



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

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ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

New Delhi, 5th November, 2022

Issue: 28

Debate over the Romani Representation in the Parliament of Montenegro

A panel discussion was organized by the Center for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) and the MINA agency with focus on the reserved mandate for members of the Romani population in the Parliament of Montenegro as they will be in a better position to find appropriate solutions to problems faced by them. Ms. Bozena Jelusic, Member of Parliament of Montenegro, Civic Movement URA remarked that absence of the representation of Roma in the parliament was an explicit sign of racism. She further added that everyone has the right to be represented and to take part in the policies making in the democratic society. She pointed out that more than six thousand Romani people live in Montenegro and a certain number of Roma did not reveal their ethnic identity because of the fear of humiliation and discrimination. Roma lag far behind the majority population, so it is urgent to accord the representation of Roma in the parliament. The executive director of a NGO, Phiren Amenca Elvis Berisa stated that Roma were not aware of the significance of their voice as more than 75 percent of members of the Roma and Egyptian community were not familiar even with the electoral system.

Read More at

<https://mina.news/vijesti-iz-crne-gore/drustvo/neophodno-da-romi-imaju-predstavnika-u-parlamentu/?fbclid=IwAR3UOfRIeiR2JAuLsjeMop7Z6rL5MKwtWa4AKzFhYgk5Z0j0bJYbIU3dsXg>

Discrimination against Roma must Stop

The Federal President of Republic of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier honoured the tenth anniversary of the memorial to the Sinti and Roma who were murdered under the regime of National Socialist Party. On this occasion in Berlin, he spoke about the old anti-Roma prejudices and everyday discrimination against Roma, which must stop. He asked for forgiveness for terrible injustice meted out to the Roma community by Germans during the National Socialist period. Steinmeier denounced the ongoing discrimination against Roma in public spaces, at school, on the job market, in the police force and in public authorities in Germany and Europe. He further noted the negligence of Roma's plight after the end of Second World War, which many survivors felt as a "second persecution".

Read More at

https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/gesellschaft/sinti-roma-steinmeier-diskriminierung-101.html?fbclid=IwAR0JQhXFipQk1RFoCeQyh0I5bJZifB2ITj3wflT_do-no268aAAc42hshXY

Romani Girls with Dreams: Let's Turn the Page

The Bulgarian Vice President Iliana Yotova participated as a guest speaker in the national conference on the theme of "Girls with dreams: let's turn the page" that was organized by the Amalipe Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". The meeting was aimed at addressing the problems of early marriages, violence and dropping out of school amongst Romani women. The meeting brought together participants of Roma community across the country who shared the poignant stories of how they overcame these issues and are helping others. The Vice President affirmed the significant role of media in the actualization of their dreams and assured of her constant support to Romani women and girls for their struggle for equality. Iliana Yotova also called for the support of the civil society organizations and NGOs which are closely working on the issues of Roma.

Read More at

https://bta.bg/bg/news/bulgaria/oficial-messages/347154-vitseprezidentat-podkrepi-romski-momicheta-i-zheni-v-borbata-im-za-ravnopravie?fbclid=IwAR00y9uyOzSws_Vmldy0-7_5vHII-rYA7kzNIhfOXtjKNAL1M7ffaODDHs4

Excerpt from the Interview of Ms. Gabriela Hrabanova, Head of the European Network of Roma Organizations

At a meeting of European Platform for Roma inclusion in Prague, Ms. Hrabanova asserted that anti-Gypsyism was not a problem created by the Roma but by the majority Society. She said that the situation of the Roma in the Czech Republic was not improving because there was a lack of political will to stand up to deep-rooted racism and the absence of trust in Roma non-profit organizations. Ms. Hrabanova further added that whatever has been done so far to eliminate racism and discrimination against the Roma was still a drop in the ocean. She pointed out that around 80% of Roma live below the poverty line in Europe and the higher rate of unemployment among Roma youth was caused by anti-gypsyism.

Read Full Interview at

<https://www.hatefree.cz/clanky/anticiganismus-neni-problem-romu-ale-vetsinove-spolecnosti-tvrdi-hrabanova-z-ergo-network?fbclid=IwAR0E4tIHwnWKytfV0sLASa58Z5amJKe08LCzcw0bd7RysbvYQny7cNHM-go>

A Commitment to Solve the Roma Issues in Slovenia

The Prime Minister of Slovenia, Robert Golob said that he felt optimistic about dealing appropriately and decisively with Roma issues, which are complex and perpetual. He pointed out that acceptance of initiative for amending the five laws related to issues of Roma community was taken by the mayors of 11 municipalities in southeastern Slovenia. The proposal for amendment in laws pertaining to parental care, family benefits, social security benefits, regulation of labour market and the protection of public order and peace for Roma in South-eastern Slovenia needs to be introduced early.

Read More at

<https://www.sta.si/3099202/golob-za-resevanje-vprasanja-romov?fbclid=IwAR0bZ3WrG4C42OIJb-PKv6dWGLQTzjhSIE81OE43QS1wVXU9B1UuEe9vrd4>

Discrimination and the Roma Community in Spain

The Fundacion Secretariado Gitano (FSG) presented its 18th Annual Report "Discrimination and the Roma Community" that contains 554 cases of discrimination and antigypsyism in Seville, Spain. The report points out the discriminatory bias in the use of artificial intelligence and its impact on the Roma community. Isidro Rodríguez, director general of the FSG, said that the

objective of this report was to provide concrete data and verified cases of discrimination in order to show the violation of right to equal treatment of Romani people. The report also highlights the rise in awareness of the discrimination amongst Roma but also covers challenges faced in taking effective measures to deal with these issues.

