

## Report of the 20th Meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Civil Society

**“Advancing Social Rights of Roma and Travellers”**  
Strasbourg, 23–24 September 2025 – Palais de l’Europe

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### 1. Background

The Dialogue between the Council of Europe and Roma and Traveller<sup>1</sup> civil society organisations provides a regular framework for exchange on policies concerning Roma and Traveller inclusion. It strengthens co-operation with civil society, contributes to the work of Council of Europe bodies, and enhances awareness of relevant standards and monitoring mechanisms.

Since its establishment, the Dialogue has served as an important forum to review progress, identify challenges, and propose concrete measures to improve the situation of Roma and Travellers across member states. It also reinforces co-operation between civil society and national authorities, while aiming to ensure that grassroots perspectives are reflected in European policy processes.

The Dialogue pursues several key objectives:

- reinforcing structured exchanges between the Council of Europe and Roma and Traveller communities on policy issues relevant for their inclusion;
- fostering regular engagement between member states and Roma organisations at national level;
- providing input to Council of Europe bodies and entities on the effectiveness of operational programmes, monitoring mechanisms, and political initiatives;
- strengthening the capacity of Roma and Traveller civil society organisations by building expertise on Council of Europe standards and monitoring mechanisms.

The *20th Meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Civil Society* placed a particular focus on the advancement of social rights of Roma and Travellers, as

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<sup>1</sup>The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

underscored by the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) in its conclusions and in its decisions on collective complaints. In preparation for the meeting, participants benefited from online training sessions on the reporting and collective complaints procedures of the ECSR, as well as on the follow-up to decisions related to Roma and Traveller rights.

The meeting aimed to:

- provide information to the Secretariat of the ECSR;
- update Roma and Traveller civil society organisations on issues arising from ECSR decisions;
- highlight good practices that may assist member states in implementing these decisions.

These objectives are closely linked to the monitoring role of the ECSR under the European Social Charter. The Committee ensures compliance through two procedures:

- The collective complaints procedure, which allows social partners and non-governmental organisations to submit complaints;
- The reporting procedure, through which States Parties submit regular reports on the implementation of the Charter in law and practice.

In recent years, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) has issued several significant decisions addressing systemic discrimination and social exclusion affecting Roma and Traveller communities. In [European Roma Rights Centre \(ERRC\) v. Czech Republic](#) (Complaint No. 190/2020), the Committee found that the persistent over-representation of Romani children in institutional care constituted indirect discrimination and a violation of the European Social Charter. Similarly, in [ERRC v. Belgium](#) (Complaint No. 195/2020), the Committee concluded that the forced eviction of Traveller families without provision of alternative accommodation violated the rights to housing, health, and protection against poverty and social exclusion. More recently, in [FEANTSA v. Belgium](#) (Complaint No. 203/2021), the Committee identified failures in ensuring access to adequate housing for vulnerable groups, including Roma and Travellers.

These decisions highlight the continued relevance of the European Social Charter as a legal instrument to address structural inequalities, reaffirming states' obligations to guarantee effective access to housing, social protection, and non-discrimination for all. Civil society engagement in these processes remains vital. Their participation is indispensable for advancing reforms and ensuring that the analyses of the European Committee of Social Rights accurately reflect the lived realities of Roma and Traveller communities. By bringing grassroots expertise and first-hand knowledge, Roma and Traveller organisations serve as essential partners in implementing and monitoring social rights standards.

The civil society participants represented a diverse range of Roma and Traveller organisations, including youth and women's groups, as well as experts from international, national, and local civil society organisations.

