



CENTRE FOR ROMA STUDIE AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad



ROMA NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 46

Roma Connecting with Indians

New Delhi, 5th August, 2024

Commemoration of the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti in Auschwitz

Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Association of Roma in Poland commemorated the 80th anniversary of the execution of Roma and Sinti in Auschwitz on 2 August 2024. 4300 women, children and elderly people of the communities were forcefully sent to the gas chambers in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp on 2-3 August 1944. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Romani Rose, stated that the experience of Nazi dictatorship obliged all to defend human dignity and human rights everywhere and for everyone. The President of the Polish Senate, Małgorzata Maria Kidawa-Błonska, attended the commemorative event and reminded of the slogan, what happened at Auschwitz "Never Again". In her speech, Bärbel Bas, President of Bundestag, said that she was the first senior representative of Bundestag to have travelled to Auschwitz to commemorate the worst of Germany's crimes against humanity and remember the people who were murdered there by the National Socialists.

Read More at

https://kommunikasjon.ntb.no/pressemelding/18190651/zentralrat-deutscher-sinti-und-roma-commemoration-of-the-european-holocaust-memorial-day-for-roma-and-sinti-on-2-august-2024?publisherId=17819585&lang=en&fbclid=IwY2xjawEgGRJleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHYepUGEkArJtIjw_fWDxDjDIII7RYajYm6JDbqYhBp3AnH3PZNjk6XFBig_aem_HB9cJarEhcFcYCK7Q4281w

Roma Leaders Call for Reform of Agency for Social Inclusion in Czech Republic

The meeting of the Agency for Social Inclusion (ASZ) Monitoring Committee with civil members of the Government Council discussed the activities of ASZ on the situations of Roma community in Czech Republic. Subsequently, the Citizen members of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs and representatives of the RomanoNet organization issued a statement calling on the Government to suspend all decisions in regards to the future of the Agency for Social Inclusion and to start a broad public discussion about its future. As per them, insufficient involvement of Roma in decision processes has weekend effectiveness of efforts by ASZ to improve their conditions. Michal Miko, director of RomanoNet, said that the situation in socially excluded localities continued to worsen and the current approach of ASZ was not satisfactory.

Read More at

https://romea.cz/cz/domaci/dokument-romsti-lidri-volaji-po-reforme-agentury-pro-socialni-zaclenovani-participace-romu-je-pouze-formalni-uvadi-v-dopise-premierovi?fbclid=IwY2xjawExHs9leHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHYcsV0BwNDdIQW7CkH7xZARTBKgW-HOLmXRvxj6MgOJ1kYMbyMas5kPgvw_aem_cy0nRx2nFWT9VQDSYUSxzw

New Study into Roma Families and Children's Services in England

A lack of trust due to historic discrimination against Roma communities has damaged the relationship between Roma families and children's services in England. The report by Anglia Ruskin University, Lancaster University and the charity Law for Life casts light on an increasing number of Roma children in the care system. There were about 30 Roma children in care system in 2009, rose up to 50 in 2015 and stood at around 600 in 2023. The research noted the fear and mistrust of authorities because of their historic persecution across Europe. It also stated that the challenges faced by Roma families in their interactions with children's services were deeply rooted in experiences of historical discrimination, biases, prejudices and systemic failures in processes.

Read More at

<https://www.aru.ac.uk/news/new-study-into-roma-families-and-childrens-services>

Roma Genocide: Rivesaltes, A Camp of Internment in France

About 1,400 Roma/Nomads out of a total of 17,500 persons were imprisoned in Rivesaltes and several hundred of them were deported to territories controlled by Nazi Germany in 1941-42. The Rivesaltes Camp Memorial (Pyrénées-Orientales) pays tribute to this sanguinary history on the occasion of the European Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event also put up the exhibition displaying the Family Camp, dedicated to the persecution of Roma, and accompanied by songs and enriched with the conference organized to mark the moments of remembrance. Around 7,000 Roma/Nomads in France were interned in camps set up in 1941-42 by Pétain's regime of collaboration with Nazi Germany.

