

Don't be afraid to say who you are

Lenutsa Moldavchuk

My name is Lenutsa, and I am an activist fighting for the rights of Roma people in Ukraine. I am not Roma myself, but that does not prevent me from supporting, helping, and spreading information about the fact that Roma people are equal to other peoples and have the same rights.

1. My story began three years ago when I moved from a village to the city of Uzhhorod and met my friends Mercedes and Almaza, who are Roma. They are wonderful people, and I am very grateful to them for their help, because it was my friend who suggested that I take part in a project dedicated to hate speech and Roma rights. Thank you to the organization: @tenet.center. I really enjoyed it and began to delve deeper into the subject. I started reading more and supporting various organizations on the internet. Soon, we were selected to participate in another project dedicated to the memory of Roma during World War II. It was incredibly interesting, and I learned a lot of information that is almost impossible to find on the internet because very little is known about Roma.

2. Thank you to the organization: @kurs_youth_roma. I asked myself why one person decides that they can destroy an entire people, why people consider Roma to be worse than us, why society is so prejudiced against them. And I realized that stereotypes are deeply rooted in society, the world has changed over the centuries, but stereotypes about Roma remain. I also read a book about Roma who died and survived during World War II. After reading it, I couldn't believe how cruel people could be, how they identified Roma. The worst thing was when they poured molten lead on their heads to make an accurate imprint so that they could be more easily identified. This is terrible. This project was initiated by an organization that I am very grateful to. They also gave us a practical assignment. To help us better understand the information, we held three meetings about how Roma people lived during World War II, how they were treated cruelly, and why it is important not to forget the history of the past in order to have a safe and happy future. These meetings were conducted by my friend Mercedes and me.

3. I am sincerely grateful to the organization @voice_of_romni for providing us with premises and their students. Thanks to these meetings, I gained experience in how important it is to talk about history, how to find the right approach to young people, and how important it is to communicate with Roma youth and help them.

I also participated in the training session "Ambassadors Against Roma Discrimination." This project ran from September 21 to 28, 2025. I met incredible people who love their work and gained a wealth of experience that I will definitely use in the future. Thank you, organization: @ergo.network.

Disclaimer: all grammar and style belongs to the author