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Subject: Request for information on the human rights situation of Roma

Contribution from the Finnish NHRI/Human Rights Centre

The Human Rights Centre (HRC) would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues for the possibility to provide input for the study of the human rights situation of Roma.

In Finland, the implementation of human rights is promoted, monitored and followed by a variety of authorities. The Human Rights Centre, its Delegation and the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman together form Finland's National Human Rights Institution. The HRC's task is to promote the implementation of fundamental and human rights and increase cooperation and exchange of information between various actors. Its work consists of acquiring, compiling and distributing information, building cooperation, taking initiatives and participating in international cooperation.

The supreme guardians of the law are the Chancellor of Justice and the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

There are also several Ombudsmen appointed for specific topics. The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman (former Ombudsman for Minorities) advances the status of ethnic minorities, such as the Roma. He/she supervises compliance with the Non-Discrimination Act with regard to all grounds of discrimination.

Concerning the situation of the Roma in Finland, the HRC requested information from the Office of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman. In 2014, The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman published a survey on Roma's experiences of discrimination. The results can be found on a separate document attached with this contribution. Hopefully the survey will give valuable information for the Special Rapporteur's study.

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On behalf of the Finnish NHRI/Human Rights Centre,

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