

Sandra Veloy Mateu

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# ROMA YOUTH IN GEORGIA: WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?



For Georgia's Reforms Associates - GRASS  
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Translator: Mariam Tsitsikashvili

Editors: Giorgi Gogvadze, Denola Chkhartishvili

**ROMA YOUTH IN GEORGIA:  
WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?**

**Policy Paper**

**by Sandra Veloy Mateu**

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## Aims and Methodology

This research paper aims at providing an overview of the current situation of the Roma youth in Georgia and the most pressing issues affecting them, with special focus on the status of young women and girls.

For the purposes of this research, focus groups were held in different Roma settlements across Georgia, in order to obtain a better understanding of the reality of the situation of the Roma and to discuss the priority issues for the community in general, and youth in particular. The focus groups were organised in Dedoplistskaro, in the Kakheti region; in Gachiani, Kvemo-Kartli region; in Kobuleti, Adjara region; and Samgori district in Tbilisi. The sessions were organised by the think tank Georgia's Reforms Associates - GRASS with the involvement of major NGOs working on Roma issues in Georgia, including the „Kakheti Roma union Roma“, the „Protection of Rights of Ethnic Minorities“ and the „European Centre for Minority Issues“, which helped identifying community members and encouraged them to be active in this project, thus contributing to the creation of trust with community members, paramount for the success of the policy paper.

The main goals of the focus groups were to find out the general situation of the Roma community in Georgia and to identify the most pressing issues for Roma youth in particular, with special interest on the gender component. Young members of the Roma community between the ages of 15 and 29 participated in the focus groups, and these included women and girls. From these young Roma, a few were selected at a later stage to be part of a Roma youth platform under the project carried out by GRASS, entitled „Empowering Roma youth in Georgia to Participate in Policy-making and Advocate for their Rights“, project under which the present report was written.

### **The focus groups had the following characteristics:**

- Dedoplistskaro: 11 participants (7 female), ages between 15 and 27;
- Gachiani: 13 participants (4 female), ages between 18-26;
- Kobuleti: 12 participants (7 female), ages between 15-29; and
- Samgori district (Tbilisi): 16 participants (9 female), ages between 19-29.

Prior to the submission of the project proposal funded under this framework, GRASS had conducted some field visits in the target regions and drafted an inception report. Overall, around 70 members of Roma communities in Georgia

were interviewed (30 female and 40 male) for a needs assessment of the Roma community in Georgia, including focus groups and written questionnaires, which were also used for the present report.

## II. CURRENT SITUATION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Roma communities<sup>1</sup> in Georgia are highly marginalised and impoverished. Roma youth are therefore severely affected by the general situation and remain a particularly vulnerable group. Roma youth not only face many barriers to civic integration, but also to the enjoyment of a life with dignity, as their human rights are often violated.

Nevertheless, Georgia committed itself to the protection of human rights by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention of Human Rights from the Council of Europe, both of which provide obligations towards commitments to protect human rights, especially those of the youth. In addition, Georgia also ratified the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which provides for special measures to protect its own national minorities, which includes the Roma. All these commitments should ensure that the members of the Roma communities fully enjoy the same rights of other citizens of Georgia, as well as their cultures are respected and promoted, which at this stage remains far from reality.

It is worth mentioning that Roma women and girls account for more than half of the Roma population in Georgia; however, they remain a particularly vulnerable group due to their status within the Roma community. Roma women and girls are often expected to take care of the home and the children, whilst earning money, usually by begging, fortune-telling or through petty trade. Most Roma women (as well as men) are illiterate and greatly suffer the effects of discrimination<sup>2</sup>. Young Roma women and girls therefore can suffer a double discrimination: that of being Roma, and of being female. The focus groups tried to pay particular attention to the status of women and girls, as well as to see the barriers faced both inside the community and outside.

## III. PROBLEMS

Through the analysis of the attitudes and comments raised in the focus groups, a few problems were found and are explained in this section.

