



## Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

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### Two-Day virtual Indo-Roma Art and Cultural Festival

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-ARSP hosted Two-Day virtual Indo-Roma Art and Cultural Festival on 10-11 December, 2020 to showcase a medley of Roma cultural and artistic practices and explore their kinship with Indian music and dance. The Festival included the inaugural session along with two enchanting cultural sessions with a session of poetry readings, which was organised in honour of the late Dr. Rajko Duric.

**Read More at**

<http://www.arspindia.org/pdf/ARSP-Jan-Bulletin-2021.pdf>

### The Importance of Holocaust Commemoration

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and the Foundation for Holocaust Victims, in cooperation with the Office of the Czech Senate, commemorated Day of Holocaust Remembrance and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity in the Czech Senate's main hall. The Speaker of the Czech Senate, Miloš Vystrčil, said on that occasion that it was necessary to do more to draw attention to the country's past and to educate the next generation never to repeat such horrors. Čeněk Růžička, the chair of the Committee for the Redress of the Romani Holocaust, in his speech said that politicians who incite the nation against Jewish people or Roma have no business being in politics.

**Read More at**

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/speaker-of-the-czech-senate-and-romani-representative-on-the-importance-of-holocaust-commemoration-for-romea-tv>

## **Exhibition: "Gypsies, Gypsies, Roma, Manouches, Travelers"**

Licra NIMES (International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism- NGO) presented an exhibition, from February 1 to February 12, 2021, on Roma at the Lycée Dhuoda in Nîmes, France. The exhibition showcased 26 panels, produced by LICRA Nîmes with the support of the Collectif Histoire et Mémoire and the Cultures et Traditions des Gitans du Grand Sud association. The exhibition is open to high school students not for the general public due to restriction caused by Covid 19.

### **Read More at**

<https://www.licra.org/licra-nimes-exposition-gitans-tsiganes-roms-manouches-gens-du-voyage>

## **Roma Children in Turkey Facing Difficulty in Access to Education**

Most Roma families in Turkey can ill-afford laptops, smart-phones and Wifi required for home-schooling in the time of the novel corona virus. Organizations like Deep Poverty Network are trying to provide second-hand tablets which are not a substitute for proper schooling. The Network have struggled to plug the gaps and recently distributed 51 donated tablets to Roma children across Istanbul.

### **Read More at**

<https://balkaninsight.com/2021/01/28/covid-19-robs-turkeys-roma-children-of-schooling/>

## **The Oxie Library Designated as Roma Reading Embassy**

The Swedish Arts Council appointed 17 public libraries in Sweden as Roma reading embassies. The initiative was taken to promote reading habits and activities amongst the Roma minority. The Oxie Library has been engaged in monitoring the publication of literature on Romani culture, history and literature in Romani language including dialect like Lovari.

### **Read More at**

[https://malmo.se/Aktuellt/Artiklar-Malmo-stad/2021-02-01-Oxiebiblioteket-utsett-till-romsk-lasambassad.html?fbclid=IwAR08C4BipwJbZrAUkPi\\_sBf8gHSaljmY0-WhPPUIbkFbfIQW6rqOefECO\\_A](https://malmo.se/Aktuellt/Artiklar-Malmo-stad/2021-02-01-Oxiebiblioteket-utsett-till-romsk-lasambassad.html?fbclid=IwAR08C4BipwJbZrAUkPi_sBf8gHSaljmY0-WhPPUIbkFbfIQW6rqOefECO_A)

## **Difficult for Roma to Get a Job in the Public Sector**

As per the latest survey, conducted by the Regional Cooperation Council, the nine percent of employers in the Western Balkans are not interested to hire Roma irrespective of their requisite qualification, and fifteen percent of employers remarked that employing Roma in their companies creates a negative impact. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the working condition for Roma is unfavorable. As per several survey, Roma find it harder to get a job in institutions.

**Read More at**

<https://romatimes.news/index.php/en/categories/social/5201-why-are-roma-more-difficult-to-get-a-job-in-the-public-sector>

### **International Romani Union Participates in Biden-Harris Inauguration Ceremony**

The International Romani Union was among a select few organizations which were featured in the opening ceremony for the inauguration of 46th President of the United States, Joe Biden, and Vice President Kamala Harris. Global Indigenous Council, the International Romani Union in conjunction with the Montana-based Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, and the Pretty Shield Foundation also participated in the National Memorial to Lives Lost to COVID-19.

**Read More at**

[https://www.romatimes.news/index.php/en/ngo-sector/iru/5178-international-romani-union-participates-in-biden-harris-inauguration-during-the-national-memorial-to-lives-lost-to-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1arJVfttO4MZt9GiTMPWSxZWsqYjbi\\_0HYw6u27cPNB3Xxa93A5M8qH8](https://www.romatimes.news/index.php/en/ngo-sector/iru/5178-international-romani-union-participates-in-biden-harris-inauguration-during-the-national-memorial-to-lives-lost-to-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1arJVfttO4MZt9GiTMPWSxZWsqYjbi_0HYw6u27cPNB3Xxa93A5M8qH8)

### **ERRC's Latest Report Details Grim Situation for Romani Children in State Care**

Germany based NGO, European Roma Rights Centre conducted a report on the situation of Romani children in state care in five countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania & Moldova), which show failures to address the overrepresentation of Romani children in state care, as well as the lack of any concrete progress on closing down child institutions. The research report highlights the need for immediate action by Governments and the European Commission, in reference to the new EU Roma Framework 2020-2030, to ensure progress on de-institutionalization.

**Read More at**

[https://www.europeaninterest.eu/article/new-errc-report-details-grim-situation-romani-children-state-care/?fbclid=IwAR1s2STBHEWcsRiO72yuVwEdPPegWHI4\\_Jgua7W6ex5zM\\_LfLNmzCw4X2vw](https://www.europeaninterest.eu/article/new-errc-report-details-grim-situation-romani-children-state-care/?fbclid=IwAR1s2STBHEWcsRiO72yuVwEdPPegWHI4_Jgua7W6ex5zM_LfLNmzCw4X2vw)

### **Discrimination against American Roma Ignored**

About a million Romani people living in the US, with the largest clusters in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Seattle and Portland, continue to experience acute prejudice even now. A 2020 study titled 'Romani Realities in the United States', by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University and Voice of Roma (an American non-profit organisation), documents widespread anti-Roma discrimination. Around 80% of the 363 Romani Americans who took part in the study reported that Americans discriminate against people of Romani heritage.

#### **Read More at**

[https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/why-discrimination-against-american-roma-ignored/?fbclid=IwAR0XyWPAwubPyex8b4Yhhy\\_HcXi\\_ePFjHrkOKK4mqP0M7P6w2B0yBJmByXc](https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/why-discrimination-against-american-roma-ignored/?fbclid=IwAR0XyWPAwubPyex8b4Yhhy_HcXi_ePFjHrkOKK4mqP0M7P6w2B0yBJmByXc)