

*Dear Mr. Chairman*

I am Tamás Kiss, researcher at the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities, engaged among others in research on Roma in Transylvania.

I would like to address the cause of Hungarian-speaking Roma in Romania. Hungarian-speakers are heavily overrepresented among Roma, especially among those living in compact Roma neighborhoods.

Two aspects characterize their situation. First, they are strongly connected to institutions of the Hungarian minority. Their children are enrolled in Hungarian schools, they mostly vote for Hungarian parties and in census figures they often appear as Hungarians. This, however, does not mean participation on equal footing. They are discriminated against both in Hungarian minority institutions and Romanian public institutions.

Their situation is worse than that of Roma in general.. Their community infrastructure is worse, housing is of lower quality, a greater proportion of them lives in deep poverty.

Causes contributing to this situation are multiple. Social distances between Roma and non-Roma are larger among Hungarian speakers, but they are also barely included into existing projects of Roma inclusion run by the Romanian state. One might argue that they face multiple and intersectional exclusion: both as Roma and as Hungarians.

**Recommendations:**

My recommendations go beyond Romania and refer to cases where Roma are part of another linguistic minority. In such cases

- Minority institutions should become more accommodative towards Roma. For instance, minority language textbooks should be revised to include Roma experiences.
- States policies should also acknowledge diversity of the Roma and address intersectional discrimination of minority language speakers among them.