

To

The Chairperson of the State Agency for Refugees at the Council of Ministers

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

Ramata Sila is a single mother from Guinea who fled her home country to escape a forced marriage and domestic violence. She recently received refugee status in Bulgaria and now has the opportunity to build her life in a safe and peaceful place and to secure a better future for her child.

Ramata is among the few women whose story has ended with international protection being granted. Many other women who have sought protection continue to live in uncertainty after violence, persecution, war, or other serious violations of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

When examining any application for international protection, it is essential that the applicant's individual circumstances, the nature of the serious harm suffered, and the real risk of return to the country of origin be carefully assessed. Particular attention should be paid to the vulnerability of persons who have suffered severe physical and psychological trauma, as well as to the circumstances of women who have been forced to leave their home and country in order to save themselves and their children.

Behind every application for international protection lies a human life, a story of fear and loss, but also hope for safety and a dignified life. The decision of the competent authorities can be more than just an administrative act — it can be the difference between freedom and confinement, a life of anguish and insecurity and a life of peace and meaning, between life and death. That is precisely why every such application deserves not only strict legal assessment but also human attention to the circumstances that forced that person to seek protection.

I urge you to guarantee a fair, individual, and thorough examination of the applications for international protection of women in vulnerable situations and, where the legal grounds are met, to grant them refugee status or humanitarian status with the necessary protection on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria — the opportunity to live without fear of persecution and violence, to rebuild their lives, and to raise their children far from the dangerous circumstances they fled.

I believe that Bulgaria can and must be a place where a person who has fled persecution and violence does not encounter new dangers, but instead receives a chance for a dignified and secure life.

Sincerely,