DAY 1 | 23 NOVEMBER 2026
ROMA RIGHTS, PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE

09:30–10:00 | Registration and Welcome Coffee

10:00–10:30 | Opening Session

Moderator: Natalia Tomenko

Welcome remarks

Mr Volodymyr Yakovenko — Executive Director, ARCA (online)

Ms Sarah Reinke — Managing Director for Human Rights, Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV), specialising in Eastern Europe, Ukraine and minority rights.

Mr Wojciech Kowalski — Adviser on Coordination of Roma Policy, Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood, European Commission (online)

Ms Natalia Chernopaschenko — Embassy of Ukraine in Germany

Ms Valentina Falco — Head of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine (online)

Ms Mariette Pfister — German Federal Foreign Office

Conference objectives and expected outcomes

10:30–11:50 | Session I: Protecting Roma Communities During War

Moderator: Stephan Müller

Theme: Ensuring equal protection and access to humanitarian assistance, essential services and social protection for Roma communities.

Key topics:

- Equal access to humanitarian assistance and social protection
- Protection of Roma IDPs and displaced communities
- Documentation and access to public services
- Access to healthcare and psychosocial support
- Protection and education of Roma children
- Protection and empowerment of Roma women
- Discrimination and antigypsyism in humanitarian response
- Reintegration and recognition of Roma veterans and support for their families
- Role of Roma organisations in humanitarian assistance, recovery and community resilience

- **Speakers:**

Mr Volodymyr Anatoliiovych Kondur — Head of the Roma Rights Protection Unit, Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) (online)

Mr Fedir Danylchenko — Assistant Development Officer, UNHCR (online)

Mr Roman Bigunets — Project Manager, International Foundation for Health and Environment Protection “Region Karpat” (NEEKA) (online)

Mr Vasil Duri — Transcarpathian Regional Roma Cultural and Educational Society “Roma” (online)

Ms Eleonora Kulcsar — Executive Director, BLAGO

Ms Analee Pepper — Senior Women’s Protection Advisor on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (online)

11:50–12:05 | Coffee Break

12:05–13:25 | Session II: Roma Voices in Ukrainian and German Media — From Stereotypes to Representation

Moderator: Sarah Reinke

Theme: Strengthening Roma voices and challenging antigypsyism and stereotypes in media coverage of war, displacement and recovery.

Key topics:

- Representation of Roma in Ukrainian and German media
- Roma voices in reporting on war and displacement
- Media coverage of Roma refugees
- Combating stereotypes and antigypsyism
- Roma journalists and media professionals
- Roma organisations and cooperation with mainstream media
- Responsible reporting on Roma communities
- Representation of Roma contributions to Ukraine and its defence

Format: Dialogue between media and civil society representatives, followed by audience discussion

Ms Olha Herasymiuk — Chair of the National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting, journalist, television presenter, author and former Member of the Ukrainian Parliament (online)

Ms Diana Duzik — Executive Director of the Ukrainian Institute of Media and Communication and lecturer at the Mohyla School of Journalism (online)

Mr Seán McGinley — Political scientist and journalist specialising in Roma migration and refugee rights in Germany. Former CEO of the Baden-Württemberg Refugee Council and former staff member of the Federal Government Commissioner against Antigypsyism.

Dr Guillermo Ruiz — Managing Director of MIA (Federal Reporting and Information Centre on Antigypsyism) in Germany.

Dr Emilia Roza Sulek — Award-winning journalist and author of non-fiction books focusing on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (online)

13:25–14:25 | Lunch

14:25–15:45 | Session III: Roma History, Memory and National Identity

Theme: Recognising Roma history, culture and contributions as an integral part of Ukraine’s national history and identity.

Moderator: Eva Yakubovska

Key topics:

- Roma history and cultural heritage in Ukraine
- Roma contributions to Ukrainian society
- Roma Genocide and the history of Babyn Yar
- Remembrance and historical responsibility
- Roma history in education and public discourse
- Culture as a tool for combating antigypsyism
- Germany’s experience with remembrance of the Roma Genocide
- Recognition and preservation of Roma cultural heritage

Speakers:

Dr Kateryna Rietz-Rakul — Director of the Ukrainian Institute's Representative Office in Germany, specialising in Ukrainian culture and cultural diplomacy.

Ms Eleni Tsetsekou — Head of the Roma and Travellers Division at the Council of Europe, focusing on Roma rights, equality and inclusion (online)

Ms Viktoria Savchuk — Senior Project Manager of the Latcho Dives Funding Programme at the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ).

Ms Nataliia Tomenko — Deputy Director of ARCA, Ukrainian Roma activist and cultural heritage expert, specialising in Roma rights and historical remembrance.

