



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

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Launch of “Unit for Roma” for Improving the Living Standards of Roma

The Social Organisation of the Municipality of Patras, Greece (KODIP) has recently kicked off the full operation of the “Unit for Roma”, as part of the Community Centre. This aims at enhancing the living standards of Roma people as well as expediting their full social integration through the provision of specialised services, custom made to counter the specific challenges faced by Roma group. The services include information and awareness about health and education programmes for Romani minors and adults in addition to counseling, training and promotion of employment opportunities.

Read More at

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/-/roma-people-at-the-lens-patras-greece->

Representatives of Bosniaks & Roma in Kosovo Alleged the Manipulation of Vote in Election

Traditional political parties representing the Bosniak and Roma communities in Kosovo are geared up for a legal challenge against the Main Kosovo Serb Political Party. They alleged that they saw new and unknown political entities outvoting them in the February 14 legislative elections. The allegations of vote-fixing in favour of specific political entities created a furor in public.

Read More at

<https://balkaninsight.com/2021/02/26/kosovos-bosniak-roma-parties-plot-fightback-over-election-trick/>

Romani Member of Parliament in Spain Proposes Measures for Improving Situation of Romani People

Spanish Parliamentarian of Romani origin Dr. Ismael Cortes has introduced a proposal that seeks a state pact to combat discrimination against Romani people and proposes measures such as improved the access to education, an end to shanty towns, and for adding "antigitanismo" (antigypsyism) to the country's Criminal Code. He hopes that a commission on discrimination and inclusion might be approved as early as this month. Dr. Cortes further said, now more people from the Gitano/Roma community are daring to step into politics and talk about things such as discrimination, representation and antigitanismo.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/romani-mp-in-spain-introduces-bill-to-improve-roma-access-to-education-and-add-anti-romani-bias-to-the-criminal-code>

Silent Scandal: Romani Children in State Care Institutions

The article elaborates on the removal of Romani children from their biological families and being placed in institutional state care even in 21st century. The latest report by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) states that the long-term institutionalization of young children is a form of violence and the disproportionate numbers of Romani children taken into state care amounts to a form of racist violence. Many Romani children are caught in a cruel snare of poverty and racism. Owing to dysfunctional child-protection systems, a large number of Romani kids are being placed in state-run care homes where these vulnerable youngsters become victims of abuse and exploitation.

Read More at

https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/features/europes-silent-scandal-romani-children-state-care-institutions?fbclid=IwAR3aY8U4BdsKW9t0Wdp7qZzfovyenWQMm7dW1vPxAdk8Vb_BXbuuEn5rgs

How Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Families from the EU can Apply to Stay in the UK after Brexit

The right to stay in the UK after Brexit is a greater worry for EU Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) families who have settled in UK than others. According to the report of UK Citizens Advice, GRT people are struggling to access their right to stay in the UK because of language

barriers, lack of identification and proof of residence documents. Another challenge for GRT people would be to submit requisite documents to prove that they meet the necessary residency criteria before the deadline of 30th June 2021

Read More at

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/how-gypsy-roma-traveller-families-20189452>

Roma - the Weakest Link in the Fight against the Pandemic

The German Newspaper-Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung wrote about the difficulties in vaccinating Roma, who live in slums. There are fears that Roma settlements could become a permanent source of infection. Stolipinovo in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, the largest of all Roma slums in Southeast Europe, and home to about 60,000 Roma people, is considered to be a potential point of new outbreaks of virus. The Roma are a relatively young population with "below-average life expectancy", so this may contribute to a mild and imperceptible course of infection. Lack of awareness of the importance of vaccination among Roma people has also been cited as a problem because of limited facilities to reach out to them.

Read More at

<https://www.dw.com/hr/romi-najslabija-karika-u-borbi-protiv-pandemije/a-56736126>

Hate Speech and Antigypsyism in the Media

The virtual international conference on "Hate speech and Antigypsyism in the Media", hosted by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) in cooperation with the Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Team and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma with the aim of changing the perspective on the norms and bring this issue to the public notice. The international conference brought together more than 36 panelists and stakeholders with relevant expertise and experience in the fields as well as mainstream media stakeholders to jointly discuss the experiences on how to effectively combat against the hate speech and Antigypsyism in the media and online platforms.

Read More at

<http://www.portal-udar.net/en/nulta-tolerancija-na-anticiganizam-je-zadatak-politike-i-cijelog-naseg-drustva/?fbclid=IwAR1B985EEPwGwzVXqIfYi5LppbA7Kift1Q1W4Jo6wXDOEiga1kcsP-p64ss>

Moira Orfei: The Queen of Circus Art

Versatile Actress and a proud Romni- Ms. Moira Orfei made a brilliant mark in acting and circus and represented sincere fascination for millions of Italians. She worked in 47 films like Otò and Cleopatra (Fernando Cerchio, 1963), Perfume of a Woman (Dino Risi, 1974) and her last appearance on the big screen in the film Christmas in India (2003). Miranda Orfei, popularly known as Moira, was born on 21 December 1931 in Codroipo, in the province of Udine and passed away at the age of 83. Moira along with her husband Walter Nones founded their own circus: The Moira Orfei circus, which over time became one of the largest in Europe.

Read More at

<https://www.electoradio.com/mag/corsi-ricorsi/moira-orfei-la-regina-dellarte-circense?fbclid=IwAR2TwCjgtylg8OkZ0osmlQSuVSLDS40CrVphjguliHuksnLtInFqAU-dEqI>

Condolence Message

Prof. Marcel Courthiade (1953-2021)

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) is profoundly sad to inform the demise of Prof. Marcel Courthiade in Tirana, Albania, on 4th March, 2021, who was professor at Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) and was a head of the chair of Rromani studies at INALCO Paris-City Sorbonne (department of Southern Asia and Himalaya). He was the commissioner for language and Linguistic Justice of the International Rromani Union. He was a committed scholar, versatile genius, polyglot, linguist, historian, poet, ethnologist and author.

Prof. Courthiade made invaluable contributions to the field of Romani Studies and propounded Kannauj theory with regards to the exodus of Roma from Kannauj in 1018. He was an integral part of the two international Roma conferences organized by ARSP and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, Gov. of India in New Delhi in 2016 and 2018. Prof. Courthiade dedicated his life and tirelessly worked for scientifically establishing the historical, spiritual, linguistic and cultural link of Rroma with India and presented Rromani cultural heritage as world heritage.

On behalf of the CRSCR-ARSP, we extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to his family, relatives and friends. We pray to God to let the departed soul Rest in the loving arms of God.

Mr. Arben Kosturi (1967-2021)

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) is extremely saddened by the untimely death of the dauntless Roma journalist Mr. Arben Kosturi, in Korçë, Albania on 15th March, 2021, who was the executive director of DISUTNI ALBANIA ASSOCIATION, Roma language instructor, Roma Human Rights Champion and fought for educational and cultural emancipation of the community. He always stood up for ethnic and linguistic identity of Roma and upheld Rom's native land is India and Rom's spiritual homeland is centuries-old India. We at CRSCR-ARSP extend our wholehearted condolences and deepest sympathies to his family, relatives and friends. We pray to God to let the departed soul Rest in Peace.