ACTIVE INCLUSION AND RIGHTS OF ROW WOMEN IN WESTE N BALKANS

Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans

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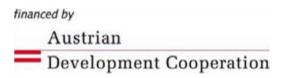
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Regional project

Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans



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Vision: We seek a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security.

Mission: Our mission is to serve individuals and families in the poorest communities in the world. Drawing strength from our global diversity, resources and experience, we promote innovative solutions and are advocates for global responsibility.

We facilitate lasting change by: strengthening capacity for self-help, providing economic opportunities, delivering relief in emergencies, influencing policy decisions at all levels, addressing discrimination in all its forms, guided by the aspirations of local communities, we pursue our mission with both excellence and compassion because the people whom we serve deserve nothing less.

CARE in the Northwest Balkans has, since 1993, been active in programming related to: return of refugees and displaced persons, local economic development and promotion of good governance, civil society development, combating human trafficking, minority and human rights.

Donors: European Union, USAID, Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Royal Norwegian Government, Austrian Development Agency, DFID, OAK Foundation, MOTT Foundation, Howard G. Buffet Foundation, Hungarian Embassy, CARE International

CARE International North West Balkans

The initial reason for CARE organization to come to the Balkans is a war that has caused the destruction, trauma, displacement and ethnic hatred. In the early years, CARE has focused on charity work and saving lives. Today's goal of CARE in the Balkans is to ensure that social, economic and political rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups are recognized and fulfilled, thus contributing to sustainable peace in the region.

CARE promotes social and economic inclusion of vulnerable minorities and other marginalized groups through supporting capacity building and improving the opportunities for these groups to enable them to integrate into society and access to their rights. CARE is also trying to deal with the structural conditions and barriers that keep people in a state of vulnerability and poverty.

CARE Program of gender equality aims to promote values and practice of gender equality, diversity and non-violence by strengthening the capacities of participants in the sphere of human rights and social justice at the local, national and regional level by creating opportunities for innovation, participation, learning, collaboration and advocacy. Women and girls that are exposed to violence, discrimination and poverty will be empowered to create better life opportunities and social justice through engagement with CARE and contribution in enhancing the sustainability of key regional, national and/or local civil society organizations and networks promoting gender equality and diversity, in terms of social inclusion and nonviolence.

Program of social and economic inclusion

The ultimate goal: Marginalized, socially excluded and the poor are integrated into society and have access to their rights:

Goal 1: Improved social and economic conditions for vulnerable and marginalized groups

Goal 2: Improved institutional and political reaction, equal access to rights and services

Goal 3: Strong civil society organizations representing vulnerable groups

Goal 4: Stable, peaceful and tolerant relations between ethnic groups.

Gender equality program

The ultimate goal: All women and girls enjoy life of equal life opportunities and social justice:

Goal 1: Improved implementation of existing national laws relating to violence and gender-based discrimination against women (policy and institutional support mechanisms).

Goal 2: Changed/improved attitudes and behavior of relevant communities and government institutions toward gender equality and masculinity (combat all forms of discrimination).

Goal 3: Strengthened sustainability of key regional, national and/or local civil society organizations and networks promoting gender equality and diversity in the context of social inclusion and nonviolence.

Goal 4: Improved life chances of women and girls who are deprived of economic and social rights.

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Project information

Active Inclusion and Rights of Roma Women in the Western Balkans is designed in connection with the European Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, adopted by the European Union in 2011. This strategy, among other things, refers to the position of Romani women and is also relevant for the accession countries. The Communication from the Commission states that the national Roma integration strategies and action plans should be reviewed to meet the goals of Roma integration. In line with the goals of the European Union the overall objective of the project is to contribute to the improvement of the socioeconomic situation of Roma women in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro through their active participation in policy-making processes. These three countries have already developed National Strategies for Roma, within the framework of the "Decade of Roma" Inclusion" and their accession process to the European Union. Recent research indicates, however, that these policies are mostly gender-blind and do not adequately reflect the situation of Romani women, who are marginalized not only from majority societies but also within Roma communities. In consequence, the project purpose is to strengthen Roma women organizations to promote gender-responsive National Action Plans and to monitor their implementation.

This goals will be achieved through 5 inter-related results:

- Roma women organizations have established strong coalitions with non-Roma organizations in the three target countries in order to promote gender-responsive National Action Plans and to monitor their implementation:
- Increased meaningful participation of Roma women in representative or advisory bodies for Roma men and women;
- Romani women organizations have meaningfully participation in process to revise National action plans on Roma inclusion from a gender perspective;
- Best practices on prevention of drop-outs of Romani girls from schools are developed, implemented, documented and shared;
- Best practices on community-based initiatives for the prevention of gender based violence and the access to general and sexual and reproductive health care are developed, implemented, documented and shared.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Serbia, Montenegro

Partner Organizations Better future – Tuzla Roma Women centre Bibija – Belgrade Center for Roma Initiatives - Nikšić

Donor Austrian Development Cooperation

Uuration: 36 months (from December 01, 2011–November 30, 201







Bosnia i Herzegovina Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Bosnia i Herzegovina

ROMA WOMEN ASSOCIATION "BETTER FUTURE" TUZLA

Meše Selimovića 85 75000 Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone/Fax-+387 35 298 001 E-mail: uzrbb@yahoo.com – uzbb@hotmail.com www.bolja-buducnost.com.ba



Roma Women Association (RWA) "BETTER FUTURE" was founded in February 2001, at the Ministry of Justice in Tuzla Canton as a local, non-profit NGO of a pedagogical, educational and socio-humanitarian character. Our association is a first female Roma NGO in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we operate in the area of Tuzla Municipality and beyond (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The reason for establishing the association is that women in general, and in particular Roma women and Roma children, are discriminated and exposed to violence. They are discriminated primarily by their families and also the communities they live in. In order to assist Roma women and also their

children, we cooperate along with them and with other NGOs, municipal and cantonal authorities as well as with foreign donors to alleviate or at least help the Roma population to overcome the problems they are exposed to. The Association is actively working to empower women through the launch of Roma literacy courses, home-made crafts courses, hairdressers and more. One of the priorities is to help older or disabled individuals, women exposed to violence, single mothers, protection of reproductive health of Roma woman, gender equality, violence prevention and projects development in accordance with the association program direction.

