



## Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

### ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

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### No Help for Fleeing Roma from Ukraine

This news item covers reports from Roma supporters in Czech Republic indicating that Roma refugees fleeing from Ukraine are facing discrimination whereas enormous wave of solidarity for white refugees from Ukraine is sweeping across Europe. Few cases of such discrimination witnessed in Slovakia have been provided. It calls for equal rights for all refugees and demands stoppage of segregation of refugees from Ukraine.

#### Read More at

[https://ran.eu.com/keine-hilfe-fur-fluchtende-roma-aus-der-ukraine-rassismus-in-zeiten-des-krieges/?fbclid=IwAR1qAaaOsiPa\\_DVXIaUVKd2tXDMb6Y3P\\_iLoo69cxA2p2dx-6MQGUbg-w8Q](https://ran.eu.com/keine-hilfe-fur-fluchtende-roma-aus-der-ukraine-rassismus-in-zeiten-des-krieges/?fbclid=IwAR1qAaaOsiPa_DVXIaUVKd2tXDMb6Y3P_iLoo69cxA2p2dx-6MQGUbg-w8Q)

### Ukraine's Roma Activists Working to Help Romani People at risk

Individual Roma activists in Ukraine like Tetiana and Natalia are helping locate food supplies, organizing border crossings and raising funds for the help of Roma community. The official statistics suggest there are around 50,000 Roma living in Ukraine. However, organizations working with local Roma in Ukraine suggest that the number might be around 300,000. Germany's Society for Threatened Peoples, which advocates for minority rights around the world, has called Roma "the forgotten people," pointing out that many living in Ukraine were never eligible for citizenship. This news item also refers to reports of Roma being denied access to neighbouring countries at various borders. TernYpe, the international Roma youth network,

has established a digital notice board on the Padlet application to keep people informed. Roma journalists are also collaborating to bring their stories and other related reports to a central website, Nevimos. European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture is supporting its Ukrainian partner to raise funds.

**Read More at**

<https://www.dw.com/en/ukraines-roma-activists-at-work-for-their-community/a-61032799?fbclid=IwAR0hxTTi3HkPlo8HHI57qNopYd0JsxvmTxj0as5I5E5wfRYLK8DbfAMUU6c>

**The Democratic Party of Roma Plans for Going to the Polls**

The Democratic Party of Roma in Montenegro, which was founded in December 2019, was supposed to participate in the 2020 parliamentary elections. However, it could not participate due to the high threshold for entering the Parliament. The President of that party, Mensur Shalaj announced that in the upcoming election the party has decided to go for polls in Podgorica, most likely in a coalition with one of the parties. Mr. Shalaj told that he hoped that the laws on the Election of Councilors and Deputies would be amended and the threshold for entering the Parliament for members of the Roma community would be reduced from 0.7 to 0.35 percent.

**Read More at**

[https://mina.news/crnagora/demokratska-partija-roma-planira-da-izade-na-izbore-u-podgorici/?fbclid=IwAR3XlvCs3o\\_pAYzIpb0QENIhxSg8\\_CHe4DQhZxAqUDByb9FMtWuH1rQB6jg](https://mina.news/crnagora/demokratska-partija-roma-planira-da-izade-na-izbore-u-podgorici/?fbclid=IwAR3XlvCs3o_pAYzIpb0QENIhxSg8_CHe4DQhZxAqUDByb9FMtWuH1rQB6jg)

**Mehmet Daimaguler Appointed the First Commissioner of the Federal Government against Antigypsyism**

The Federal Cabinet has appointed the lawyer Mehmet Daimaguler as the Federal Government's first commissioner for dealing with antigypsyism and discrimination against Sinti and Roma in Germany. The representative will coordinate the federal government's measures against antigypsyism in the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The appointment of an antigypsyism commissioner shows the serious commitment of the government against discrimination, exclusion and hostility towards Sinti and Roma. The

Commissioner will act as the Federal Government's central contact for the Sinti and Roma communities, besides setting up a national coordination office to implement the EU Roma Strategy 2030 and a civil society monitoring and information office to record anti-gypsy attacks.

**Read More at**

[https://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2022-03/sinti-roma-mehmet-daimagueler-beauftragter-bundesregierung-gegen-antiziganismus?utm\\_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Ffacebook.com%2F](https://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2022-03/sinti-roma-mehmet-daimagueler-beauftragter-bundesregierung-gegen-antiziganismus?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Ffacebook.com%2F)

### **Ukraine's Roma Refugees Recount Discrimination En route to Safety**

Hundreds of Roma people, who fled from Ukraine, face an uncertain future in Moldova's capital Chisinau. A Romani woman Cristina travelled from Kharkiv to Lviv, then to the Moldovan border. She narrated the story of how she spent four days in the cold waiting to enter Moldova without any food or water. Although once she found a shelter, she and other Roma were chased out of their tents by the Ukrainian border authorities. Many Roma are either undocumented or lost their papers during the war. So all have limited options as to where they can go. But the hardest thing faced by them is the break-up of their families, which the Roma culture values more than anything. Moldova's authorities decided to separate Roma refugees from ethnic Ukrainians in temporary accommodation in order to prevent tensions between the two ethnicities.

