



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

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Serbia Moves to Advance Roma Culture and Education

Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić inaugurated the first branch of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) and the new headquarters of the Roma Education Fund in Belgrade on May 25th, 2021. In his inaugural speech, the President said that Serbia was making efforts for investing in preserving the Romani language and culture, quality education for Romani youth and Roma's greater participation in public life, fighting discrimination, and respecting social equality and human rights. He further added that a better life for Roma means a better life for Serbia.

Read More at

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/newsroom/serbia-moves-to-advance-roma-culture-and-education-in-an-effort-also-supported-by-the-open-society-foundations-the-council-of-europe-and-germany>

Leading Companies for Employing Roma were Awarded

The Gypsy Blessed Cross Association awarded number of Hungarian companies for employing Romani people. Csaba Kövesi, the President of the Blessed Cross Association, emphasized at the awards ceremony that in recent years increasing number of men and women of Romani origin were being employed in Hungary corresponding to their educational qualifications and abilities. He added that this positive change was the result of economic policy of the government which has created a favorable environment for businesses. He presented letters of commendation

entitled “Naiszaras e butyi” to five domestic companies which employ a larger number of workers of Roma origin, thus helping the livelihood of Roma families.

Read More at

http://www.romnet.hu/hirek/2021/06/14/romafoglalkoztatásban_elen_jaro_cegeket_dijzatak

Spanish Roma Youth Platform

The Federation of Roma Associations from Catalonia – FAGiC, in collaboration with the Phiren Amenca International Network, organized an online conference "Spanish Roma Youth Platform" on 14 May 2021. The conference was aimed on ensuring the participation of young Spanish Roma in the process of designing the updated Spanish Strategy for Roma inclusion. During the discussions, the main concerns expressed by the young participants were related to the participatory process and to putting into the agenda the challenges and interests of Roma youth. The meeting proposed the need to unify, as far as possible, the voice of Roma youth in Spain. In the second panel of the online conference, three Roma members of the Spanish Parliament interacted with the youngsters to explore ways to include voices of Roma youth in the political agenda, not only in the design of the Spanish Roma Strategy.

Read More at

<https://phirenamenca.eu/spanish-roma-youth-platform-2/>

Roma people of Romanian Citizenship Entering USA from Mexico to Seek Asylum

USA authorities have recorded a sudden rise in the number of Roma, who are citizens of Romania and European Union Member States, attempting to cross from Mexico into the USA by sailing rafts across the Rio Grande river, the natural border between Mexico and the state of Texas in the USA. Specifically Roma from Romania explained to a news reporter that they were fleeing Romania because of racism and wanted to seek asylum in the USA. According to media reports from Romania, many such migrants fly from Paris to Mexico City as tourists because they do not need visas to enter Mexico. Once they arrive, smugglers take them by bus to the US border, where they cross the Rio Grande on boats or rafts.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/more-roma-citizens-of-romania-attempting-to-cross-from-mexico-into-the-usa-to-seek-asylum-this-year>

Ensuring the Rights of the Roma People

The First Vice President of the Government of Spain (Unofficial name: Deputy Prime Minister of Spain), Ms. Carmen Calvo has stated that Spain was "late" in advancing the freedoms and rights of the gypsy people and pointed out "we must go faster "because" there is still a long way to go. She stressed that there was an extraordinary challenge for redressing the past wrongs and the centuries of ignominy, insults and injustice against Romani boys and girls of this country. In her speech, she appealed to "thank the historical contributions of the gypsy people to our country".

Read More at

<https://unionromani.org/2021/06/09/en-el-avance-de-los-derechos-del-pueblo-gitano-hay-que-ir-mas-rapido/>

Slovak Ombudswoman Appeals to Compensate Illegally Sterilized People

While the Czech Chamber of Deputies passed a bill at the beginning of June to compensate those who have been sterilized without their consent, nothing of sort is being planned yet in Slovakia. In Czechoslovakia, the country to which both Czech Republic and Slovakia belonged prior to 1993, under then guidelines for performance of sterilization, systematic sterilization of women, mostly from Romani community was undertaken without their full and informed consent. Slovak NGOs have appealed to relevant Slovak authorities to come up with a bill to compensate women who have been harmed in this way. Slovak ombudswoman Mária Patakyová has repeatedly pointed out the need to compensate the victims of illegal sterilizations in Slovakia.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/slovak-ombudswoman-and-ngos-appeal-to-government-to-compensate-illegally-sterilized-people>

1,545 Romani Students received Smart Devices and Internet Access for Online Education

The Roma Education Fund (REF) with well established network of partner organizations in various European countries have launched second phase in April 2021 for the release of emergency fund in response to COVID-19. After careful assessment, the REF team and the

networkers have decided that what would ease the immediate challenges of the ongoing academic year for the Roma students, is related to provision of smart devices and internet access as well as mentoring/tutoring with focus on preparation for graduation and entrance exams for primary and secondary schools, as well as for University students.

Read More at

<https://www.romaeducationfund.org/1545-roma-students-were-provided-with-smart-devices-and-internet-access-for-remote-education-during-the-2020-emergency-fund-actions/>

Romani Children at the Heart of the Struggles for Justice

The recent report from the Irish Ombudsman for children condemned the deplorable conditions including overcrowded and insanitary dwellings which aggravated the medical conditions among children such as impetigo, dermatitis, eczema, and abscesses along with upper respiratory and lower urinary tract infections. Moreover the discrimination and deprivation take a toll on the mental health of children. The things are even getting worse for many Romani children inside the European Union. National governments which have signed up to the new improved European Union Roma Framework 2020-2030, stand accused of racist neglect of their obligations toward millions of Romani children right across Europe.

Read More at

<http://www.errc.org/news/romani-children-must-be-at-the-heart-of-the-struggles-for-justice-and-against-racism---because-it-is-their-right>