

# Centre For Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)

Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP)

Roma: Connecting with India

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## Allowing Racist Tropes about Romani People to Persist is Dangerous

The opinion column of Aljazeera covers some findings of a study titled *Confronting Major and Everyday Discrimination: Romani Experiences in Canada's Greater Toronto – Hamilton Area*. The myth of 'criminality' was once used to justify genocidal violence against the Roma people. This still persists even in countries like Canada. The biological racism is still alive and affects policies, behaviours, and attitudes towards Roma people. Everyday racism against Roma communities is implied in and perpetuated by words, insults, jokes, stereotype-based questioning, passive or active distancing, etc. It is also explicit that Romani people are misunderstood, underestimated, overlooked, or ignored that not only irritates and hurts but also wounds their self-worth and wellbeing. A typical experience of Romani individuals is being casually told, if you are a Gypsy, you must steal, or you move around a lot. Such narratives instigate harmful actions and pose actual risks for Roma.

Read More at

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2025/2/22/allowing-racist-tropes-about-romani-people-to-persist-is-dangerous>

## Romani Art and Culture as a Resistance to Prejudice and Stereotypes

The event, as part of the initiative “The Rom People – History, Music and Memory”, was organized by the FICC – Italian Federation of Cinema Clubs, the ANPI, the Cineteca Sarda – Societa Umanitaria and the Issasco with the support of the Municipality of Cagliari and Buon Compleanno Faber in the municipalities of Cagliari, Monserrato and Selargius in Italy from 7 to 9 February. The program was meant to spread awareness about the history and culture of Roma communities followed by mesmerizing music performed by internationally renowned musician and scholar of Romani origin Dr. Santino Spinelli, the ambassador of Romani art and culture in the world. Spinelli informed about very famous people who belonged to the Roma and Sinti communities, such as Charlie Chaplin, Elvis Presley, Rita Hayworth, etc. who contributed significantly to the artistic world. He further stated that he was committed to spreading the values of Romani culture in schools and institutions.

Read More at

<https://shorturl.at/We14m>

## Something is Rotten in the State of Serbia

The Serbian government is facing the largest students led unrest demanding transparency and accountability. Investigative journalists in the country have regularly reported of direct ties of government agencies including police with organised crime. Roma have been bearing the brunt of brutal racialized police violence in Serbia. Especially, young Romani men and boys are facing the inhuman and degrading treatment at the hands of Serbian police in recent years. Various cases included evidence of police torturing Romani people to extract confessions, employing the method of asphyxiating a man with a plastic bag and holding a gun to his head as well as threatening to take children away from families, withholding food and water during interrogation, denying access to medical aid and legal counsel. The police officers who perpetrate these human rights violations generally get away scot-free. A recent report by European Roma Rights Centre- Ruthless and Racist: Policing Roma in the Balkans, revealed the extent of police violence and discrimination against Roma, as well as outlined what must be done for justice to prevail in Serbia.

Read More at

<https://www.errc.org/news/something-is-rotten-in-the-state-of-serbia>

## **New Initiative Aims to Boost Roma Inclusion in Slovakia**

It goes without doubt that the Roma community in Slovakia face significant challenges related to social exclusion, discrimination, poverty, and limited access to education, employment, and healthcare. It is also a fact that some progress has been made in addressing these issues, but many Roma still live in marginalized conditions. Jozef Facuna, Director of the Department for Supporting the Inclusion of Marginalised Groups, the Slovak Ministry of Education, stated that they intended to prevent stereotypes and prejudices, and make people know about the positive sides of Roma culture and history, as it was a part of their common cultural heritage. Alexander Dasko, Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities in Slovakia, pointed out that the situation of Roma improved as compared to a decade ago. He further adds that it is important to showcase Roma who contribute significantly to society.

