

26 May 2009

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by email

Object: Emir Kusturica's contribution to the "All the invisible children" production

Dear Ms. Veneman,
Dear Ms. Sheeran,
Dear Ms. Belloni,

We are writing to you to express our grave concern regarding the support and promotion, by your organisations, of the short-movie "Blue Gypsy" by the Yugoslav filmmaker Emir Kusturica in the context of a campaign to raise awareness on children's rights.

Just as in his previous films, Kusturica plays on the idea of lazy and irresponsible Roma parents who force their children into stealing. While we do not entirely deny the existence of such a phenomenon and the need to intervene, we do however disagree with the fact that it has come to dominate the public representation and discourse about Roma, which is unfortunately also a consequence of the awareness raising campaigns run by international organisations and NGOs.

While such an approach may be powerful to attract public attention and funding, it has the detrimental side-effect that it diverts attention from the root causes, i.e., the abject poverty and marginalisation of Roma families, to expose one of its possible consequences. It also promotes the idea that Roma themselves are the mainly responsible for their problems, and that the interests and well-being of the children may eventually be better served by removing them from their families, which seems also to be the conclusion of Kusturica's short movie.

Among all those children whose rights are abused, Roma children occupy a sadly prominent position, which has also been well documented by numerous reports of organisations such as UNICEF. The deprivation of their families may actually in itself be considered as a form of abuse, since the right to education, health care, and adequate housing, are guaranteed by international human rights instruments.

We would therefore have appreciated if the film had shed light on living conditions of Roma children instead of perpetuating stereotypes which may again be used to justify their further discrimination, thereby perpetuating the vicious circle of prejudice and marginalisation.

While we do not advocate for a removal of the film from the entire production, we recommend that it should be followed by a public discussion, especially if it is presented in the context of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the declaration of the rights of the child. Our organisations stand ready to participate in such a debate.

We would furthermore like recommend that future campaigns on issues affecting the Roma communities should be prepared in cooperation with Roma civil society organisations in order to avoid that they further contribute to fostering racist views.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Sincerely,

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Par courriel

Objet: La contribution d'Emir Kusturica à la production « All the invisible children »

Mesdames,

Nous vous écrivons pour exprimer notre vive préoccupation concernant le soutien et la promotion, par vos organisations, du court-métrage du cinéaste yougoslave Emir Kusturica « Blue Gypsy » dans le cadre d'une campagne de sensibilisation sur les droits de l'enfant.

Tout comme dans ses précédents films, Emir Kusturica y développe l'idée que des parents roms, paresseux et irresponsables, poussent leurs enfants au vol. Bien que nous ne voudrions pas complètement nier l'existence de ce phénomène et la nécessité d'agir, nous refusons cependant à ce qu'il ne vienne à dominer la représentation et le discours publique sur les Roms, ce qui est, malheureusement, aussi une conséquence des campagnes de sensibilisation menées par les organisations internationales et les ONGs.

Si cette approche est certainement très efficace pour attirer l'attention publique et des financements, elle contribue aussi à détourner l'attention des causes premières, c'est-à-dire, la pauvreté et la marginalisation, pour se concentrer sur les conséquences possibles. En même temps, elle contribue à renforcer l'idée selon laquelle les Roms sont les principaux responsables de leurs problèmes, et que les intérêts et le bien-être des enfants seraient peut-être mieux préservés en les séparant de leur famille, ce qui semble également être la conclusion du court-métrage de Kusturica.

Parmi tous ces enfants dont les droits sont bafoués, les enfants roms occupent malheureusement un des premiers rangs, ce qui a également été démontré par de nombreux les rapports préparés par des organisations comme l'UNICEF. La privation subie par leur famille doit elle-même être

considérée comme une forme d'abus, puisque les droits à l'éducation, aux soins de santé et un logement adéquat sont garantis par les instruments internationaux de protection des droits de l'Homme.

Voilà pourquoi nous aurions aimé que le film ait pu faire la lumière sur les conditions de vie des enfants roms au lieu de perpétuer des stéréotypes qui peuvent ensuite être utilisés comme motifs pour justifier la poursuite de la discrimination à leur égard, contribuant ainsi à éterniser le cercle vicieux de préjugés et marginalisation.

Si nous ne préconisons pas la suppression du court-métrage de l'entièreté du film, nous demandons cependant que sa présentation soit suivie par un débat public, surtout, si elle doit avoir lieu dans le cadre de la célébration du soixantième anniversaire de la déclaration des droits de l'enfant. Nos organisations sont prêtes à participer à un tel débat.

Nous voudrions également recommander que de futures campagnes sur des sujets qui touchent les communautés roms soient préparées en coopération avec les associations de la société civile rom, afin d'éviter qu'elles ne contribuent encore à renforcer des préjugés racistes.

En vous remerciant de l'attention que vous voudrez accorder à la présente, nous vous prions d'agréer, Mesdames, l'expression de nos salutations distinguées,

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Pe imayl

Tema: Emir Kusturicaski kontribucija ano "The invisible children"

Pakivali rayna Veneman,
Pakivali rayna Sheeran,
Pakivali rayna Belloni,

Hramipa ji tumende mangaya te mothava amaro na shuka gendipa panglo tumare phikodeyipa thay promociya kotar tumari organizaciya, tikne filmesko akhardo "Plavi Cigan" yugoslaviyake reziserestar Emir Kustirica, panglo kampanya e jandipaske vazdipasko palo chavorikane hakayengo pagipasko.

