

Dear Chair, allow me first to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the Ukrainian authorities who continue to operate under extreme and brutal air attack by the oppressor state, the Russian Federation. Despite these conditions, Ukraine remains firmly committed to democratic values and European integration. In this context, the protection of national minorities, including Roma, becomes a matter of principal importance, fully aligned with the peace pact over the European Union. I'd like to draw your attention to the social situation of Roma in Ukraine, during the ongoing war. Multiple studies identified Roma as one of the most marginalized groups in the country. Before the invasion, approximately 400,000 Roma lived in Ukraine. Chiricli continuously monitors the situation of displaced Roma. Our latest assessment, October 2025, across Transcarpathia, Odessa, and Kiev region showed that a significant proportion of Roma DPs still face discrimination, including barriers in temporary accommodation, healthcare, and employment. Chiricli recommends that the government of Ukraine, together with the relevant UN agencies and partners, take targeted measures to ensure equal access for Roma DPs to state shelters and temporary accommodation, support with personal documentation, restoration of municipal services in Roma settlements, and the inclusion of Roma in local employment initiatives, including public works and cleaning services. Ensuring access to Ukrainian language education for Roma children, and providing social housing for the most vulnerable families should also be considered priorities. These measures wouldn't only address urgent humanitarian needs, but also strengthen Ukraine's fulfilment of minority rights standards on its path toward EU accession. Thank you for your attention.