

SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENTS

To take place during the:

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON: SUSTAINABLE POLICIES ON ROMA AND SINTI INTEGRATION

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

The opinions and information shared during the side event convened by participants do not necessarily reflect the policy of the OSCE/ ODIHR.

Thursday, 10 July	
<i>Title: The Effective use of European Court of Human Rights judgments to implement change Convenor: ODIHR TND & CPRSI/European Roma Right Centre Time: 13.00 – 15.00 Venue: Segmentgalerie I Language: English</i>	<i>Title: Convenor: Time: Venue: Language:</i>
Friday, 11 July	Friday, 11 July
<i>Title: Building partnership between Roma communities and local authorities: participation in governance and access to rights Convenor: ODIHR Time: 12.00 – 14.00 Venue: Segmentgalerie I Language: English & Romani</i>	<i>Title: Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of Roma in Italy Convenor: Open Society Institute Time: 12.00 – 14.00 Venue: Ratsaal Language: English & Romani</i>

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the organizers

10, 11 July 2008

Hofburg, Vienna

Thursday, 10 July

Title: The Effective use of European Court of Human Rights judgments to implement change
Convenor: ODIHR TND & CPRSI/European Roma Rights Centre
Time: 13.00 – 15.00
Venue: Segmentgalerie I
Language: English

Summary: The European Court of Human Rights has in recent years made a wave of judgments relating to discriminatory treatment of Roma. Two recent cases illustrate different approaches to concluding cases. In the case of *D.H and others v Czech Republic*, the existence of a *de facto* segregated schooling led to the usual payment of damages. By contrast, the *Hadareni* case relating to anti-Romani pogroms in Romania was unusual in that it led to a friendly settlement with the Romanian government to a range of measures aimed at ameliorating the situation of the Roma locally.

These two different outcomes present the question: to what extent are the judgments of the court able to effect long-term change? Held jointly with the European Roma Rights Centre, a key promoter of litigation at the European Court, the event will use these cases as examples, to consider how to ensure that a successful litigation strategy transforms into concrete changes for Roma populations. The content will include

- Overview of the two cases and their outcomes;
- How the European Court's judgments are given effect;
- Whether the cases have been effective at delivering change, and if not why;
- Whether the principles enunciated by the ECtHR are translated into national legal systems;
- The extent to which similar friendly settlements should be considered in future ECtHR cases.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 11 July

Title: Building partnership between Roma communities and local authorities: participation in governance and access to rights
Convenor: ODIHR CPRSI and ATP
Time: 12.00 – 14.00
Venue: Segmentgalerie I
Language: English & Romani

Summary: Denial of basic rights - such as access to education, medical care, access to justice - discrimination, marginalization, violence and prejudices are still realities for Roma and Sinti throughout the OSCE region.

This side event wants to present and discuss a number of local initiatives – from Albania, Italy, Romania, and Bulgaria – that aim at overcoming obstacles Roma still face to effectively participate in civil, social and political life and access their rights. The side event will discuss how Roma participation in governance and outreach to Roma communities through, for example, cultural mediation and peer education, have been valuable tools in achieving this. The discussion will also highlight what challenges and limitations are still faced when implementing effective responses at the local level.

Refreshments will be provided

Title: Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of Roma in Italy
Convenor: Open Society Institute
Time: 12.00 – 14.00
Venue: Ratsaal
Language: English & Romani

Summary: The Side Event on *Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of Roma in Italy* is going to discuss the situation of Roma in Italy in the context of the OSCE human dimension commitments related to fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy and the rule of law and the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti.

The discussions are going to be based on the key findings of the fact-finding report under the working title of *Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of Roma in Italy* - conducted at the end of May by an International Delegation of the Open Society Institute, European Roma Rights Center, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Romani Criss and the Roma Civic Alliance in Romania.

The purpose of the fact-finding was to collect data on the racist and xenophobic cases against Roma in Italy in the present political, social and cultural Italian context. Considering the increasing racism and xenophobia against Roma in Italy and taking account of the new legislative initiatives with regards to migrants both within Italy and the European Union, the current report aims to objectively inform on the human rights violations against Roma in Italy and to provide tools for EU and other international institutions, the Romanian, Italian and other governments and civil society to adequately address the situation of Roma and migrants within the European Union member states.

Refreshments will be provided