

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Opre Roma and Jai Bhim!

**Roma and diaspora youth from Communitieis Discriminated on Work and Descent
(CDWD) on building sustainable cities and communities**

Background and Rationale

Communities discriminated on the basis of work and descent such as Roma and member from diaspora communities (including the Dalits, Haratin and Buraku) are often marginalized and excluded from public social, cultural activities and are frequently denied housing, education and other basic services.

The event focuses on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and also explore the linkages to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and 5 (Gender Equality) and aims to highlight the interconnectedness and offer comprehensive solutions and ideas.

Sustainable cities and communities require the fulfilment of basic services such as housing, education and work for the most vulnerable. In addition, it requires a functioning social contract of mutual respect and a recognition of the unique needs of all individuals. Housing shortages and high prices push Roma and other CDWD to the margins of many cities and force menial professions to be performed related to waste, or hard manual labour or menial clearing tasks.

Creating sustainable cities and communities that are inclusive of CDWD requires a comprehensive approach that addresses discrimination, promotes inclusive urban planning, ensures access to basic services, fosters economic empowerment, and encourages cultural preservation.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The following key points will be discussed by each speaker:

- Acknowledge and address discrimination on work and descent
- Promote inclusive urban planning
- Ensure access to basic services and causes of informal/not permitted settlements

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An outcome outline document is to be prepared and finalized during the meeting to build up towards the UN Youth Conference as resource paper and corresponding official side event.

Organizers

Lead organizers: The Inclusivity Project (TIP)

Contributors: European Roma Grassroots Organisation Network (ERGO) & Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD)

Agenda and Structure

- Opening by moderator: 5 min.
- Words of welcome by representative of the Permanent Mission (TBC 10 minutes)
- Speakers 40 minutes
- Representation of outline of outcome document on youth and sustainable cities and Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) 10 minutes.
- Speakers' additional comments 20 min
- Open floor for additional suggestions.

END

List of Panellists

Moderation: Priyanka Samy (FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund)

Rohan Das – Dalit youth Diaspora leader based in Wisconsin USA

Annamária Pšenková, Roma activist with ERGO based in Brussels

Dafina Savic - Romanipe Montreal based in Canada

Sofiya Lamichanne, CDWD Rights Expert & activist with Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFOD)

Sign-up / Registration Link

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[https://theinclusivityproject-
org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwodeyqpj0iGNZHHvckCLXAS2mWcHrlLqrqA](https://theinclusivityproject-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwodeyqpj0iGNZHHvckCLXAS2mWcHrlLqrqA)

