

Pavee Point Ireland's National Traveller and Roma Centre

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre Ireland and our friends in the International Association for Community Development Global salute the courage and contributions of minorities in all your diversity everywhere. We are very alarmed by the global upsurge in anti-minority racism, and particularly alarmed by the far-right ignited riots on the streets of Dublin, and the increased anti-Roma racism they brought. Community workers everywhere struggle daily with the effects of social media-inspired hatred, which makes achieving the SDGs impossible. But achieving equality, social inclusion, and socio-economic participation essential for cohesive societies involves complex intersectional actions. We know that this work takes time. But being human, Madame Chair, is not work in progress, and human rights realization cannot masquerade indefinitely as progressive implementation. We again call on this Forum, the UN, and member states to name and address in law and policy the systemic racism at the root of exclusion and discrimination of minorities, including in your own organizations. Member states have committed to this under ICERD and to the disaggregated data which makes progress from agendas to action possible. The holistic approach required for cohesive societies requires free and full participation by collective minority voices, which can be facilitated by community development, as well as targets and timelines worked out with minorities, who need to be visible at every level. Access and participation are not ends in themselves, but require targeted outcomes and lasting human rights-proved mainstream policies, which explicitly include and name minority rights. They also require political will. We call on all governments to immediately redouble efforts to address the toxic global discourse of lies and provocations, including the assault [cut off by Chair].