Mission: Roma Women Association "Better Future" is a non-profit organization that supports equality of Roma women, develop Roma women sector

and youth through advocacy, strategies creation, education, and informal gatherings aimed at combating discrimination of integration of Roma people with a focus on Roma women in society and promotion of Roma culture.

Program directions:

- 1. Empowering Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - 1.1. Empowering Roma women's organizations- network through joint activities
 - 1.2. Economic empowerment of Roma women through educational courses
- 2. Encouraging dialogue aimed to develop participatory democracy and inclusion of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - 2.1. Research in the field of political participation and education of Roma children
 - 2.2. Inclusion of Roma women in the community life

- 3. Improving the socio-economic and health status of Roma people
 - 3.1. Education and informing Roma people about social rights
 - 3.2. Strengthening of the DOTS strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, improvement of plan of fight against TBC, including MDR, TB and infection control
 - 3.3. Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C in Roma communities and refugee camps
 - 3.4. Preserving the reproductive health of Roma women







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CENTER FOR MOTHERS "CONSOLATION" ZENICA

Crkvice 28, Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone:+ 38 7 66 158 362 E-mail: centarzamajkeutjeha@yahoo.com



Center for Mothers "Consolation" was established on 03.11.2008, as an initiative of Roma women from the Municipality of Zenica, which expressed the need for an organization that will take care of solving problems of Roma women in Zenica, but also a mutual gathering and socializing as students in different aspects of education. Association is independent, nonpartisan and nonpolitical organization which is based on the principle of voluntary and humanity. Citizens and legal entities can volunteer to join in order to achieve cultural, educational, artistic, scientific, social, humanitarian, ecological and other activities and interests in accordance with the goals of association programs.

Mission: CFM "Consolation" is a non-governmental organization operating in the municipality of Zenica, and aims to realize the rights of Roma women and to involve them in active participation in all social trends. Organization aims to emancipate Roma women and encourage them to actively participate and integrate into society, so to become equal with the other members of the community, and at the same time to remain consistent with their culture and tradition.

Goals are achieved through: women animation in various activities at the Centre, the education for women and children, implementation of various programs and cooperation with various women's initiatives in the country and the region, while not neglecting the participation of all members and volunteers.

Vision: Active participation of Roma women in social trends, independently achieving their rights, equal with other citizens, are able to provide assistance in education of their children and guide them towards a constructive and affirmative way of life.





RIGHTS FOR ALL

Mula Mustafe Bašeskije 12/II 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone/Fax: +387 33 203 070; +387 33 200 736 E-mail: rights_for_all@open.net.ba www.pravazasve.ba

Rights for all is an organization dedicated to the protection and advocacy of human rights in order to create a just and democratic society based on human rights principles. We believe that the forces that contribute to radical and sustainable change must come from within the society and therefore Rights for all works in partnership with other organizations that share our vision of a just society at the local, national, regional and international level.

Our mission is:

- demanding accountability of government to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- > seeking justice for victims of human rights violations;
- promoting equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, disability, race or minority status, or any other difference;
- supporting development of skills and empowerment of excluded groups and communities.

Rights for all operates using following strategies: pointing out violation of human rights through the analysis and reports; advocating human rights through campaigning and motivating civil society organizations to advocate for human rights and act through the legislative and political processes. **Rights for all** is a local NGO that has came out from the Balkan program of the international NGO Global Rights. Global Rights has begun their work in Bosnia called the International Human Rights Law Group in 1996. During all

these years, the goal of the organization is to promote citizen participation in the newly-established democratic institutions through advocacy campaigns of civil society at all levels of government.



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HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE TUZLA

Borić 3 75000 Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone:+38 7 35 360 490; 035 250 504; 062 360 491; E-mail:biroy@bih.net.ba www.hrotuzla.org.ba



Human Rights Office (Office) was established in October, 1995 with a vision of promoting human rights standards at all social levels and contributing to peacekeeping, conflict prevention and reintegration of societies in the region. Office has been recognized by national and international actors as one of the most important and most successful non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is involved in a variety of networks and long-term cooperative relationships with other NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. During its se-venteen years of operation Office has deepened and expanded its long-standing work on multiple levels of social change aimed at creating a democratic Bosnian society based on respect for human rights, rule of law and multiculturalism. Office activists have implemented many projects that enable them to deal with issues such as:

- > culture of human rights development,
- changes in political culture and increasing the credibility of NGO influence on the legislative process,
- promoting good governance practices
- citizen participation in decision-making processes and the development of a partnership of NGOs and governments at various levels.

Mission: Human Rights office is a nongovernmental, nonprofit, nonpartisan civic organization that will influence the understanding and respect for human rights through education, promotion and monitoring of human rights.

Our efforts are directed towards building a civil society, education and the development of the culture of non-violence, and the recognition and application of methods of creative conflict resolution. In its methodology Office skillfully combines learning through practical actions that leads to successful empowerment of citizens willing to take responsibility for development of environment they live in. That is how they create a network of citizens, professional groups, allies at various levels ready to develop a culture of human rights, tolerance and multi-ethnicity and make daily efforts to make Bosnia and Herzegovina a modern and functional state.





ASSOCIATION "YOUTH ROMA -TERNE ROMA" VITEZ

Hrvatske mladeži, Sofa bb 72250 Vitez, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone/Fax: +38 7 30 712 096; +38 7 63 958 697

E-mail: aldinafafulovic@hotmail.com

Association "Youth Roma" was registered on 07.03.2011, and since then the Association has became a legal personality. The abbreviated name of the Association is **"Roma"** and on the Roma language **"Terne Roma"**.

