

Roma as a European minority in the context of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

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European Roma and Travellers Forum
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CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

THE ROMA

Size and representation of the Roma
community in the
Council of Europe Member States

1

THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION AND THE ROMA

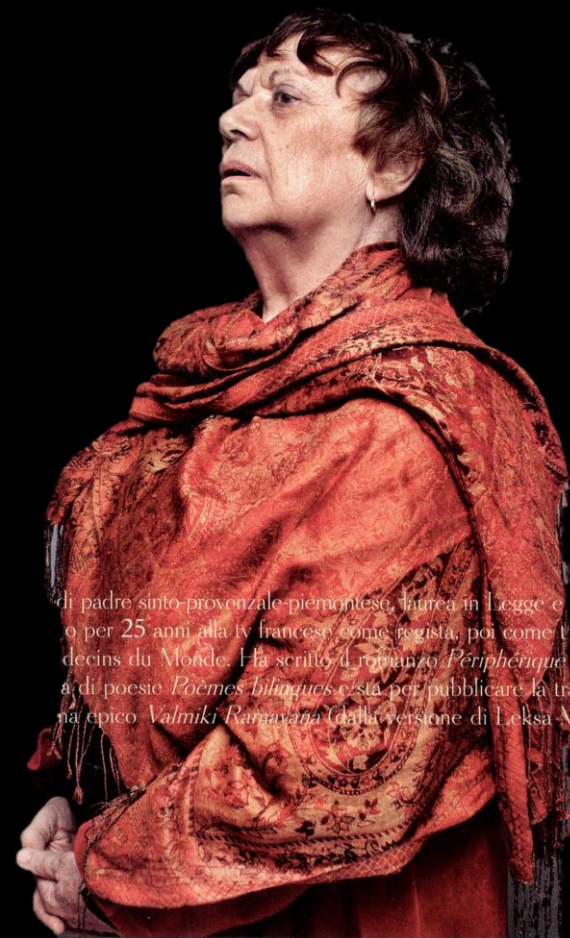
To which extent the protection of Roma
is facilitated by the convention?

2

HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD?

