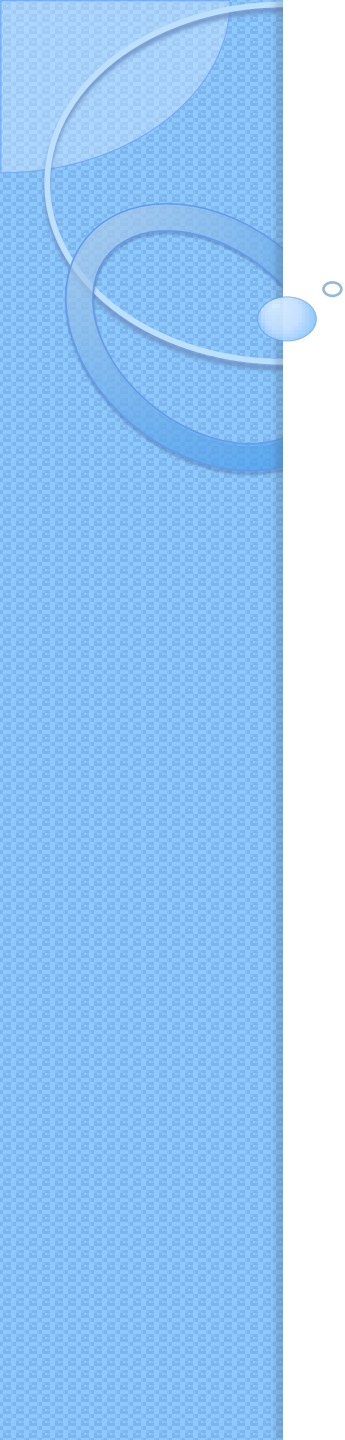


# **Sixth International Roma Women Conference**

**Women and Political Representation:  
the case of Roma and Traveller  
Women**



**Special measures  
to promote and support  
participation and political  
representation  
by Roma and Traveller Women:  
a global perspective**

Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson,  
UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial  
Discrimination

# International Covenant on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination 1965

- 178 ratifications, all Council of Europe and EU member states.
- Prohibits racism on purpose and/or in effect
- General Recommendations on Racism and
  - Roma (27)
  - Women (25)
  - Administration of Justice (31)
  - Hate Speech (35)
  - Non-Citizens (30)
  - Special Measures (20)

# Current context

- Toxic global discourse fuelling racism
- Increase in hate speech, hate crime and racial profiling
- Widening differentials for marginalised minorities, in
  - Health
  - education
  - employment
  - accommodation
- “Our” fears vs. their rights

# CERD: Roma and Travellers, and Roma and Traveller Women

- All Concluding Observations to CoE and EU countries e.g. in 2015/17 Russian Federation, Italy, Spain, UK, Switzerland, Germany, Cyprus, Greece
- Early Warning Urgent Action Decisions, EU and CoE, France, and UK
- Roma and Traveller Women:
  - health, including reproductive rights
  - education and employment
  - violence and life choices

# Roma and Traveller Women: Participating and Representing

- Acknowledge and celebrate history of courage, creativity and leadership
- Address barriers –
  - racism
  - women's rights
  - intersectionality between racism and sexism
- Create conditions
  - support courage and conviction
  - mainstream political and women's leaders public support
  - know what you are talking about - disaggregated

# Special Measures

- Roma and Traveller Women's Equality and Human Rights Audits
- Targets, *with timelines*, for
  - Access
  - Participation
  - Outcomes.
- Direct support for women in leadership positions

# Questions and Comments

- Roma and Traveller Women –
  - not homogeneous
  - rights differentials for residents and citizens
- Political representation or/and democratic participation?
- Control and corralling or/and inclusion.
- Which women? Why? In whose interests?
- Aspirations and outcomes