## 2. Thematic Sessions:

### Session 1. Introducing the mechanism of reporting and collective complains of the European Committee

The first session introduced participants to the monitoring procedures of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), which oversees the implementation of the European Social Charter among member states. Representatives of the Council of Europe's Roma and Travellers Division and the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) provided an overview of the two main mechanisms through which the ECSR ensures compliance with the Charter:

- The Reporting Procedure, under which States Parties submit regular national reports on the implementation of the Charter in law and practice. Civil society organisations and social partners may provide complementary information;
- The Collective Complaints Procedure, which allows authorised organisations <sup>2</sup> to lodge complaints regarding alleged violations of the Charter's provisions. As per Rules 32 and 32A of the Rules of the European Committee of Social Rights, it is possible for third parties to intervene in the proceedings related to a collective complaint in which they otherwise have no direct involvement. Civil society organisations may also indicate to the European Committee of Social Rights their interest to submit observations as third parties on a pending collective complaint.<sup>3</sup> To do so, they are invited to contact the Secretariat of the European Social Charter.<sup>4</sup>

The session provided participants with a better understanding of the purpose, scope, and procedural steps of both mechanisms, and highlighted examples of decisions and conclusions concerning Roma and Travellers that address housing, education, and non-discrimination.

Discussions emphasised the importance of civil society engagement in both mechanisms to ensure that the Committee's assessments reflect the lived realities of Roma and Traveller communities and to reinforce advocacy for the effective implementation of social rights standards at national level.

During the discussion, participants highlighted the need to reinforce the accessibility and effectiveness of the ECSR reporting and collective complaints mechanisms, and recommended:

- encouraging wider acceptance of the collective complaints procedure by all Parties;
- granting national NGOs the right to lodge complaints against the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), following Finland's example, to strengthen civil society participation and accountability;
- addressing limitations for national organisations in countries that have not yet accepted these procedures, as this restricts access to justice in relation to the rights protected by the European Social Charter;

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<sup>2</sup> List of INGOs entitled to lodge collective complaints, established by the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security, available here: <https://rm.coe.int/gc-2025-15-bil-list-ingos-01-07-2025/1680b6c0ca>

<sup>3</sup> More information available here: [How can I\(NGO\)s engage with the European Committee of Social Rights](https://rm.coe.int/how-can-ngo-s-engage-with-the-european-committee-of-social-rights)

<sup>4</sup> [social.charter@coe.int](mailto:social.charter@coe.int)

- raising awareness among authorities and civil society about the importance of these mechanisms for promoting equality and social inclusion, particularly for Roma and Traveller communities.

## **Session 2: - The right to housing of Roma and Travellers as reflected by the European Committee on Social Rights (I)**

The session examined the right to housing, as guaranteed under Article 31 of the European Social Charter, drawing on conclusions and decisions of the ECSR. It was emphasised that housing systems and governance structures differ across member states, affecting compliance with the Charter's obligations. Fragmentation between national, regional, and local levels often hinders accountability and contributes to persistent inequalities in access to adequate housing, disproportionately affecting Roma and Traveller communities.

The presentation of the report [\*"Roma Access to Quality and Affordable Housing in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Spain"\*](#), of the European Roma Grassroots Organisations network, highlighted common challenges: the need for greater investment, desegregation of communities, simplification of administrative procedures, anti-bias training for housing providers, and improvements in social housing stock.

Keynote speakers from the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) and the Department of Social Rights of the Council of Europe provided technical perspectives, emphasising the importance of addressing overlapping vulnerabilities, including gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic factors. FEANTSA shared experiences of gender-sensitive work on homelessness, including initiatives addressing LGBTI homelessness and harassment in public spaces, while the keynote speaker from the Council of Europe highlighted the critical role of NGO contributions in complementing state reports to ensure civil society perspectives contribute to monitoring and policy development.

During the discussion, participants highlighted challenges and proposed recommendations to strengthen the protection of housing rights for Roma and Traveller communities as follows:

- Ensure that housing policies and programmes adopt an intersectional and gender-sensitive approach, addressing the specific needs of Roma and Traveller women and children, including LBQ Roma and Traveller women;
- Strengthen collaboration with diverse Roma and Traveller women's organisations to reflect their perspectives and lived experiences;
- Align NGOs' contributions to the national reporting mechanism, with targeted questions posed by the ECSR; ensure civil society input highlights concrete challenges and good practices;
- Address overlapping vulnerabilities, including gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic factors, in national housing policies and programmes;
- Increase investment and social housing stock, focusing on desegregation, simplification of administrative procedures, and ensuring eviction is a measure of last resort.

