

May 13, 2015

**PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF ROMANI WOMEN ASSOCIATIONS KAMIRA AND ITS MEMBER ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE AND FOR THE INCLUSION OF A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT.**

The entities of the National Federation of Roma Women Kamira, express support -as we have already done in the public statement issued by the Roma Council- for the creation, implementation and promotion of the European Roma Institute (ERI).

We consider essential to create an independent entity, based on the European legal framework, to contribute to the enhancement of the rights of Roma people in Europe. The aim of this entity should be to actively support the dissemination of Roma culture so that it gains the place that historically deserves but has been denied until now.

Without losing our essence, Roma women have played a key role for the transmission of our culture, as well as in its process of adaptation to changing times. Therefore, we firmly believe that any issue addressed in relation to Roma, their culture, their customs, their art or modes of expression, should be promoted in different ways and must necessarily be viewed from a gender perspective. Thus, ERI should recognize the important position that Roma women play in the conservation, development of Roma culture and promotion of Roma in general.

It follows that Roma women must be taken into account, in the configuration of the management bodies and the exercise of leadership of ERI, so that it allows us to be active protagonists of our history and evolution. It should also not lose sight of acting to address the double discrimination suffered by Roma women, as women and as Roma. It is therefore essential that any action by the ERI or any other important organisations keep in mind the gender perspective and the opinion of Roma women.

In Kamira we believe that the contributions made by Roma women either as activists, intellectuals, professionals or simply as Roma who live their culture and reality, will be essential in the work to be performed by ERI.

It should be remembered that women have been and are fundamental to the changes that are occurring in our community. We need to continue to have the support of all institutions, which like ERI will be involved in the struggle for the rights of Roma in Europe. Therefore, we congratulate the Council of Europe, the Open Society and all organizations and individuals who are supporting this project.

Kamira sees the creation of ERI as an important opportunity to promote the active participation of Roma women in relevant policy areas. We also consider that this institute will

play an important role for the entire Roma and non-Roma population, since knowledge and appreciation of Roma culture should be an objective of all European citizens, since it enriches us all.

NGOs federated to KAMIRA:

Asociación Mujeres Gitanas Panyabi  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Akherdi-Tromipen  
Asociación Mujeres Gitanas de Granada Romí  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Sinando Kalí  
Asociación de Mujeres Payas y Gitanas de Palencia Romí  
Asociación Mujeres Gitanas Españolas Romi Sersení  
Asociación Mujeres Gitanas Romís Calís Kamelan Nakerar  
Asociación Mujeres Gitanas Sakais Kalis  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Alboreá  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas de Madrid Alboreá  
Asociación Gitana de Fuenlabrada Clan Caló  
Asociación Plataforma Joven de Huesca  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas de Alagón Romí Chachipen  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Kimera de Tauste  
Asociación de Mujeres de Épila  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Universitarias de Andalucía AMURADI  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Upre Romja  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas de Aragón Romí Calí  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas del País Vasco Chanelamos Adikerar  
Asociación Gitana de Mujeres Drom Kotar Mestipen  
Asociación Gitana Sonakay de Casetas  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Yerbabuena Linares  
Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Progresistas de Cantabria  
Jóvenes Gitanas de Aragón  
Asociación de Mujeres Paraj