

Your silence kills Roma, your voice can save Europe!

We, the participants of the Roma Youth Conference in Strasbourg, are concerned about the current rise of extremism, racism and anti-gypsyism in many European countries, and particularly about the unbearable increase of violence and hatred in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary and other places across the Europe.

Right now, all over Bulgaria, including major cities, extremist groups led by the far-right political parties VMRO and ATAKA and joined by football hooligans are running pogroms in Roma neighborhoods creating a climate of fear and insecurity.

Since September more than eight anti-Roma marches were organized in the north of Czech Republic. The increase of violence and clashes between Roma and non-Roma are becoming a daily terror for local people. Slogans such as “gypsies to the gas chambers” remind us of Nazi persecution of Jews and Roma.

In Hungary series of murders happened over the last two years, Roma houses were burned and the mobilization of the paramilitary organizations was tolerated by local authorities.

In other countries, especially in the Western Europe such as in Italy, France and Germany we are witnessing the violation of Roma migrants’ rights.

We appeal to the Council of Europe, to the member states of the European Union, to the European Parliament, European Commission and the European Council to address urgently the situation particularly in Bulgaria, Hungary and the Czech Republic and we urge all international stakeholders to take a clear stand against the rise of anti-gypsyism and violence across Europe.

We urge your prompt reaction to these events, which are unlawful and threaten the standards we have set ourselves in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe. Far-right political parties need to be condemned and sidelined; propagation and incitement of hatred, discrimination, violence and ethnic cleansing must be stopped. We urge you to provide protection from violence to all citizens by closely monitoring acts of violence, to promptly investigate and punish any illegal activities, with careful consideration of racial motivation.

We as young Roma and non-Roma stand together for mutual respect *for ALL in ONE Society.*

Strasbourg, 28th September 2011

ternYpe - International Roma Youth Network
FERYP Forum of European Roma Young People
Pakiv European Network
ERGO Network
Roma Active Albania
Youth Network for Development (Bulgaria)
Amaro Drom (Germany)
Romaversitas (Hungary)
Roma Onlus (Italy)
RROMA (Macedonia)
Harangos (Poland)
Roma Education Centre (Slovakia)
Ternikalo (Spain)
Gipsy Eye (Romania)
Slovo 21 (Czech Republic)
Radomskie Stowarzyszenie Romów Romano Wast (PL)
Roma Youth Centre (Macedonia)
Edrom (Turkey)

Romane Siklovne (Spain)
Jyvaes Roma (Finland)
Romano Suno Roma Student Association (Romania)
European Roma Information Office
Radio Patrin (Netherlands)
Roma National Centre (Moldova)
Gypsy Council EU Roma (Great Britan)
Antirropon (Greece)
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Kulturne Enter (Poland)
Seif (Norway)
Amenca – Association culturelle des Roms (France)
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