



## **Making Reparations A Reality for Kosovo Roma: The Case of Lead Poisoning**

### **Concept Note**

The conflict in Kosovo resulted in widespread forced displacement that has disproportionately impacted marginalized minorities such as Roma communities. In Northern Kosovo, a group of 600 Roma suffered severe lead-poisoning while housed in UNMIK-run displacement camps that has caused ongoing injuries and suspected deaths. In 2016, a UN Human Rights Advisory Panel found the UN responsible for human rights violations associated with the lead poisoning and called on the Organization to provide reparations to the victims. Despite the Panel decision, the trust fund established by the Secretary-General in 2017 remains unfunded and falls short of meeting international standards for effective reparations.

In his forthcoming report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/54/24/Add.2), the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and has called on “*the United Nations [to] acknowledge responsibility for the harm done and provide full and effective reparation... including by adopting a fully funded reparation programme.*” He also urged States and other donors to financially support the UN trust fund. In connection with the Special Rapporteur’s presentation to the Human Rights Council on September 13-14, 2023, this side-event will bring together diplomats, human rights experts and Roma advocates in a discussion of how the Special Rapporteur’s recommendation can be realized. During the September 14 side-event, panelists will speak about the current situation facing Roma that suffered from lead poisoning, and opportunities for the international community to come together to address the past and support reparations.

**September 14, 2023**

**9:00-10:00 CET**

**Palais des Nations Room XXV**

### **Speakers**

- Remarks by representatives of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland and of the United Kingdom
- Fabián Salvioli, UN Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice & Reparation
- Sebastijan Serifovic, Opre Roma Kosovo (ORK)
- Habib Hajdini, former Osterode camp leader & ORK Mitrovica Team Lead
- Dianne Post, lawyer for Roma victims
- Katharina Rall, Human Rights Watch

Moderated by Beatrice Lindstrom, International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School

Webex link: <https://ungeneva-vc.webex.com/ungeneva-vc/j.php?MTID=m96602134cc9b771f76fbe0c8d58e9c50>