

Roma discrimination: Members of European Parliament Call for Stronger EU Measures

In a resolution adopted during September's plenary session, MEPs demand equal access to education, employment, healthcare and housing with legally binding targets and a monitoring mechanism at EU level, supported by adequate funding. They also call for compensation for the victims of forced sterilization and the end of school segregation. The report also encourages the strategy to take into account the diversity of the community and to provide Romani people equal participation in public policy.

Read More at

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200918STO87401/roma-discrimination-meps-call-for-stronger-eu-measures>

Why are Schools still Such Hostile Places for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children ?

When looking at the performance and attendance of Roma ethnic groups within both a primary and secondary setting, the statistics are staggering. A government study showed that pupils from Roma/ Gypsy ethnic groups had the highest rates of overall absence and persistent absence compared to any other ethnic background. Gypsies and Travellers are 10 times less likely to go to university than their peers. The structure of school life and the demands of the curriculum don't always align with the nomadic lifestyle of Roma/Gypsy people.

Read More at

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/04/schools-gypsy-roma-traveller-children-education-system>

Roma Festival organized in Vilnius, Lithuania

The event, which takes place only once a year, is full of gypsy freedom, music, passion, many sincere smiles, laughter and exciting moments. The aim of this festival is to show that the Roma community is open to all, committed to common integration, joint activities with the entire Lithuanian community, that the Roma are willing and able to participate in social life. The motto of this year's festival is "Without labels!".

Read More at

https://madeinvilnius.lt/pramogos/renginiai/senamiesti-nuspalvino-festivalio-gypsy-fest-eisena-nuotrauku-galerija/?fbclid=IwAR3RtbGekJSQZyXrE8eFHGxqHXSimk73496J-GNKuYH_ye1AKtag6OI0tdo

Slovak Roma Strive for Better Lives despite Extreme Poverty

A new study about the health of marginalized Roma communities in Slovakia breaks down many stereotypes and prejudices often shared by Slovak extremists and populists. The data alone, however, won't be enough to change the political climate. Roma generally live considerably shorter lives, marred by poverty, stress, frequent discrimination and segregation, and poor education.

Read More at

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/30/slovak-roma-strive-for-better-lives-despite-extreme-poverty-report-finds/?fbclid=IwAR3mHaXzIVjMS7NC2akKCjSb40i5v-Jb5hu5KyCbLeL3C67nron1eIWjY3M>

Spain Apologizes to Roma for 'Institutional Racism'

Second Deputy Prime Minister of Spain Pablo Iglesias asks the Roma/ Gypsy people for forgiveness in the name of the government, at an event in Madrid to commemorate the Nazi genocide against the community during World War II. Iglesias used the event to reflect on Spain's own past attempts to oppress and exterminate the Roma community.

Read More at

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/spain-apologizes-to-roma-for-institutional-racism/1927707?fbclid=IwAR31OdoWomte5 URUI50kL2X mx0X QaUcPtQqQb1woOqm PNnVHRczQo08M>

Pandemic worsens Poverty and Discrimination against Roma

The Coronavirus pandemic hit Roma and Travellers particularly hard, shows a new bulletin from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Many Roma and Travellers lost their income, overcrowding and lack of sanitation increased their health risks, and distance learning was difficult without internet access. Discrimination and anti-Roma rhetoric have increased too, especially online.

Read More at

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2020/pandemic-worsens-roma-and-travellers-poverty-and-discrimination>

Forced Evictions of Roma Mark the End of Covid-19 Moratorium

The forceful eviction of five Romani families in the northeastern town of Nyíregyháza, Hungary, which has rendered 17 people homeless, was challenged by dozens of protestors. Vice-president of the local Roma minority self-government, László Glonczy, condemned the evictions, criticized the municipality for its failure to engage in constructive dialogue on debt repayment, and described putting families with young children out on the streets during a pandemic as 'outrageous'.

Read More at

<http://www.errc.org/news/hungary-forced-evictions-of-roma-mark-the-end-of-the-covid-19-moratorium>