

Intervention on implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma in relation to Police

Mr. Chairman/Moderation,

After years of efforts there are various policy papers on Roma at international and national level. We have national strategies, Roma Decade, OSCE Action Plan etc.

This is the moment, perhaps, for the OSCE to define certain priorities of the Action Plan and to promote the focus on comprehensive document. Prioritizing of the certain issues, chapters or measures would generate clarification of the review methodology and assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan by the Member States and complete the “package” based on complementary commitments.

The relation between Roma and police could internationally discussed only at OSCE forums and in the framework of the Action Plan. Therefore it should be one of key priorities of the OSCE Action Plan.

Specific cases of excessive use of force by the police toward Roma communities are already well documented.

Questions related to the recent events about police misconduct and excessive use of force and problems related to housing in Romania as well as the in France and forced evictions in Turkey Istanbul. The questions also focusing on the rebuilding of the lives and safety of Kosovar Romani refugees and internally displaced persons. All the questions prepared by Romani representatives were posted on the ICARE website www.icare.to and they are available for all the delegations online. The questions for the Member States related to Romani issues are already placed in pigeon boxes of 56 Member states:

Here, I would have some specific questions:

1. In Skopje CPRSI, HCNM and SPMU promised to establish a fund for Roma NGOs in order to address the issue on police and Roma. Is there any development regarding this commitment?
2. As general approach of the OSCE is to assist the Member States upon the request - Which state is ready to invite HCNM, SPMU, and CPRSI for undertaking the action regarding police and Roma in the framework of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma?

Recommendations

1. OSCE should promote priorities of the Action Plan and support the Member States toward their implementation.
2. Member States should request from the OSCE institutions and field operations to assist them in implementation of measures related to Police.
3. OSCE should establish a fund to support initiatives on Roma and police

To conclude all questions are delivered to respected delegations also in written form, therefore we ask you to answer them in written form to ODHIR Contact Point For Roma and Sinti. Therefore we call upon the Contact point to collect all the answers for the questions in written form, and we ask them to distribute to the registered Romani organization for the HDIM 2006