

Platforma Femeilor Rome "ROMNI" din Moldova, Mun.Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

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Public Statement: Generalizations about 'asylum tourism' stigmatize Roma community and violate the right to international protection

The Platform of Roma Women "ROMNI" in Moldova expresses its concern about the recent statements by the Belgian Minister of Asylum and Migration, Anneleen Van Bossuyt, who alleged that Moldovan citizens - especially Roma people - would abuse the Belgian asylum system for the purpose of so-called "asylum tourism".

These stigmatizing statements coming from a high-ranking official are worrying and unacceptable, fueling racism and normalizing hate speech against the Roma community.

Migration policies, no matter how strict, cannot justify ethnic discrimination and cannot violate fundamental human rights principles.

These statements ignore the profound realities of many Roma women and families in Moldova, who live in conditions of extreme poverty, lack of adequate housing, domestic violence, social exclusion and systemic discrimination. In these circumstances, migration and asylum-seeking are not comfortable choices, but desperate solutions in the search for a dignified and secure life.

In particular, the Belgian minister's speech completely ignores the situation of Roma women in situations of multiple vulnerability - as single mothers, victims of violence, homeless or without access to education and essential services.

According to the Geneva Convention and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, every request must be considered responsibly, without prejudice, with respect for the dignity and the real circumstances of each individual.

In this context, the Platform of Roma Women "ROMNI" in Moldova calls to :

- Avoid labels that fuel marginalization and discrimination of Roma communities;
- Respect international commitments in the field of human rights protection;

- Ensure that migration policies are fair.
- Work with Roma organizations and civil society to understand the real causes of migration and combat systemic discrimination.

The Roma community in Moldova cannot be reduced to an asylum tourism issue. They are citizens with fundamental rights who deserve respect and protection.

We demand respect and equal rights!

Signatory organizations:

1. Platforma Femeilor Rome „ROMNI” din Moldova.
2. Centrul pentru Drepturile Romilor din Moldova
3. Asociația Națională a Mediatorilor Comunitari din R.M
4. Platforma Națională a Tinerilor pentru Participare Activă
5. LAOLALTĂ, asociație obștească
6. Teatru-spălătorie
7. Gender-Centru
8. Coaliția Sectorului Cultural Independent din Republica Moldova
9. Centrul de Proiecte Culturale Arta Azi
10. AO Femei pentru Femei
11. CPR Moldova
12. Natalia Andreev, activistă, feministă
13. Vitalie Sprânceană, Centrul pentru Politici, Inițiative și Cercetări ”Platforma”
14. Elena Rațoi, activistă, expertă în egalitatea de gen
15. Olga Bîtcă, expertă în drepturile omului
16. Elisabeth Marie, Metteure en scène France
17. Curcă Rusanda, activistă
18. Drangoi Elvira, activistă
19. Rudco Steliana, activistă
20. Victoria Apostol, activistă feministă
21. Olga Alexandrova, cercetătoare

- 22.** Marin Alla, activist
- 23.** Feraru Silvia, activistă romă, mediatoare comunitară
- 24.** Suslov Nina, activistă
- 25.** Feraru Maria, Mediatoare comunitară
- 26.** Cojocaru Cristina, Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare
- 27.** Alexandr Burdian