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1. Throughout the present paper, any reference to the Roma communities, Roma youth, Roma women and girls will concern Georgia only, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

2. European Centre for Minority Issues, „Needs Assessment of Ethnic Minority Women in Georgia“ commissioned study for UN Women/EU Project (Innovative Action for Gender Equality), Tbilisi, 2014

## A. Legal Situation

Within the Roma community, there is a high number of people without identification documents, among which we find Roma youth. The Government of Georgia (GoG) started focusing on solving this issue in 2012 with the first programme aimed at registering the members of the Roma community in order to provide with ID documents, but further efforts are required. The lack of ID documents does not affect all Roma settlements in the same way, as some groups are easier to reach than others, but the problem still prevails. According to a report from the GoG from 2014, „about 80% of Roma people living in Georgia now have identity cards and birth certificates“<sup>3</sup>. This statement seems quite unlikely, taken into consideration it is difficult to know the real number of Roma people living in Georgia at present, since many of them lack ID documents, a recurrent issue observed in the focus groups<sup>4</sup>.

Even though in the focus groups the lack of IDs was rarely raised as an issue of concern per se, problems that are directly derived of this were often mentioned, such as lack of acceptance in public healthcare facilities due to the lack of legal documentation. In Gachiani, for example, some youngsters mentioned the difficulties for accessing social and welfare benefits, partly due to fact that many people do not have ID documents. The lack of ID therefore carries many other consequences that affect all spheres of the life of the Roma, starting with the lack of access to education, and continuing with the lack of participation of public life, which results in the lack of change of the current situation.

When the question was raised in the focus groups, different answers were given, that can be summarised in the following points: 1) passive attitudes by some parents to register their new born children; 2) the complication of the procedures to register; 3) the cost of such procedures (out of reach for many families); 4) the lack of engagement of the authorities until very recently (although still prevalent at present); 5) the fact that many Roma women still give birth at home.

In Tbilisi, lack of ID seemed to be less prevalent than in other regions, affecting especially the community in Rustavi.

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3. Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Integration, „Assessment Document on the implementation of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration and Action Plan for 2009-2014, June 2014, p.115.

4. According to the 2014 Census, there were 604 Roma in Georgia, although non-official sources point out that the real number is far greater. See Centre for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CSEM), „Ethnic Composition of Georgia 1926-2014“, October 2016, p. 9.

## B. Access to Education

As stated in the previous section, many Roma children are out of school. The reasons vary from the lack of documentation of the children, to the lack of will of the parents, or the difficulty of physically accessing schools due to great distances or the impossibility for many families to afford transport, clothing or textbooks' costs.

Young women and girls face even bigger barriers than their male peers. In all four focus groups without exception it was stated that women and girls are expected to take care of other children and to help with chores at home, which is another reason why they often do not attend school. During a discussion with some Roma girls in Rustavi, one girl stated that she would love to go to school, because as a result of staying at home with children she had no friends and „barely talked to anyone“. This aggravating cause of isolation, due to the lack of interaction with peers can have real psychological consequences for young women and girls, who might not be able to develop the necessary skills to get involved in public life.

One of the reasons given as to why Roma children do not attend school (although contradicted in many occasions) was that many families do not see the value of education, and rather think that children should contribute to bringing money to the household. This attitude seemed to be the generally accepted in the focus groups, where a clear majority supported the idea that work is more highly valued than education in their communities. As a result of this attitude and the lack of school attendance, many Roma children do not go to school and they remain illiterate, often not being able to understand Georgian language or having limited spoken competence from working in markets or in the streets<sup>5</sup>. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that as a rule, the participants showed great interest in learning Georgian as they understand its value for social integration and employment prospects, and they emphasised the growing interest in the young generations. The focus groups reiterated the idea of „normality“ in the lack of schooling among Roma communities. Across the focus groups, only two participants had completed their education and none of them had higher education. However, as stated above, lack of education seem to be a result of their parents having different expectations from them, than of the lack of interest and willingness from themselves.

School dropouts seem to happen often as a consequence of direct discrimination by older students, and the lack of acceptance by classmates and even teachers, as underlined in the focus groups, which seem to be particularly re-

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5. The members of the Roma communities interviewed for the purposes of the present research speak Russian and different Romani dialects (Vlach, Krym and Plashuno) and only some do speak Georgian - mostly those working in markets or in trade, with very limited competency.

levant in Leninovka (Kakheti region). In Dedoplistskharo, the issue of discrimination from the non-Roma population was brought up as to be a barrier for the general integration of the Roma population of the region, having therefore a direct impact on education as well. In Kobuleti, some participants stated that school dropouts are common among girls, as they usually have to leave school in order to take care of younger siblings.

