

Centre For Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)

Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP)

Roma: Connecting with India

New Delhi

5 December 2024

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Issue: 48



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations - Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad warmly wishes you and your loved ones Merry Christmas and Prosperous and Joyous New Year 2025

My Bistrass! Let's not forget – The Genocide against Roma and Sinti

Between 1939 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its allies committed genocide against the Roma and Sinti. An estimated 500,000 members of the Roma and Sinti communities, a quarter of their population at that time, were murdered by Nazi forces. An exhibition, organized by Memory, Responsibility and Future Foundation (EVZ) in collaboration with UNESCO, aims at highlighting discrimination against Sinti and Roma and raising awareness for the recognition and valorization of the community and its culture. The exhibition, which was organised at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, showcased photographs taken by UNESCO Artist for Peace Luigi Toscano. He had interviewed survivors of the Roma and Sinti genocide and their descendants to record their history, character and strength with a view to underline what happened to them.

Read More at

https://www.unesco.org/fr/articles/ma-bistrass-noublions-pas-commemoration-du-genocide-contre-les-roms-et-les-sintis?fbclid=IwY2xjawHYje1leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHSMRG28N8cqmLVS8tfE1HZXciHO1hEAXA7H3vNu6EDByZRvLrDzrY12c1A_aem_xlc7W9wwylcb5CL6e6wcKQ

Roma Children to Benefit from Free Stay at Nursery Schools in North Macedonia

The Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth signed a cooperation agreement with municipalities and kindergartens in order to enrol about 350 Roma children, aged three to six, at free of charge in public kindergartens in 21 municipalities across North Macedonia within the framework of the project "Inclusion of Roma children in municipal public institutions - kindergartens". Minister Fatmir Limani informed that funds for this initiative were provided by his Ministry and he supported continued investment for education of Roma children. The Mayor of Suto Orizari, Kurto Dudush welcomed this project in the largest Roma municipality in the country which would help to support children from socially vulnerable categories.

Read More at

https://www.slobodenpecat.mk/fr/besplaten-prestoj-vo-gradinka-kje-dobijat-350-deca-romi/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGqfABLeHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHVvTHI-5T6ljrWZNAe8T7IHOLLtg7s5IVK2_sOusyZDc1Eh3jyEI4vJCBQ_aem_KKDRHRYDxeYGNjiPi0tM4Q

Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT) Released a Report on Inequalities in Healthcare in UK

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people experience worse healthcare service than that of any other minority ethnic groups in the UK. A series of reports, published by Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT) in collaboration with Roma Support Group, points out the barriers and inequalities faced by Gypsies, Roma and Travellers across healthcare as part of the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance Programme. The report offers insight into a wide scope of healthcare needs and services, and how to meet needs, by incorporating practical solutions within healthcare settings and interactions, besides providing a roadmap for ensuring Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are included in the planning and provision of health services.

Read More at

<https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/news/new-reports-fft-release-series-of-reports-to-help-tackle-health-inequalities/>

Rukeli: One of the Greatest Pugilists of All Time

This article by Jonathan Lee highlights the experiences of Roma, Sinti, & Travellers fighting racism through sports as part of the EU-funded Moving On project. The picture on the cover of this magazine is of Johann 'Rukeli' Trollmann, who was a renowned boxer. He became the German light-heavyweight champion by defeating the all-Aryan-favoured contender Adolf Witt in 1933. However, he was stripped of his title eight days later because of his Romani ethnicity. Rukeli was a symbol of defiance and anti-fascist resistance. Going through incarceration in several labour camps, hiding out in forests, and being forced to choose sterilisation over deportation to a concentration camp, Johann 'Rukeli' Trollmann was conscripted with the outbreak of war and sent to the Eastern Front in 1939. Rukeli in July 1942 was arrested by the Gestapo at his family home in Tiefental and severely tortured in the local police station until October 1942, then he was sent to the Neuengamme Concentration Camp near Hamburg. In 1944, Rukeli was transferred to the Wittenberge Satellite Camp where he was forced to a fight by a much-hated Kapo, Emil Cornelius. Despite being malnourished and exhausted, he won the fight, but, in an act of revenge, while on a work detail, the Kapo attacked him from behind and beat him to death with a shovel. His body was buried in a mass grave and never recovered.

