situation in Europe and the relevant activities of the Council of Europe
- The separate Recommendation Rec (2006)10 of July 12, 2006 addresses the obligation of States to ensure the best possible access for Roma to healthcare services
- The Strasbourg Declaration on Roma.⁴²

GENERAL POLITICAL DOCUMENTS DEFINING THE PRIORITIES AND DIRECTIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE POLICY OF THE COE AND ITS MEMBER STATES

- Framework Convention on National Minorities (FCNM) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 10 November 1994 and entered into force on 1 February 1998
- Strasbourg Declaration on Roma CM (2010) 133 of October 20, 2010
- Declaration and Action Plan [CM (2005) 80] of May 17, 2005 adopted by the Warsaw Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states, which reaffirms an obligation to combat all forms of “exclusion” and danger towards Roma communities in Europe and promote their full and real equality
- Agreement on partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Roma –Roma and Travellers Forum on December 15, 2004
- Decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, adopted on September 5, 1996 at the 572nd meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies, on the start of the project of the Council of Europe on the Roma people in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as a number of further decisions on continuation of this project
- Action Plan of the Council of Europe for Ukraine for the period of 2017–2020
- Obligations of political parties to promote the political participation of Roma women⁴³. November 6, 2017, Strasbourg.

DOCUMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO THE MEMBER STATES

- Recommendation Committee of Ministers (CM) Rec (2008)5 of February 20, 2008 on the policy of states in relation to Roma and/or nomads in Europe
- Recommendation Rec (2006)10 of July 12, 2006 on improving access to healthcare for Roma and nomadic

⁴⁰ H (95) 10 Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (February 1995). Available from <https://rm.coe.int/16800c10cf>

⁴¹ Roma-related texts adopted at the Council of Europe Texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers. Available from <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/roma-related-texts>

⁴² CM(2010)133 final, Council of Europe High Level Meeting on Roma “The Strasbourg Declaration on Roma” (20 October 2010). Available from http://unipd-centrodirittiumani.it/public/docs/the_strasbourg_declaration_on_roma.pdf

⁴³ Pledge on Political Representation of Roma and Traveller Women (6 November 2017). Available from <https://rm.coe.int/pledge-with-signatures-/1680764c40>

people in Europe

- Recommendation Rec (2005)4 of February 23, 2005 on improving housing conditions for Roma and nomads in Europe
- Recommendation Rec (2004)14 of December 1, 2004 on the movement and temporary accommodation of nomads in Europe
- Recommendation Rec (2001)17 of November 27, 2001 on improving the economic situation and employment of Roma and nomadic people in Europe
- Recommendation Rec (2000)4 of February 3, 2000 on the education of Roma children in Europe.

DOCUMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AGAINST RACISM AND INTOLERANCE

- European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) Policy Recommendation No. 10 of March 21, 2007 on the general policy of combating racism and intolerance in the process and through school education⁴⁴
- ECRI Policy Recommendation No. 7 of February 17, 2003 on the national legislation to combat racism and intolerance in relation to Roma/Gypsies⁴⁵
- ECRI Policy Recommendation No. 3 of March 6, 1998 on the common policy to combat racism and intolerance towards Roma⁴⁶.

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE DOCUMENTS ON ROMA RIGHTS

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) through its 57 participating States has adopted a number of commitments to promote peace and security, including measures to promote improving the situation of Roma, gender equality and the rights of national minorities:

- OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area⁴⁷ (Action Plan).
- Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/08 on Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on Improving

⁴⁴ CRI (2007)6 ECRI Policy Recommendation No. 10 on The General Policy of Combating Racism and Intolerance in the Process and Through School Education. Available from <https://rm.coe.int/ecri-general-policy-recommendation-no-10-on-combating-racism-and-racia/16808b5ad5>

⁴⁵ CRI(2003)8 REV ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 7 on National Legislation to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Available from <https://rm.coe.int/ecri-general-policy-recommendation-no-7-revised-on-national-legislatio/16808b5aae>

⁴⁶ CRI(98)29 ECRI Policy Recommendation No. 3 on The Common Policy To Combat Racism and Intolerance Towards Roma. Available from <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance/recommendation-no.3>

the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area⁴⁸

- The Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/13 on Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area, With a Particular Focus on Roma and Sinti Women, Youth and Children⁴⁹
- OSCE states adopted in 2004 the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality⁵⁰
- OSCE established the Ministerial Council Decision No 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-conflict Rehabilitation⁵¹
- Ministerial Council Decision No.15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women⁵²
- The Oslo Recommendations regarding the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities (v) The Hague Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities⁵³
- Ministerial Council Decision No.7/09 on Women's Participation in Political and Public life⁵⁴
- OSCE ODIHR has particularly engaged with the issue of the identification documents for Roma in Ukraine. As an outcome of these efforts, the Odesa Declaration⁵⁵ was adopted in 2017. The participants of the Conference, organized by the OSCE ODIHR in co-operation with the State Migration Service of Ukraine, developed a set of recommendations to Ukrainian authorities to address the needs of Roma to obtain civil registration and identity documents.

⁴⁷ OSCE Ministerial Council, Decision No. 3/03, "Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area", Maastricht, 1 and 2 December 2003. Available from <http://www.osce.org/odihr/17554>

⁴⁸ OSCE Ministerial Council, Decision No. 6/08 "Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area", Helsinki, 5 December 2008. Available from <http://www.osce.org/mc/35488>

⁴⁹ OSCE Ministerial Council, Decision No. 6/08 "Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area", Helsinki, 5 December 2008. Available from <http://www.osce.org/mc/35488>

⁵⁰ OSCE Ministerial Council, Decision No. 14/04, "OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality", Sofia, 7 December 2004. Available from <http://www.osce.org/mc/23295>

⁵¹ OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No 14/05, "Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-conflict Rehabilitation", Ljubljana, 6 December 2005. Available from <http://www.osce.org/mc/17450>.

⁵² OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No.15/05, "Preventing and Combating Violence against Women", Ljubljana, 6 December 2005. Available from <http://www.osce.org/mc/17451>.

⁵³ OSCE HCNM Thematic Recommendations and Guidelines. Available from <http://www.osce.org/hcnm/thematic-recommendations-and-guidelines>.

⁵⁴ OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No.7/09, "Women's Participation in Political and Public life", Athens, 2 December 2009. Available from <http://www.osce.org/mc/40710>.

⁵⁵ OSCE Odesa Declaration: Recommendations to Overcome Obstacles in Access to Civil Registration and Identity Documents by Roma in Ukraine (2 October 2017). Available from <https://www.osce.org/odihr/347251>



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