

**Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues**

REFERENCE: OL  
MDA 3/2015:

28 May 2015

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and Special Rapporteur on minority issues pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 26/3 and 25/5.

We are writing to you to follow-up on Moldova's Roma Community Action Plan (2011-2015), which is designed to achieve the objectives of integrating Roma in the Moldovan society and providing them with adequate access to public services. One of the crucial components of the Roma Community Action Plan is the placement of 48 Roma community mediators in 44 communities. The role of Roma community mediators is to facilitate interaction between Roma, public authorities, employers, health providers and others, in order to provide Roma with access to education, health care, employment, documentation and better living conditions.

The previous Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Ms. Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, visited Moldova in September 2013 and expressed concerns about discrimination and marginalization that Roma experience in accessing adequate housing, education and employment opportunities (A/HRC/26/28/Add.2, paragraphs 52-57). In relation to Roma mediators specifically, Ms. Sepúlveda Carmona noted that the first steps towards Roma inclusion through the introduction of Roma mediators had been 'inauspicious', since the target of 15 mediators by the end of 2013 had not been met and the planned network of 48 mediators would not be in place until the end of 2014. The Special Rapporteur on minority issues has also raised the matter of the marginalized situation of Roma with the Government of Moldova, in particular in communication 2/2011.

According to our information, the target of introducing 48 mediators has still not been met. In fact, at the end of 2014, there were reportedly only 25 mediators in place. Furthermore, on 1 January 2015, as result of changes generally to local government financing, mediator financing was reportedly transferred from the national to the local level. As many local authorities did not include a budget for the mediator, many

mediators were not re-contracted by the local authorities and the total number of mediators in Moldova has reportedly dropped to 19 as of mid-May. The decentralization of the financing structure also means that the decision-making authority to pay and appoint mediators rests entirely with the local authorities, and it limits the influence of and oversight by national bodies, including the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF).

In light of this information, we recall the concerns by the former Special Rapporteur, Ms. Sepúlveda Carmona about meeting the target of 48 Roma mediators as well as her recommendation to your Government to “provide adequate resources for the implementation and monitoring of all policies to ensure that the Roma can enjoy their rights on an equal basis with the rest of the population”.

We encourage your Government to fully implement the recommendations related to Roma set out in the abovementioned report and welcome any information on the progress of the implementation. More specifically, we call on the Government to consider reinstating the mediators within the national budget, with a view to placing 48 mediators as originally planned. We would furthermore be grateful if you could inform us about progress relating to the development of a Roma Inclusion Action Plan for the next five-year period (2016-2020), including information on any consultations held with the Roma community and the civil society.

We would appreciate receiving a response within 60 days. Your Excellency’s Government’s response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Philip Alston  
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

IZSÁK Rita  
Special Rapporteur on minority issues