Read More at

<https://www.errc.org/news/rukeli-one-of-the-greatest-of-all-time>

Travellers/Romani Gypsies Initiate Legal Action against Manchester Police

Romani Gypsy and Traveller children were allegedly forced on to trains and prevented from visiting Manchester's Christmas markets. It prompted human rights lawyers to bring a complaint against Greater Manchester police (GMP). The complaint also stirs up potential breach of the Equality Act, the European convention on human rights and the Human Rights Act. Ryan Bradshaw, human rights partner of the Traveller Movement, told that the alleged actions taken by Greater Manchester police were disturbing and young children on their way to the Christmas markets were treated like football hooligans on a rampage. The Traveller Movement accuses that the children, some from Irish Traveller backgrounds, and some Romani Gypsy, were unlawfully targeted and racially profiled. The parent of two boys aged 10 and 13 said that the incident made his children traumatised, and shattered their faith in the system that was supposed to safeguard them.

Read More at

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/dec/20/travellers-legal-action-manchester-police-allegedly-forced-children-on-to-trains>

The Roma Doctors Healing Bulgaria

Long excluded from higher education and professional careers, Roma, a marginalized ethnic group making up about 10 percent of the Bulgarian population, are able to find opportunities in fields that were once all but off-limits. A career in medicine has traditionally been out of reach for most Roma people, who often face social inequality and exclusion from an early age, even access to kindergarten is limited, and very often most Romani students are placed in all-Roma classes or even segregated schools in the later stages of their education. But things are starting to change: Between 2018 and 2024, due to the nonprofit organizations like the Trust for Social Achievement (TSA) that taught more than 120 students and awarded 270 scholarships to get Roma students into medical school. Most of the Roma students attending the TSA course succeed in completing their degrees and becoming medical professionals in leading hospitals in Sofia and across the country. In the last two editions of the course, 15 out of 17 of its secondary school graduates were accepted into a medical university. A young Romani medical student, Nikol Angelova from the small town on the Danube River, said "I dream of a time when a Roma person graduating from university is no longer news, but the norm".

Read More at

<https://www.politico.eu/article/roma-community-doctor-medical-school-bulgaria-healthcare-system-higher-education/>



Amnesty International Calls on Government of Slovenia to Provide Water to all Roma Settlements

According to government data, around a fifth of Roma settlements in Slovenia are without drinking water, even though the right to water is guaranteed as a human right under the constitution. Director of Amnesty International Slovenia, Nataša Posel stated that Roma in many Romani settlements strove to get access to water and electricity, thus Romani children did their homework by candlelight or spent their evenings in the dark. She further added that Slovenian states denied Roma families the availability of drinking water and electricity even in settlements that have existed for decades. The President of the Roma Association of Slovenia, Jožek Horvat Muc, also warns that the lack of water and electricity causes numerous problems for Roma families, including making it difficult for Romani children to participate in education and for Roma adults to find employment.

Read More at

[https://www.24ur.com/novice/slovenija/amnesty-international-vlado-pozval-k-zagotovitvi-vode-v-vseh-romskih-naseljih.html?](https://www.24ur.com/novice/slovenija/amnesty-international-vlado-pozval-k-zagotovitvi-vode-v-vseh-romskih-naseljih.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawHYq7dleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHW2qOdpSNWg7zpDHtAHheKEzTjt5H8GRMQwf-sUq0jy5E6DJOM7YJuXRKg_aem_UQFpnt3b_403bLutXDtakQ)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawHYq7dleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHW2qOdpSNWg7zpDHtAHheKEzTjt5H8GRMQwf-sUq0jy5E6DJOM7YJuXRKg_aem_UQFpnt3b_403bLutXDtakQ](https://www.24ur.com/novice/slovenija/amnesty-international-vlado-pozval-k-zagotovitvi-vode-v-vseh-romskih-naseljih.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawHYq7dleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHW2qOdpSNWg7zpDHtAHheKEzTjt5H8GRMQwf-sUq0jy5E6DJOM7YJuXRKg_aem_UQFpnt3b_403bLutXDtakQ)

