

## **WEBINAR: COMBATING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROMA AND SINTI**

Online event, 05 October 2020, 14.30-17.00 p.m. CET

Within the 1990 Copenhagen Document, the OSCE participating States clearly and unequivocally condemned racism, xenophobia and discrimination against anyone, and in this context they have recognized the particular problems of Roma. The 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area is built on the central goal of combating racism and discrimination against the Roma and Sinti, including women and youth, providing a comprehensive list of recommendations to participating States and OSCE institutions and structures, to implement on a wide scale and help improving the situation of Roma.<sup>1</sup>

The webinar will provide a forum to raise awareness among OSCE participating States about the on-going state of racism and discrimination, and continuing challenges faced by Roma and Sinti, as well to discuss actions to be undertaken by participating States and other stakeholders in view of increasing the effectiveness of efforts and measures to combating racism against Roma and Sinti.

**Moderator:** Dan Pavel Doghi, Chief of the CPRSI, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

Interpretation will be available from English into Romani, German and Russian languages.

### **Speakers:**

**Ms. Margareta Matache**, Director of the [Harvard FXB Roma Program](#)



Margareta (Magda) Matache is a justice activist and scholar from Romania, director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights' [Roma Program](#), and a Harvard instructor. In 2012, she was awarded a Hauser postdoctoral fellowship at the FXB Center, where she founded

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<sup>1</sup> OSCE MC 3/03, Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area, Chapter III, Combating racism and discrimination, Maastricht, 1-2 December 2003, <<https://www.osce.org/odihr/17554>>.

the University's first and only Roma Program. Her research and teaching focus on the history and manifestations of anti-Roma racism as well as the global history of race and racism.

From 2005 to 2012, Dr. Matache was the Executive Director of Romani CRISS, a Roma rights organization.

In 2017, with Jacqueline Bhabha and Andrzej Mirga, she co-edited [Realizing Roma Rights](#), an investigation of anti-Roma racism in Europe. Also, along with Jacqueline Bhabha and Caroline Elkins, Dr. Matache is the co-editor of *Time for reparations*, a forthcoming volume exploring the issue of reparations across a broad range of historical and geographic contexts and academic disciplines. She completed her Master's in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and her doctoral degree in Political Sciences from the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Bucharest.

**Mr. Romani Rose**, Chairman of the [Central Council for German Sinti and Roma](#) and the [Documentation and Culture Centre of German Sinti and Roma](#)



Since June 1979 Mr. Rose has led the work for the civil rights of German Sinti and Roma before the eyes of the German as well as the international public; he has also fought for their protection from racism and discrimination, for compensation for the survivors of the Holocaust – at the same time announcing the magnitude and the historical importance of the genocide of 500,000 Sinti and Roma in National Socialist occupied Europe. In May 1995, in cooperation with the member organizations of the Central Council, Rose achieved recognition for German Sinti and Roma as a national minority in Germany with their own minority language, connected with their goal of equal participation in social and political life.

**Mr. Jonathan Lee**, Advocacy & Communications Manager at [European Roma Rights Centre \(ERRC\)](#)



Jonathan is a Roma rights activist and writer who works at the European Roma Rights Centre as their Advocacy & Communications Manager. He comes from a Welsh Romani family in the South of Wales, and has spent time working at a community level with Romani and Traveller groups in England while completing his undergraduate and Masters studies at the University of Exeter. He writes regularly for several publications and publishes articles in numerous international news outlets on human rights issues facing Romani communities throughout Europe.

**Ms. Jelena Jovanovic**, Coordinator of the [European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup](#)



Jelena is coordinating the work on anti-racism in the European Parliament, mostly assisting different Members of the European Parliament to address structural racism in the European Union and beyond. This includes policy work, awareness raising, education and allying with different actors such as the European Commission, racial justice advocates etc. Jelena graduated

from a Gender Studies Erasmus Mundus program and she employs intersectionality to her fight against racial injustice. Before ARDI, she worked as a Policy Coordinator in European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network, focusing on developing recommendations on how to combat antigypsyism for the post-2020 EU Roma Framework and the European Commission's funded monitoring project known as Roma Civil Monitor. The latest publication is a book that she co-edited and co-authored - "The Romani Women's Movement: Struggles and Debates in Central and Eastern Europe".

**Mr. Ognyan Isaev**, Director of Educational Achievement at the [Trust for Social Achievement](#)



Is currently the Director of Educational Achievement at the Trust for Social Achievement in Bulgaria, where he works on designing, implementing and monitoring of projects/programs, focused on inclusive and intercultural education. Ognyan is also a Roma rights activist with knowledge and experience in community development and organizing, worked on empowerment of the oppressed communities on overcoming specific forms of racisms, as well he is a professional debater, ethical Media and journalism professional, who carried out affirmative actions at grassroots, regional, national and international levels. He has publications in several Bulgarian and foreign Media outlets on topics related to: equal opportunities, social justice, and challenges that Roma community in Bulgaria face. Ognyan graduated from the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen with BA degree in Journalism. He also graduated from the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo with MA degree in Psychology.