

## **Roma Women**

### **Gender dimension**

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Equality of opportunity for women and men

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The absence of the woman issue on a local and national level is a barrier for its full discussion on an international level.

There are no relevant institutions, institutions that will work on woman issues primarily on Roma woman issues, in the South – East European countries. The need for this kind of institutions is urgent. There are not practical field activities for direct involvement of Roma women in the institutions of the system.

Roma woman is not an important subject in the political agendas of the governing political parties on a local and national level.

Although the barrier is partially eliminated on an international level, it is not being followed the path for Europeanization of these processes on a local and national level as far as Roma woman issue is concerned.

We are still witnesses of discriminating and racial acts over Roma woman, particularly sterilization, discrimination during employment, inadequate health participation, education, stereotypes and negative presentation by media.

It is multiple the discrimination of Roma woman by the Roma as well as by the majority community based on gender, nationality, moral restraint and customs. All of this points the need for taking Roma woman issue as a serious political problem, problem for full participation in democratic processes.

A serious need is the lack of monitoring mechanisms that are intended for and led by Roma women on a local, national and international level.

RNC the urgent need influence on effective activation of woman issue. Years backwards, Roma woman issue was treated and still is treated in the frames of various international woman programs and institutions such as ON – CEDAW, Resolution on Roma woman adopted by the European Parliament

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Since woman issue is not politically accepted, it is necessary to undertake activities that are more intensive by using most of the internationally adopted documents that can help in more effective lobbying for achievement of positive results.

The OSCE ODIHR member countries should include Roma activists, intellectuals that are presented equally by both genders (males and females).

In the process the development of the following issues:

1. Initiation of effective instruments for involvement of Roma woman in woman programs as well as in the institutions that treat the woman issue
2. Implementation of adopted documents and regulations with international character on a national and local level in all countries that signed various conventions, resolutions, etc.
3. Building of intra-political Roma platforms for Roma women that will aim at political influence over the politics of the European countries.
4. Initiation of more intensive communication and discussion in ERTF.