Sar soy ano leske anglutne filmya, Kustirica kelela ani ideya e Romane kandivale thay bijrvapliye dada-daya, kola zorea chivena pe chavoren te choren. Amen na phena kay na egzistirenela akava fenomi thay sebepi te na kerelepe akciya, amen naisiyam ani odova palo fakti kay alo ji ki dominaciya ano publikuni prezentaciya palo diskursi e Romego, kova loshnipaske avela sar sebepi pali kampanya e jandisapke vazdipaske koya igardi kotar o mashkarthemutne thay birayikane organizaciye.

Akava pashripe e problemesko shay te ovel zoralo palo kedipa e e publikune dikhibaske thay fondaciyenge, ki yaver rig isile nashukar efekti irinipa e dromeske kotar o darxi-koreno, ko yavera lafya baro chorolipe thay marginalizciya Romane familiyake, chivdipa yek kotar piro produkti. Panda maydur kerelape promociya kay korkore o Roma mangelape te oven jevapliye palo lengiri situaciya, thay shukaripe e chavengo poshukar ka ovel diklo leyipa e chavoren kotar o familiye, soy rekomandaciya akale tikne filmesko.

Kotar sa akala chavore kolenge hakaya chinavde, Romane chave lena shukar yek zalutno than, soy ilustrimo bute organizacijendar sar soy UNICEF. Chivadipe e Romane familyako shay te lelpe sar yek bilachipa, korkori pestar, soske hakay pali edukaciya, sastipaski protekciya thay keripe sar so mangelape isi garantirimo mashakrthemutne instrumentencar palo manushikane hakaya.

Odoleske amen keraya najs te isi shaibe kay akava filmi buvlarel dudi palo jivdipaske kondiciye e Romane chavenge, thay akava te ovel ano than e stereotiyenge manushikaniparske kola shay te kulandiripe-koristinelpa sar chacharipe-opravdipe palo lugyardi diskriminaciya, keripa promociya e pangle magiyake chemberesko kotar e marginalizaciya thay bilachipa.

Amen na mangya te prezenterina chinavdipa akale filmesko kotar e filmeski produkciya, amen rekomandirina kay mangelape te ovel bichaldi-pratimi publikune vakripa, te mangla akava te ovel mothavdo ano UNICEF-sko shovardesh besheski festa palo Deklaraciya e chavorenge hakayengo. Amari organizaciya isi gataririmo te lel kotar ani akava vakeripa-diskusija.

Amen majdur rekomandirina kay ano avutnupa kampane panglo e puchipa e Romeane komunitetesko oven gataririmo ano ko-operaciya e Romane civilikune amalipaske organizacijencar, koleya mangelape nasharipa pali saygiya e rasistichko gendipaske.

Oven sast epalo tumari vrama!

Najserikeipeya,

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Preko imajl

Objekat: Kontribucija Emira Kusturiceva u "All the invisible children" produkciji

Postovana gos. Veneman,
Postovana gos. Sheeran,
Postovana gos. Belloni,

Pismenim putem do vas zelimo izraziti nasu zabrinutost u vezi podrške i promocije, od strane vasih organizacija, kratkog filma "Plavi ciganin" jugoslovenskog režisera Emir Kusturice na okviru kampanje za podizanje svijesti o pravama deteta.

Kao i u njegovim prethodnim filmovima, Kusturica igra na ideju lijenjih i neodgovornih romskih roditelja koji prisiljavaju svoju decu djece u kradju. Dok mi ne cijelokupno porecemo postojanje ovog fenomena i potrebe na reakciju, mi se ne slazemo sa cinjenicom da je zapoceo da dominira javnu prezentaciju i diskurs o Romima, koji je nazalost takoder posledica kampanja za podizanje svesti koje vode medunarodne i nevladine organizacije.

Iako moze takav pristup biti vrlo snazan za privlacenje paznje javnosti kao i sredstava, ima kao negativnu presljedicu preusmjeravanje iz korijena uzroka, tj. užasno siromaštvo i marginalizacije romskih porodica, izlagajuci jedno od svojih mogucih ishoda. Takoder se promovise ideja da nose sami Romi vecu odgovornost za njihovu situaciju, i da se dobrobit dece eventualno bolje sluzila ako se ih uzima od njihovih porodica, sto je isto zakljucak ovog filma.

Među svom tom decom čija su prava zlostavljena, Romska deca zauzimaju zalosno istaknuto mesto, što je takoder ilustrirano u izvjestama organizacija kao UNICEF. Samo lišavanje romskih porodica moze se smatrati kao oblik zlostavljanja, samo po sebi, jer je pravo na obrazovanje,

zdravstvenu zastitu i odgovarajuće ukucivanje garantovano medunarodnim instrumentima ljudskih prava.

Zato sto bismo zahvalni ako bi film prolio svetlo na zivotne uslove romskih deca umesto da promovise stereotipa koji se mogu opet koristiti za opravdanje dalje diskriminacije, promovirajući zacarani krug predrasuda i marginalizacije.

Necemo zastupati suzbijanje filma iz filmske produkcije, ali preporučujemo da bude popraćeno javnim diskusijama, narocito ako je prikazano na okviru proslave šezdeset godina Deklaracije o pravima deteta. Naše organizacije su spremne da budu ucesce takvih diskusija.

Isto bismo vam preporucili da ubuduće kampanje o pitanjima koja se ticu romske zajednice budu pripremljeni u saradnji sa romskom civilnom sektorom kako bi se izbjegli doprinosi njegovanju rasistickih stavova.

Hvala na paznju!

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