Association's goals and objectives:

Participation in the upbringing of children, education of the young, support to gifted individuals, anti-discrimination, gender equality, inclusion of young people in a normal social life, the preservation and return of a forgotten culture, traditions of the Roma language and customs, etc.

Association's activists realized many projects which have helped us to address Roma population issues such as:

- Working with children and young people on creative workshops, and presenting our papers at the anniversary of the Narko-NO
- Involve youth in writing projects, lobbying and advocacy workshops
- > Promotion of Roma culture, traditions and customs
- We have strengthened the folklore section with youth, where we took a part in various events throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Croatia
- We had good cooperation and got support in our work from the Center for Social Work in municipality of Vitez, primary and secondary schools in the municipality of Vitez

28.04.2011, we were given a **silver medal** for the effort to preserve the heritage, cultural activities and the inclusion of Roma children and youth in a society.



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FOUNDATION CURE

Dolina 1 (The house of human rights) 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone/Fax: +387 33 264 420 E-mail: info@fondacijacure.org www.fondacijacure.org



Foundation CURE is a feminist-activist organization which promotes gender and sex equality and works for positive social changes through educational, art, cultural and research programs. By organizing affirmative actions, CURE celebrates the strength and power of women, and helps empowering individuals, so that they can become initiators of social changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the world.

The feminist activism has created a safe area, in which women are strong, fearless, competent, and united with all their differences. CURE is an organization of professionals and volunteers who go out on the streets as a sign of protest against violence, discrimination, violation of laws and basic human rights, they organize performances against violence, invites artists, scholars, lecturers, activists, and citizens to act, and contribute in creating a better Bosnian-Herzegovinian society.

Vision: Foundation CURE strives for gender equality to be recognized and to exist in every - both private and public - segment of the society in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the world, that positive social changes get realized through common efforts and collaboration of all individuals and organizations involved in promoting human rights and women should actively participate in the development of the society by occupying decision-making positions and through creative ways of expression.

Mission: is to open Multimedia Center for Women and Girls, as a step to-

wards creating resources beneficial for Herstory (woman history), as well as a foundation for teaching and empowering women, girls, and all people of younger generations.





ASSOCIATION "ROMA GIRL-ROMANI ĆEJ" PRNJAVOR

Address: Dolin bb, 78430 Prnjavor, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone: +38766152984, +38765897148 E-mail: uromskadjevojka@hotmail.com, msd1997@hotmail.com

Association "Roma Girl – Romani ćej" was established on 16.10.2010, and registered in the Basic Court in Banja Luka. The Association is there to provide quality life to the citizens of the Roma population in the local community, with the engagement of the board, volunteers and beneficiaries from the Roma community.

Association "Roma girl – Romani ćej" is helping to solve the problems of Roma population by providing information and advocacy to the local community in the following segments: education and achievement scholarship, social security benefits, education of young people and their parents, preservation of the Roma culture and tradition, support of women, youth and children (information on reproductive health, prevention of domestic violence and the prevention of human trafficking).

Association activists are young people who actively participate in the implementation of association's activities, and some of these activities are implemented through projects:

- Human trafficking prevention by informing and familiarizing Roma people from Prnjavor municipality
- Prevent violence against women, by informing and introducing Roma women in Prnjavor municipality
- > We do not want to be different from others
- Economic empowerment of women

- Making a promotion of the Action Plan (education and employment), to the institutions of government and the Roma community in the municipality of Prnjavor and beyond
- > Roma women give your vote

Through our educational workshops we have trained more than 300 women, men, children and youth.



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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION ROMA YOUTH INITIATIVE VISOKO "BE MY FRIEND" Zanatski centar

Sebilj I, 71 300 Visoko, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone/Fax: +387 32 733 667 E-mail:ugorivbmp1@yahoo.com ugbudimiprijatelj@gmail.com www.budimiprijatelj.org



Citizens Association Roma Youth Initiative Visoko "Be my friend" exists to provide quality life of Roma citizens in the local community, by engaging board of members, volunteers and beneficiaries from Roma community.

Association was founded to meet common interests and to perform certain tasks for the members, and their activities will aimed primarily to:

- freely and voluntary participate in upbringing, education and training mostly of children and adolescents with poor education, with special focus on the support for the Roma minority youth population in the Municipality of Visoko:
- to support talented young Roma men and women through various activities and programs that are based on equality, solidarity, democratic principles are fighting against apartheid and all forms of discrimination of the youth and other members of Roma minority in the Municipality of Visoko:
- to participate in education according to the fundamental rights of children and their parents, to educate members of ORI-Visoko, whit an aim of faster inclusion of Roma minority in a normal social life;
- to create conditions for engagement, freedom of choice in education and cultural life for all people;
- to protect and restore the neglected tradition of the Roma language and customs:
- > to activate children and young people to engage in sports and athletic

- activities:
- to work with sports organizations, in order to exchange experiences, develop work habits and achieving the best results;
- commitment to strengthen reputation and achievement of decent social status of their memberships and taking care of their socio-material interests;
- provide help to old members of this association;
- > education of Roma women in any segment;





CITIZENS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATION OF ROMA "OTAHARIN"

Beogradska 38, Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone/Fax: +387 55 250 543 E-mail: ugotaharin@teol.net www.otaharin.org

Citizens Association for the promotion of education of Roma "Otaharin" was established in early 2005, by parents of the Roma children and other citizens interested in the issue of education of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Association's objectives that we implement through our activities are:

