

**STATEMENT
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HDIM.NGO/119/06
4 October 2006

“IMPREUNA” AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**At the meeting “*THE GENDER DIMENSION OF THE ROMA AND SINTI AFFAIRS:
TRADITIONS AND CHANGE, INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS,
GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN ROMANI MOVEMENT*”**

**Organized by OSCE/ODIHR CONTACT POINT FOR ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES,
ROMANI CRISS and OSI ROMA PARTICIPATION PROGRAM AND JOINT
ROMANI WOMEN’S INITIATIVE**

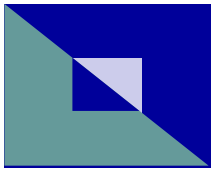
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor for me and for the organization I represent to take part to this meeting. On this occasion I would like to thank to the organizers for the invitation.

Our presentation is focused on the Romani women from Romania.

The multiple-type discrimination is the situation that Romani women have to face with. The multiple-type discrimination of Romani women, term agreed also by the Romanian Government, is unfortunately poorly approached in the programs, both those governmental and of Roma civil society from Romania. This is due perhaps, also to the complexity of the problems which Roma ethnics have to face with in general, to the lack of the Roma ethnic human resources involved in the field of the equality of chances, and also because of poor / lack of collaboration with the feminist movement from Romania.

At the same time, the cultural / traditional differences, the origin environment – rural / urban lead to a variety of positions of Romani ethnic woman – the traditional woman; the Romani woman to declare her ethnic origin, but who does not wear the traditional clothes; or the Romani woman assimilated by the majority, without assuming her



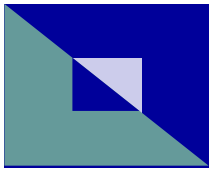
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ethnic origin. The different aspects / the situation of Romani woman favor the lack of cultural / intellectual models.

In order to improve the condition of Romani woman from Romania, we recommend:

1. The introduction and the promotion of the gender perspective in Roma segment, part of the strategy of every institution, both governmental and non – governmental; creation of a department – Roma Minorities – within the National Agency for Equality of Chances between Women and Men and of a department – Equality of Chances between Women and Men – within the National Agency for Roma.
2. Performance of comprehensive studies concerning the condition of Romani women from Romania.
3. Initiation of several programs aimed for the equality of chances in Roma communities.
4. Promotion of the participation of Romani women in public and political life, where Romani women should take part equally with men to consultative mechanisms or of another nature aimed to increase the access in all the aspects to political and public life.
5. The systematical inclusion of Romani woman in the process of development of the national strategies, at each development level of policies, within their implementation and assessment, by close consulting and equal representation in important positions compared to men.
6. Payment of special attention to Romani women in developing their abilities and opportunities, in order to promote them as active participants, (intellectual) models for the communities from which they come.
7. Creation of an Active Network (Work Group) of Romani Women from Romania; enticing young women from the Roma communities to this network – creation of some intellectual models in the communities from which they come.
8. The permanent collaboration between Romani women and the movement of the women of the majority from Romania.

Respectfully,



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Crina Morteau