



EMBASSY OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The Ambassador

Arundel House
4 Palace Green
London W8 4QD
Phone: +0044 (0)207 937 9666
Fax: +0044 (0)207 937 8069
E-mail: londra@mae.ro
<http://londra.mae.ro>

Ms Katie Buchanan
Executive Producer and Joint Head of Documentaries
KEO Film
9-10 Great Sutton Street
EC1V 0BX

Londra, 13 February 2015

Dear Ms Buchanan,

It came to my attention the trailer promoting the series *The Romanians are Coming* produced by Channel 4 and I have to tell you how surprised and bitterly disappointed I was to see the way the Romanian community living in the UK was presented on the trailer.

The photos and the message promoting the series seem to reflect a biased and distorted perception of Romanians in Great Britain which might have as a consequence a significant and totally undeserved image deficit to the entire Romanian community. I am also concerned that the program itself might reflect in an unbalanced way the social reality of Romanians in UK.

As Prime Minister David Cameron publicly stated, Romanians "work hard, pay taxes and are valued by their employers". Indeed, in their overwhelming majority Romanians living in Britain are well integrated into the local society. In a high proportion they are specialists employed in a wide range of occupations and trades, many of them working in shortage occupations such as the health sector (doctors and nurses) or as social workers. There are more than 4,000 Romanian doctors and nurses in Britain, whereas thousands of highly skilled Romanians have been employed in the UK's performing arts, financial, IT or trade sectors. They all bring an honest and valuable contribution to the welfare of this great country. I may also add an increasing number of students (approximately 7000) attending universities, attracted by the quality of the educational programs in the UK.

Despite this reality, picturing only negative aspects which are isolated and not representative for the Romanian community would be unfair and highly discriminatory. The last days I have received messages from members of our community who expressed their indignation to the way Channel 4 features a foreign community in a country long admired worldwide for its model of democracy and where all citizens irrespective of their nationality, race, gender or religion are treated with respect.

Therefore, trusting the professionalism of the journalists from KEO Film, I would appreciate if you would consider replacing the photos on the trailer, while also adjusting the presentation text so as to bring it in line with the objective reality as far as the Romanian community in the UK is concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Ion Jinga