

Speaker: Thank you Chair. Pavee Point [inaudible] and Roma center. We are a national organization promoting the rights of travelers and Roma. There are about 40,000 Irish travelers in Ireland. Just less than 1% of the population, and an estimate of 5000 Roma. As a minority ethnic group, we continue to experience racism, discrimination and marginalization in our country. We are honored to participate in this forum, marking the 30 years of UN declaration of minority. However, our work as minority rights defenders remains crucial as we continue to face significant challenges in the implementation of travelers and Roma policies and responses. Since March 2022, Ukrainian Roma families has been seeking refuge in Ireland and we have highlighted emerging concerns. On work with key agencies involved with the response. We commend the state for their commitment to ensuring the rights and safety of those fleeing conflict in Ukraine. However, it is vital that Ukrainian Roma refugees receive an equal and fair treatment of protection under the Temporary Protection Directive of the EU and other international obligations. Through our work, we know a number of cases where Ukrainian Roma families have been refused Temporary Protection upon arrival. A common trait throughout it was the concern about discriminatory attitudes and differential treatment. With direct supportive, some of those refusals were successful [inaudible] temporary protection was granted. The most recent case requests legal intervention from the High Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.