Proposals for the future

3



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o per 25 anni alla tv francese come regista, poi come t
decins du Monde. Ha scritto il romanzo *Périphérique*
a di poesie *Poèmes bilingues* e sta per pubblicare la tr
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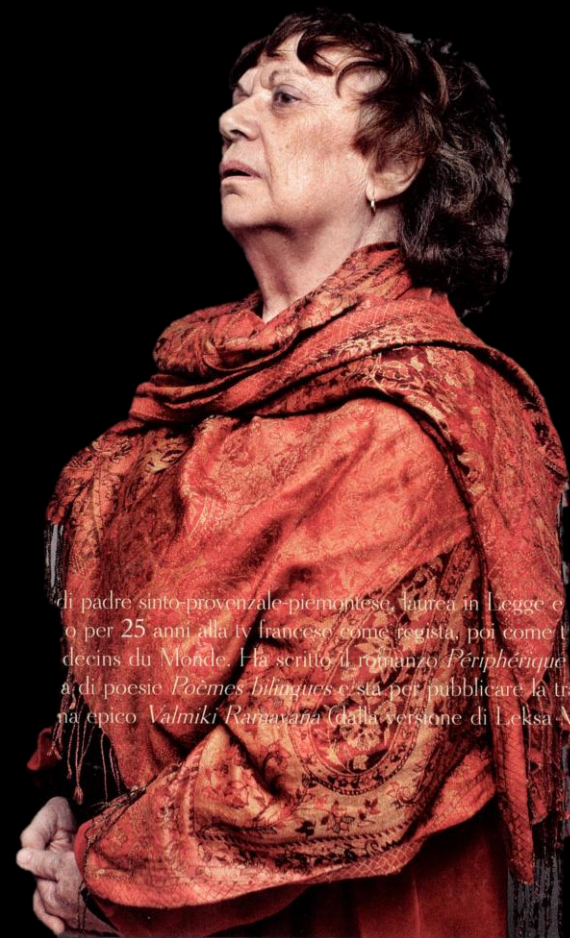
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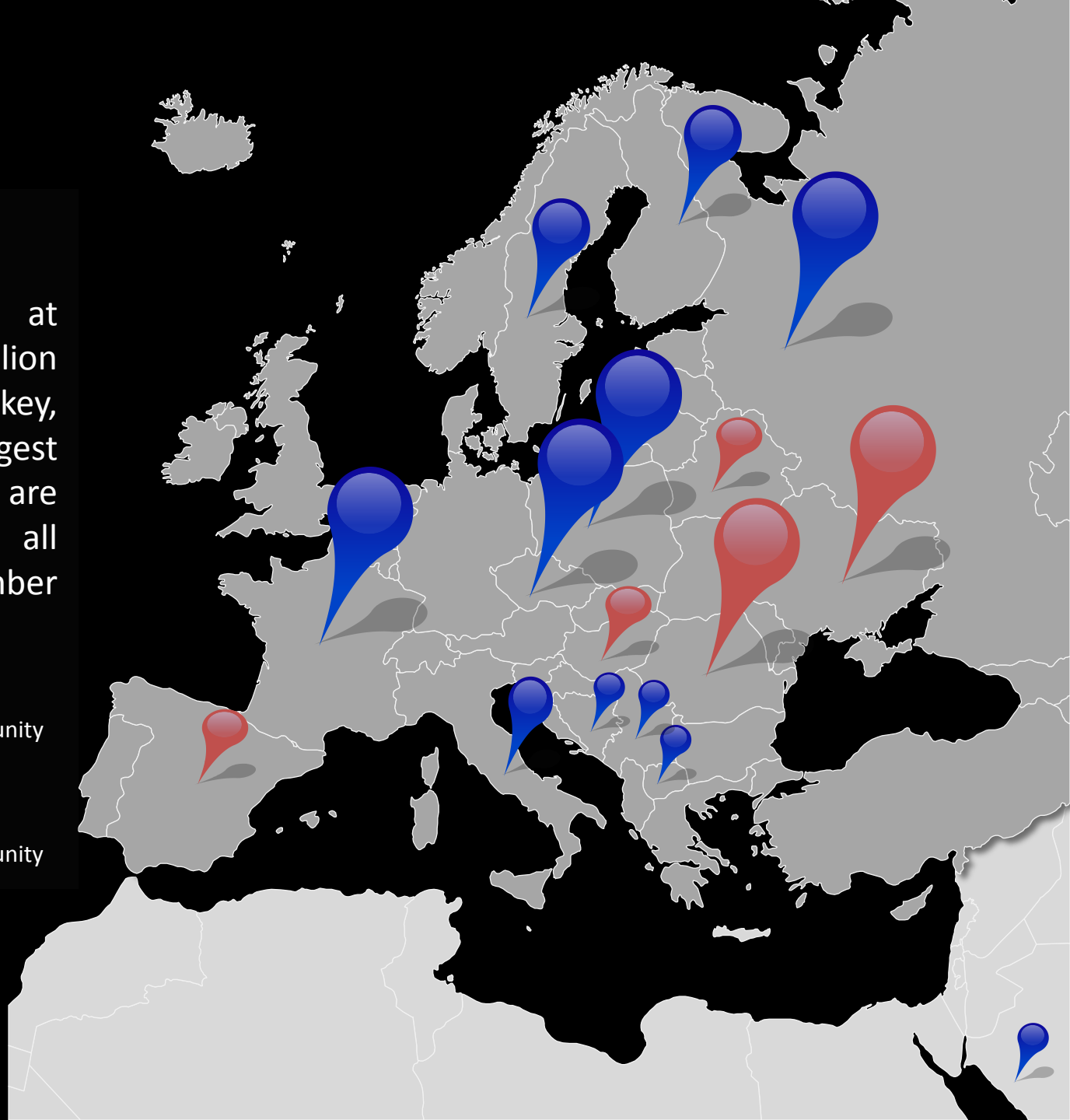
The Roma, estimated at between 10 and 15 million people, including Turkey, constitute the largest minority in Europe and are present practically in all Council of Europe member states.