### **Session 3 - The right to housing of Roma and Travellers as reflected by the European Committee on Social Rights (II)**

Building on the previous discussion, this session deepened the analysis of Article 31 of the European Social Charter, which guarantees the right to housing, focusing on systemic barriers and practical measures to advance housing inclusion for Roma and Travellers. The exchange examined how national and local authorities can better co-ordinate to address persistent challenges such as underinvestment in housing, complexity of administrative procedures, and the continued existence of segregated or informal settlements.

Concrete practices promoted through the European Union/Council of Europe Joint Programme ROMACT were presented. The programme supports municipalities in designing local housing strategies, improving the legalisation of informal settlements, and facilitating access to social housing and EU funding, among others. The initiative highlights the importance of building the administrative and financial capacity of local authorities while ensuring the inclusion of Roma and Traveller communities in decision-making processes.

The representative of ASNIT/GATIEF drew attention to the situation of Traveller communities in France, where restrictive legislation and local regulations targeting caravans and authorised stopping areas effectively criminalise mobility. Many sites remain inadequate, lacking hygiene and safety standards, forcing families into informal arrangements and exposing them to the risk of eviction and legal sanctions. These policies, often framed as urban or environmental regulations, amount to structural and environmental discrimination, restricting access to education, family life, and the social inclusion of Travellers.

From a broader human rights perspective, Amnesty International highlighted the need for states to reaffirm their political commitment to the social rights framework of the European Social Charter. The organisation stressed that the collective complaints and reporting procedures remain underused, particularly due to the limited participation of national NGOs. The representative also emphasised the importance of disaggregated and intersectional data collection to shape equality policies and strengthen state accountability.

The participants' recommendations were the following:

- Reinforce commitment of member states to Article 31 of the European Social Charter, ensuring that Roma and Travellers have access to adequate, affordable, and safe housing;
- Revise discriminatory legal and administrative frameworks that penalise mobile lifestyles, while ensuring that designated halting areas meet access to health, hygiene, and safety standards;
- Use environmental and spatial justice principles to guide housing policies to prevent segregation and the placement of Traveller sites in unsafe or marginalised areas;
- Strengthen data collection and disaggregation by ethnicity, gender, and other relevant factors to shape evidence-based housing policies and enhance the quality of national reporting;
- Establish stronger co-operation between local authorities, expert networks, and Roma and Traveller organisations in order to design and implement inclusive, sustainable housing strategies that reflect community needs and experiences.

#### **Session 4: Workshops on the right to housing of Roma and Travellers - Recommendation to member states and good practices on protecting housing rights.**

This session provided space for participants to exchange practical experiences, local strategies, and collective advocacy approaches on implementing the right to housing. The workshops built on the previous sessions' discussions, focusing on concrete ways to translate the ECSR's findings and recommendations into action at local, national, and regional levels.

To ensure a more focused exchange, the session was divided into two parallel workshops: *Prevention of Forced Evictions* and *Prevention of Segregated and/or Sub-standard Housing*. Each group explored specific challenges and proposed recommendations for member states, local authorities, and European institutions, highlighting common priorities such as the enforcement of existing legal safeguards, the need for intersectional approaches, and the inclusion of Roma and Traveller voices in housing policy design and monitoring.

### **Group 1: Prevention of Forced Evictions**

The workshop, chaired by a representative of the Forum for Human Rights, examined the ongoing patterns of forced evictions affecting Roma and Traveller communities and the legal, social, and political strategies available to prevent or address them. The discussion highlighted persistent patterns of forced evictions disproportionately affecting Roma and Traveller communities across Europe. Despite the existence of housing strategies and action plans at national and local levels, implementation remains weak. Many Roma families still live in informal settlements without access to basic services such as water, electricity, or legal ownership documents, leaving them at constant risk of eviction. Similar housing and accommodation conditions are faced by Travellers. In several cases, evictions continue to occur in violation of procedural safeguards, with families receiving minimal notice and limited access to legal remedies.

Participants stressed the widening gap between policy frameworks and lived realities, particularly regarding the recognition of legal ownership and access to legalisation procedures. High administrative fees, digital barriers, and the absence of accessible legal aid were identified as structural obstacles preventing Roma families from securing their housing rights. It was also emphasised that local corruption and lack of budget allocation hinder the enforcement of laws that could otherwise protect vulnerable communities.

