



CERD Answers from Unión Romani

1) *What are the key challenges and issues of racial discrimination in your country/region today and how do you work to address them?*

From the Union Romani we observe how the racial discrimination and the antigypsyism is growing gradually in our country (Spain). Above all, we are very concerned about the hate speech that has been unleashed on social networks and in the threads of media conversations. It is important that a solution to this reality is made political at the political level, so that legislation can not allow racism at this level like now happens. Our work in front of it is based on denouncing all those comments that seem to us demeaning towards the roma people, although unfortunately these reports are seldom taken into account under the right to freedom of expression. We also report annually on racism in the media, which includes an extensive analysis of hate speech in networks against the Roma community.

2) *What has been your experience, as civil society, of engaging with CERD to date?*

Identification and mutual support in the struggle that is common to us.

3) *How can the CERD improve and enhance its engagement with civil society, and its work on racial discrimination for greater impact on the ground?*

- Conducting quarterly surveys of civil society organizations on specific cases of racism and hate speech.
- Establishing joint complaint mechanisms: CERD to support organizations that want to denounce racism.
- Bring CERD closer to many grassroots and small organizations that are unaware of its existence.