

Second day of the Twentieth Meeting
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DECISION No. 4/13
ENHANCING OSCE EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT
THE ACTION PLAN ON IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF ROMA
AND SINTI WITHIN THE OSCE AREA, WITH A PARTICULAR
FOCUS ON ROMA AND SINTI WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, including the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/08 on enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/09 on enhancing OSCE efforts to ensure Roma and Sinti sustainable integration,

Recalling the commitments made in those documents and in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality relating directly to the situation of Roma and Sinti women and girls, and acknowledging the importance of their implementation in all policies addressing the situation of Roma and Sinti,

Recognizing that various efforts such as the development and implementation of national action plans and strategies as well as creation of specific programmes and policies aiming at improvement of situation of Roma and Sinti have been undertaken in the OSCE area and the implementation of these initiatives at the local level is essential for their fulfilment,

Taking note of the findings and priority action recommendations contained in the ODIHR's second status report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, released in 2013,

Taking note of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting that took place on 7–8 November 2013 on Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti,

Concerned that Roma and Sinti continue to be the targets of racism and bias-motivated violence in the OSCE area,

Noting, in this context, that Roma and Sinti women and girls are particularly vulnerable to multiple forms of discrimination, as well as to violence and harassment,

Recognizing that education is key to opening up greater opportunities for equal participation in the social, political, economic and cultural life for Roma and Sinti, including Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, in particular girls, to exercise their rights and to promote their full inclusion,

Convinced that the participating States should seek to provide Roma and Sinti with opportunities to contribute to the policies that affect them and that Roma and Sinti should be partners and share responsibility for implementing those policies designed to promote and facilitate their integration,

Recognizing that Roma and Sinti women's rights and equality between men and women, in particular, need to be supported and promoted by State policies and institutions, with the active involvement of Roma and Sinti women,

Considering that Roma and Sinti youth and children will in the future be the main stakeholders in promoting inclusion for Roma and Sinti people and communities, as well as promoting their full participation in the social, civic, political, economic and cultural life of the societies in which they live,

Calls on participating States to:

1. Enhance their efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, including through better monitoring and assessment of the strategies, policies and measures regarding Roma and Sinti integration;
2. Prevent further marginalization and exclusion of Roma and Sinti and address the rise of discrimination and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti, including against Roma and Sinti migrants, by:
 - 2.1 Enhancing their efforts to promote tolerance of and combating prejudices against Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.2 Unequivocally and publicly condemning any violence targeting Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.3 Countering negative stereotypes of Roma and Sinti in the media taking into account relevant OSCE freedom of the media commitments;
 - 2.4 Enacting or strengthening, where necessary, legislation and policy measures to address discrimination and bias-motivated crime against Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.5 Building the capacity of law enforcement agencies and personnel to identify, collect data, investigate and prosecute hate crimes against Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.6 Taking necessary measures to ensure access to effective remedies for victims of discrimination and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti, through judicial, administrative, mediation and conciliation procedures;

- 2.7 Enhancing the participation of Roma and Sinti in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of the policies that affect them, including by fostering Roma and Sinti political participation and by supporting voter education among Roma and Sinti;
- 2.8 Promoting inclusive dialogue within society in order to raise awareness of the role that intolerance and discrimination against Roma and Sinti can play in threatening social cohesion, stability and security;
- 2.9 Addressing the root causes of discrimination and intolerance against Roma and Sinti, including through enhanced comprehensive educational and awareness raising efforts to tackle prejudice and promote mutual respect and understanding;
- 2.10 Supporting civil society in their efforts to represent and provide assistance to Roma and Sinti victims of hate crimes and discrimination;
- 2.11 Taking necessary measures to increase Roma and Sinti active participation and ownership to promote their social inclusion;
- 2.12 Taking measures to ensure the security, well-being and health of Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, including by addressing domestic violence, early marriages and trafficking in human beings, including, where necessary, by providing access to rehabilitative support;
3. Focus their efforts and the necessary resources on education as an important factor for improving the situation of Roma and Sinti and promoting their greater social and economic integration by means that could include:
 - 3.1 Taking active measures to ensure equal access to and participation for Roma and Sinti youth and children in education at all levels in State-provided education, including at the early education, primary and secondary school levels;
 - 3.2 Addressing the high dropout rate for Roma and Sinti secondary school students, and paying due attention to the specific problems faced by Roma and Sinti girls in that regard, while taking active measures to encourage participation of Roma and Sinti youth in higher levels of education;
 - 3.3 Promoting greater access and taking appropriate measures to facilitate enrolment for Roma and Sinti students in tertiary education, including through scholarship programmes;
 - 3.4 Promoting development of Roma and Sinti integration programmes at the national and local levels, including education programmes and supplementary study courses, inter alia on Roma and Sinti culture and history;
 - 3.5 Renewing efforts to eliminate segregation of Roma and Sinti in education at all levels;

4. Take active measures to support the empowerment of Roma and Sinti women, including by:
 - 4.1 Stepping up their efforts to ensure that Roma and Sinti women can enjoy and exercise their human rights and increasing efforts to combat discrimination against them at all levels, including, where necessary, in the areas of education, employment, health care and housing, and engaging in partnership with Roma and Sinti civil society organizations and Roma and Sinti people to this end;
 - 4.2 Promoting the effective and equal participation of Roma and Sinti women in public and political life, including through the promotion of women's access to public office, public administration and decision making positions;
 - 4.3 Encouraging equal access for Roma and Sinti women to employment, internships and mentoring opportunities;
 - 4.4 Targeting specific measures, where appropriate, aimed at promoting equal access to and participation in education for Roma and Sinti girls at all levels;
5. Encourage the relevant OSCE executive structures to enhance their activities meant to build the capacities of Roma and Sinti women and youth organizations, with a view to promoting empowerment, education and non-discrimination among Roma and Sinti women and youth, and to encourage the participation of Roma and Sinti women on an equal footing with men in all areas of their interest;

Calls for continued co-ordination within the OSCE and co-operation with relevant international actors with the goal of enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area;

Encourages the OSCE PA to continue its efforts aimed at improving the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.