- the inclusion of Roma children into the educational system of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Bijeljina and Zivinice raise awareness about the importance of education among the Roma population
- protection and promotion of rights of national minorities, especially Roma population
- > protection and promotion of human rights for all
- organization of all types of educational work, upbringing and education and informational activities
- involvement in the activities of the working group for implementation of relevant action plans related to the Roma minority
- fight against human trafficking
- > capacity building of Roma youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Field work, visits and the provision of free legal aid, Bijeljina 2012

ROMA WOMAN ASSOCIATION – CENTER FOR MOTHERS "HOPE" KAKANJ

Alije Izetbegovića bb 72240 Kakanj, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone: +387 61 950 961; +387 63 023 658 E-mail: czmnadakakanj@hotmail.com



Roma women Association - Center for Mothers "Hope" is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization established to bring together and connects Roma mothers from the area of Kakanj municipality, provides assistance to the poor and socially disadvantaged individuals and lobbying and advocating relevant institutions to exercise the rights of Roma women.

association.

other tasks in the domain of non-governmental organizations.

The main objectives of the association are:

- gathering and connecting Roma mothers from Kakanj municipality
- economic empowerment of Roma women through keeping and caring for their children, for Roma women who are employed (similar to children's nurseries).
- lobbying with local government authorities, cantonal, federal and state authorities and institutions in order to achieve Roma and non Roma women rights as well as of other members of ethnic minorities,
- cooperation with local authorities, cantonal, federal and state agencies and institutions through joint projects for domestic and foreign donors,
- help to poor and socially disadvantaged women who need help urgently,
- cooperation and joint efforts with organizations and associations of similar activities, aims and objectives,
- collaboration with other NGOs,
- protection of the reputation and interests of the members of the















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ROMSKI ŽENSKI CENTAR BIBIJA BEOGRAD, REPUBLIKA SRBIJA ROMANO DZUVLJIKANO CENTRO BIBIJA BEOGRADO, RAŠTRA SRBIJA THE ROMA WOMEN CENTER BIBIJA BELGRADE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Jug Bogdanova 12/1511000 Beograd, Republic of Serbia Telephone/Fax: +381 11 262-30-99 E-mail: bibija@eunet.rs www.bibija.org



The mission of the Roma Women Center "Bibija": Roma women enjoyment of human rights and improvement of their social status in Serbia.

Center field work

WORKING WITH WOMEN AND GIRLS IN A COMMUNITY PROVIDING INFORMATION IN NATIVE LANGUAGE LEGAL ADVICE MEDICAL PROJECTS ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING SHADOW REPORTS FOLLOW EU ACCESSION PROCESS RESEARCH

"Bibija" Roma Women Center has nine activists, three professionals and two volunteers, from both Roma and non-Roma community.

Since 1998, the founding year, RŽC BIBIJA worked in 60 Roma settlements in Belgrade and its surroundings. 6000 Roma woman were included in our programs. Activities of our center were divided into 7 groups. The first group consists of psycho-social, women field workshop with Roma women. Topics of these programs are promoting women human rights, with a special

attention to women rights to education, health care, employment, the right to a life free of violence and the right to free choice of partners.

Second group of activities is Legal Counseling that provides a legal advocacy and assistance to Roma women free of charge.

The third group of activities is an engagement on the issue of economic empowerment. These activities include organization of training courses for interested women as well as assistance in finding a job.

The fourth group includes activities designed to improve the capacity of Roma women activists in the field of women's rights, minority rights, political participation of Roma women in our society, the EU accession process.

The fifth group of activities relates to the informational campaign aimed to informing about the important issues for the Roma woman and her family. These actions were frequent and various: sharing pamphlets in Roma and Serbian language, on the importance of women's health, pamphlets about the most common diseases among women, pamphlets about breast diseases, informative material on the status of national minorities, the material on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, flyers with the content Bill of rights, the preparation and printing of bilingual

monthly magazine for women RROMNJAKI ZOR - POWER OF WOMAN. All written material was printed in two languages: Roma / Serbian version.

The sixth group of activities includes research work in the field of violence against women, health care, Roma woman participation in public and political life.

Seventh group of activities is lobbying and advocacy at the national and international level in order to improve the social position of Roma women in Serbia. This activity involves writing alternative reports to ratified international conventions. Until now, we have submitted two shadow reports regarding the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia, and two alternative reports to the UN CEDAW that were presenting the rights of Roma women in Serbia.







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MINORITY RIGHTS CENTER

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From the foundation in 2001, activities of our organization are aimed at the improvement of the Roma situation in Serbia.

Program goals

FIGHT AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF EQUALITY

Activities: systematic monitoring of respect for Roma minority rights providing legal aid to Roma victims of discrimination and racially motivated violence lobbying and advocacy to promote the rights of the Roma population research activities.

Minority Rights Center is one of the founders of the coalition League for the Decade, which brings together civil society organizations in Serbia with the aim of monitoring the implementation of the International Decade of Roma Inclusion initiative. Besides that, Minority Rights Center recommends measures for improving the situation of Roma people according to analysis of the collected data, national legislation and international standards in the field of human and minority rights, prints publications in paper and electronic form, and organizes roundtables and conferences.



he poster for the campaign for entry into he MKR within the project "I'm registered, herefore I am" supported by ureau for Human and Minority Rights.



Front page of a Handbook for support of the development of anti-discriminatory cι part of the program by the Roma Education Fund Budapest.



ASSOCITATION "ROMANI CIKNA"

Miletina buna 4/.37000 Kruševac.

Republic of Serbia

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Association "Romani cikna" was established in 2010, by a group of long-time Roma women activist movement as a need for a systematic and sustained engagement in improving the position of Roma women, and thus the entire Roma community. The development of educational, health, financial, social and cultural potential of Roma women and Roma communities, we are working on creating the conditions for participation and use capacity of Roma community, and the local community.