The size of the Roma community
between 1 – 6 million

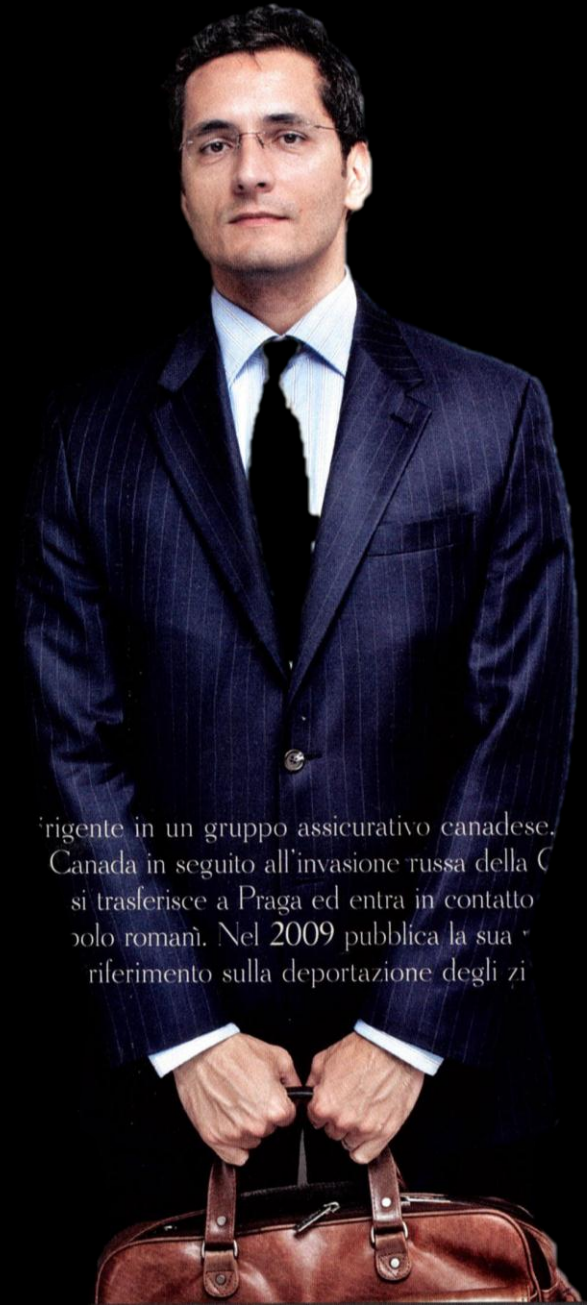


The size of the Roma community
Less than 1 million



Roma are a greatly diverse group of individuals and communities, united by a common origin, a common language (Romanes) and a long history of persecution.

The status of the Roma in the CoE Member states is different from state to state, but at the same time seems that discrimination and exclusion are common features for Roma regardless of the state they are in.



irigente in un gruppo assicurativo canadese.
Canada in seguito all'invasione russa della C
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THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION AND THE ROMA

To which extent the protection of Roma
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“it may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that’s pretty important “

Martin Luther King, Jr

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities has the quality of being the first legally binding multilateral instrument that focuses on the protection of the rights of the minorities' members.

