

**Reply statement of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working Session 16 (specifically selected topic): “Roma and Sinti” of
2019 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
delivered by Andrij Yurash, director of Department for Religious Affairs and
Nationalities of the Ministry of culture of Ukraine
(26 September 2019)**

Mr. Moderator, dear colleagues,

We completely support the statement of the Moderator, Mr. Dan Dogi, about necessity to use internationally accepted definition in relation to the Roma community. Actually Roma and not others as it permanently experiences some participants of our Meeting, the Russian delegation in particular.

Also we would like to present several facts that are especially important in the context of several statements that have been made today by some representatives of non-governmental organizations, that are trying to use any opportunity to accuse Ukraine not because of the objective situation in the country, but because that is designed for them role in Russia’s organized ideological campaign against Ukraine.

I am sure that that is completely understandable for anyone at this meeting.

During 2018 almost 4000 (3976) representatives of the Roma community has received their identification documents (passports), what is in around 20 % more than during previous year 2017 (3222 persons received their passports).

Totally during 2013-2018 14727 people from the Roma community has received passports in the country.

So, due to active position of the state in this dimension, realistically estimated percentage of people without identification documents has decreased in Ukraine seriously – from around 14-17% six years ago to 8-9 percent now.

So, because of the special politics of the State Migration Service that is doing its outmost to increase participation of the Roma community if the political life of the country, its participation in the presidential as well as parliament elections, which took place recently, was completely ensured.

Thank you for your attention.