



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

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Simonida and Sandra Selimovic: Icons of the Theater World.

The theater association "Romano Svato", a Romani term, meaning to raise your voice, has been founded ten years ago by duo sisters who made a brilliant mark with their work. The two have made some of the most exciting productions of the past decade and attracted attention with the play "Gipsy Stop Dancing" that narrates the story of 1933 German boxing champion Johann "Rukeli" Trollmann and portrays female figure Sandra as a boxer rather than a man fighting for the title. The duo Simonida and Sandra founded "Mindj Panther" that aimed at using rap instead of punk for their resistance music and Romani as the language for their songs against racism and discrimination. Sandra affirms that the history of Romani persecution has been neither extensively worked out nor recognized in most of the societies. Simonida tells how difficult it was for her to hide her identity although her family has always been proud of their culture and heritage. She said that it hurts her to deny her origins.

Read More at

<https://www.dw.com/de/simonida-sandra-rampenlicht/a-60613420?fbclid=IwAR3LNINar19EdjdRuzBKQ5BSFW5cDGhaKEm52MBt-80Zr7Tzb4ZltNCDtg8>

The Visit of Plenipotentiary for Roma Community to Eastern Slovakia

The Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, Jan Hero and the Member of the European Parliament, Peter Pollak paid visit to several municipalities of eastern Slovakia on the MEP Nicholson's criticism of the poor conditions in the Romani settlements and higher death of Roma during pandemic. Their visit was intended to inspect the situation of marginalized Roma. During their meetings with Mayors and Municipality officials, they learnt about the situation of Roma community in those municipalities and discussed ways to deal with their problems. Suggestions were made to explore possibilities for drawing funds from Recovery Plan and Operational Program Slovakia.

Read More at

<https://spis.korzar.sme.sk/c/22836654/davame-pracu-ukrajincom-potencial-romov-nevyuzivame-vravi-splnomocnenec-hero.html>

In Romania, the Romani girl Overcame Stigma

Alina Serban, a well known Romani artist, stood out in the world cinema for her role in "Gipsy Queen", the story of a woman who literally fights in the ring for the dignity of her children, or in the Belgian film "Alone at My Wedding". In her recent play "The best child in the world", she brings her life to stage, that of a little girl struggling with racism, who succeeds against all odds. In an interview with AFP, she said, "This is the first time that a Roma story, which is written, staged and performed by a Roma artist, has been welcomed by a Romanian national scene".

Read More at

https://www.rtl.be/info/magazine/culture/en-roumanie-la-fillette-rom-qui-a-triomphe-de-la-stigmatisation-1354737.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0oxCothlr9Aj28V_IY809cUWhewWI8SZGqIDMEs5T97TcDs5HPATY8fQw

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers Portrayed Negatively and Inaccurately in the Press

As per a report by Media that moves, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) people in the United Kingdom are subjected to biased reporting and negative portrayals in media. The grossly inaccurate media coverage, public opinions and statements from those in positions of power

reveal the deep-rooted prejudice, discrimination and misconceptions about Roma/Gypsies and Travellers. The report criticizes the British press and points out the missing of proper press regulation, leading to the gross misreporting on GRT people

Read More at

https://www.thecanary.co/uk/analysis/2022/02/03/grt-people-portrayed-negatively-and-inaccurately-in-the-press-report-finds/?fbclid=IwAR3S9EsOpaYIM_2WI--YBIY0i5lwT4tm2VX72EB-h2Pdh5PneqNgtiAu580

Slovak District Court Ruled City's Forced Eviction of Roma Unlawful

District Court of Kosice II in the Eastern Slovakia has passed an order in favor of nine Romani individuals who were forced to move out of the settlement in the Kosice locality of Nizne Kapustniky in 2012 when the city demolished the settlement of Romani inhabitants without offering any alternative accommodation, thereby making them homeless. The court in its verdict stated that the City of Kosice violated the plaintiffs' human dignity and their right to privacy and committed illegal discrimination on the basis of their ethnicity. The court also ordered the city of Kosice to pay each plaintiff non-pecuniary damages of EUR 1000.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/slovak-first-instance-court-rules-city-apos-s-forced-eviction-of-roma-was-unlawful-discrimination-on-an-ethnic-basis>

Up to a Billion Euros should Go to Roma Integration

Around one billion Euros is earmarked for Roma integration and resolving deplorable condition of Roma community. The fund has been sanctioned by European Union, Brussels to improve the poor settlements of Roma. In addition, 150 million from the Recovery Plan has also been approved. EU cautioned to spend money on meaningful projects, rather than wasting it on cooking classes, dancing or computer seminars.