1

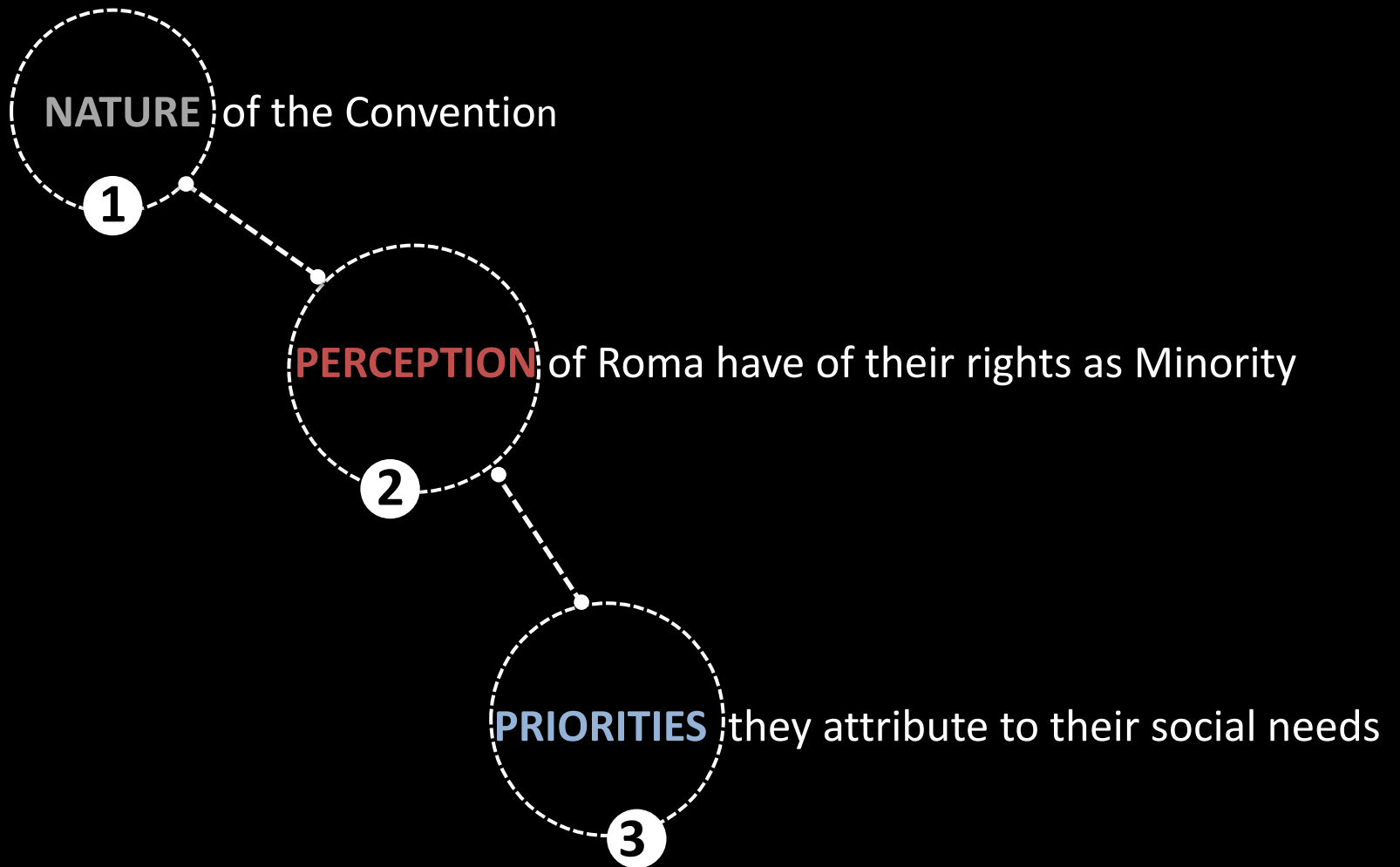
Little known within the Roma community

2

Little used by Roma in favor for their rights



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NATURE OF THE CONVENTION

- Convention perceived as a loose set of principles;
- No definition of “national minorities” – Subject of the FCPNM are citizens;
- Enforcement mechanism TOO WEAK;
- Lack of complaints procedures.
- Anti-Gypsyism

NATURE OF THE CONVENTION

2

PERCEPTION ROMA HAVE ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS

- Roma do not necessarily see themselves as national minority;
- Recognition of an ethnic minorities can be restrictive of rights.

Comment: Advisory Committee list their comments and recommendations regarding Roma in a separate section

NATURE OF THE CONVENTION

2

PERCEPTION ROMA HAVE ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS

3

**PRIORITIES THEY
ATTRIBUTE TO SOCIAL
NEEDS**

- SURVIVAL

**Should this perception
of the Framework Convention
be changed?**



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PROPOSALS

ERTF organize jointly with the Secretariat of the Framework Convention a seminar for international Roma and non-Roma;

Public education campaigns, involving the media and other communication outlets, can also be undertaken to increase general awareness of the Convention and related instruments;

The ERTF should undertake to make the Roma national organisations aware of the Convention and explain to them ways and means of exploiting it;



PROPOSALS



Translation of the recommendations to the language understandable to the minorities members;

Request the Advisory Committee to come back once again the the ERTF proposal for establishing a Charter for the Rights of the Roma as an inter- complementary system;

Explore the possibilities for establishing a complaint mechanism.

the information on the Roma presented in the same section as the other national minorities with a large focus on cultural and human rights instead of only social rights.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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