Thorny Evacuation of one of the Largest Shanty Towns in France

Nantes metropolitan in western France accommodate 1,000 Romanians who have settled in the Mauves meadow in one of the largest shanty towns in France and have been living there in extremely precarious conditions since 2018. Now the metropolis wants to reclaim the site for its urban ecology centre in order to expand the adjoining waste disposal center. These Roma did not choose the Nantes metropolitan area by chance but the area offers prospects of unskilled work to these Roma, who have rural agricultural root in their home country. They are good at work in market gardening and viticulture in particular. Philippe Barbo, founder of associations working for Roma families, described this situation a consequence of the hot potato policy: families came from other municipalities who expelled them as well as the policy of inaction because nothing was done for the last fifteen years.

Read More at

[https://hitwest.ouest-france.fr/bidonville-nantes-metropole-roms-roumains-evacuation-resorption-logement-hlm?](https://hitwest.ouest-france.fr/bidonville-nantes-metropole-roms-roumains-evacuation-resorption-logement-hlm?fbclid=IwY2xjawHYsBhleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHR3K14U4kfLU43NB1FgitNv76YQKWYd7_mqkMThqWGup7Na_tEdo634n_Q_aem_-hfKXOubrsM9jPAmYtAQ_Q)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawHYsBhleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHR3K14U4kfLU43NB1FgitNv76YQKWYd7_mqkMThqWGup7Na_tEdo634n_Q_aem_-hfKXOubrsM9jPAmYtAQ_Q](https://hitwest.ouest-france.fr/bidonville-nantes-metropole-roms-roumains-evacuation-resorption-logement-hlm?fbclid=IwY2xjawHYsBhleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHR3K14U4kfLU43NB1FgitNv76YQKWYd7_mqkMThqWGup7Na_tEdo634n_Q_aem_-hfKXOubrsM9jPAmYtAQ_Q)

The Office for Roma Communities Contracted Projects Worth 200 million in Slovakia

The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (USVRK), Alexander Daško stated in Press Conference that the Office contracted approx. 480 projects worth almost 200 million euros in last year for the support of Roma communities, which included infrastructural development in municipalities with Romani population. The Office pointed out that about 2,500 Romani men and women out of 3100 people were employed in recent months. Ingrid Zúbková, Director General of the European Programs Section of the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, noted that the project aimed at covering the areas of education, housing, debt counselling and anti-Roma racism, followed by infrastructure projects.

Read More at

https://www.teraz.sk/slovensko/dasko-urad-pre-romske-komunity-zazml/844485-clanok.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawHWCFVleHRuA2FIbQIxMQABHaRMrGbRSnfE9-nTOGEQIQYmUmfiKxnX52o2UnIDmNZzuTq9FRHLDJVP-Q_aem_gaDn7oww0NLT43yWAScf_w

Roma in Brazil

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organized the thirty-seventh Virtual Lecture of the monthly Lecture Series on 30th November, 2024. The lecture, delivered by Elez Bislim, Researcher at University of Sao Paulo for Ethnicity, Racism and Discrimination (Brazil and North Macedonia), highlighted the historical migration and contemporary situations of Roma community in Brazil. Elez Bislim spoke about the 20th century migration of a large number of Roma from Serbia to Brazil besides the first migration of Roma from Portugal in 14th CE. He pointed out the largest population of Roma reside in states like São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro. Roma/Kalon celebrate 24 May as a National Day of Roma in Brazil, whereas Roma in Europe celebrate Roma Day on 8 April. He also stated that Roma in Brazil were conservative and preserve their ethnic culture in terms of clothes, jewellery, family units, lavish feasts and festivities.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EU2zvJLvwEQ&t=5s>

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