Read More at

<https://www.gitanos.org/actualidad/archivo/136932.html.en?fbclid=IwAR0IBZQEWpHqSyV-Ydyt2DhzD0JmbIHZmR7fXvMSNPW0GwBYYPTNmglQVgc>

Outbreak of Hepatitis 'A' in Roma Settlements in Montana

An epidemic outbreak of hepatitis 'A' was reported in the Romani district of Kosharnik in Montana, Bulgaria. Preventive and anti-epidemic measures have already been taken to restrict the spread of the infection among the vulnerable communities in the Roma neighborhood. The Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) supplied 300 hygiene packages including hand sanitizer, soap, washing powder, shampoo, wet wipes, reusable face masks, etc. along with health related educational materials. The Bulgarian Red Cross and the health mediators carry out activities pertaining to raising the health culture amongst vulnerable groups within the framework of the "You decide" initiative that is financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Read More at

<https://offnews.bg/zdrave/epidemichen-vzriv-ot-hepatit-a-v-romski-kvartal-v-montana-788251.html?fbclid=IwAR0zFP9eigZq0 CDGxl1-EUWa7pD8hdE8VEpNS7HIJd1CIXjENuQyqkddeU>

The Situation of the Roma in Europe Remains Desperate

In its recent report, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights expressed concern about the deterioration of the living conditions of European Sinti and Roma. EU has been consistently watching and assessing the situation of Sinti and Roma in the EU member states for the last few years and it implied that the results are always more or less similar or the same. The most recent report of EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) points out that 80 percent of members of the minority in Europe still live in poverty and the conditions of Roma have not improved at all or improved a little. The director of the Vienna-based agency, Michael O'Flaherty spoke of a "shocking level of deprivation, marginalization and discrimination" suffered by Roma in Europe. The EU agency also found out through its survey, more than a fifth

of Roma households (22 %) live without running water and a third of them have no indoor toilets.

Read More at

<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/roma-in-europa-lage-der-minderheit-bleibt-verzweifelt-8794678.html?fbclid=IwAR3LnvMvfs8RI04QFTZA7trfnwpXB8m7ARxGCly671TmzgpdZIHk8T1llk0>

A Brief Introduction to the Romani Minority in Sweden

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations-ARSP hosted the Seventeenth Virtual Lecture of the monthly Lecture Series on the theme of "A Brief Introduction to the Romani Minority in Sweden" on 2nd November, 2022. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Robert Brisenstam who expounded his views on the immigration of Roma to Sweden from 16th Century to the present time as labour migrants as well as the various groups of Roma including Resande, Sinti Kale, Romanichal, Kelderash, Lovari, Polaska Roma, Gurbeti, Arli, etc. He also touched upon the migration of Roma from India to Sweden and historical persecution, discrimination and antiziganism including the forced sterilization perpetrated against Roma. Mr. Brisenstam also spoke about remarkable contributions of Romani people to the society in the field of music, dance, handicraft, and other specialized services. He talked about the role of Romani women and their past and contemporary situations in the societies and in the households. Mr. Brisenstam eloquently elucidated Romani culture and its expression spanning the importance of kin and family, social codes, thinking and values and the sweeping impact of Romani culture by means of assimilation and integration process.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0o2xNGLTcE&t=937s>

A symposium Held in Murska Sobota, Slovenia on the occasion of the World Day of the Romani Language

A symposium titled "ROMA LANGUAGE - basis for understanding Roma history and culture" was organized by Association of Roma of Slovenia, European Romani Union and the Institute for Roma Studies, Education and Culture on November 2 to mark the World Day of Romani Language. On the occasion, Deputy Mayor of Murska Sobota Municipality, Ms. Bernardka Ruzic said that the Romani language was an immense wealth brought from India, the original homeland of Roma. She further remarked that Romani was the source of the identity of the

Roma nation, its culture and spiritual traditions. Mr. Jozek Horvat, President of the Association of Roma in Slovenia, affirmed that the Romani language was the key that opens the door to the invisible past of Romani people and their ancestral homeland to the area where they live today.

Read More at

https://www.pomurec.com/vsebina/69939/FOTO_V_Murski_Soboti_pripravili_simpozij_ob_Svetovnem_dnevu_romskega_jezika_fbclid=IwAR2EtQcnQ5a8Mmvwj96XjiZJGDGw9q FPITNdfRmFgr4gywQNoTQ8p4bmdQ

Roma Educational Mediators to Support Romani Students

The Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia hired 40 Roma educational mediators who will provide support to students in elementary schools located in municipalities with a larger number of students from the Roma ethnic community. The Ministry of Education and Culture informed that Mediators would work not only with students but also cooperate with parents and other stakeholders like local municipalities, civil society and other institutions for helping the students in accomplishing the primary education. The Ministry of Education and Science financially supports the education of Romani children under the purview of the National Strategy for Roma. In the academic year 2022-2023, the number of mediators grew from 20 to 40 as well as the scholarship provided to Roma high school students increased from 870 to 920 as compared to the previous academic year.

Read More at

https://www.radiomof.mk/mon-angazhirani-se-40-romski-obrazovni-medijatori_fbclid=IwAR3cM0c7mr1AzYBaGU4s8HedlMeJXG-rlg4A7oq2DnVG74mhC7q74j2and4#prettyPhoto