Similarly, participants noted the ongoing criminalisation of nomadic and mobile lifestyles, leading to restrictions on freedom of movement and contributing to the marginalisation of Traveller communities. Civil society organisations highlighted the need for stronger co-operation mechanisms between local and international organisations to ensure timely intervention in cases of eviction and to enhance monitoring capacities at all levels.

Participants formulated the following recommendations:

- Ensure effective implementation of housing and anti-eviction policies, with clear accountability mechanisms at both national and local levels to bridge the gap between legal frameworks and practice;
- Guarantee access to legal ownership by simplifying procedures, removing excessive administrative costs, and providing state-supported legal and financial assistance to families in informal settlements;
- Introduce protective measures against forced evictions, ensuring that any eviction complies with human rights standards, including prior consultation, reasonable notice, provision of alternative housing, and legal remedies;
- Develop accessible and inclusive social housing schemes that address the needs of Roma and Traveller communities, prioritising families living in informal or substandard conditions;
- Recognise and decriminalise mobile and nomadic lifestyles, ensuring that housing policies respect freedom of movement and cultural traditions;
- Strengthen co-operation between local, national, and international organisations by creating formal channels for rapid reporting, information exchange, and collective responses to eviction cases;
- Promote digital and legal literacy initiatives to support Roma communities in navigating legalisation and housing procedures;

- Acknowledge antigypsyism as a structural factor in housing discrimination, ensuring that public authorities address systemic racism and consider transitional justice measures where historical injustices persist.

### ***Group 2: Prevention of Segregated and/or Sub-standard Housing***

The session, chaired by a representative of the Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts, focused on identifying persistent forms of residential segregation and sub-standard housing affecting Roma and Traveller communities across Europe. It examined both structural causes and potential good practices to promote equality, inclusion, and dignity in housing policies and implementation.

Participants stressed that housing is a fundamental right with cross-cutting implications for access to education, health, and employment. Despite policy frameworks and targeted strategies, implementation remains limited due to the lack of political commitment, discrimination, and insufficient co-ordination among local authorities. Roma settlements often remain unrecognised, leaving residents without legal documentation, with no security of tenure, no property titles, or access to basic utilities such as water, heating, and sanitation.

The discussion also drew attention to the situation of Roma refugees and internally displaced persons, many of whom face exclusion from national housing schemes and are accommodated in segregated or temporary shelters. Legislative measures in some contexts were noted to further restrict nomadic lifestyles, intensifying surveillance and control over Traveller communities and limiting their right to freedom of movement and family life.

Positive examples were shared from North Macedonia including past community-led housing initiatives, social housing schemes supported by local authorities, and partnerships with private companies providing both jobs and housing support. However, changes in government have since led to the discontinuation of these projects. Participants emphasised that such initiatives must be accompanied by long-term investment, political will, and inclusive participation of Roma representatives in housing policy design and monitoring.

To prevent segregation and ensure equal access to adequate housing, participants recommended that member states and relevant institutions:

- ensure registration in the civil registry of all Roma residents, regardless of housing type or status, to guarantee access to public services and protection against eviction;
- develop and enforce desegregation strategies that prioritise mixed and inclusive housing models and prevent the concentration of Roma communities in isolated or substandard areas;
- guarantee legal security of tenure through accessible and affordable procedures for property documentation, including financial assistance or fee exemptions for low-income families;
- strengthen enforcement of anti-discrimination policies in the private rental sector, sanctioning discriminatory practices and ensuring equal access to quality housing;
- recognise and protect nomadic and mobile lifestyles by ensuring adequate halting sites with safe, hygienic, and family-appropriate living conditions;
- ensure that policies addressing protection from sub-standard or segregated housing and from forced evictions incorporate gender and intersectional perspectives,

specifically considering addressing the needs of Roma and Traveller women, single mothers, LBQ persons, and youth from these communities;

- invest in infrastructure and local economic development in Roma neighbourhoods, connecting housing improvements to employment and education opportunities;
- support effective co-operation between local authorities, NGOs, and Roma and Traveller communities, ensuring participatory planning, monitoring, and transparent data collection;
- allocate targeted EU and international funding to directly improve Roma and Traveller housing and accommodation conditions and ensure that these funds are monitored to prevent their diversion to general infrastructure projects that do not specifically benefit these communities;
- establish mechanisms for early intervention and rapid response to cases of segregation, displacement, and housing rights violations, in close co-ordination with national and European institutions.