Read More at

https://www.tvnoviny.sk/domace/2051210_posledna-sanca-ako-nepremrhat-eurofondy-na-integraciu-romov-by-mala-ist-az-miliarda-eur?fbclid=IwAR14gXRbeLeCH7C_V3y8TQxPBBmfo-eDbBsGZhQeMTYM-RpCdM9nMLFkmZg

Proud Roma: Celebrating Romani Culture and Pride through Film

The short movie "Proud Roma" is inspired by the 1940 movie "The Great Dictator" widely popular for Charlie Chaplin's performance. However, unknown to many, Chaplin was of Roma origin. The Romani filmmaker Pablo Vega made Proud Roma to pay tribute to the cultural heritage of Roma. The Deputy Director of European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka said that this film was part of a campaign called 'Proud Roma – Free Europe', which is led by ERIAC with the coalition of Roma organizations from all around Europe. The objective of this movie is to assert Romani identity proudly and also to encourage them to be open about who they are, build more self-esteem. She further added that they want to talk about Roma's contribution and Roma pride, not about Roma victims and marginalization.

Read More at

https://minorityrights.org/2022/02/02/proud-roma/?fbclid=IwAR2ofALex2-pUtm_g-6QlAFM9ZsXquEakvYxnvPNselyjfgBoTqOp7RQmck

Project for Integration of Migrants and Gypsies/Roma in Portugal

The project has been initiated by the municipality's intercultural mediation team for the territorial scope of the municipality of Serta. Its mission is to integrate the migrant population and the Roma community in order to break the barriers at the bureaucratic and social level as well as eliminate stereotypes. It aims at establishing the strong link between different institutions like health and educational establishments as well as the Finance and the local Employment Department. The project works on the themes such as education for multiculturalism and appreciation of diversity through awareness and preventive actions with the school community.

Read More at

https://www.theportugalnews.com/news/2022-01-28/serta-municipality-implements-project-for-integration-of-migrants-and-gypsies/64920?fbclid=IwAR3yTGKQS1d35mDY2GVojkOUDrT5nYD2qE9U1nIbRb4xgnPu6rypUJMtZ_c

By Criminalising their Lifestyle, the Government Pushing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller People Closer to the Edge

The article covers the prejudice and discrimination against the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community in education, employment and health and the virulent joke made by the comedian Jimmy Carr who denoted the murder of hundreds of thousands of Romany and Sinti Gypsies by the Nazis as a “positive” in a Netflix special in the recent show. That has sparked outrage across the world. Several Ministers strongly disapproved. Nadine Dorries, the cultural secretary of the United Kingdom pointed out that Ofcom, the UK regulator, would soon gain enough power over streaming services. According to latest census of UK recorded that the population of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) people is 58,000 in England and Wales and reported that 44.6% of those are viewed negatively.

Read More at

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/feb/08/the-guardian-view-on-anti-traveller-prejudice-the-aim-must-be-inclusion?fbclid=IwAR0ilWLjrj2-cp2pnRet21LiMSPIJC0riqSYYGJG-tpOltkLLJ-4xg435w>

The Tenth Virtual Lecture

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-ARSP organized the tenth lecture of the series on the theme of “Roma Politics and India”, delivered by Mr. Grattan Puxon, General Secretary, World Romani Congress [1971-1981] through Zoom Meeting App on 14 January 2022. In his speech, Mr. Puxon spoke about how the Ashok Chakra was decided to be embossed on the Romani flag during the first World Romani Congress that led to re-establish the connection with India. Since then the flag has become a ubiquitous banner for national assertion of Roma and sometimes a symbol of their recognition. Subsequent to the first congress, a lot has been done in the field of linguistics, culture and more recently genetics to

strengthen the historic bond existing between India and Roma. Mr. Puxon said, the celebration of International Roma Conference and Cultural Festival, organized by ARSP in association with ICCR and inaugurated by the then Foreign Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Sawaraj, was a giant milestone for Roma community, as she indicated through that the recognition of Roma as people of Indian origin. He further added, Indian diplomats may be briefed on the history and contemporary problems of Romani people.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50uQJ7wxMwE&t=798s>