Read More at

<https://fr.timesofisrael.com/genocide-des-roms-rivesaltes-camp-symbole-de-linternement-en-france-se-souvient/?fbclid=IwY2xjawEgLCZleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHX-R3O9NelSqzE-NATsGtSVpCP X LtnU6rJGsQhKPo65v9F-gmfft2xbQ aem rd4N6t32ByjyaRVtB2S51w>

Roma Memory Map Showing Presence of the Roma community in America

Roma Memory Map aims at spotting the presence and history of the Roma community in South and North America, besides locating important places for Roma communities. Martin Fotta from the Institute of Ethnology of the Academy of Sciences pointed out that the number of places on Roma Memory Map would go up over time in countries like Brazil, Argentina or Canada. He added that Roma for the first time arrived America between the end of the 15th Century and the beginning of the 16th Century. He pointed out that Roma arrived in South America even before they arrived in some European countries. As per Scientists, Roma arrived in Americas in waves and the first one was during colonial rule. For example, Portugal among other countries expelled Roma to their colonies like Brazil.

Read More at

<https://radiozurnal.rozhlas.cz/mapa-pameti-romu-ma-zviditelnit-pritomnost-a-historii-romske-komunity-v-americe-9289349>

Velingrad in Bulgaria Legalizes Illegal Roma Buildings

The proposal for the legalization of illegal buildings in the Roma neighbourhoods of the city of Velingrad was made by the municipal councillor Atanas Rangelov who advocated for giving rights to residents of the properties to sell and purchase. The municipality of Velingrad has launched a procedure to legalize the illegal buildings in the Roma neighbourhoods with the aim to providing the households to those who live in the houses with the right and duties to pay taxes as well as electricity and water bills. The legalization process will open up a legal opportunity to improve the infrastructure in the Romani localities.

Read More at

https://bnr.bg/post/102032475/velingrad-shte-uzakonava-nezakonnite-romski-postroiki?fbclid=IwY2xjawExZlxleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHULjWaw8LuHu4oRR-0YyCgSMY5aiwVSGckeag2QHcoisglvwh3YjhoWSSw_aem_WePV5RdEEhBpOQImAo19aA

Launch of Documentary Depicting Roma Life in Donegal, Ireland

Donegal Travellers Project launched a short film "Sam Rom" (We are Roma) spotlighting the diverse culture, challenges and resilience of the Roma community in Ireland and highlighting Roma people from different countries making new lives on Arranmore Island, the east Donegal village of Convoy and in Letterkenny. Katie Ruby McLaughlin Robinson, Director of the film, emphasized that this film would challenge perceptions and show the stark realities of their lives, besides celebrating the vibrancy and richness of Roma culture. She further stated that Roma were marginalised and seen through a narrow and judgemental lens.

Read More at

https://www.donegallive.ie/news/local-news/1563879/in-pictures-launch-of-documentary-depicting-roma-life-in-donegal.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawEyaT9leHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHfoY48oI3PnaA9xyCTwdbUcvF5IbNZTnmNXbLav oL8-kQuLISDSXHJftWg_aem_G2IlsHR4O4Vs1nvl4_mGg

Romani Language in Contact with Finnish and other Nordic Languages

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the Thirty-Fourth Virtual Lecture of its Monthly Lecture Series on 31 July 2024. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Kimmo Granqvist (Finland), Lecturer in Romani Language and Culture at the University of Helsinki, who reported the population of Roma is currently estimated to be 50,000- 100,000 in Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark according to the Council of Europe. There are several Romani groups like Kalderash, Lovari, Arli, Kale, etc. residing in Sweden. During 1960s-70s Roma flowing from Spain, Poland, France, Russia, Bulgaria and the former Yugoslavia arrived in Sweden, so there is a huge diversity among Roma communities. Kimmo emphasized that Romani language belonged to Indo-Aryan group of the Indo-Iranian subfamily of the Indo-European family of languages and Romani is the Indic language spoken outside India by Romani communities which originally migrated from India.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGLza0slBto&t=571s>