Save Eda and Vjollca…

Enkeleda (Eda) Berisha (23) is in hospital, having tried to kill herself in despair at the threat of deportation to Kosovo from where she fled, with her Mother Vjollca, in June 2003. Eda and her mother are Roma and for the Roma people life in Post War Kosovo is worse than before. In December 2001 Eda's brother came home badly beaten, he was told not to trade in the main market in the town. In May 2002 both her father and brother left for market with a neighbour and were never seen again. Roma stalls in the market were firebombed and bodies were reported found. The local police would not help saying that the Roma collaborated with the Serbs.

Enkeleda is disabled with spina bifida and has always faced extra abuse. After the men disappeared harassment increased and Eda suffered some terrible personal abuse. For a year they waited for news and justice for their loved ones, confined to the house. In June 2003, with Eda increasingly suicidal they fled—only to be accused by the Home Office of not being genuine because they did run at once!

In the UK Eda and Vjollca have a chance of life. Eda, despite her disability is going to college Last year she was offered a job. In Kosovo they could be killed in the escalating racist violence against ethnic minorities and would certainly have no possibility of any work. There is no welfare state and without family support Eda and her mother will not survive. Eda has to take drugs that are not available in Kosovo. Vjollca has suffered great stress and grief and has had a heart bypass. More stress could kill her. Eda is unlikely to get married because there is great discrimination towards the disabled as well as towards Roma. Women without male support in Kosovo are at great risk of abuse.

The UNHCR reports that Kosovo remains completely unsafe for Roma people, with exclusion from jobs and welfare. Murders and attacks on the Roma are falling, says the UNHCR, only because they are unable to move around—effectively being ghettoised in camps unfit for the sick and disabled. Both Eda and Vjollca have developed mental health problems. Support and treatment for their conditions are just not available in Kosovo—even if Roma people could access them. The UNHCR says that Roma should be given international protection—yet the British Government intends to throw Eda and Vjollca back to misery and suffering. Help us to stop it.

> **"I came to this country to survive and to be sure that the next day I am going to be alive, not to be afraid that someone is coming into my house, not to be afraid that people call me evil, not to be afraid of threats, not to be persecuted about my race and my disability. I don't want to be threatened and persecuted anymore. Please help me to stay"**
>
> **Eda Berisha**

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

RETURN TO: Save Eda and Vjollca C/O 263 Halley Road, Manor Park, London E12 6UE