

International Roma Conference

Bucharest, Romanian Parliament

18 December 2018

Today, 18 December 2018, we, participants, at the International Roma Conference, organised by the Romany Party “Pro-Europa” and the Romanian Parliament, at the Romanian Parliament in Bucharest, wish to remind that Roma are the biggest non-territorial ethnic minority in Europe, entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in their countries’ Constitutions and the international human rights standards, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Whereas despite much progress achieved in the integration of Roma, Roma civil society signals a significant deterioration of the human rights situation of Roma across Europe in the last two decades, with an increase in antigypsyism and hate crime, forced evictions, homelessness, gender-based violence, trafficking, forced marriage and discriminatory access to basic rights;

Whereas there is insufficient effort to tackle the limited participation of Roma individuals, NGOs and communities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of measures, programmes and projects affecting their lives at national and European levels;

We call on Governments, international and European institutions, policy makers and local authorities to take concrete measures over the next two decades to significantly improve the situation of Roma in Europe and fight anti-Gypsyism:

1. Call on the European Commission, the European Parliament and Governments to revise the existing EU Framework for National Integration Roma Strategies and national Roma integration strategies (NRIS) after 2020 in order to ensure a long-term impact and sustainability of policies and measures, by including specific measurable targets, robust monitoring, adequate funding, participatory governance and measurable participation of Roma in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at local, regional, national and European decision-making levels;
2. Call on Governments, EU institutions and international organisations to recognise anti-Gypsyism as a specific form of racism in order to ensure an efficient sanctioning of racism against Roma and their full protection under the law; as such, anti-Gypsyism must be at the core of every policy and measure for Roma integration;
3. Call on the Commission and Governments to reinforce anti-gypsyism and anti-discrimination under both the EU Framework and NRIS both as a separate goal and cross-cutting priority with specific objectives in each priority areas in order to ensure a full protection against human rights abuses against Roma and further the inclusion approach;

4. Urge EU institutions to establish an Ombudsman for anti-Gypsyism at European level and national program of anti-Gypsyism;
5. Call for the EU institutions and Governments to ensure the full and effective implementation of national anti-discrimination in legal frameworks, EU legislation and international human rights standards; amend national anti-discrimination legislation, where necessary, to be fully consistent with the EU anti-discrimination directives, including the definition of equal treatment;
6. Urge Governments, EU institutions and international organisations to promote, adopt and implement positive measures for disadvantaged Roma, to ensure that they are able to access rights and to pay particular attention to aspects of multiple and intersectional discrimination;
7. Call on the Governments, EU institutions and international organisations to ensure a gender mainstreaming and child-sensitive approach in all policies and programmes in order to tackle Roma women and children's needs simultaneously in education, health and housing policies as well as in child protection and affectively address trafficking in human beings and multiple and intersectional discrimination;
8. Call on Governments to officially recognise Roma Holocaust and its commemoration during the International Holocaust Remembrance Day; establish cultural institutes and other bodies supporting the Roma culture and identity in addition to the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, including set up a fund for Roma culture;
9. Call on Governments, EU institutions and international organisations to prioritise meaningful Roma participation and enable Roma in leading all the processes affecting their lives and not just take part in them;
10. Call on the Commission and the Governments to promote and support the establishment and proper functioning of independent Roma civil organisations, which are not driven by donors' funding;
11. Call on the European Commission and Governments to appoint a Roma Commissioner of the European Union, proposed under the Romanian Presidency to the Council of the European Union; set up a dedicated team within relevant Commission services with specific focus on anti-Gypsyism issues, including through the set-up of specific departments within existing national equality bodies;
12. Call on EU institutions and Governments to establish a Roma structure responsible for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the financing for Roma at the European Union level; consider establishing a European Agency for Roma, based on the model of the Romanian Agency for Roma;
13. Recommend the European institutions to establish a specific budget for Roma under 2020 EU Strategy and to further condition funding on the fight against discrimination and antigypsyism;
14. Call on European and national parties and parliaments to support the political participation of Roma, especially of Roma women, at local, regional, parliamentary and European elections; support a quota of Roma members of European Parliament;

15. Call for the support for the development of ecumenic communities of Roma, where desired;

16. Call for the promotion and support of a European media network for Roma, which can facilitate the free and direct voice of Roma and can help diminish negative stereotyping and prejudices against Roma;

17. Call for support for the establishment of a leadership school for Roma youth, thus facilitating the access of Roma in national, European and international institutions;

18. We undertake to fully support and contribute to the *de facto* realization of this Resolution through the development through a close monitoring and evaluation;

19. We call on Governments, EU institutions, international organisations, local authorities, civil society and all those concerned to review their commitments on Roma inclusion and human rights protection on a regular basis, based on mid and long-term targets, outcome indicators and impact assessments;

20. We affirm that we are the actors of our own lives. We hereby claim our agency to decide in our best interest. We can no longer tolerate that non-Roma define us and make decisions about what our destinies and wellbeing. We claim our lives and Romanipenback.