

Gwendolyn Albert, independent human rights activist

Working Session 15, Tolerance and non-discrimination II (continued), including Roma and Sinti issues, including implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti;

I would like to thank the **Contact Point for Roma and Sinti** for organizing a recent conference on redress for women, including Romani women, who have been subjected to sterilization without their informed consent. Experts from countries that have provided or are about to provide redress to women who have suffered these human rights abuses, including Romani women, used that occasion to describe past and future redress processes from Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To the **delegation of Ukraine** I would like to echo the calls from the delegation of the United States of America and from Romani civil society in Ukraine that there be no impunity for the perpetrators of the August pogrom in the Odessa area and that they be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

To the **delegation of the Czech Republic**, I recommend the Government avail itself of Norway's experiences with providing ex gratia compensation in order to redress the hundreds of women who have survived these harms and remain unredressed (Norway's approach will be described in the forthcoming report from the CPRSI on the 1 June 2016 meeting on this issue in Prague). The survivors of these abuses and their civil society allies in the Czech Republic are disappointed that the Government proposed a bill on compensation for these abuses last year and then failed to adopt it, and a coalition of NGOs including women's organizations has [criticized other proposed legislation](#) on the general provision of free legal aid as failing to meet the needs of these women for access to justice and their right to effective remedy. I also echo the call from the delegation of the United States of America that action be accelerated to remove the pig farm from the former concentration camp site at Lety and construct a dignified memorial there that meets the requirements of the Romani Holocaust survivors and their loved ones. Since the European Commission has begun infringement proceedings against the Czech Republic regarding the Racial Equality Directive and Romani children's access to education, I recommend the organization, funding and long-term implementation of the collection of data disaggregated by ethnicity from all schools to ascertain what ethnic distribution patterns are like in education; the investigation of Romani children's experiences of bullying, discrimination and ostracism in the schools; and the training of educators to transform educational environments, including at preschool level, into ones where non-discrimination and tolerance are the rule and the standard, not the exception.

To the **delegation of Slovakia** I recommend the Government avail itself of Norway's experiences with providing ex gratia compensation in order to redress the hundreds of women who have survived these harms and remain unredressed (Norway's approach will be described in the forthcoming report from the CPRSI on the 1 June 2016 meeting on this issue in Prague). Since the European Commission has begun infringement proceedings against Slovakia regarding the Racial Equality Directive and Romani children's access to education, I recommend the organization, funding and long-term implementation of the collection of data disaggregated by ethnicity from all schools to ascertain what ethnic distribution patterns are like in education; the investigation of Romani children's experiences of bullying, discrimination and ostracism in the schools; and the training of educators to transform educational environments, including at preschool level, into ones where non-discrimination and tolerance are the rule and the standard, not the exception.

To the **delegation of Hungary**. Since the European Commission has begun infringement proceedings against Hungary regarding the Racial Equality Directive and Romani children's access to education, I recommend the organization, funding and long-term implementation of the collection of data disaggregated by ethnicity from all schools to ascertain what ethnic distribution patterns are like in education; the investigation of Romani children's experiences of bullying, discrimination and ostracism in the schools; and the training of educators to transform

educational environments, including at preschool level, into ones where non-discrimination and tolerance are the rule and the standard, not the exception.

To the delegations of all Participating states and intergovernmental organizations, extensive recommendations to various stakeholders on the segregation of Roma children in education in Europe were published last year in a condensed format in the publication: [Segregation of Roma Children in Education: Successes and Challenges](#).