Our goals are: strengthening of integration processes of Roma women and men into the local community, working to improve their social, economic, health, educational and cultural status, development and application of functional and inclusive education, promotion and protection of human, minority and women rights, promotion and preservation of unique characteristics of the Roma community, the promotion of multiculturalism and community living, development of the NGO sector and female Romani activism, encouraging the participation of Roma women and men in the decision-making processes, elimination of all forms of discrimination, development of cooperation with organizations and associations from the country and abroad through networking.

Founders and members of the association have the experience in working in Roma settlements regarding the empowerment of families, the women emancipation and support to children and the elderly; providing advocacy for improving their position in the community, personal training in the field

of human, minority and women rights, education for work in NGOs: cooperation with institutions, organizations and other NGOs, participating in the creation of strategic documents, preparation of a manual for the improvement of educational process in the school; making brochures on the research: as a member of city and national bodies, participating in various meetings. The association is a member of the Roma women network, RIC network, Network for Poverty Reduction and OCD Forum Kruševac.



Serbia Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Serbia

ROMA ASSOCIATION NOVI BEČEJ

Đure Jaksica 29, Novi Bečej, Republic of Serbia Telephone: +381 23 774-959, Fax +381 23 775-843 E-mail: danica.jovanovic09@gmail.com; udruzenjeromanb@gmail.com



By the association establishment in 1999, we wanted to MAKE VISIBLE ROMA WOMEN RIGHTS, to fight AGAINST PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION toward Roma woman and children, to make VISIBLE THE VIOLENCE against them, to support Roma women and connect them with official institutions and other groups, as well as to work to improve the health of Roma women. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED the first kindergarten for Roma children in Vojvodina in 2000. We have worked on the strengthening of the organization capacities for education of Roma children. We've also worked a lot with returning asylum seekers in the field of education and women's rights and their integration 10 years ago.

Roma Association Novi Bečej gathers nine activists, two professionals and two volunteers from Roma and non-Roma communities.

Around 7000 Roma women and about 3000 children were included in our programs.

Our association activities are divided into several groups.

First group consists of field psychosocial workshops with Roma women. Topics of these programs are about the promotion of women human rights.

In second group of activities is a Legal Counseling in the languages of national minorities, which provides free legal advice and assistance when it comes to violence, also we are the only organization that represents women



victims of violence in court and in their native language.

Street actions were frequent and various: sharing pamphlets in Romani and Serbian on the importance of women's health. All written material was printed in two languages: Roma / Serbian version.

The fourth group of activities provides help in establishing and empowering young women NGOs in the region of Vojvodina, as well as creating and also participating in the work of the Roma Women's Network of Banat which we also founded and coordinating it in the last 6 years.

Our most important activity is SOS hotline for women victims of violence in the languages of national minorities. The struggle for women rights to a life free of violence is our **mission**.



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LAW SCANNER

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Mission: Empowered citizens in the struggling for rights in the field of health and social politics.

LAW SCANNER are people who recognized the need for the direct protection of the rights of citizens in terms of patients rights. We emphasize that we look at this problem from the standpoint of law, not medicine.

Working in the field, we recognize the problem of weak and insufficient informing the citizens about the ways and mechanisms to protect the rights of patients. In this area, yet another problem highlights, and that is the functioning of the institutions that are competent for protecting those citizens who do not receive adequate health services. Our goal is that these institutions become citizens' services.

Beginning of health care reform brought a new legal standard that had to be in line with EU standards. However, most of the standards in practice have a weak application or no application at all. Basis for patient rights violation are uninformed citizens (patients) and resistance of employees, who work in relevant bodies, to apply new legal framework.

Our work is focused on better understanding of regulations in this field and the efficient use of EU standards.

The first necessary steps are influencing awareness of citizens and pointing out importance of their own health care, informing what are negative effects on health, what are the most common situation (that patients are not aware of) of violating patients rights, and what could patients do to be determined as more or less impoimprove it.

Main goal of Law Scanner Program is to protect patients from doctors' mistakes and to increase responsibility of doctors. Indicator of poor patient

protection is the lack of case law. Although the Criminal Code incriminates certain acts against health, citizens of Serbia do not have confidence in courts, nor courage to engage in conflict with doctors.

Law scanner offers free of charge legal advocacy for citizens whose patient rights are violated.

Regarding social policy, Law Scanner protects social rights of citizens. Social care system includes economic, political, legal measures and activities to prevent possible individual and group social problems. Every citizen has social rights despite of his age, gender, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

According to our goals Law Scanner considers segments of social care from viewpoint of law and social policy. Implemented programs will emphasize problems in our community that are related to social care, will actively participate in building stable social system.

As there are no human rights that could rtant, Law Scanner will support and participate in every initiative for human rights protection.



RIGHTS: EQUAL TO ALL PATIENTS



RROMNJAKO ILO – ROMA WOMEN CENTER Telephone: +381 64-6612021

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Rromniako ilo - Roma Women Center of Zrenianin deals with promotion of the rights of Roma women who are lesbian or have a different sexual orientation than heterosexual.

Mission: The mission of our organization is to educate and improve the position of Roma women of different sexual orientation than heterosexual. We are the only female Roma organization in Serbia, which opened this issue and put it on the agenda of the Romani women movement. We are a member of the Roma Women Network. The issue of gender, sexual, ethnic or any other identity and acceptance by the broader and narrower community are topics that we are trying to raise on the level of awareness and sensitivity of the community we work with. Women who are LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND DIFFERENT SEXUAL ORIENTATION than heterosexual, and at the same time belong to MULTIPLE MINORITY GROUP, have an additional burden of discrimination. We are guided by the method of working directly with the beneficiaries of our programs in the Roma settlements by principles of feminist women experiential workshops.

Our target group is heterosexual women with whom we work to raise the tolerance, understanding and knowledge about a different sexual orientation than heterosexual. Until now, approximately 1200 Roma women were included in our forums and workshops. The result of our work is to raise public awareness about this issue and RESPECT THE CHOICE AND EXPRESSION SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

Vision: Freedom of choice (life and body).





