**Questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues to**

**National Human Rights Institutions:**

**Office of the Commissioner of Administration and Human Rights of Cyprus**

1. The Office does not undertake any work specifically relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of Roma. However, we may examine the situation of Roma people in Cyprus in case we receive relevant complaints or when concerns about violations of their rights are raised.
2. The Office does not have a unit that deals with minority rights or Roma issues. What we do have is an Anti-discrimination Body that deals exclusively with combating racism and discrimination on any ground.
3. The Office does not monitor violations of human rights of Roma on a regular basis, but in some occasions we have provided advice to the Government on compliance with national, regional and international human rights instruments. In particular, in 2013 we expressed to the Cyprus Permanent Representation to the EU our comments on the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States.
4. Unfortunately, our staff, even though it has been receiving training on countering racism and intolerance in a broad sense, it has not received any specialised guidance on discrimination and marginalisation of Roma.
5. According to the legislation governing our Office mandate, the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights has competence to consider complaints against any public service or officer and, in case of discrimination, also against the private sector. Furthermore, as a National Human Rights Institution, it has responsibility through the exercise of its own power to submit opinions, recommendations, proposals and reports which relate to any situations of violation of human rights which decides to take up, to the national situation with regard to human rights in general and on more specific matters and to drawing the attention of the Government to situations in any part of the country where human rights are violated and making proposals to it for initiatives to put an end to such situations.

In the exercise of its powers, our Office, in September 2011, submitted a Report concerning education issues of Roma students, such as enrolment, school attendance and curriculum, highlighting the necessity of an attitude that takes into account Roma identity, history and culture and aiming at encouraging ant facilitating enrolment and active participation, reducing dropout rates and providing incentives to Roma parents to involve actively in school society. Many measures have been since introduced by the Ministry of Education in line with the suggestions made.

1. So far and given the lack of any organised Roma community in Cyprus, our NHRI has not managed to engage Roma in its work or activities.
2. The Office does not apply a gender perspective throughout its activities.
3. Up to now the Office has not conducted any surveys relating to the Roma population.