

Marry When You Are Ready

Romania

What young Roma women in traditional rural communities need

- *“The family is founded on the freely consented marriage of the spouses, their full equality, as well as the right and duty of the parents to ensure the upbringing, education and instruction of their children”*

Article 48 “Family”, of the Romanian Constitution, stipulates in paragraph 1

What young Roma women in traditional rural communities need



We have three types of marriages:

-forced marriages (when one or both partners are married without her/him accept)

-early marriages (when one or both partners are minors)

-arranged marriages (when the both partners accept them parents proposal)

- In Romania an estimated 25-30% of Roma women aged 15-19 are married
- In Romania 10-15% of Roma adolescents aged between 12-18 are pregnant

What young Roma women in traditional rural communities need

- 35% of Roma women are married before the age of 16
- 31% of Roma women are married when they were 17-18 years old
- 26% of Roma women are married at an age in between 19-22 years old and
- 8% of Roma women are married after being 22 years old

What young Roma women in traditional rural communities need

- Invoking the Roma tradition, it means a violation of individual rights.
- Everyone under the age of 18, should be considered a child and is normal to let him/her to enjoy all the specific rights in this society.
- Privacy rights and development of the child is an indispensable instrument.
- Early marriages are almost absent from the policy framework in Romania

What young Roma women in traditional rural communities need



- they need models
- they need health and education campaigns
- organizing information campaigns regarding prevention
- they need freedom to choose, because practicing early and forced marriages means to violate the right of the child to enjoy life conditions that are guaranteeing his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, and, prevents the children from expressing their own opinions on facts influencing their life.
- elaboration of public policies directed towards the traditional communities focusing on the protection of children's rights and interests

What young Roma women in traditional rural communities need

- They need access to schools and education
- They need elaboration of public policies directed towards the traditional communities focusing on the protection of children's rights and interests
- They need projects and programmes facilitating the access to schools and education for the parents
- They need setting up a centre to advise young mothers and girls
- They need partnerships between school and public administration and community

Under the comfortable umbrella of “cultural tolerance” the Romanian state institutions tolerated inequalities and discrimination against Roma women, this should be stopped