Access to education seemed to be a particularly worrying issue for youth in Dedoplistskharo, who highlighted barriers mainly linked to poverty and the low wages that the Roma community members get in the region. One female participant said that „[m]ost of the children do not go to school because of the material conditions, even though their families want them to go“, which shows a different perspective on the lack of schooling as the one generally shown. In that same focus group, another added barrier was mentioned, which is faced by families living in rural areas: schools are far and in many cases transport is unaffordable. It is worth mentioning that in 2008, the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) held an awareness-raising campaign among Roma parents in one village in the Kakheti region to talk about the benefits of education and pushed for the provision of transportation services for Roma children to attend school, which saw an increase in the number of Roma children attending school<sup>6</sup>. Nevertheless, according to young Roma from Kakheti this remains a problem to date, and many stressed the need for further efforts to contribute to the removal of barriers to education for the Roma living in rural areas. Since this campaign seemed to be highly successful, similar actions could be replicated in this direction.

A young male participant in the focus group in Kobuleti stated that „nowadays, the number of parents who want their children to get education has increased“, pointing out a change in the mentality of parents with regards to school. This is thanks to the efforts of a local non-governmental organisation, which actively raised awareness among Roma parents, who started sending their children to school, once the benefits of education were explained to them and they understood why attending school was a priority for their children.

Nevertheless, all focus groups seemed to agree that most Roma youth to date either remain out of school, or they drop out without finishing their education. It is difficult to state the number of out-of-school Roma since there are no statistics or monitoring mechanism in place in schools. Twenty six out of the total or participants in the four focus groups stated that they dropped out of school before high school, which represents a great majority. It is therefore clear that further efforts are in need since education can be the engine for integration as contacts among children can positively impact the future of the society as a whole. In Dedoplistskharo, it was repeatedly mentioned that education is key for

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6. Giorgi Sordia, p. 11 and p. 14.

social inclusion and as mentioned by one participant, „important for full participation in economic, political and social life“.

### C. Healthcare and Well-being

Gender equality seems to be a fairly unknown concept for Roma youth that participated in the focus groups across Georgia. No one wanted to talk about inequality between women and men within the communities and it was greatly difficult to conduct the focus groups on the topic. It seemed to be somewhat of an unknown concept for them, even though it seems to be the case that Roma women are the main source of income in their families, working (or begging) whilst taking care of the children and doing the household chores. Although maybe not a widespread concept, it seemed that they are aware of existing inequalities, as one female participant from Tbilisi stated: „[w]omen do not decide anything about their life, decision-makers are her father or elder brother before they get married“.

As mentioned above, isolation at an early age can have serious consequences, which seems to be even greater for Roma girls. Due to the role of women within the Roma community, young women and girls are often victims of early marriages and therefore pregnancies at a young age, all of which have implications for their health and well-being. Here are the three main problems with regards to women and girls' health and wellbeing that are interlinked with gender equality (or mainly the lack thereof):

- **Early and Forced Marriages**

According to a survey done in Dedoplistskhara, the average age for marriage among the people asked (which were all women) was between 13 and 15 years-old. This seems to be a general „norm“ accepted throughout the communities, and marrying after the age of 18 is even considered „rare“. One female participant from that same focus group gave a very illustrative example of this feeling of strangeness in late (non-early) marriages: „[m]y sister is 21 years-old and I think she is late with her marriage“. In Rustavi, the head of the community (also known as „baron“) mentioned that the usual age for marrying within the Roma communities is 13-14 for girls, and they usually do so with older men. However, they also noted that these practices are losing strength, as they are aware of their illegality. In Georgia, according to article 1108 of the Civil Code the legal age for marriage is 18, although it can be 16 if there is parental consent or permission of the Court<sup>7</sup>.

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7. Andrea Peinhopf, „Ethnic Minority Women in Georgia - Facing a Double Burden?“, ECMI Working Paper, #74 February 2014, p.8.

