



*Mária Patakyová*  
*Public Defender of Rights*

*STATEMENT*

**Roma Spirit 2019**

***The statement of Mária Patakyová, Public Defender of Rights, on  
the auspices of the award***

*“I am delighted to take the auspices of the Roma Spirit 2019, which is awarded annually to organizations and individuals and to their Roma projects. I am delighted that thanks to Roma Spirit, we learn about concrete positive examples that show us that by taking an active approach we can really help the inclusion of this minority. I appreciate that there are projects in Slovakia to address the problems of Roma communities that we have not solved as a country so far. I believe that many positive examples - focusing on education, housing, but also employment - will be an inspiration and motivation to pursue the issue further, either within the NGO sector or at national level.”*