Serbia Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Serbia

CENTER FOR CHILDREN THE LITTLE PRINCE

Milana Rakića 79/24, 11050 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia Telephone/Fax: +381 11 24 00 776 Cell phone: + 381 61 11 44 919 www.maliprinc.org.rs



Mission: Contribution to the process of integration without assimilation of children from marginalized groups through comprehensive support; because we believe that all children are entitled to equal opportunities.

Long term goals

- Provide support and assistance in the integration of Roma children and young people in the educational system of Serbia, through the organization of educational, social and creative programs
- Establishing a substantial co-operation with educational institutions, relevant government institutions and non-governmental organizations, so to solve problems of integration of Roma children and youth system.

What we want to achieve with our work?

We want to give a contribution to the creation of models for creating a positive climate in the educational institution in which all children will have equal opportunities, where they will feel safe and accepted and which will create conditions for the diversity seen as something that enriches rather than something threatening.

The results that we are proud of

- In environments in which we implemented our programs (City municipalities Zvezdara, Surčin, Rakovica, Čukarica, Barajevo and Mladenovac), we are recognized by elementary schools with whom we have worked on projects and by local governments where programs are implemented, as an organization, that through its work significantly contributes to the integration of Roma children in the educational system
- > Children who have been beneficiaries of our programs in these municipalities have 9.4% greater achievements in the Serbian language and 4.80% better achievements in mathematics after our support program
- The parents of the Roma children, who we supported by our program, often come to school in order to inform about the progress of their children, and regularly come to PTA meetings much more often compared to the period before our projects
- Absenteeism and Roma children leaving the education system, in communities in which we worked were reduced on average by 20%, compared to the period before the implementation of the program
- All Roma preschool children (5.5 to 7 years old), 73 of them, who were involved in our programs of support, in the first grade are enrolled with a higher performance on the test compared to the previous generation, who did not have additional support through our programs.
- > In all areas we were working at, we have provided guidance through the programs and begin to create a model for the expression of national

identity in the educational institutions through classes on the Roma culture, Roma legend telling and workshops on human and minority rights, all that in collaboration with the academic and school administrative staff, whom we have worked with through the program.

By realization of innovative programs in a field of support the education of Roma children, our organization has been recognized as a relevant partner that can provide a significant contribution in the process of integration of children and parents from marginalized groups, by the Ministry of Education.







Serbia Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Serbia

ROMA ASSOCIATION "DANICA,,

Goce Delčeva Jabuka, Pančevo, Republic of Serbia Telephone: +381 0656282885



Roma Association "Danica" was founded in 2002, with the aim of promoting women's human rights, and women's program, where we have an active role in the Roma Women's Network of Banat, of which we are founding members from 2007. We were working directly in Roma neighborhoods of Vojvodina, our workshop has so far included about 4000 women and the same number of children, as we were actively working on the engagement of children in the educational system and fighting against domestic violence.

We are very specific organization, because we're always working on the field, our work is about direct contact with women and children from rural areas and that is what we are proud of.

Work fields

- > FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE TOWARD ROMA WOMEN
- > CAPACITY BUILDING OF ROMA WOMEN ACTIVISTS
- > FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
- > HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR ROMA WOMEN







ROMA WOMEN CENTER VELIKI CRLJENI-LAZAREVAC

13. proleterska br. 7, 11560 Veliki Crljeni, Republic of Serbia Telephone: +381 11 8161–121; 8110–892, +381 63 77–53–772 Email: maja@veze.net

Mission: IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN, CHILDREN, ROMA AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDP).

Work fields

- > FAMILY VIOLENCE VICTIMS PROTECTION
- EDUCATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- WORK WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE PRONE TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR
- WORK WITH MINORITIES
- PROVIDING HELP TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

ROMA WOMEN'S CENTER VELIKI CRLJENI - LAZAREVAC provides educational programs, legal, health and economic assistance, integration through launching their own entrepreneurship and self-employment.

The organization is in a possession of OSCE certificate on gender equality, we are steadily forum members for Gender Equality in the Ministry of labor, employment and social policy. We are members of the mobile team for stopping domestic violence in Lazarevac municipality. Mobile team consists of representatives of the Centre for Social Work, OUP, a hospital, attorney and civil society organizations.

The most important results of the Center are providing legal assistance to approximately 250 beneficiaries, the right to custody for the victims of violence, women's employment, legal aid and employment of IDP, solving housing problems, providing financial assistance, health care and

orthopedic devices, sharing firewood, school supplies to the children of the Roma nationality in Lazarevac and children in Kosovo (Kosovska Mitrovica, Sočanica and Vidanje), providing hygiene packages, strengthening of institutional resolving of Roma problems in Lazarevac, women's empowerment and advancement of gender equality. It has taken a lot of time and effort and a lot of volunteer work, so to town councils of Lazarevac realize the seriousness of our organization, so we are now city budget users.





Montenearo Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Montenearo

CENTER FOR ROMA INITIATIVES

Jola Piletića b.b., 81400 Nikšić, Montenegro Telephone: + 38 2 40 246 369



Center for Roma Initiatives (CRI) is a local, women, Roma, non-governmental organization from Nikšić, which was founded in 03.09.2004. Since the foundation CRI helps integration and empowerment of Roma and Egyptian Some of the most important results that we have achieved through our women and children, through fighting against discrimination in family and work are: society and through active contribution in improving the status of Roma and Egyptian women and children in Montenegro. Over the past eight years, the organization has implemented more than 30 projects, according to the strategic goals. In the period from 2004 - 2011, through various project activities, we had more than 3000 direct beneficiaries, women and children from the area of Montenegro. CRI works directly with the beneficiary community through home visits, educational workshops, trainings, campaigns, collaboration with other Roma and non-Roma organizations as well as institutions, in order to improve the status of women and children from the Roma and Egyptian population.

