



ROMA WOMEN NETWORK SERBIA

VISION OF ROMA WOMEN NETWORK

Vision of Roma Women Network are strong, educated, healthy, economically empowered Roma women who live in a society that respects us, without discrimination and violence, and enable us to preserve our culture and tradition.

MISSION OF ROMA WOMEN NETWORK

We as Roma Women Network advocate for the implementation of individual and collective rights, the advancement of the status and quality of life of Roma women in Serbia with respecting the principle of solidarity and feminist activism.

ETHICS CODE OF ROMA WOMEN NETWORK

1. The best interest of Roma women
2. The feminist principles
3. Solidarity
4. Responsibility
5. Autonomy
6. Communication and cooperation
7. Sustainability and social impact

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Strengthening the capacity of the Network and their members
2. Empowering Roma women as beneficiaries through education
3. Participation in the development of public policies that affect quality of life of Roma women
4. Improving the visibility of the Network and its members in the public and among institutions

NETWORK STATUS

Roma Women's Network is a form of voluntary association of organizations, initiatives and individuals whose previous work showed respect of the principles of the Network and feminist politics.

The network is not a legal entity.

STRUCTURE OF THE NETWORK

- **Assembly** consists of one representative of each association, initiatives and individuals who are members of the Network.
- **Steering Committee** is the executive body of the Network that is composed of 7 members elected by the Assembly of the Network.
- **Association coordination** is composed by the members of the Network based on the decision of the Assembly.
- **Coordinator** is a member of the Association for the Coordination appointed by the Association.

PERMANENT WORKING GROUPS

1. Working group on education
2. Working group on employment
3. Working group on Health
4. Working group for political participation
5. Working groups against violence against women
6. Working group on the network capacity building
7. Working group on media and information
8. Working group for culture and arts

Activities of Roma Women network of Serbia in last year:

- One of the main activities of our network was to work on CEDAW report
- Capacity building of Roma Women network
- Month of Roma women activism from 8 March-8 April
- Construction of Roma Women Action Plans
- Changing of policies towards Roma and especially Roma women
- Trainings and education of Roma women in Serbia
- Support women to start their own businesses

PRESENTATION OF CEDAW REPORT 2013

Main issues:

1. Protection from family violence
2. Employment
3. Education Health
4. Access to health protection
5. Women in representative bodies

Violence against women

23. Recalling its General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Review and revise the Criminal Code, the Family Code and other relevant laws with a view of effectively preventing all forms of violence against women and protecting victims;

Employment

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in order to narrow and close the gender wage gap;
- (b) Increase women's access to employment and entrepreneurship, including for Roma women, women with disabilities and women in rural areas;

Education

29. The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness of the importance of education as a human right and as the basis for the empowerment of women and girls. To this end, it urges the State party to:

- (a) Promote enrolment and attendance of Roma children, particularly girls, at the primary and secondary levels of education in regular schools, and eliminate all barriers, including financial barriers, for their access to education
- (b) Review and revise materials and textbooks used for secondary education to eliminate patriarchal gender stereotypes

Health

33. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Improve women's access to quality health care and health-related services, in line with General Recommendation No. 24 (1999);

(b) Ensure the effective implementation of laws and policies providing compulsory health insurance and free services to all women and girls;

Participation in political and public life

27. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(a) Ensure the full and equal participation of women in political and public life including by implementing article 35 of its Law on Gender Equality, and assess its impact, in particular on women from disadvantaged groups, such as Roma women and women with disabilities;

(b) Increase the number of women in decision-making positions, especially in local administrations and at the highest ranks of the diplomatic service.

Contact:

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