Read More at

<https://theewc.org/story/new-initiative-aims-to-boost-roma-inclusion-in-slovakia/>

## **Human Rights Commissioner Recommends Stronger Action to Uphold the Human Rights of Roma and Travellers**

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O’Flaherty, presented memoranda explaining the human rights situation of Roma and Traveller communities in Finland, Ireland and Slovakia. Each memorandum offers country-specific findings and recommendations based on the observation of commissioner during his visit to these countries about compelling human rights concerns faced by the communities. The Commissioner remarks Finland’s efforts to promote the human rights of Roma, through the third National Roma Policy, and the long-established National Advisory Board on Romani Affairs. The Commissioner recognises the commitment of the Slovak Republic to addressing the human rights situation of the Roma communities, through the National Strategy of Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma by 2030, ensuing action plans and other measures. Commissioner commends ambitious strategies developed by Ireland aimed at effective protection of the rights of Travellers and Roma communities.

Read More at

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/commissioner-o-flaherty-recommends-stronger-action-to-uphold-the-human-rights-of-roma-and-travellers-in-finland-ireland-and-slovakia>

## **A Stronger Ukraine Means Recognising Roma as Part of the Future**

Ukraine's future will not only be determined by military and diplomatic developments, but also by the strength of its economy that depends on recognising the significant role played by the Roma. More than a third of Roma in Ukraine are under the age of 15. This demography underlines the reality and stresses Ukraine's ability to rebuild while ensuring that young Roma have access to education, vocational training and economic opportunities. Roma communities with untapped potential are eager to work, contribute and build a future. Young Roma are not fully participating in the labour market or in education because many of them have been facing barriers to the workforce: a lack of education or training, limited access to professional networks and outdated perceptions about their work ethic or reliability.

Read More at

<https://romaforeurope.org/work/articles/stronger-ukraine-recognising-roma>

## **Celebration of the 600th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Roma in Spain**

As 2025 was declared 'Year of the Roma in Spain' by the Spanish government, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) hosted a commemorative event to mark the 600th anniversary of the documented presence of the Roma on the Iberian Peninsula at its headquarters in Madrid. The event was attended by the President of the Council of State, Carmen Calvo, and the Ombudsman of Spain, Ángel Gabilondo, among other public authorities, members of social organisations. Spanish Roma and their culture constitute a remarkable part of the social and cultural mosaic of the country. Their achievements and contributions to the arts, gastronomy, trades, language and philosophy of life, etc., are outstanding. The exhibition, put up by FSG, showcases 600 years of shared history and reflects some of the historical moments of the Roma in Spain, such as their arrival in different parts of the peninsula at the beginning of the 15th century, or the Great Round-up of 1749, as well as their symbols, values and cultural contributions.

Read More at

<https://www.gitanos.org/actualidad/archivo/160497.html.en>

## Antiziganism is Socially Acceptable Again in Germany

Romani Rose, chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, pointed out in an interview with ZDFheute about old and new antiziganism. He stated that the majority of Roma and Sinti minorities live in anonymity because of the pressure of stigmatization, antiziganism - with all the clichés that come with it. Despite their 600-year long history in Germany, they are not considered Germans. Mr. Rose expressed his concern about right-wing parties gaining support in recent years as well as lack of engagement of Roma and Sinti in political debate that would lead to their isolation in Europe. He also underscored that majority societies were not aware of cultural achievements of Roma and Sinti and their influence in sports as well as music and dance.

Read More at

<https://shorturl.at/NboOk>

## Roma in Ukraine: Modernity and Challenges of War

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations -Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad hosted Thirty-Eight Virtual Lecture of the Lecture Series, delivered by Yanush Panchenko (Ukraine and Germany), Ethnographer and Research Associate at the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. He mentioned about Roma in Ukraine, while some do not have official documents whereas many hide their origin with identity like Romanians, Turks, Serbs, Greece, etc., because of discrimination. There are different Roma groups like Vlaxur'a who originated from Wallachia, and are oldest Romani group living in Ukraine. Their language and culture have been greatly influenced by Romanian and Ukrainian culture. Child marriage is also prevalent in this group and bride money ranging from 5000 to 10,000 dollars is paid by Groom's family. Another group is Crimean Roma living in Ukraine and appeared in the territory of Crimea from Moldova in the 18th century, widely spread at the southern part of Ukraine. the language of Crimean Roma belongs to the language of Balkan Roma. Servur'a is another group of Roma, and is the first group of Roma appeared in the main land of Ukraine in the 15th century.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jotHhmEDFaA>

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