



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

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Educational System of Serbia Showed Social Irresponsibility towards the Roma Community

The reading material for third graders, published by the printer "Klett" under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, carries a lesson under "Easy Folk Crafts" that goes: "A gypsy asked his mother: What is the longest day of the year? Those who wait for dinner without handle". The "Opre Roma" movement strongly resented the contentious content of the reading material and announced to file a complaint with the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality against the Ministry of Education and the publishing house. Roma, being a national minority of Serbia since 2002, are still called "Gypsies" in the textbook. It argued that the ethnic bias in textbooks and curricula against Roma is a common phenomenon and encourages the stereotypes and discrimination against them. The Ministry of Education refuted the allegation and said, it encourages and nurtures diversity, tolerance and mutual respect and respects for all minorities and does not show irresponsibility towards anyone, and especially not towards members of the Roma community. The Ministry's response clarified that it was not authorised to approve contents of the reading materials.

Read More at

https://www.blic.rs/vesti/drustvo/pitalo-cigance-majku-romski-pokret-ostro-negoduje-zbog-sporne-umotvorine-u-lektiri-za/gr9cng4?fbclid=IwAR2X608CjAcTrsGf9qWAcCswcy8C3hhWxdpZyOOZgq4O3Z_L0eFsAHT4b30

New initiative to help Roma people in Bulgaria and Romania

An agreement, known as "ROMACT 9" between the Council of Europe and the European Union has been made to help the marginalised Roma communities in Bulgaria and Romania get access

to education, housing and employment, and promote their inclusion. The project has a budget of €1.7 million, beginning from January 2023. The Council of Europe and the EU have developed a specific framework to bring together local authorities and Roma community representatives for prioritizing issues, preparing action plans and securing the funds for projects that help Roma people. The first joint program 'Romact' was launched in 2013 and the project has so far apportioned about €140 million to fund more than 120 different projects in the two countries.

Read More at

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/new-initiative-to-help-for-roma-people-in-bulgaria-and-romania?fbclid=IwAR0hsPXuUSBZqYPy--lccpjr1gxvevgtgGeOaQllubttmnWzirkg4E10RI0>

Charity and Humanity in Ukraine

"Chirikli" Foundation is the most effective International Charitable Organization aims at extending a helping hand to the people of Roma communities and differently abled people with the daily portion of hot meal or a set of other necessary products in various regions of Ukraine like Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Lviv, Poltava, Sumy, Odesa regions and Transcarpathia. The foundation has some prestigious sponsors like European Roma Grass Roots Organization (ERGO, Brussels), Diakonissalaitos (Deaconess Foundation, Helsinki) and UN Women (UN Women, New York) to support humanitarian works like ensuring security and evacuation from war zones, besides providing food and medicine to the community.

Read More at

<https://romaua.org.ua/news/ukraine/1647636417917?fbclid=IwAR3GY-yOW2xubNmdzDXHDIehwhNAp912sQJpr9xNIKnaOsGiR4TwG9Ydvvc>

Campaign for Participation of Roma in Hungarian Census

The campaign launched by Proud Roma, Free Europe (PRFE) in Hungary is to raise awareness and expand the civic engagement of Roma community so as to ensure accurate reporting on demographics related to Roma in the upcoming census starting from 1 October to 28 November 2022. The census has been divided in three phases. It holds great importance because Hungary has been a strategic hub for the transnational Roma movement. The campaign intends to offer positive narratives of Roma identity, culture, history and language as well as addresses civil rights and the fears and distrust associated with Roma participation in census registration.

Read More at

https://prouddroma.org/magyarország/upcoming-census-campaign-in-hungary-meet-our-local-team/?fbclid=IwAR2nRMg7uSxSjNovtZb_t5IHPgB3fGBekiVwEVtfqWJuU63jWbw-BAxwk8

Roma/Gypsies and Travellers Fear Missing out the Support on Energy Bills

Roma/Gypsy and Traveller groups, living at park homes or on sites in Great Britain, are appealing the government not to exclude them from the energy bills support scheme this winter. The scheme will cover the payment of total £400 to households with a domestic electricity connection between October 2022 and March 2023, with monthly payments administered by their energy supplier. Many of these householders live on sites where they do not have their own electricity contract. Additionally, there are growing concerns among the Roma/ Gypsies and Traveller groups, who rely on gas cylinders and power generator that they might miss this payment as they do not have direct contract with an energy supplier. Abbie Kirkby, the public affairs and policy manager at Friends, Families and Travellers, said, Gypsies and Travellers living on sites have long paid disproportionate prices for energy, with little choice over energy provider or tariffs and frequently having to pay additional handling charges for accessing energy.