In the focus groups, questions regarding early marriages were raised. The participants stated not to be aware of such a „phenomenon“. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that there were two main discourses alongside it, which seem to be consistent throughout the groups in different regions. The male participants stated that marrying early was a „cultural thing“ and there was nothing they could do to change it, whereas their female counterparts all agreed (at least formally) that they wanted to get married early and it was their own choice. These strong statements can show either the lack of awareness of the problems early marriages can carry, or fear of contradicting their traditions and their families. No one seemed to contradict such statements openly, despite the fact that girls participating in the focus groups did not seem to feel uncomfortable speaking in front of their male peers. It often seemed as if girls said what was expected of them in public and it was difficult to make them engage in a more meaningful manner.

Early marriages are usually a reason not to attend school or for school dropouts - especially for young women and girls, and the lack of such education in turn renders them more vulnerable to domestic violence, social isolation and lack of economic independence. Unequal attitude towards women creates obstacles for Roma men as well, as females cannot use their full potential to be actors for and beneficiaries of Roma community development in Georgia.

- **Domestic Violence**

As a result of early-marriages and the lack of education (and therefore of financial independence), domestic violence is really hard to escape for many Roma young women and girls, who see no alternative to stay and keep being victims of abuse. There are no special shelters for minority women and girls, or information on domestic violence available in schools for them to identify signs of abuse and to avoid it (and even if there were, most girls do not attend school or drop out early).

Domestic violence against women and female labour exploitation was stressed out as some of the main concerns through anonymous questionnaires in Dedoplistskhara. Other problems that appeared were begging in the streets for money, early marriages, taking care of the children at home and performing their duties in the household. Out of twenty-three women and girls who filled in the questionnaires there, twenty-one claimed to have been victims of abuse and the reasons they gave to have suffered violence were not bringing enough money to the household, or having complained about their husband's love affair. However, the husband was not the only abuser, as many mentioned suffering abuse by members of their own families - usually parents.

Nevertheless, it is interesting to notice that when raising the question of domestic violence in the focus groups, the answer was unanimous throughout the

regions: „our communities do not face such problems“. This is in contradiction with the questionnaires handed in to girls and women only, which can show a sign of lack of possibilities to raise the topic of domestic violence within the community, not to mention to talk about them openly to outsiders.

It is therefore important to raise awareness of domestic violence at a young age so that young Roma can recognise signs of abuse and to empower youth in order to improve the lives of their communities in Georgia.

- **Child-bearing**

Early marriages often carry as a consequence the loose of control over their own reproductive rights, rendering young women and girls unable to decide upon when they want to have children or how many children they would like to have. Participants agreed that Roma families tend to have a high number of children (around 4-6), which can also be the case of exacerbation of economic difficulties and, subsequently, of health-related problems.

Many Roma women (and young women) still give birth at home for various reasons: lack of ID documents (and subsequent rejection from healthcare facilities), lack of money to pay for private services, or simply lack of awareness of where to go to. This means that giving birth at home is not a choice, but rather the only option for many. As stated during a focus group in Rustavi, „women who have access to state policies give birth in the hospital“. Home births can often result in health complications for mother and/or newborns that would be avoided in hospitals with trained personnel. An added problem for young Roma women and girls is the difficulty of accessing healthcare facilities for giving birth not only due to lack ID documents. There have been reports of discrimination in maternity wards, where some Roma women claimed to having been refused and therefore had to go back home to give birth<sup>8</sup>. This not only has implications for the health of Roma mothers and children, but also perpetuates the lack of registration of Roma children, depriving them of the possibility to integrate into society. However, when asked directly in the focus groups, none of the participants confirmed this to have happened in their families.

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8. European Centre for Minority Issues, „Needs Assessment of Ethnic Minority Women in Georgia“ commissioned study for UN Women/EU Project (Innovative Action for Gender Equality), Tbilisi, 2014

## D. Public Life and Political Participation

### • Culture and Traditions

The traditions of the Roma communities in Georgia are seen negatively. Often misunderstood and seen as „backwards“, the negative portrayal of their cultures in the public sphere highly affects the lives of the Roma. It was mentioned in all focus groups across Georgia, that culture and traditions' preservation is a priority for Roma youth. Language and religion were pointed out as their main pillars of their culture.

The participants were fluent in Russian and Romani dialects (Krym, Vlach, Plashuno) and some in Georgian – they also stated that being fluent in Georgian is becoming more the norm, however, it is worth noting that the focus groups could not be conducted in Georgian only, due to the lack of understanding and fluency. In Gachiani, when talking about knowledge of Georgian language learning, a participant said that „Georgian language is key to integration“, hence why there is more interest in learning it.

