

United Nations Children's Fund
Division of Communication
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10

Telephone: +41 22 909 5111
Fax +41 22 909 5900
Website: www.unicef.org
Visitors: 5-7 ave. de la Paix

Date: 01-07-2009

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Subject: Blue Gypsy by Emir Kusturica

Thank you very much for your e-mail dated 26 May 2009, in which you expressed your concern regarding the short movie "Blue Gypsy" produced by Emir Kusturica.

We regret that you consider that Kusturica's story contributes to perpetuating stereotypes of the Roma Community. This was not the intention of the episode. Rather, the "Blue Gypsy" and the six other stories sought to draw the attention to grave abuses of children's rights, which exists throughout the world, regardless country, race or community.

"All the invisible children" stories produced by MK Film productions are for the benefit of all the excluded and disadvantaged children that UNICEF, WFP assist. Our agencies were not directly involved in the production and the directors had artistic freedom to create their episodes showing the many faces of the invisible children. The film was released in 2005 and thus its distribution presently is very limited.

The seven productions show examples of the real situations where the rights of the child are not respected. Parents, communities and especially governments have the obligation to fulfil and protect the rights of every child. When they fail to do so the child gets exposed to deprivation and abuse.

UNICEF's study *Breaking the Cycle of Exclusion: Roma Children in South East Europe*, focused on the 1.7 million Roma children living in South East Europe (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.) and revealed that un-met basic needs and rights, poverty, wide-spread discrimination and physical segregation keep Roma on the margins of society and help perpetuate the cycle of poverty and social exclusion.


From this perspective UNICEF, the Governments and other implementing partners work together to improve the conditions for every child – including the Roma children.


While acknowledging your concerns, we still hope that this film production will continue to shed some light on the situation of "invisible children" and to advocate for their rights. .

We welcome your suggestion of public discussion with active engagement of Roma and we will consider that, if we are informed of the screenings.

Wishing you all the best with the good work you are doing for the Roma children in these countries. They deserve the best, like all children do.

Yours sincerely,


Maria Zanca – UNICEF
Chief, Celebrity Section
UNICEF- Geneva


Vichi De Marchi
Public Affairs Officer
WFP- Rome

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