### **Session 5: Roma and Traveller children's rights as reflected by the European Committee on Social Rights**

This session focused on the protection and promotion of Roma and Traveller children's rights, drawing on the findings and decisions of the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR) under Article 7 and Article 17 of the European Social Charter. Discussions explored the persistent barriers preventing Roma and Traveller children from enjoying equal access to education, housing, healthcare, and protection systems, as well as the systemic discrimination and antigypsyism that contribute to their marginalisation.

The exchanges were guided by the rights outlined in the Charter, including:

- Article 7 – The right of children and young persons to protection, ensuring safe, healthy, and dignified conditions for their development;
- Article 17 – The right of children and young persons to social, legal, and economic protection, which requires states to take all appropriate and necessary measures to safeguard children from negligence, violence, and exploitation, and to provide special aid for those deprived of family support.

Building on these provisions, the session examined national practices and challenges. The representative from the Department of Social Rights highlighted the inter-connected nature of the rights enshrined in the European Social Charter. In particular, it was emphasised that the protection of children's rights under Articles 7 and 17 must be understood in relation to the right of families to social, legal, and economic protection (Article 16), and the right to housing (Article 31). Ensuring these rights collectively is essential to safeguarding the well-being, safety, and development of Roma and Traveller children. It was noted that the lack of adequate housing, poverty, and institutional discrimination often lead to the separation of children from their families and perpetuate cycles of exclusion.

The Roma and Travellers Division of the Council of Europe presented the topic *“Children Left Behind: Between Labour Migration, Institutional Standards and Extended Family.”* The presentation explored the growing yet under-researched phenomenon of children who remain in their home countries while their parents migrate abroad for work. Despite its prevalence,

this issue remains largely invisible due to the absence of legal recognition, systematic data collection, and co-ordinated policy responses. The presentation emphasised that these children often fall outside existing child protection frameworks, as legislation in many countries does not define them as “at risk” unless abandonment or neglect is evident. As a result, families and informal caregivers – typically elderly relatives – receive little to no institutional support. The lack of accessible legal representation, psychological assistance, and social services further deepens the children’s vulnerability, leading to emotional distress, school absenteeism or drop-out, and social isolation. It stressed the need for improved data collection, stronger inter-agency co-ordination, and the establishment of preventive mechanisms to ensure that children left behind are protected and supported within the broader framework of children’s rights.

The Planning and Data Section of the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) presented the study *“Breaking Barriers: An In-Depth Analysis of the Situation of Children and Women in Roma Settlements.”* The research focused on countries in the Western Balkans – Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo\*, emphasising the critical importance of prioritising the well-being of Roma children and women to advance social justice, human rights, and inclusive development. The study examined a range of indicators, including maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition, access to education – particularly early childhood education – attendance rates, availability of learning materials and books, foundational learning outcomes, parental involvement, family environment, and broader participation and civil rights. The presentation concluded by emphasising that discrimination in accessing social services and the welfare state, combined with persistent poverty and limited enjoyment of basic rights, has profound implications for the education, health, and overall well-being of Roma and Traveller children, and women perpetuating cycles of marginalisation and exclusion.

***Session 6: Workshops on Roma and Traveller Children’s Rights - Proposal for concerted actions to create inclusive health, education and social systems that counter inequalities experienced by Roma and Traveller children.***

This session provided a dedicated space for participants to explore practical approaches and collaborative strategies to advance the rights of Roma and Traveller children in education, health, and social protection. Building on the discussions of the plenary session on children rights, the workshops were structured into two thematic groups: one focusing on the *Right to education*, and the other on *Social Protection and the Right to Health*. Both workshops aimed to identify effective local and national practices, address systemic barriers, and propose actionable measures to create inclusive, equitable, and supportive environments that counter the inequalities faced by Roma and Traveller children.

