



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

New Delhi

5th July, 2021

Issue: 12

Roma in the Western Balkans: The topic of discussion in the summit of the Berlin Process

Berlin hosted the eighth summit of the Berlin Process, at which one of the main topics was the issue of Roma integration and inclusion. In the Summit, the rights and position of the Roma were discussed in the light of the Poznan Declaration that was adopted in 2019, which deals with Romani issues. The Summit was attended by EU officials and Chancellor Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, Prime Ministers of Italy, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovenia, Greece, Croatia and the Chancellor of Austria.

Read More at

<https://www.portal-udar.net/romi-na-zapadnom-balkanu-i-ove-godine-tema-u-okviru-berlinskog-procesa/>

“Ethnosymphonic” Concert in Honor of Roma and Sinti

A concert was held on May 15, 2021, live streaming from the Fenaroli Theater in Lanciano, to commemorate the revolt by the Roma and Sinti in the Zigeunerlager of Auschwitz-Birkenau (May 16, 1944). The prisoners of the camp, who were to be transferred to the gas chambers, rebelled with available tools like stones and knives. The first revolt represented a symbol of resistance for the Romani populations in Italy and in the world, and it is for this reason that Santino Spinelli, a widely popular Romani musician and composer from Abruzzo, wanted to commemorate this historically important day with a concert that

earned the patronage of UNAR - Presidency of the Council of Ministers and which featured the Alexian Group.

Read More at

https://drammaturgia.fupress.net/recensioni/recensione1.php?id=8154&fbclid=IwAR0CPwLKuQFfRqgvU4Zu4YVS5_d0i30UtmEeBR5CnLj11Y5k015MTy_6_g

European Commission calls for independent investigation of death of Roma man in the Czech Republic

A Roma man, named Stanislav Tomas, 46, died in the Czech town of Teplice after police allegedly kneeled on his neck. Mr. Zeljko Jovanovic, Director of Roma Initiative Office, commented that this was not an isolated incident but many other cases of police and far-right brutality against the Roma go unpunished. These cases were just the tip of an iceberg. Police violence runs deep in the life of Roma in the Czech Republic. In an open letter to the European Commission President and relevant Commissioners, Proud Roma Free Europe, a transnational movement, condemned the excessive use of force that led to Stanislav Tomas's death and demanded an independent and thorough investigation into the circumstances of the death. While confirming receipt of the letter, a Commission spokesperson expressed hope for an independent investigation by the competent Czech authorities.

Read More at

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/eu-affairs/176211/european-commission-calls-for-independent-investigation-of-deadly-arrest-of-roma-man-in-the-czech-republic/>

Inclusion of Romani Children in Public Preschools

REF (Roma Education Fund) Foundation and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Government of the Republic of Northern Macedonia organized the conference "Inclusion of Roma children in public preschools" project that aims for reducing the gap between Roma and non-Roma children through offering quality education and employment to the Romani population. For the past 15 years, REF has invested more than a million Euros to fund this project as a result, more than 4000 Roma children aged between 3 and 6 years received access to preschool education. The Roma Education Fund has created an Emergency Fund and adopted an action plan to provide support for smooth continuation of the education of

Romani children in countries like Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovakia.

Read More At

https://www.romaeducationfund.org/4000-roma-children-supported-during-16-years-of-the-inclusion-of-roma-children-in-public-preschools-project/?fbclid=IwAR2zQXM-H4Tm0Ke_NWCalo0CnZ4FIMX5m_En_OQzC8ub341N6aNNKbWKAYo

Implementation of numerous projects for the inclusion of Roma children in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Spahija Kozlic, Minister of Education of Zenica-Doboj Canton, said that the most common reasons for dropping out of Roma children from regular schooling were insufficiently developed awareness of the need for education, parental neglect and poverty. He further added that various projects, which were implemented in the area of Zenica-Doboj Canton in the last ten year, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of education and regular school attendance by students of marginalized groups, primarily Roma as one of the largest national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within the project, additional classes are provided to the Roma children with additional assistance in mastering the curriculum as well as organization of thematic parent meetings for promoting the importance of education and exercising the right to social protection.

Read More at

<https://www.portal-udar.net/ministar-obrazovanja-za-udar-zdk-provodi-brojne-projekte-inkluzije-romske-djece/>

In Historic First, Roma included as Ethnicity in UK Census

For the first time, in the 2021 census of the United Kingdom – an event that takes place every 10 years, Roma is included in the list of ethnic minorities. Marius Daniel Banceanu, a campaigner and project advocate for the Roma Support Group, welcomed the update as an opportunity for the estimated 200,000-strong population. Roma will come under the category of the white ethnicity. The census will help in forming decision on services required by Roma and affect everything from healthcare provision and education financing, housing to employment.

Read More at

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2021/3/19/hold-uk-roma-census-2021>

Golden Jubilee Celebration of the First World Romani Congress

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations -ARSP celebrated the Golden Jubilee year of the First World Romani Congress and organized a Virtual International Roma Conference on the theme “The Situation of Roma and The Role of International Romani Organizations” on 15th April, 2021. The conference was attended by various Indian and international dignitaries including Turkish Parliamentarian Cemal BEKLE, Croatian Parliamentarian Mr. VeljkoKajtazi, Mr. Orhan Galjus, Mr. Marko D. Knudsen, Shri Shyam Parande, Amb. Virendra Gupta, Amb. Rajesh Sachdeva, etc.

Virtual Lecture on the Topic “Roma of Bulgaria: Past and Present”

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR) – Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted consecutively fourth virtual lecture on the topic “Roma of Bulgaria: Past and Present” on 26th June, 2021. The lecture, delivered by Prof. Dr. Hristo Kyuchukov, covered the broader spectrum of historical, linguistic and religious aspect of Roma in Bulgaria and Balkan countries. He touched upon the history of Roma during Byzantine and Ottoman Empire. He further talked about Russo-Turkish War of 1877–1878, Communist era as well as the beginning of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe in the late 1980s, and how these historical events brought about changes in the socio-cultural lives of Roma community.