Some of the Romani dialects spoken in Georgia are different enough not to be able to communicate among themselves. In the meeting in Gachiani, speakers of Vlach and speakers of Plashuno communicated in Russian as their dialects were too different. The main religious faiths to which the Roma attending the focus groups belonged to are Orthodox, Muslim and Pentecostal. This is an example of the richness of the cultures of the Roma communities in Georgia, which is often simplified and full of stereotypes, and should be promoted instead and championed.

In the meeting in Leninovka, a participant said that „taking care of our traditions and culture by the state is necessary, otherwise we will be assimilated and the Roma will disappear“. This need of implication from the state is highly necessary in order to create a feeling of belonging into the Georgian society, which in turn would increase civic integration from the Roma.

### • Employment and Socio-Economic Situation

The employment prospects of Roma youth in Georgia are far from good. Many factors contribute to the difficulty in finding employment for young Roma. The lack of education (or the low level of education) would be the main one, but it should be noted that negative stereotyping of the Roma within society has a great influence and impacts negatively in their opportunities, reducing them a great amount.

The great majority of the participants started working at an early age, as families consider bringing money to the household a priority in most cases, as

mentioned above. During the focus groups, however, many Roma youth showed frustration at the fact that Georgian society thinks all Roma only beg in the street and never work, and rejected that assumption since, as they put it „this is not true for many“. A participant in the focus group in Gachiani pointed out the following: „people think that Roma people are street beggars! – No, this isn't right, because in most cases we are vending, farming or telling fortune!“.

Due to the high level of illiteracy among the Roma communities, employment is really hard to find; for that reason many Roma have turned to agriculture and subsistence farming, for example in Gachiani, and other more rural areas like Dedoplistskharo. Out of all participants in the focus groups, only one stated to use street begging as a source of income, although in the focus group in Tbilisi it was also said that street begging is mostly done by younger children as this is the age group that can get more sympathy from the Georgian society.

Unemployment seemed to be the most worrying issue across the focus groups, many complaining about the general economic situation of the country in general that reduced their employment possibilities, exacerbated by the lack of education and sometimes discrimination.

The lack of unemployment and social integration of the Roma cannot be blamed only on illiteracy as racial discrimination is prevalent. A male participant from Kobuleti made the following powerful statement: „lots of people are afraid of us because they live with stereotypes“. The negative stereotyping of the Roma, which comes partly from the lack of knowledge of the Romani cultures, and the image conveyed by the media, has a great impact on the lives of the Roma in Georgia. During the meeting in Leninovka, a participant mentioned that in school other children and their parents have negative view about Roma children, and that „xenophobic attitudes have caused lots of problems“. It is important to promote tolerance at a young age so that social isolation of the Roma is not perpetuated. This lack of unemployment leads many Roma to beg in the streets, tell the fortune or in some cases, to pick-pocketing, a problem that was raised in Dedoplistskharo.

The lack of employment was often cited as the main cause of the poor living conditions that all the participants in Gachiani, Dedoplistskharo and Kobuleti stated (especially the first two). In Dedoplistskharo, participants complained about the lack of electricity and irrigation system in their houses, which was sometimes linked to health-related problems.

## • Political Participation

As a result of a difficult socioeconomic situation, Roma youth are not active politically. Living mostly isolated from society, with very little contacts aside from

when trading in the market, political participation is extremely difficult. The lack of ID documents, a poor knowledge of Georgian language, high degrees of poverty and negative stereotyping result in a lack of means for political participation, worsened by a feeling of disenchantment with society.

In the focus groups, participants mentioned not to be politically active, even with regards to elections. In Rustavi, one participant said „we know who the major politicians are, we care, Georgia is our country, but many of us do not have IDs, so we can only follow the events“. However, in Gachiani one reason given for not voting was a completely different one: „I do not vote in elections because still nobody cares about us and I do not care who will be in charge“. It is interesting to see that one of the participants in the same focus group in Gachiani is very active politically, even involved in one of the major political parties in Georgia, with great willingness to change things, which provides a great contrast within the same community.