***Group 1. Right to Education***

The workshop was chaired by the Foundation Towards Dialogue, providing a platform for participants to exchange experiences, challenges, and strategies on promoting the right to

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\* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

education for Roma and Traveller children. It explored both systemic barriers and effective approaches to support inclusive, equitable learning environments. Discussions highlighted that, while legislation in several countries provides a strong framework for access to education, implementation often falls short. Key obstacles identified include poverty, lack of documentation for children and their families, placement of Roma children in special needs educational units without clear criteria or in segregated classes, and limited support for children from migrant or refugee backgrounds, such as Ukrainian Roma refugees. Segregation and discrimination, both at school and within local communities, continue to impede educational access and integration.

Examples of effective initiatives shared included school assistance programmes supporting attendance, intercultural assistance, post-school tutoring, and peer-to-peer mentorship projects that promote cultural integration and access to employment opportunities. Initiatives supporting Roma identity, language, and culture – such as creative hubs, podcasts, and youth-led projects – were emphasised as essential for building self-esteem and a sense of belonging in school environments.

Recommendations emerging from the workshop included the following:

- Ensure inclusive early childhood education, giving priority to children from vulnerable or marginalised backgrounds, and eliminate segregated classes or schools;
- Implement peer mentorship networks to facilitate access to education, employment, and civic participation;
- Support identity and culture hubs that allow Roma children and youth to express their culture and challenge discrimination through creative and educational projects;
- Monitor the implementation of existing laws to ensure that legislative frameworks translate into concrete educational opportunities for all Roma and Traveller children;
- Implement a nomadic and distance-learning model to ensure access to education for Traveller children;
- Guarantee free education for all children, irrespective of status or background;
- Strengthen accountability mechanisms for the effective implementation of Roma and Traveller education strategies;
- Introduce educational tools and teacher training on Roma history, culture, and anti-discrimination practices;
- Ensure that all laws and education policies are fully applied and include monitoring and enforcement mechanisms;
- Address school non-enrolment among Roma children through targeted outreach and inclusive enrolment procedures.

## ***Group 2. Social protection and right to health***

The workshop was chaired by Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, offering a space for participants to discuss the persistent inequalities that Roma and Traveller children and their families face in accessing health and social protection systems. The discussion centred on how structural discrimination, fragmented institutional responses, and the lack of co-ordinated policies continue to hinder the right to health and social security for Roma and Traveller children and families.

Participants highlighted that, although many countries have established legal and policy frameworks, gaps remain in legislation and policy, and implementation often fails to address the specific needs of Roma and Traveller communities.

In practice, Roma and Traveller families often face barriers such as poverty, exclusion from welfare systems, inadequate healthcare access, and discriminatory treatment by institutions. It was emphasised that addressing these challenges requires state accountability, stronger community participation, and an intersectional approach that captures the diversity within Roma and Traveller experiences –across gender, age, disability, and migration status.

The workshop also highlighted the need for co-design and co-decision-making in policy development, ensuring that Roma and Traveller voices are central in shaping solutions. Strengthening the role of NGOs, community organisations, and people with lived experience was seen as crucial for achieving long-term and sustainable change.

Recommendations emerging from the workshop included the following:

- Recognise and address structural discrimination in health and social protection systems as a core human rights issue;
- Ensure co-design and co-decision-making with Roma and Traveller communities in the development, monitoring, and evaluation of policies;
- Close the gap between legal frameworks and actual implementation, ensuring laws are applied and rights are respected in practice;
- Strengthen institutional accountability and ensure that government responses effectively address human rights violations related to social protection and the right to health for Roma and Traveller communities;
- Strengthen institutional accountability and ensure that government responses effectively address human rights violations related to social protection and the right to health for Roma and Traveller communities;
- Develop ethnic and gender data collection mechanisms to produce evidence-based policies that effectively address inequalities in the area of social protection;
- Provide increased support for NGOs, civil society, and community representatives, recognising their role in advocacy, acknowledging their significant contributions to service delivery, and empowerment;
- Adopt a co-ordinated and holistic approach linking education, housing, employment, and health as inter-connected rights;
- Apply intersectionality as a guiding framework, ensuring that policies reflect the needs of Roma women, children, youth, LGBTI individuals, and persons with disabilities.

