

Transcript of the speech of Erika Benkő, Mikó Imre Association for the Protection of Minority Groups

United Nations Forum on Minority Issues

Today I participate at this Forum as a representative of the Hungarian community from Romania, linguistic, ethnic and religious minority group within a country. It is our unfortunate experience, that in the last year also hate speech has increased both in intensity and both in terms of importance when it comes to the levels of hate speech. For example, we've been very-very worried about the fact that the president of our country, Klaus Iohannis, in his quality as president of the country instigated towards our community and we find it unacceptable, for a mainstream politician, for a president of the country to instigate to hatred towards a minority group for political purposes. I know I don't have a lot of time and I know that we have this time remained, but please allow me to bring up one more pressing issue, namely that good understanding between communities really is the responsibility of the responsible majority, and what we expect us, the Hungarians of Romania, what we expect from Romanian politicians in this very difficult time of the pandemics, is them to show responsible behaviour and do not use these very difficult times to find scapegoats and to direct hatred towards vulnerable communities, just as the Hungarian community is in Romania. Thank you very much and I wish you all a very productive and very fruitful dialogue, because minorities absolutely do need that.