

Dear Chairman,

Our organization, the Miko Imre Minority Rights Legal Aids Services was founded with the express goal of the monitoring, reporting and prevention of any sort of violation of rights and discrimination against the Hungarian minority in Romania, a large group consisting of 1, 3 million people.

The human rights of minority groups are being constantly violated, and these violations move on a very wide spectrum, from humanitarian crisis to political and religious ones. Every state in the world should consider minorities a great cultural asset, however, more often than not, minorities are being heavily discriminated against, some of these situations reaching to alarming extents. The members of minority groups are increasingly facing marginalization, due to their ethnic, linguistic and cultural roots and thus, they are very often pushed into a crisis that it is very difficult to rectify, simply because they are the most vulnerable ones in societies that aim to destroy their culture, language or religion.

The topic and the framework of this summit is the humanitarian crises that ethnic, cultural and religious minorities of the world face. However, as we all know, the scale and range of discrimination of minority groups is wide. There are communities in Europe that face systemic and serious discrimination from the state they live in, that reaches to an alarming level and results.

This is the case of the Hungarian community in Romania, that is currently under constant attacks as a community on several fronts. For example, the community's assets are being re-nationalized and seized, as the state desires to take back all church and private properties that were previously restituted to the community, as Romania pledged to do so, before joining the European Union. Schools are being nationalized and school directors and restitution committee members are being arrested simply because they have contributed to the restitution process that the schools were part of.

Also, members of the community face serious violent attacks in form of verbal and symbolic aggression and abuse on live television, prime time, where instigation and hate speech towards the members of the community are so

blatant, that they result in death threats for Hungarian leaders on social media. And while these threats are real and the perpetrators are always identified, the state does not prosecute them, thus it creates an atmosphere for the members of the community that can be best described through fear and lack of security. In recent times, the security of people were literally put at risk, when incidents happened where members of the Romanian majority attacked the members of the Hungarian minority due to an atmosphere best described by instigation to hatred and intimidation of the community.

The restrictive policies of the state can be recognized also in how the state persecutes the national and regional symbols of the Hungarian community. Community leaders are facing legal consequences, huge fines and prosecution if they refuse to use the symbols of the community. Thus, this lack of trust and cooperation from the state's part results in a highly charged, divisive and tense atmosphere between the Hungarian and Romanian communities.

It is very important to note that, humanitarian crises emerge from political and societal ones, from the lack of understanding and generosity, and the lack of dialogue between communities that become isolated from each other due to restrictive state policies.

We kindly ask you to pay attention to the situation of the Hungarian community in Romania, in order to prevent an escalation of an inter-communitarian crisis.

Thank you very much!