In addition to constant work to combat discrimination against Roma and Egyptian women, that are based on gender within the Roma community and also on the basis of ethnic origin within society as a whole, we had opted for two more program areas - education and health care of Roma and Egyptian women.

Throughout our work we have become visible both in the Roma community and in society as whole, and sufficiently encouraged and strengthened to work in empowering other women from the Roma and Egyptian population in Montenegro. This resulted in the establishment of the first Roma and Egyptian women networks "PRVA", which has 10 members from 5 cities of

Montenegro - Nikšić, Podgorica, Berane, Herceg Novi and Ulcinj.

- We had more than 3500 direct beneficiaries from our various projects in the period from 2004-2011 - women and children from the territory of Montenearo.
- Through constant conversations with the families and the importance of girls enrolling in secondary school, we made to motivate the first generation of 17 to enroll high school:
- Through advocacy we managed to get three women of Roma and Egyptian population employed in state institutions;
- We are the only female Roma NGO from Montenegro that implemented projects at the regional level;
 - Through the project "Regional Initiative for the development of the National Action Plan on Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro", which is supported by Kvinna till Kvinna, for the first time in Montenegro, women from the Roma and Egyptian communities were given the opportunity to create an Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian women, which is currently in the process of lobbying the prime minister for its adoption. National Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro is a development document for the implementation of gender equality policies, and improvement of the basic living condi-

- tions and faster Roma and Egyptian woman's involvement in all aspects of social life of the community.
- Through the campaign which is supported by CARE International "Law on Primary Education includes Roma children too, right?" 75 of Roma children from Nikšić, Podgorica and Berane are enrolled in school, and 1027 students and 39 teachers took part in different events, interviews were made with 125 families (40 families in Berane, 38 families in Po-dgorica and in Nikšić 47 families) and they were informed about activities of the campaign as well as legal requirements relating to basic education. For the purpose of the campaign there was a radio jingle broadcasted for a month on three radio stations - Antena M, Elmag radio and Atlas radio, so we estimate that about 70% of citizens got familiar with the problems of the Roma and Egyptian children who are out of schools:
- In collaboration with the Public Health Centre Nikšić, CRI organizes vaccination for the Roma and Egyptian children, ones a year;
- Every year we do a list of Roma and Egyptian children who suppose to enroll in a regular elementary-school system;

We are this year's recipients of the Anna Lindh Award (2012) for Leadership and female participation, by Anna Lindh Memorial Fund in Sweden.



Picture from a seminar of Memorial Fund "Anna Lindh". members of CRI (2012)



Montenegro Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Montenegro

PUBLIC INSTITUTION CENTER FOR SOCIAL WORK IN MUNICIPALITIES OF NIKŠIĆ, PLUŽINE I ŠAVNIK

Njegoševa 10, 81400 Nikšić, Montenegro Telephone: +38 2 40 220 033, Fax: +38 2 40 220 034



Social Work Centre is a state body that deals with the implementation of activities in the field of social and child protection according to the Law on Social and Child Care, as well as strategic documents that deal with this matter. Within the Centre there are several teams that deal with certain segments of social and child protection. Teams that work in the Centre are:

- > Team for the family assistance (MOP)
- > Team to protect marriage and the family
- > Team for juvenile delinquency
- > Team to care for the elderly and individuals with disabilities
- > Team for childcare (guardianship, adoption, family placement and institutional placement)
- > Team for domestic violence protection





POLICE DEPARTMENT NIKŠIĆ

Voja Deretića 1, 81 400 Nikšić, Montenegro
Telephone/fax: + 38 2 40 213 111
E-mail: piniksic@policija.me

Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Police Administration of Montenegro are the organs of state administration, whose duties and responsibilities are defined by law. Police Department is a member of the international police organization Interpol. Police Administration makes their work and strategic interests in the open and transparent manners and achieves its role as a service to citizens, and establishes relationships of mutual trust among citizens and the police.

Slavko Milic, Master of Science in State and Legal Studies and PhD in Law, Police Administration Officer in police station in Nikšić, Manager of program of combating juvenile delinquency and violence, Mediator in civil legal disputes, mediator in resolving family disputes and president of the Center for Safety, sociological and criminological research of Montenegro - "Defectology." Author of scientific papers in the field of law, sociology and defectology.



Montenegro Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Montenegro

SOS HOTLINE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Vuka Karadžića 97 81 400 Nikšić, Montenegro Telephone/fax:+ 382 40 213 086



SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence in Nikšić is a local, autonomous, non-governmental women's organization founded in February 1998. SOS Nikšić provides services to women and children, victims of violence, through free services of help and support.

Mission of SOS Nikšić is to help positive development and implementation of capacity and potential of women and children in personal and public life, through the empowerment and protection of women's and children's rights in order to build a dedicated, responsible and open community. In March 2009, SOS Nikšić has established a second shelter in Montenegro.

Our vision: We dream of a world where all women and all children live in peace and dignity.

SOS Hotline has implemented more than 100 projects.

The general objectives of SOS Nikšić are:

- ombating male violence against women and children in Nikšić
- improvement of the socio-economic life of women from vulnerable groups.

To achieve these goals, the work of the organization is organized through two program areas:

Protection program of women and children from male violence Socio-economic programs for women and children from vulnerable groups

From the numerous program initiatives which SOS Nikšić launched in the past 14 years, we highlight following programs:

Signing Declaration on Gender Equality, which was signed in November 2004, by political parties included in the work of the local parliament. Establishment of the Council for Gender Equality, which is according to our proposal, a permanent body at the city hall in Nikšić, established in August 2006

Signing Memorandum of cooperation and understanding between the SOS Nikšić and the Centre for Social Work, Municipal Court and Police for purpose of combating violence against women and children. Assistance for establishing a women's NGO Center for Roma Initiatives. Assistance for establishing women's organizations of rural women NGOs Tera.

