

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

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20th December, 2020

Issue: 7

A People without its own Cultural Institutions is a Dead Nation

The article describes lack of interest of state and the scarcity of budget for preserving and presenting rich Romani culture and values. Some efforts have been made to preserve the cultural identity of the Roma through cultural performance and theatrical performance by Romano Ilo Association in Skopje, Northern Macedonia. The initiative by Roma cultural activists and workers was taken to chart out the plan involving a Minister without portfolio Muzafer Bajram and his cabinet associates for preservation and promotion of Roma folklore and tradition, however the plan unfortunately failed as there was no budget required for it.

Read More at

<https://romatimes.news/index.php/en/categories/zoran-dimov-mli-kolumna/5127-column-by-zoran-dimov-a-people-without-its-own-cultural-institutions-is-a-dead-nation>

Supporting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Families during the COVID-19 Outbreak

The London Gypsies and Traveller organization took initiative to engage with families of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) in order to keep the children and young people in education, while respecting the parents right to elect to home educate. It is pointed out that the attendance of GRT pupils has been low, but recently 50% of the GRT pupils are being home educated. The organization is advising and supporting the GRT families with strategies for improving the attendance and avoiding fines for non-attendance.

Read More at

<https://www.egfl.org.uk/sites/default/files/Ealing%20safeguarding%20process%20GRT.pdf>

A Reproductive Justice Lens in COVID-19 times: the Rights of Roma Girls

The article, written by Daniela E. Miranda, highlights the urgent challenges to protect the rights of Roma girls across Europe especially in the time of COVID-19. The pandemic has marked a gloomy time in which Roma girls experiences a significant loss in their closest networks, insufficient resources to continue their schooling at home, the abandonment from institutions that has ignited distrust from their families. Research and community partnerships in Spain, Bulgaria and Romania are implementing the RoMoMatteR project (a transnational project, aims to tackle gender discrimination by empowering Roma girls to envision their own futures), which seeks to promote in Roma girls' feelings of mattering.

Read More at

<https://epha.org/a-reproductive-justice-lens-in-covid19-times-the-rights-of-roma-girls/?fbclid=IwAR3oQY-cKZ8vFbb7uceJOcJFm57PO6iXb0D5nsS9o9CWdQo0X7kFzxNmf9k>

Romanipen, History and Culture Break Down Stereotypes

The article talks about the identity and culture of Italian Roma and Sinti population. It also explains the life of Roma without Italian citizenship who live in difficult conditions in the nomad camps specially built for them. The article demonstrates traditional moral norms and Romani etiquette which are strictly observed within each community. It also depicts arrival of Roma in Kingdom of Naples and in the Papal State and antipathy of the state to cultural or social needs of the community.

Read More at

https://www.articolo21.org/2020/12/romanipen-storia-e-cultura-abbattono-gli-stereotipi/?fbclid=IwAR2NvCzGalAAx131NxlkWvhTG_1okx8jUY1rzhA7d8RLQxl70D5SXufZeX4

The Introduction of the Roma 'Gitano' in the New Spanish Cinema

The research article, written by Dr. Ismael Cortés- Member of Spanish Parliament, sheds light on unfavorable representation of Gitano (Roma is called Gitano in Spain) in Spanish cinema with negative narratives. The paper has been divided in three section- First section explains the basic elements antigypsyism in the early post-civil war period, the second describes the aesthetic hostility of the so-called New Spanish Cinema towards Gitano, and the third one presents a case study for deconstructing Antigypsyist's stereotypes.

Read More at

<https://heiup.uni-heidelberg.de/reader/download/650/650-69-91388-1-10-20201119.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3WorFsXt0l46BwgG9UP3FdPWHahlQaNB5b4furjGa0jLLcQUCVskR8MRk>

The Roma Education Fund Foundation Setting up an Online Tutoring Center in Slovakia

The Roma Education Fund Foundation (REF) is committed to increasing inclusiveness and equal access to quality education, therefore the foundation is set to building up an innovative online tutoring center in the Slovakia in order to improving the overall success of high school students, including students with special educational needs. The project is supported by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic. The project aims at enhancing learning outcomes, helping Roma students complete high school and supporting students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Read More at

<https://www.romaeducationfund.org/ref-will-set-up-an-online-tutoring-center-in-slovakia-nadacia-ref-zriadi-online-tutoring-centrum-na-slovensku/>

History of the Roma in Romania

The article explores the past history, socio-economic condition of the Gypsy population of TârguMureş and Marosszék in Romania. It precisely analyzes the specific social behavior of the Roma population as well as special factors of their relationship with the environment. The article describes Roma/ Gypsies as a special group in terms of livelihoods and occupational structure. It depicts their cultural peculiarities, besides signifying the role of Roma in metalworking industries and their craftsmanship.

Read More at

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRTodzy5mp7_LeiZrx1r-R8TEw1utfqpLxHm2HMK4Okcfmn31GOV0kRvHRdfpHBbYv9pHoCxCxKKEsvcy/pub?fbclid=IwAR086XxWwLrjupss7dO2p4EGFarb2mbwj5CMEnyP-sKQqOAGv9eTF3echEY

Lithuania's Roma struggle to find new homes after mass eviction

As per information from Vilniaus miesto būstas, 56 Roma families out of 93 who were evicted in 2016 from the settlement based in Juodšiliai, a village in southeast Lithuania, 20km away from its capital Vilnius, have been accommodated in social housing or are using the rent compensation scheme. According to Svetlana Novopolskaja, the director of Roma society's centre who used to be in the settlement until it was relocated to Naujamiestis district, six Km away. She said even though people were first asked to leave a few years ago, the centre had been trying to extend the time frame, hoping that alternative housing would be offered. Since Roma Integration Plan came into effect in 2016, Roma families in the settlement have been asked to demolish their homes and move. Those Roma who declared their incomes were offered rent compensation (of up to 92.50 euros per person per month, paid to their landlord) to cover part of the cost of their new accommodation, while others were offered social housing.

Read More at

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/12/14/lithuanias-roma-struggle-to-find-new-homes-after-city-eviction>