GREEK HELSINKI MONITOR (GHM) MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP - GREECE (MRG-G) COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES FOR ROMA HUMAN RIGHTS IN GREECE (SOKADRE)

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GHM – MRG-G – SOKADRE Profiles

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Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM), founded in 1993, monitors, publishes, lobbies, and litigates on human and minority rights and anti-discrimination issues in Greece and, from time to time, in other European countries, especially as third-party intervener in (through November 2010 thrity-two) cases before the European Court of Human Rights. It also monitors Greek media for stereotypes and hate speech. It issues press releases and prepares (usually jointly with other NGOs) detailed annual reports; parallel reports to UN Treaty Bodies; and specialized reports on ill-treatment and on ethno-national, ethno-linguistic, religious and immigrant communities, in Greece and (in the past) in other Balkan countries. GHM's main areas of work are: a) securing Roma rights especially to housing and education; b) legal representation mostly of vulnerable individuals like Roma, migrants and trafficking victims before Greek and international courts; c) combating police violence and helping improving detention conditions; d) combating racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism and e) monitoring and reporting also on the rights of minorities, immigrants, asylum-seekers, sex workers, children, women and victims of domestic violence. GHM operates a web site (http://cm.greekhelsinki.gr) and two web lists covering human rights issues and comprehensive and comparable presentations of minorities in Greece and (in the past) in the Balkan region.

Minority Rights Group - Greece (MRG-G), founded in 1992, focuses on studies of minorities, in Greece and in the Balkans. In 1998, MRG-G co-founded with GHM the Center of Documentation and Information on Minorities in Europe – Southeast Europe (CEDIME-SE) which contributes to GHM's web site and two web lists with material on minorities in the region. It has prepared comprehensive reports on ethno-national, ethno-linguistic, and religious communities in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, and Romania, available at http://www.greekhelsinki.gr/english/organizations/cedime.html.

The Coordinated Organizations and Communities for Roma Human Rights in Greece (SOKADRE) is a network founded in 2001; its members include 50 Roma communities and 5 Greek NGOs that have been working on Roma rights. SOKADRE advocates for and litigates on the rights of the destitute Roma of Greece, mainly in the areas of housing and preventing evictions, education, access to social services, proper civil registration, ill-treatment and non-discrimination including fighting racial profiling by law enforcement agencies. It operates through a network of volunteer representatives in the 50 member communities and in several other non-member communities.