Read More at

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/30/gypsies-travellers-fear-missing-out-energy-bills-support>

Active Participation of Roma community in Decision-Making

The Barcelona Roma City Council, being an advisory body, has been encouraging the citizen participation of Roma community in political decision-making processes since 1998. The Council seeks to ensure well being of Roma as well as promotes the recognition of Romani culture, fights against racism, discrimination and, above all, anti-Roma sentiments. The President of the council is the Councilor, responsible for Romani affairs while the Vice-President is the representative of a member organization. The city of Barcelona celebrates several important dates for the Roma community, including International Roma Day (8 April), Roma Resistance Day (16 May), etc.

Read More at

https://www.coe.int/fr/web/interculturalcities/-/active-participation-and-celebration-of-the-roma-community-and-culture-in-barcelona?fbclid=IwAR3WgNjM1ZilwPN2x5snOdk4n4W_D0QJldUcoUloeAbFMdEDW8JpyncuDU

The 14th Edition of the International Roma Festival in Bratislava

After the outbreak of Covid-19, Gypsy Fest is proposed to happen this year in September and to bring top Romani artists like German singer Ricardo Kwiek. Gypsy Fest is one of the four largest Roma festivals in the world, and has hosted more than 300 artists from 17 countries including India. The main attraction of the Gypsy Fest this year is to be Patrik "Rytmus" Vrbovsky, who will perform at the festival for the first time with his own Band.

Read More at

https://www.ta3.com/clanok/244438/najvacsi-romsky-festival-gypsy-fest-po-rocnej-pauze-opat-prichadza-do-bratislavy?fbclid=IwAR0KD9UqEf0LR0O6CSf5a1Tz_7vP8B2lVYwl9xZx5q1TxJYUwYUt0KG4xXM

The Documentary Movie Discovered the Stories of Roma Partisans

The movie "How I Became a Partisan" directed by Vera Lackova is to be broadcast by RTVS on the occasion of the 78th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising. The film will remind viewers that Roma also joined the uprising. The documentary shows Roma as the forgotten victims of Holocaust as well as how the Romani culture influences and enriches the culture of the countries where they live. The appropriate example is Flamenco Dance in Spain that originates from Roma community. For years, the discussion about the inflictions on Roma community like genocide of Romani families and burning of their houses by Nazi regime was taboo, as the communists refused to accept Roma as victims of Holocaust.

Read More at

<https://www.teraz.sk/kultura/film-ako-som-sa-stala-partizankou-odvy/654932-clanok.html?fbclid=IwAR2g3b8AJ2n96vH8QQUvvhb1M7wsKLzmhzB6le3sqp5OAGV3mlj9Ur95Is>

Forgotten Victims: The Tragic Story of Nazi Genocide against the Roma and Sinti

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) in Collaboration with Human Rights Defense International (HRDI) organized a virtual conference for commemorating Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day on the theme of “Forgotten Victims: The Tragic Story of Nazi Genocide Against the Roma and Sinti” to pay tribute to the victims and learn more about the Holocaust, and to find out ways to counter the contemporary antigypsyism on 10 August, 2022. Zameer Anwar, Senior Research Associate, CRSCR, stated that this commemorative event offers a platform for clearing out the historical amnesia and addressing the xenophobic sentiments and for raising awareness about Roma and Sinti holocaust. Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP said, Human Rights has been an issue for Roma Community since long. Nobody talks about the Holocaust of Roma/Sinti, though half a million of Roma were killed. Dr. Shaban Saliu (Macedonia), Ex Member of Parliament of Republic of North Macedonia and legal luminary and expert in constitutional affairs, shared his views on “Genocide of Roma in Balkan Peninsula in Historical Perspective”. He pointed out the racial concept of Nazi that led to the Holocaust of Jews and Roma. Dr. Joanna Talewicz (Poland), Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology in the University of Warsaw, spoke on “Unspoken Past, History, Memory and Education about Roma and Sinti Genocide”. Mr. Iulian Stoian (Romania), Head of Public Policies Department, the National Agency for the Roma, Government of Romania, articulated his views on “Roma Deportation in Transnistria: Reconciliation with the Past and Policies of Memory in Romania”. Ms. Agnes Daroczi (Hungary), Researcher and Roma Activist spoke about "The Fate of Roma during Holocaust". Mr. Orhan Tahir (Germany), Researcher, Lawyer and Political Scientist, enunciated his views on “The Impact of the Holocaust on Roma in post-war Europe”. Advocate Rajesh Gogna, Secretary General at Human Rights Defense International, delivered the keynote address.

Watch Conference Full at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZbyxz1w92Q&t=1247s>