#### **4. General Recommendations**

The meeting underlined that Roma and Traveller communities continue to face structural barriers to the enjoyment of their rights, particularly in housing, education, health, and child protection. While legal and policy frameworks exist, implementation gaps, limited accountability, and insufficient data collection undermine their effectiveness. Participants stressed the importance of intersectional, gender-sensitive, and child-focused approaches, meaningful participation of Roma and Traveller communities - including women and youth and LGBTI Roma -in decision-making and strengthened cross-sectoral co-ordination to ensure that rights are effectively realised on the ground.

## ***I. Recommendations to member states of the Council of Europe***

- Ensure the full implementation of legislation protecting the rights of Roma and Traveller communities, translating legal commitments into concrete measures at local and national levels;
- Adopt intersectional and gender-sensitive approaches in all policies, addressing the specific needs of Roma women, children, and LGBTI individuals;
- Guarantee access to adequate housing and prevent forced evictions by aligning national legislation and practice with Article 31 of the European Social Charter;
- End housing segregation and promote inclusive urban planning and access to public services;
- Strengthen accountability mechanisms for the effective implementation of national Roma and Traveller inclusion strategies;
- Improve access to early childhood and primary education by eliminating segregation and ensuring inclusive school environments;
- Develop flexible and culturally responsive education models, including mobile and distance-learning options for Traveller children;
- Integrate Roma history, language, and culture into educational curricula and teacher training programmes to foster inclusion and mutual understanding;
- Expand access to healthcare and social protection, addressing structural discrimination in welfare systems and ensuring equal access to services;
- Collect and disaggregate equality data by ethnicity and gender, in line with human rights standards, to monitor progress and identify structural inequalities;
- Guarantee access to justice and effective remedies for victims of discrimination and human rights violations;
- Ensure co-ordinated action among housing, education, health, and social protection authorities to provide holistic support to Roma and Traveller families.

## ***II. Recommendations to the Council of Europe and its bodies***

- Strengthen the monitoring of compliance with the European Social Charter, with particular attention to Article 31 - right to housing, Article 16 - family protection, and Articles 7 and 17 - rights of children;
- Promote greater synergy between the European Committee of Social Rights, the Roma and Travellers Division, and other relevant Council of Europe bodies to ensure coherent follow-up on decisions and collective complaints;
- Continue supporting member states in developing inclusive housing, education, and child protection policies through technical co-operation, peer learning, and guidance;
- Facilitate the collection and dissemination of good practices on Roma and Traveller inclusion, particularly regarding intersectional and gender-sensitive approaches;
- Encourage member states to use the findings of the European Committee of Social Rights as a reference point for national reforms and policymaking;
- Provide targeted support to data-driven initiatives that address the invisibility of Roma and Traveller communities, especially children left behind by labour migration;
- Strengthen co-operation with other international organisations (EU, UN, OSCE) to ensure coherence and reinforce efforts for the inclusion of Roma and Travellers.

### ***III. Recommendations to Roma and Traveller civil society and community organisations***

- Continue documenting and advocating for the implementation of the European Social Charter and related human rights instruments at local and national levels;
- Strengthen community-led monitoring and reporting on discrimination, forced evictions, and rights violations;
- Promote intersectional advocacy networks linking Roma and Traveller women, youth, and LGBTI organisations to support underrepresented voices;
- Develop community-based initiatives focusing on cultural identity, self-representation, and knowledge-sharing (e.g., living archives, youth mentorship, and cultural hubs);
- Engage in strategic litigation and policy dialogue to influence reforms and hold authorities accountable for implementation gaps;
- Encourage participation of Roma and Traveller representatives in national and European decision-making processes related to education, housing, and social protection;
- Invest in youth leadership and digital literacy to strengthen Roma and Traveller presence in civic and political spaces.