

OHCHR Fellow - Georgia Shalala Amirjanova

Thank you Madam Chair,

My name is Shalala Amirjanova and I represent Azerbaijanian national, linguistic, and religious minority of Georgia.

I am also OHCHR Minority Fellow.

It is the great honor to represent the one of the diverse and multicultural countries in the World - Georgia.

Madam Chair,

I am here today to stand in solidarity with Romani people living in Georgia. Despite to the existing laws to regulate the issues on statelessness, many Roma are still stateless or at risk of statelessness, and there is no mechanisms to insure that such laws are implemented. Furthermore, there is no data on the number of stateless Roma in Georgia making it even more difficult to address this issue.

Recommendations for the Georgian government:

Firstly,

Initiate amendments in the Georgian legislation pertaining to civil registration with an end to remove procedural barriers and complex requirements and making it more adapted to the specific need and conditions of the minorities concerned,

Promote the participation of Roma in political and public life;

Secondly,

Increase partnership with the National Statistics office of Georgia in order to collect accurate data of Roma residing in Georgia, Initiate direct dialogue and communication with Roma communities in order to build trust toward the State agencies;

And finally,

Invest in international Volunteer Fund in order to build capacity of Georgian minorities including Roma to interact with UN mechanisms and bodies.

Thank you Madam Chair.