It is indeed great to have a young Roma leader, but greater efforts are needed to ensure Roma youth are politically engaged and that they are aware of how things can be changed through democratic processes and through active participation in public life as a whole. The lack of trust in society and in the authorities remains prevalent. In Tbilisi, one participant showed discontent even with the civil society sector too: „[w]e do not trust NGOs and governmental bodies because they just come and listen to us when they need it and still we don't have any progress“.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Although some efforts have been made towards the improvement of the situation of the Roma communities in Georgia, further action is needed. In the past years there has been an increase in the levels of awareness of the situation of the Roma communities, and the Government of Georgia has started to draw its attention to it. The improvement in providing ID documents to those undocumented is commended but should not be a one-off objective.

As seen in the focus groups, the situation of the Roma communities living in rural is a bit worse than those living in cities, where there are higher possibilities of employment or educational opportunities. In particular, the situation of the Roma community in Tbilisi seems to be a bit better, thus emphasising the differences between urban and rural areas.

Specific issues were identified in different areas; however, there are many problems that are prevalent across Roma communities. Nevertheless, this paper aimed at identifying not only the problems faced by Roma youth, but also their main concerns, which were not always the same. These included poor living conditions, lack of education (or dropouts) and fear of losing their identity.

In Dedoplistskhara, Roma youth were mostly concerned about the poor living conditions, poverty and the consequences these carry (such as difficulty to access to education) and the fear of losing their traditions and their identity.

In Gachiani, poor living conditions linked to unemployment were also the main concern, together with lack of information and access to state aid, thus creating barriers to social integration.

In Kobuleti, unemployment also seemed to be a major problem, and also health-related issues (often linked to early marriages or domestic violence). Early-marriages were highly considered the leading cause of school dropouts.

Finally, in Tbilisi, the community is better integrated due to bigger trade possibilities; however, poor living conditions seemed to be a problem too.

Roma youth are the future of their communities and as such, they can play key roles in society and become actors of change. Targeted action should therefore take place and the Government of Georgia should ensure that education and participation in public life, including political life, are a priority in order to find sustainable solutions to the problem faced by the Roma in Georgia.

Roma youth are aware of many of the problems faced and, if given a real chance, many would like to take it. As one participant stated in Kobuleti, „we are people, we are citizens of Georgia and if you help us, we are ready to take part in development process“.

## V. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Legal Situation

- To develop a strategy for including targeted action to deal with the issues affecting the Roma communities in Georgia, with particular attention to youth, and to use it to include it in the National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration and its action plans
- To continue issuing ID documents to Roma people, taking new cases in collaboration with civil society sector and UNHCR Georgia, among others
- To remove barriers for registration, such as passport fees, in order to prevent low-income families from legally registering
- To prioritise the cases of ID documents of children so that they can attend school, for example, by allowing undocumented children to attend school and to then take care of their cases in collaboration with schools

## B. Access to Education

- To hold awareness-raising campaigns among Roma parents about the importance of education, including vocational and professional education
- To replicate best practices, such as the work of an NGO in Kobuleti that brought many children to regularly attend school
- To reduce the costs for school attendance, ie. by providing free textbooks or free transport for children (in particular in rural or isolated areas)
- To work with teachers in order to identify cases of discrimination against Roma children/youth and to work with students to promote intercultural tolerance
- To set up a mechanism for identifying school dropouts among Roma youth
- To foster contacts among Roma children and children from other ethnic groups, through playgroups or in schools, which can also foster contacts among parents and increase integration

## C. Healthcare and Wellbeing

- To modify the Civil Code, so that in spite of parental consent, minors cannot be legally married
- To set up reporting mechanisms from schools to the authorities (local, regional and national) in order to identify potential cases of school dropouts due to early marriages
- To raise awareness among parents and communities about the risks of early marriages and of early childbirth (ie. from the point of view not only of wellbeing, but of health risks)
- To set up sexual education classes, both for young men and women, but where pregnancy risks at a young age are emphasised
- To provide (young) Roma women with shelters in cases of domestic violence, where counseling is offered

## D. Public Life and Political Participation

- To develop local strategies for the integration of the Roma population, and to do so involving Roma representatives to help identifying the problems and barriers
- To hold raise-awareness campaigns for Roma youth about the importance of elections and political participation

- To promote networks of young Roma, making use of Social Media so that they can share and communicate among each other and they can replicate good practices across Georgia

Other:

- To identify Roma families living below the poverty line so that they can receive the aid required, either as low-income families or as stateless people

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