



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots
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International Scientific Colloquium at INALCO, Paris

International Scientific Colloquium was organized by PLIDAM laboratory of the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO), Paris on 5th & 6th Nov. 2020 on the theme of Romani Millennium: results and prospects (1001 years in diaspora). The event was held to commemorate three very important events like World Day of the Romani language (a UNESCO day: 5 November), O Baro Teläripen – The Great Departure (beginning of 1019 AD) and Six hundred years of attested presence of Roms in France (August 1419). The Colloquium was inaugurated by Prof. Thomas Szende (Paris and Oxford) who underlined the importance of recent results achieved in Romani linguistics and History, followed by keynote address, delivered by Mr. Paul de Sinety, Delegate general of the General Delegation for the French Language and the Languages of France (DGLFLF), an executive body of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

Read More at

<http://arspindia.org/pdf/ARSP-Dec-Bulletin.pdf>

Gypsy Feminism

Excerpt from the book 'Gypsy Resistance' by Silvia Agüero & Nicolás Jiménez speaks about Gypsy feminism as a social movement that fights for equality between Roma men and women. It portrays the gypsy feminist struggle which is born from the gypsy episteme that allows the gypsy women to combat the inequalities of rights that they suffer and the oppressions inflicted upon them mainly by the non-gypsy men. Roma feminism arose from their mothers and grandmothers who fought every day to feed the whole family and some of them who have been able to break down barriers and go out to conquer the world in various spheres.

Read More at

https://ctxt.es/es/20201201/Politica/34509/Silvia-Aguero-Nicolas-Jimenez-feminismo-gitano-leyes-redadas-holocausto.htm?fbclid=IwAR0Rnv82hyKlcobxloU020b49k8t_B3tYXuh1RjWZEKEvhESSnFp40oogg8

Czech Regional Elections: One Romani Candidate of the Pirate Party Elected

Eight Romani candidates fought the regional and the Senate elections in the Czech Republic. Only one Romani candidate Karel Karika from Pirate Party won Regional Assembly election. The Roma have long lacked any significant representation in Czech political map. Nobody has represented Romani community in the Parliament for 20 years.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/czech-regional-elections-one-romani-candidate-for-the-pirates-will-be-seated>

Zuzana Kumanová, the First Romani Woman Appointed to High Office in Slovakia

Zuzana Kumanová has been appointed State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. She has replaced Vladimír Dolinay who recently died in a traffic accident. Kumanová has dedicated her academic work to the culture and history of Romani people. She has paid special attention to the Holocaust victims of Roma and has been involved in activities to improve the position of Romani women. In the entire history of Slovakia, this is the first time any Romani person, whether a man or a woman, has been appointed to such a high State office.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/zuzana-kumanova-becomes-the-first-romani-woman-ever-appointed-to-high-office-in-slovakia>

Best Romani musicians Program BAŠAVEL Broadcast Online

The online Romani musicians program BAŠAVEL on ROMEA TV offered unique guests and clips from the best performances of 2020 in the closing episode of the series. Milan Kroka, a musician who is a favorite on the Romani music scene in the Czech Republic, talked about his journey from manual laborer to Musician. The final episode of BAŠAVEL for 2020 also featured Terezie Ondičová alias Tessie, who has competed in the nationally televised singing competition "The Voice".

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/best-of-the-romani-musicians-program-basavel-in-2020-broadcast-online-by-czech-ngo-romea>

The European Union continues to help the Roma community in Montenegro

The European Union along with the Council of Europe has helped the Roma community in Montenegro in order to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 virus, through the joint ROMACTED programme with the help of the national partner organisation NGO Young Roma. The assistance worth € 18,500 was extended to the Roma population in four towns including Bijelo Polje, Herceg Novi, Berane, and Bar. The ROMACTED programme is funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union to promote Good Governance and Empower the Roma Community at the Local Level.

Read More at

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/90015/european-union-continues-help-roma-community-montenegro_en

Municipality of Rome Hosting Widespread Reception Service for Roma Leaving the Camps

The mayor of Rome Virginia Raggi wants to shift guests from the Roma camps to the various provinces of Lazio such as Tuscia. The aim of this initiative is to develop the smooth processes of inclusion of Roma in the best possible way and remedy the negative effects on the community. The mayor of Soriano Menicacci expressed his disagreement on this proposal for movement of Roma from Rome to other provinces of Lazio.

Read More at

<https://www.osservatoreitalia.eu/roma-la-raggi-scarica-in-provincia-gli-ospiti-dei-campi-rom-i-sindaci-si-ribellano/>

Romani Americans still Struggle with Discrimination

Romani American activists hope that the issue of discriminations which Romacommunity in US has been facing for decades, will finally be addressed under the new Democratic administration. Over one million Roma have been part of the diverse American ethnic mosaic for centuries. Historically, Roma people arrived in US mainly from Europe, escaping oppression and hoping for a better life. But anti-Roma sentiments followed them across the Atlantic. A study conducted by the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University and Voice of Roma, a nonprofit organization based in California, shows the prevalence of institutional discrimination of Romain the US.

Read More at

https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/opinions/2020/12/20/romani-americans-struggle-with-inherent-criminality-stereotypes?fbclid=IwAR143In1_gUm4dNbJXz607tb1knVdT6Bjkid1CSFu0F5wg66b-q6TwDEK4Y

Ukraine must End the Institutionalization of Children

As Roma children in disproportionately large numbers are taken into institutional care in Ukraine and throughout Europe, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) for over a decade has taken up the issue of over-representation of Romani kids in state care, and trying to shut down children's institutions for good. ERRC has joined a coalition of 22 organisations calling on the Ukrainian government and the European Union to act before it is too late to protect the rights and future of some of the most forgotten and left behind children.

Read More at

<http://www.errc.org/news/ukraine-must-end-the-institutionalisation-of-children>