



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

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A Memorial Concert for the Victims of the Holocaust

A concert is to be organized in the memory of the Holocaust of Roma and Jews in Koncertsalen, Malmö Sweden on 21 October, 2021. The concert- a part of Malmö City's inclusion project 'Open Malmö' includes a wide spectrum of Romani lives and reflects both history and hopes for the future. Marek Glindrönn, a well known Romani singer and Sweden's Yiddish queen, Louisa Lyne with her band "di Yiddishe Kapelye" will perform under the direction of former chief conductor Robert Trevino. The soulful music and poignant lyrics would remind about the people who were exposed during the Holocaust; Jews, Roma and others.

Read More at

https://www.mynewsdesk.com/se/malmolivekonserthus/pressreleases/remember-en-minneskonst-foer-foerintelsens-offer-3121621?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=Alert&utm_content=pressrelease&fbclid=IwAR0S9XqmfiAGsewM4SM83c8525ByNmnVzcozMAZBcuEXawlwU7KArhoyfrc

International Romani Union Seeks Humanitarian Aid for Afghanistan's Romani Population

The International Romani Union (IRU) is worried about the fate of Afghanistan's Romani population, who are living in the well-founded fear for their lives. IRU President, Zoran Dimov says, Roma people must not become victims of the new ruling power. He also called on the United Nations, the US Government, and the European Union to arrange for immediate humanitarian protection for Afghanistan's Romani people and to provide aid with their evacuation.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/international-romani-union-seeks-urgent-humanitarian-aid-for-afghanistan-apos-s-romani-population>

Gypsies & Travellers Expect Fair Play from the Media

The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community has accused the UK's communications regulator, Ofcom of institutional racism for approving controversial documentary of Channel 4 about Traveller crime. A large number of complaints allege the programme to present misleading and negative views of GRT community. They also pointed to rise in hate crimes against GRT community after the broadcast of documentary "The Truth About Traveller Crime" in April 2020. In response to these complaints, Ofcom published a report on 1st September, 2021 stating that the programme did not breach the code of broadcasting. A spokesperson of GRT Groups said: it is not the first time Channel 4 has chosen to humiliate and further marginalize Roma, Gypsy and Traveller people.

Read More at

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/01/ofcom-accused-of-institutional-racism-over-dispatches-traveller-episode?fbclid=IwAR1u1vFiwfZ_CuV4_P3_DF-fCXYSaYwCMsDYNKV0MGBFefYY07m4klYurac

A Romani Artist Opened Art School and Carpentry Workshop

Tiberius Jonas is a famous Romani artist in Ukraine has been teaching painting for free to children from poor and low-income Romani families. With the financial support of Renaissance Foundation, he has also set up a carpentry workshop, which helps young Roma to master carpentry as well as earn money through sale of their products after completion of their training. In association with Mukachevo School, the training is imparted by specialists and all the necessary material for painting is provided for free.

Read More at

<https://shotam.info/khochu-daty-mozhlyvist-romam-navchatys-i-zarobliaty-yak-khudozhnyk-tyberiy-yonash-vidkryv-khudozhniu-shkolu-ta-stoliarnu-maysterniu/>

Roma in Hungary: Historical, Cultural and Contemporary Challenges

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR) – Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the sixth virtual lecture of the lecture series on the topic of Roma in Hungary: Historical, Cultural and Contemporary Challenges on 8th September, 2021 through Zoom Meeting App. The lecture has been delivered by Ms. Andrea Annamária Duka (Hungary), Romologist, Director- Future Vision Educational and Diversity of Cultural Association and International Network, and Roma Cultural Guide. She spoke about three waves of migration of Roma in Hungary. The first generation of Roma came from Romania and Transylvania to Hungary in 15 century and they were acceptable to Hungarian society

because, Roma was employed with task of manufacturing and repairing arms and fortifying the municipalities against the Ottoman incursions. The second and third generation Roma arrived at Hungary in 19 and 20 century respectively. She talked about integration policies which led to loss of Romani ethnic culture and she further added, Roma decade program in 2000 for the integration of Roma in the mainstream societies was complex and counterproductive.

Watch full lecture at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8W_y-r2ckFQ&t=295s

Slovak Government Apologizes to Romani Community for Brutal Police Raid

The Government of Slovakia has apologized for a police raid on a Romani community in 2013 and for the subsequent prosecution of Six Romani people. According to civil rights activists, several dozen special riot units drove into the settlement and conducted house searches. The European Court of Human Rights found and made a judgment that the Romani people's rights had been violated. The Slovak Justice Ministry has commented on the Government's decision to apologize and remarked that "The Government perceives this apology to be not just a humane gesture to the victims who have been harmed, but also as a commitment by the state to avoid such failures in the future and as a signal that law enforcement has a sincere interest in earning the trust of civil society."

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/slovak-government-apologizes-to-romani-community-for-brutal-police-raid-in-2013>

Blackface, Stereotypes and Prejudice: Albania's Racist Comedy Shows

Anti-Roma comedy programmes were broadcasted on national television of Albania. The programmes mock Roma and portray them as dim-witted, foreign, and untrustworthy. The comedy shows reinforce stereotypes held by the majority population and are putting forward toxic narratives and inciting hatred against Roma. Reaching a wider audience, these shows depict Romani characters based entirely on stereotypes and discrimination. The Romani characters are ridiculed for speaking in Albanian with a weird accent while the audience explodes with laughter. The comedy shows, directly or indirectly, put the Romani characters in an inferior position.

Read More at

<http://www.errc.org/news/blackface-stereotypes-and-prejudice-albanias-racist-comedy-shows>

The Colombian Bishops Show Solidarity with the Romani People

The Colombian Church expresses its deepest sense of solidarity with the Romani people worldwide and in particular with the Roma people living in Colombia for several centuries. The director of the Ethnicities area, Fr. Omer Giraldo said that Roma ethnic minority originally came from the Asian region of North India, and they have been victims and are also misunderstood wherever they go. He also further added, Colombia recognized Roma people as an ethnic minority, starting with the new Constitution that has come in force in 1991.

Read More at

<https://unionromani.org/2021/09/03/los-obispos-colombianos-se-solidarizan-con-pueblo-gitano/>

The campaign Launched to Encourage Romani Participation in National Census of Slovakia

The campaign, 'Proud Roma Free Europe' took the initiative to encourage Roma to declare their ethnic identity in national censuses across Europe in 2021 and 2022. In partnership with the Roma Initiatives Office (RIO) of the Open Society Foundations and the Roma-led civic initiative Opre Roma, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN) launched a programme 'Proud Roma in Free Slovakia' to mobilize Roma communities throughout Slovakia to declare their ethnic identity in the national census, which concluded in June 2021. The Slovakian Census 2021 was an opportunity to gain accurate and complete data on the Slovakian Roma, providing the impetus to politicians to implement relevant social programs for the community.

Read More at

<https://eriac.org/proud-roma-in-free-slovakia-launches-to-encourage-participation-in-2021-national-census/>