SOS Nikšić helped and facilitated the process of establishing the first women's social cooperatives Rukatnice.

SOS Nikšić became a licensed operator of adult education in October 2009, by decision of the Ministry of Education and Science, UPI number 07-542.

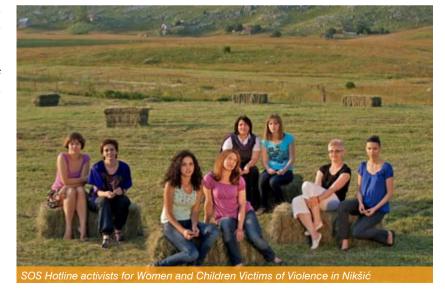
Established duty telephone line to help victims of violence, which is available every day from 9h to 21h, through which we inform, advise and encourage victims through conversation.

Established duty mobile SOS line, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7), through which we refers, assess risks in accordance with which intervenes in acute situations of violence.

Shelter opening for women and children victims of violence, with multilingual support in Albanian and Roma language, for minority which are located in a shelter, tutoring, and specialized psychological treatment for victims.

In a period from March 2009 to September 2012, 304 persons, from which 170 children were sheltered. Provided free legal assistance in criminal proceedings of domestic violence. Provided escorts of trusted persons in the system institutions. Provided free transportation of victims of violence placed in a shelter. Provided group and individual socio-economic empowerment of women through the Club for women, a career-motivational sessions, and workshops for acquiring life skills.

Strategic partnerships with the Nikšić municipality for the purpose of building the first shelter in Montenegro. By the decision on the joint venture, in which the municipality gave the land of 738m², and also free SOS Nikšić of municipal costs for residential land, the municipality had also make a project for a construction.



Montenearo Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Montenearo

ORGANIZATION: »ROSE«



Mission: to work on opportunities to improve the social, economic, educational, political, health and cultural status of Roma and Egyptian women, as the most vulnerable groups of women and children in Montenegro.

Goals:

- Make visible life problems and violence against Roma and Egyptian women that they are facing in the family and society;
- Functional literacy of Roma and Egyptian women in the north and northeastern region of Montenegro;
- Work on opportunities to improve the social, economic, educational, political, health and cultural status of Roma and Egyptian women, as the most vulnerable groups of women and children in Montenegro;
- Creating opportunities for gradual and complete integration of Roma and Egyptian women
- Direct involvement of Roma and Egyptian women through workshops of various skills training in manual and machine work on textiles;
- Combating gender discrimination against girls and women in Roma and Egyptian communities in Montenegro, through anti-discriminatory activities
- Providing humanitarian assistance for vulnerable members of the Roma and Egyptian communities in Montenegro



INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

Bratstva jedinstva 57/1 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro Telephone/ Fax: +382 20 620 491 Cell phone: +382 69 400 502

Vision: Montenegro, civil society, with educated and integrated Roma and Egyptian community.

Mission: Provide support to the integration of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro through providing access to education, culture and employment at all levels.

Goals:

- promoting the importance of education as a long term solution for po-
- collecting material and presentation of the cultural heritage of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro - providing scholarships
- financial support for Roma and Egyptian people who attend primary, secondary schools or University of Montenegro,
- providing access to financial resources for Roma and Egyptian people in various learning processes that provide or encourage their integration into the formal courses of education, culture, employment, or society as a whole,
- ongoing support and strengthening of the capacity of scholars,
- Empowerment of Roma and Egyptian families and households,
- work with parents of beneficiaries from elementary and secondary schools.
- research and documentation of human rights, the role of information, education and a center for professional support

- initiation, participation and support of all the activities that contribute to a better economic, social, and social status of Roma and Egyptian people,
- social, economic and political empowerment of young Roma and Egyptian people and representation of women's human rights and gender equality policies,
- advocacy toward decision makers,
- active monitoring and support for the European integration process of
- watch-dog role in the implementation of policies and assessing the effects of the measures taken.



Montenegro Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Active inclusion and rights of Roma women in Western Balkans Montenegro

RAE Women's Network "FIRST" Montenegro E-mail: behijar@gmail.com



RAE Women's Network "FIRST" was founded in 28.04.2010, and since then has been of a great importance and a positive example of resistance toward the traditional norms and obligations and a great support of Egyptian and Roma women in the local community and in Montenegro. It encourages women to more active social engagement that will create a feminine Roma perspective force that will be able to fight the patriarchy in their community, and discrimination that they are facing as members of the Roma minority.

Vision: Our network is built on the solid principles of trust, responsibility and equality. We are the first to defend the Roma woman and as such we will stay on top.

Mission of the network is to make a positive change in lives of women and children from the RE population through support, strengthening and advocacy in order to create emancipated active female citizens in an open and responsible Montenegrin society.

Network goals are:

- increasing the participation of civil society and the Roma and Egyptian woman in forming public policies for their active participation in all spheres.
- > Capacity building and cooperation for advancement of Roma and Egyptian women position.
- Increasing the communication channel between local authorities and institutions and other international organizations.

- > Increasing the visibility of civil societies improving the situation of Roma and Egyptians women.
- RAE Women's Network "FIRST" is of great importance, a positive example how to resist the traditional norms, obligations and support of Roma women in the local community in Montenegro.
- > Encourages women to more active social engagement that will create perspective of a feminine Roma force that will be able to fight the patriarchy in their own community, and discrimination that they are exposed to as a minority.



Behija Ramović, the president of women's network "PRVA" for more than ten years, by ther work, contributes to the realization of rights, improve the status and quality of life of Roma and Egyptian women. She is employed in the Office of the Prime Minister of Montenegro and is currently the only politically active Roma woman in Montenegro.



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