

ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, Poland
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Questions for the session 15

Tolerance and non discrimination II
Roma/Sinti; Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for Roma and Sinti Issues

In the OSCE Conference on Antisemitism and other forms of Intolerance, the NGO “The voice of the Roms”:

modifying the paragraph 72 of the Action plan as follows:

“consider measures to ensure the respect, protection and promotion of the Romani language and its teaching, and of a Roma culture as an integral part of the Roma and Sinti cultural heritage as and integral part of the European cultural heritage”.

Indeed, as systematic bearers of at least two cultures, the Romani culture and that of the country where we live, we are aware and appreciate the differences, since diversity is richness. This new formulation of the article 72 would allow for differences to be used as a tool of improvement and prevent their use for segregation, discrimination and even economic interests whose burden is supported by about 12 million Roma in Europe. This could lead also to consider commonalties in social and economic issues faced by a part of Romani population but shared also with other segments of European societies, and treat them as such. To mention only one of the added values of this approach, it would avoid racism that takes origin in special measures applied to Roma while excluding other populations from their scope.