

Kherson Youth Roma Society

Thank you Madame Chair. My name is Vera [Inaudible] and I speak on behalf of the Kherson Youth Roma Society, an organization working to strengthen and support Roma women's participation in Ukraine. Today, Roma women continue to face barriers that limit their equal participation in society. The war in Ukraine has intensified these challenges, disrupted schooling, loss of documents, and insufficient support in host communities. These barriers affect their access to education, and hinder the development of their leadership potential. To address these gaps and provide systematic support, we establish Roma Youth Coalition, a platform uniting Roma youth organization across Ukraine. Through our coalition, we create learning spaces where Roma women can access education, mentorship, and human rights trainings. The coalition enables them to engage in community life, and participate in intercultural dialogue. This experience shows that when systemic support is in place, Roma women become active contributors. To strengthen these efforts and create meaningful opportunities, we call upon Ukrainian authorities: to support Roma civil society and youth organizations as strategic partners in promoting equality and social integration; to ensure the institutional inclusion of Roma women; and to establish state and local mechanisms to support the development of Roma women and girls. Social cohesion can be strengthened when communities and institutions move in the same direction: towards equal opportunities, trust, and meaningful participation for all. Thank you.