Mr Arthur Zolotorenko — Head of the Museum Department at the National Historical and Memorial Reserve “Babyn Yar”

Ms Michaela Küchler — Secretary General of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and senior German diplomat, specialising in Holocaust remembrance and international cooperation (online)

Format: Expert dialogue incorporating cultural and remembrance perspectives

15:45–16:00 | Coffee Break

16:00–17:20 | Special Dialogue: Roma Participation — From Consultation to Decision-Making

Moderator: Tobias Neuburger

Theme: Ensuring meaningful Roma participation in decisions shaping Ukraine’s present and future.

Key questions:

- How can Roma participation in policymaking be strengthened?
- How can government and Roma civil society build equal partnerships?
- How should Roma communities participate in recovery and reconstruction planning?
- What mechanisms can ensure meaningful—not symbolic—participation?
- How can Roma women and youth be better represented?
- What concrete mechanisms can ensure sustained Roma participation?

Speakers:

Mr Ihor Lossovskyi — Representative of the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience (DESS) (online)

Prof. Vello Pettai — Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI).

Mr Myroslav Horvath — Counsellor at Uzhhorod City Council (online)

Ms Anzhelika Belova — Ukrainian Roma human rights activist and feminist, founder of the NGO Voice of Romni, advocating for Roma women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of Roma communities.

Mr Asier Santillan — Head of the European Integration, Governance, Rule of Law, Media and Civil Society Section (online)

Mr Helge Frederik Lindh — Member of the German Bundestag, Social Democratic Party of Germany

17:20 | End of Day 1

DAY 2 | 24 NOVEMBER 2026
RETURN, RECOVERY, RECONSTRUCTION AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

09:45 | Welcome and Recap of Day 1

Ms Sarah Reinke

- Key messages from Day 1
- Introduction to Day 2: from protection and resilience to return, recovery and reconstruction

10:00–11:20 | Session V: Roma Refugees from Ukraine in Germany and Europe — Their Future, Integration and Safe Return

Theme: The future of Roma refugees from Ukraine in Europe and the conditions needed for safe, voluntary and sustainable return.

Key topics:

- Future perspectives for Roma refugees from Ukraine in Germany and Europe
- Combating antigypsyism and discrimination in host countries
- Reintegration of returning Roma families and children through access to employment, education, housing, healthcare, and social protection
- Lessons from the Balkans on Roma refugee return and reintegration: what worked, what failed and what can be learned
- Refugees' transition towards return

Moderator: Jonathan Mack

Speakers:

Mr Kenan Emini — Roma activist and representative of Roma Center e.V. Topic: The current situation of refugees in Germany (online)

Mr Volodymyr Shcherbakov — Roma rights expert. Topic: The current situation of refugees in Germany.

Dr Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz — Assistant Professor at the University of Warsaw and Board Member of the Jaw Dikh Foundation (online)

Mr Stephan Müller — Adviser, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma

Ms Sofiia Kordonets — Programme Manager, Legal Assistance to Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Stateless Persons in Ukraine, Right to Protection (R2P) Right to Protection (R2P)

Format: Expert panel, Kosovo case study, refugee and returnee perspectives, and audience discussion

11:20–11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30–12:50 | Session VI: Roma Inclusion in Ukraine's Recovery and European Integration

Moderator: Roman Kuhn

Theme: Positioning Roma inclusion within Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction, and European integration processes.

Key topics:

- Safe, voluntary, and sustainable return to Ukraine
- Roma participation and representation in national and local recovery and reconstruction planning
- Implementation of the National Roma Strategy, with clear responsibilities, targets, and accountability
- Equal access to education, healthcare, housing, employment, and social protection
- Economic empowerment and opportunities for Roma communities, youth, and women
- Combating antigypsyism and discrimination
- Roma inclusion within Ukraine's EU accession process and European equality and minority-rights standards

- Cooperation between the government, municipalities, Roma civil society and international partners
- Role of Germany, the EU, and Ukraine in supporting safe return and sustainable reintegration

Speakers:

Mr Ihor Lossovskyi — Representative of the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience (DESS) (online)

Ms Daniela Bergelt — Senior Policy Advisor at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany.

Ms Mariette Pfister — Representative of the German Federal Foreign Office.

Mr Volodymyr Yakovenko — Executive Director of the Youth Agency for the Advocacy of Roma Culture (ARCA) (online)

Ms Zemfira Kondur — Project Manager, Council of Europe (online)

12:50–13:15 | Closing Session

13:15 | Lunch, Informal Networking and Reflection