



PERSPECTIVE FROM THE GROUND: Opportunities for Roma Inclusion in the Western Balkans



2020 WESTERN BALKANS ROMA SUMMIT

18- 19 November 2020

KUDO platform

Translation available in Albanian, BCMS, Macedonian, Romani, and Turkish

18

November

9:00 – 9:30

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

John Stauffer, Legal Director and Deputy Executive Director, Civil Rights Defenders
Karin Hernmarck Ahlincy, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in Pristina

9:30 – 9:45

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

Romeo Franz, Member of the European Parliament

MODERATOR:

Sarah Maliqi, Programme Officer, Civil Rights Defenders

09:50 – 11:00

PANEL DISCUSSION:

How has Covid-19 exposed the structural antigypsyism and what are the long-term effects

Gabriela Hrabanova, Executive Director, ERGO network
Asenia Giagtzidou, Project Leader, Linköping Stadsmission, Sweden
Stephan Muller, External Adviser, Central Council of the German Sinti and Roma
Jonathan Lee, Advocacy & Communications Manager, European Roma Rights Center
Yücel Tatal, President, Roma Rights Association, Turkey

MODERATOR:

Jeta Xharra, Country Director, Editor-in-Chief, BIRN

Questions from the public/ Discussion

11:10 – 12:10

PANEL DISCUSSION:

The role and challenges of civil society in the times of Covid-19 in Western Balkans

Nesime Salioska, Human Rights Activist, North Macedonia
Isak Skenderi, Executive Director, VORAE, Kosovo
Ola Tare, Executive Director, Treja Center, Albania
Dragan Jokovic, Executive Director, Otaharin, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Gordana Nešović, Journalist and Editor of "Romano Them", Radio Belgrade, Serbia
Hacer Foggo, Volunteer, Deep Poverty Network, Turkey

MODERATOR:

Brejdon Xhavara, Journalist

Questions from the public/ Discussion

12:15-13:00

Institutional responses to antigypsyism in times of global crisis

Recorded interview with Dan Doghi, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, Chief of the CPRSI at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

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November

10:00 – 11:00

Shaping the future after 2020: prospects and challenges

Talk with **Bernard Rorke**, European Roma Rights Centre

MODERATOR:

Philip Merrell, Communications Officer, Civil Rights Defenders

11:30 – 13:00

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Effective advocacy and policy tools in preventing and reducing the risk of statelessness

Michelle van Burik Bihari, Roma Association Utrecht, The Netherlands
Avni Mustafa, Executive Director, Roma Versitas Kosovo
Adriatik Hasantari, Executive Director, Roma Active Albania

MODERATOR:

Nina Murray, Head of Policy & Research, European Network on Statelessness

WORKSHOPS

*Please note that participation in the workshops is based on expressed interest by participants and by invitation

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November

13:00 – 15:00

Workshop: Investigative journalism

The workshop on Investigative Journalism will focus on the discussion and use of the research methodologies and tools, creation of databases, online security and advanced searched techniques.

The workshop will be conducted by Kosovo Center for Investigative Journalism- Preportr.

13:00 – 15:00

Discussion and talk with open floor questions: Exploring the strengths and weaknesses of the Swedish Government's approach to combat hate crime against the Roma in Sweden

In 2016, the Swedish Government launched a National Plan to combat racism, which involves a pledge to counteract hate crime against religious, ethnic, sexual and gender minorities in Sweden. Additionally, the regional police districts in Malmö, Gothenburg and Stockholm have specialized units working on hate crimes. Yet, none of the hate crimes committed with an anti-roma motive that were reported between 2016-2019 has led to an indictment. Aida Samani, Legal Adviser at Civil Rights Defenders, will explore the strengths and weaknesses of the Swedish Government's approach to combat hate crime and welcomes the participants to share their views on how it could be strengthened.

Aida Samani

Works as a Legal Adviser for Civil Rights Defenders in Stockholm, focusing on hate crime, ethnic/racial profiling, the rights of Roma EU-migrants and accountability for grave international crimes. She has an L.M.M from Lund University and has previous experience from the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the United Nations in New York and has worked with the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society, where she was responsible for the agency's work on Roma inclusion.

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November

13:30 – 17:30

Workshop: Roma and LGBTI+ community by Ara Art, Czech Republic (closed participation, by CRD invitation only)

The Roma LGBTI+ workshop will convene members from the Roma LGBTI+ community in the roma discrimination challenges and issues related to identifying and addressing multiple discrimination. This interactive workshop will provide a safe environment to share skills and experiences and identify the community's needs and priorities. The workshop will be facilitated by David Tisher and Monika Mihalichkova from ARA ART.

*Please note that Civil Rights Defenders uses term Roma in line with the Council of Europe definition: definition: the term "Roma" used at the Council of Europe refers to the Roma, Sinti, Kale and related groups in Europe, including Travelers and the Eastern groups(Dom and Lom), and covers wide diversity of the groups concerned, including persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.