**Read More at**

[https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/7/ukraines-roma-refugees-recount-discrimination-on-route-to-safety?fbclid=IwAR3-kp5j7g1oilxuod9FK-vKDOYspQscnrTchEEEQgiUSebetlzJdj\\_SOW](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/7/ukraines-roma-refugees-recount-discrimination-on-route-to-safety?fbclid=IwAR3-kp5j7g1oilxuod9FK-vKDOYspQscnrTchEEEQgiUSebetlzJdj_SOW)

### **The Band 'Pretty Loud' Making Changes in the Life of Romani Women**

The Pretty Loud Band is made up of Silvia Sinani, Zlata Ristic, Diana and Zivka Iva Ferhatovic, Selma and Elma Dalipi, who are committed to fighting against discrimination faced by Romani women and standing up for their rights. The band is winner of the prestigious BeFem Award and the ELLE Award for Activism. They have performed at the Women of the World Festival in London and are scheduled to perform in five concerts across Europe; Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. The band believes that through songs, music and rap they would inspire young

women to fight for women's equality, education, against discrimination and against early marriages.

**Read More at**

[https://www.danas.rs/kultura/muzicarke-iz-benda-pretty-loud-menjamo-ono-sto-nase-bake-i-majke-nisu-uspele-da-promene-video/?fbclid=IwAR3BVlgNmxiQ4pYOkq707vk9aHK6aM-IgdSIBfwQa6kc6A4FM5\\_cT7SwxZ8](https://www.danas.rs/kultura/muzicarke-iz-benda-pretty-loud-menjamo-ono-sto-nase-bake-i-majke-nisu-uspele-da-promene-video/?fbclid=IwAR3BVlgNmxiQ4pYOkq707vk9aHK6aM-IgdSIBfwQa6kc6A4FM5_cT7SwxZ8)

**Eleventh Virtual Lecture of the Monthly Lecture Series**

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-ARSP hosted the Eleventh Virtual Lecture on the theme of "Bharat Roots of Romanipen" on 24th February, 2022. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Delia Grigore, Senior Reader at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Dr. Delia Grigore touched upon myriad aspects of Romani culture, including codes of purity and cleanliness, impurity and defilement in addition to marriage rituals, Indian dharma as well as Indian and Roma customary laws. She said that the distance in time (1000 years ago) and space (thousands of kilometers away) between the Indian and Romani culture prevents sometimes the direct relation of origin and the elements of ethnic identification of Roma but the studies of cultural anthropology has shortened this gap to some extent. She further spoke that in Romani and Indian family the child are considered to be an embodiment of God and showing deep respect for elder, common in both cultures. She described the explicit role of Romani women in family and in the society, and the concept of patrilocality that correlates with the usual Indian tradition.

**Watch Full Lecture at**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-83cuQIR9c0>

**Outfits of Roma women from Traditional Families**

The Article explores the truth about what Roma women wear in terms of clothing. Roma have a long tradition and history of costumes which have evolved over the centuries and have allowed them to always stand out from the rest. Roma people wear clothes that reflect their religion, customs and ethics. Many of them, both men and women treat the clothes for the upper body separately from the clothes for the lower part. It is also interesting that the upper and lower

body clothing is generally washed separately because the lower body is considered "unclean". And it is desirable not to "contaminate" the upper body.

**Read the full Article at**

[https://substantial.ro/adevarul-despre-tinutele-femeilor-de-etnie-roma-din-familii-traditionale-ce-poarta-pe-sub-fuste-de-fapt-atunci-cand-este-frig-afara/?fbclid=IwAR0TheJ3OokrBOSYshVw7R55rAhdG\\_BiWyz9tP--54d87x8Rmo5wiauDCY](https://substantial.ro/adevarul-despre-tinutele-femeilor-de-etnie-roma-din-familii-traditionale-ce-poarta-pe-sub-fuste-de-fapt-atunci-cand-este-frig-afara/?fbclid=IwAR0TheJ3OokrBOSYshVw7R55rAhdG_BiWyz9tP--54d87x8Rmo5wiauDCY)

### **The Voice of Young Roma is being Heard in Serbia**

Opre Roma, a non-governmental organization, was founded in 2019 as a response to the challenges of social inequality faced by the Roma community in Serbia. It has initiated the movement for helping young Roma to become aware of their rights and of anti-discrimination mechanisms as more than half of them have no or little knowledge of their rights as members of the minority and how to exercise the protection measures ensured by the Law. Emanuel Jasarevic, a member of the UNICEF Youth Committee in Serbia and also an activist of Opra Roma, said that a huge number of Roma have lost trust in institutions as they have not heard of such institutions which can help them. Stevica Nikolic, one of the founders of the Roma Opera, said, "by knowing and understanding our history and tradition of political emancipation, we can make a better Roma policy".

**Read More at**

[https://www.dw.com/hr/srbija-sve-%C4%8De%C5%A1%C4%87e-se-%C4%8Duje-glas-mladih-roma/a-60877551?fbclid=IwAR2bzGv5P3iHygU31Yueo8pUHlc6nh6wpc\\_Rdt11XzBlwXM7R17ShAHw6xc](https://www.dw.com/hr/srbija-sve-%C4%8De%C5%A1%C4%87e-se-%C4%8Duje-glas-mladih-roma/a-60877551?fbclid=IwAR2bzGv5P3iHygU31Yueo8pUHlc6nh6wpc_Rdt11XzBlwXM7R17ShAHw6xc)