



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

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Lacho Drom Event Organized in Javier, Spain

The Javier City Council in collaboration with the Federation of Gypsy Associations of Navarra GazKalo organized the musical event "Lacho Drom" as a part of the European Heritage Days. The Lacho Drom Project aims at highlighting the migration of Roma Diaspora from the East to the West as well as the cultural, social and linguistic contributions that the gypsies/Roma have made along the way. Many dignitaries like the regional parliamentarians Raquel Garbayo and Ana Ansa, Patricia Ruiz, general director of Migration Policies and Guzmán Garmendia, general director of Telecommunications attended the event. The musical performances started with International Roma Anthem "Gelem, Gelem", followed by the life stories of Ricardo Hernández, coordinator of the Fed. GazKaló, who spoke about the history of the Roma People and shared his family history as well as presented to the public the results of his DNA and genetic studies.

Read More at

<http://gazkalo.org/80-personas-disfrutaron-del-evento-lacho-drom-en-javier-en-las-jornadas-europeas-de-patrimonio/>

Child Marriage: Not a Romani Tradition

The 16 days-long campaign for sensitizing Roma women against violence was held in Serbia. The talk of child marriage amongst Roma community occurred during the campaign. The project "Children's marriage is not a Roma tradition", is being implemented by Roma Women's Network of Serbia in order to influence the amendment to the Law on Social Protection, the Family Law. The project aims at raising awareness among young Roma about the importance of

education, harmful consequences of child marriage through workshop that has been held in 30 cities and municipalities of Serbia. Ana Saćipović, president of the "Osvit" association, informed that 600 parents of young Roma men and women were counseled about negative impact of the marriages on the mental and physical health of the children in the workshops.

Read More at

<http://www.portal-udar.net/djecji-brak-nije-romska-tradicija-projekat-u-srbiji-koji-rusi-stereotipe/>

Funeral and Mourning Culture of the Sinti and Roma

Sinti and Roma in Germany have their very own culture of burial and mourning. The tombs of Sinti and Roma are developed as crypts, with grave slabs often made of Marble or temple-like construction elements. Another distinct feature is that some bereaved relatives commemorate the deceased with a portrait as a bust or even a life-size memorial. Sinti and Roma also mourn differently as the relatives of the deceased often travel from far away and families often bury their deceased where other family members are already buried. At the funeral, the musical instrument especially organ is played and incense is waved, and the loss of the deceased is loudly lamented. It is customary to put objects in the coffin for the dead person.

Read More at

<https://www.migazin.de/2021/12/13/eine-sache-ehre-bestattungs-trauerkultur/?fbclid=IwAR0m5wuSN17YKVIAneNUjiAHnr2xeu2VJCWU-DVtuDYDbnVZpepkAp7M9pc>

Europe Ignores Legacy of the Roma Victims of Auschwitz

Romani Rose, the chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, called on Europe to act based on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union that guarantees everyone a decent life. Mr. Rose further emphasized that Europeans must question their own credibility and act accordingly. Mr. Rose, at an event in the Paulskirche, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, spoke about the current horrible situation that was taking place on the EU's external border between Lithuania and Poland and Belarus. This is breach of internationally recognized law as people are starving, freezing and dying there. He urged to find unbureaucratic solutions so that people no longer lose their lives at the external borders of the EU - not only in Belarus, Poland and Lithuania, but also in the Mediterranean, the Balkans, or other escape routes.

Read More at

https://www.juedische-allgemeine.de/politik/romani-rose-europa-ignoriert-vermaechtnis-der-opfer-von-auschwitz/?fbclid=IwAR0RSWW3LNnjKyfXevjSpnLqJP_0mPxrunCge8wrJEUMfJEvJkUtgr3dPnU

Ninth Virtual Lecture on Social, Cultural and Economic Situation of Roma in Portugal

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR) – ARSP organized 9th virtual lecture of its monthly lecture series on the theme of “Social, Cultural and Economic Situation of Roma in Portugal” on 27th November, 2021. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Pimenio Ferreira (Portugal), Member of SOS Racismo Network; NGO and Activist for Roma Rights. He said that the Indian roots of Roma are the most debatable topic in Portugal right now among Romani people that acknowledges Roma came from India. Mr. Pimenio remarked that Romani people in Portugal were living in social housings that were segregated and separated through the walls from the neighborhood. They mostly work in the street markets because not many prefer to hire Roma as workers. The street markets are being shut down even before the outbreak of Covid-19, so their economic situation is very precarious and they have been facing difficulties even in earning their livelihood. Romani children are treated unfairly in education and expelled from the school though they are accused of drop-out and leaving the studies.

Watch Full Lecture at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAIQE_GM_YE&t=1133s

75 Years of Memory: The Roma Holocaust Cannot Be Forgotten

The Nevo Parudimos Association, together with the German Sinti and Roma Documentation and Culture Center, hosted an international conference to commemorate the “75 Years of Memory - Young Roma and Non-Roma Act Against Forgetting”. The conference was held in Heidelberg, Germany, and brought together 23 guests from different countries with the focus on the project to raise awareness of the ‘Roma Holocaust’ and to discuss results of the activity of each partner country over the two-year duration of the project. Marian Daragiu, Secretary of State in the Romanian Ministry of Education, spoke about the importance of Holocaust education for Roma children and young people and informed of Romanian Government’s approach on the Holocaust topic.

Read More at

https://expressdebanat.ro/foto-75-de-ani-de-memorie-holocaustul-romilor-nu-poate-fi-uitat/?fbclid=IwAR35Xmt_V9kJagb6S8qISadC2bbmV10N1zX26LzLORF2I2oH-DE4N6blxT8

Challenges in Education Facing Gypsy/Roma and Traveller Pupils

The education committee in UK has taken an initiative for written evidence as part of its ongoing inquiry into the educational challenges facing pupils from Roma and Traveller communities. The UK government has allocated outlay of £1 million education programme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children. The committee will examine the challenges faced by children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds through written submissions. Robert Halfon MP, chair of the education committee, said that children from Roma and Traveller backgrounds “are at the bottom of the attainment table” compared with other groups.

Read More at

https://www.politics.co.uk/news-in-brief/education-committee-probes-challenges-facing-gypsy-traveller-pupils/?fbclid=IwAR3XmB2v7lakSeCTT7I7E5vWcQyYgT5AM5OtTkFvDPzEh4a1ZH_mLYxafr8

A Romani Girl, Caught in Sliding Doors Dies due to Shocking Indifference of Bystanders

Greek media outlets published video footage about a tragic incident in which an eight-year-old Romani girl got stuck in the sliding door of a factory located in the Keratsini suburb of Piraeus, including the shocking behavior of about six or seven adults who watched her die before their very eyes. The footage also shows one worker prodding the little girl with his foot to find out whether she is alive or not. This shows the unprecedented human indifference towards the Romani girl named Olga, and her family sees it as racism.

Read More at

<https://www.muensterschezeitung.de/lokales/staedte/greven/gutes-jahr-fur-die-belange-der-roma-2500541?fbclid=IwAR1AI9Y0Lal0mSzuZEopez0XkUfAvchJndH8fxEp87bwNGLEiCfhiSGb7Vg>