

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

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Roma integration: EU must do more against social exclusion and anti-gypsyism

Members of European Parliament (MEPs) say, structural anti-gypsyism must end and demand measures to ensure that Romani people have equal access to housing, education, healthcare and employment. MEPs complain that a significant number of Romani people in Europe live in “extremely precarious” conditions, with most deprived of their fundamental human rights. They affirm that the situation of Romani people in the EU has not improved. They call on the Commission to table a legislative proposal focused on fighting poverty and anti-gypsyism and improving Romani people’s living and health conditions.

Read More at

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200910IPR86837/roma-integration-eu-must-do-more-against-social-exclusion-and-anti-gypsyism>

Major human rights abuses against Roma community seen during lockdown measures

European Romani Communities experience increased institutional racism and discrimination during the COVID-19 lockdown measures across the bloc. The pandemic has worsened the situation of marginalised Romani communities living in overcrowded and inhumane conditions, which are already more at risk due to limited access to healthcare, drinking water, sanitation and food. On top of that, Roma were also among the groups the worst affected by the economic and social knock-on effects of the pandemic.

Read More at

https://www.euractiv.com/section/non-discrimination/news/major-human-rights-abuses-against-roma-seen-during-lockdown-measures/?fbclid=IwAR1dazBhLNqeXO1rfcrfpyUM4R5THFA_ksmgSg633z5QiHnEOlo7lpBhy6Y

Romani Mothers Win Hospital Discrimination Case in Hungarian Supreme Court

The Hungarian Supreme Court has ruled in favour of Romani mothers who were discriminated against in the maternity ward of a hospital in Miskolc. This final judgment from the highest court of Hungary confirms two previous judgments (before the Miskolc Regional Court and the Debrecen Court of Appeal) which were won by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and found that the practice of charging for mandatory maternity clothing for companions of pregnant mothers in Miskolc was discriminatory against Roma.

Read More at

http://www.errc.org/press-releases/romani-mothers-win-hospital-discrimination-case-in-hungarian-supreme-court?fbclid=IwAR3k2Wl0yithOhZoCztclq0vfT9oi0DbWiPw5XWtp8fmAziLx_eFu_6bs-8

Victims of Sinti and Roma Holocaust remembered at Auschwitz

State officials and survivors gathered at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland on 2nd August to mark European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma, commemorating Sinti and Roma people who perished at the hands of the Nazis. European Union Chief Ursula von der Leyen appealed to EU Member States to protect today's minorities from discrimination and racism. European Parliament President David Sassoli called for active remembrance, saying in a Tweet: "Remembering must never become a hollow act, it requires constant effort and will."

Read More at

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/victims-sinti-roma-holocaust-remembered-auschwitz-200802161735317.html>

India International Centre hosted a webinar on the theme of "from India to Auschwitz – Remembering the Roma and Sinti lost in the Holocaust" on 28th August, 2020.

Prof. Dr. Hristo Kyuchukov, Roma scholar, one of the panelists, spoke about Roma Holocaust- Porrajmos: The Roma Songs and Music in concentration camps. Another panelist Ms. Karolina Mirga, Roma activist talked about one of the important projects related to commemoration of Roma Holocaust known as Dikh he na bister -Look and Don't Forget and International Roma Youth Network, which creates space for Roma youth to become active citizens. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Punita Singh who spoke about Auschwitz-Birkenau where on 2nd August 1944, several thousand Roma and Sinti perished in the 'liquidation' of the 'Zigeuner familienlager' (Gypsy family camp).

Watch at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZUVXdDqPbI&list=UU9pEsVQtbrxXiNshE_Z9Cgw

Roma persecution intensifies during the Coronavirus pandemic in Europe

Amid global Black Lives Matter protests against police brutality earlier this summer, Roma activists marched through Bulgaria's capital, Sofia. The Roma people are Europe's largest ethnic minority and among its most persecuted. According to Roma activists, Police's intimidation is a fact of life for many Roma living in Bulgaria and elsewhere in Europe. The activists further added that the measures were excessive and often unregulated. As per Mr. Jonathan Lee, Communications Manager of European Roma Rights Center, there has been a noticeable uptick in number of raids on Roma communities across Eastern Europe and police also appear more aggressive in their actions. He also mentioned about receipt of reports of police brutality also from the communities in the Netherlands, Belgium and Ireland over the past few months.

Read more at

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-08-24/roma-persecution-intensifies-during-coronavirus-pandemic-europe>

European Roma Rights Centre Issues Report on Discrimination and Abuses in Poland

The European Roma Rights Center released a report on September 12 describing the ongoing human rights abuses and marginalization suffered by Roma in Poland. The report, entitled "The Limits of Solidarity: Roma in Poland After 1989", examines episodes of racially motivated violence and discrimination against Roma, and the systematic judicial neglect of Romani victims. The document provides a detailed and troubling picture of the Roma's exclusion from and persecution in many sectors of Polish society.

Read More at

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/european-roma-rights-center-issues-report-discrimination-and-abuse-poland>

Historic motion passed in social work to improve recognition of the human rights of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Communities

The Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Social Work Association supports a historic motion that will improve recognition of the human rights of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities into anti-racist discourse and practice in social work.

Read More at

<https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/news/2020/09/historic-motion-passed-social-work-improve-recognition-human-rights-gypsy-roma-and>

Roma Support Group take part in 'Our Newham' project supporting marginalised young people in the local community

The Roma Support Group took part in the Protection Approaches' "Our Newham" project funded by the Mayor of London's Young Londoners Fund. 'Our Newham' is a two-year project supporting young people in Newham to identify, explore and tackle marginalization in their communities.

Read More at

<https://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk/news--events/rsg-take-part-in-our-newham-project-supporting-marginalised-young-people-in-the-local-community>

Opening Conference of the project "INCLUDE – Building Capacity for Inclusion in Education"

More than 50 participants took part in the opening Conference of the EU/CoE joint project "INCLUDE- Building Capacity for Inclusion in Education". This four year long project, which was started in January 2020, has the objective to include in the education system children from vulnerable communities, and particularly Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian girls and boys and children with special education needs. The project builds on existing strategies and practices to further increase and improve access of all children to quality education.

Read More at

https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/newsroom/-/asset_publisher/ESahKwOXlcQ2/content/opening-conference-of-the-project-include-building-capacity-for-inclusion-in-education-