



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

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Winter Energy Emergency 'Question of Life and Death' for Europe's Roma

Europe's soaring natural gas prices is hitting the Continent's vulnerable people the hardest and some among the most at-risk are its 12 million Roma who cannot afford sky-high energy prices. The Roma community in Western Europe faces affordability issues and little access to government help, whereas many in Central and Eastern Europe have no access to the power grid despite submitting the relevant documents, therefore, they are compelled to burn trash and garbage to deal with severe winter. Average prices for consumer bills in Europe surged by 49 percent for electricity and 60 percent for gas.

Read More at

https://www.politico.eu/article/roma-community-winter-energy-crisis-emergency-a-question-of-life-and-death-europe/?fbclid=IwAR07CM2I77kcahrAKm8WgF7c2qd0XhI2ZohVa9vRa8uX_PDFiFttsheEYY

Roma Memorial in Austria

The central memorial site in Austria for the Roma and Sinti murdered in World War II has been proposed at Burgenland where around 8,000 of 9,000 Roma, who lived there before 1938, were murdered. The proposal was handed over to the Government and submitted in the parliament in April 2022. Eva Blimlinger, a member of the National Council from the Greens expressed her

wish for a beautiful memorial by the upcoming International Roma Day, on April 8, 2023. The European Union project "Dream Road" involving organizations from 10 Danube countries is meant to improve living conditions of the Roma in Europe through enhancing their access, empowering the community and eliminate prejudices and stereotypes against them.

Read More at

https://www.meinbezirk.at/burgenland/c-lokales/zusage-fuer-eine-roma-gedenkstaette-in-wien_a5797147?fbclid=IwAR1SWSQF-B-DTi-6iNmIBjKiY0y0FsKXXq_q7O54449DC9-xeBYaHRgJOH0

A Romani origin Person Appointed first Government Commissioner for Roma Affairs in Czech Republic

The Government of Czech Republic took an important step in addressing the complicated situation of Czech Roma. The Prime Minister Petr Fiala created the post of government commissioner for Roma affairs and appointed Lucie Fukova of Romani origin as the first Roma commissioner, who will coordinate the activities of various Ministries to support the socially disadvantaged Roma minority. The Government is serious about the need for integration of Roma minority and for improving their coexistence in society as a whole. Similar post already exists in Slovakia where Roma make about ten percent of the country's population.

Read More at

https://www.dw.com/de/tschechiens-erste-roma-beauftragte/a-64263983?fbclid=IwAR3kXHmmeT6AGQR-H7iiP6QZP_omK09x0Byxk5S-awlSEi06iW6DikzMSPM

Croatian Member of Parliament Veljko Kajtazi Visits Washington to Advocate for National Minorities Issues

During a four-day official visit to USA in November 2022, Croatian MP Veljko Kajtazi of Romani origin held meetings with senior officials of many government institutions wherein he underlined the importance of Roma inclusion in Croatia and Europe, stating the issues concerning the status of minority communities, but also stressing the influence of the global political situation on this current problem.

Read More at

<https://phralipen.hr/en/2022/11/18/member-of-parliament-veljko-kajtazi-travels-to-washington-to-advocate-for-the-issues-of-national-minorities/>

One of the Largest Swedish Library Hosting Romani Books and Literature

The Royal Library of Sweden opens a Roma-language resource library in Malmö. Malmö is strategically important for Roma community as Malmö accommodates the largest population of Roma in Sweden. Bagir Kwiek, library coordinator pointed out that the library would allow Roma and non Roma to make use of facility and spread knowledge about Romani literature, Romani dialects and Romani culture. Since 2021, the Royal Library has an official mandate to implement an investment in the libraries of the national minorities, it has already established resource libraries for national minority languages Finnish, Yiddish, Meankieli and Sami.

Read More at

https://www.kb.se/samverkan-och-utveckling/nytt-fran-kb/nyheter-samverkan-och-utveckling/2023-01-19-nytt-nationellt-resursbibliotek-for-romani-chib.html?fbclid=IwAR2BigNVCgEohaTr-IX5W_IOKwpmfuSFcUGuDRriXoDk-d03C0VCT6K8W7s#:~:text=I%20sin%20rapport%20Utredning%20romani,f%C3%B6rslag%20vi%20tidigare%20I%C3%A4mnat%20in.

The movie “Amaro Filmos” Highlights Racism and Antiziganism

The documentary movie "Amaro Filmos" showcases racism, antiziganism, gentrification and the displacement of an entire Roma community from the block at the Ostbahnhof where they had been living for the last ten years. They were dislocated because the owner of the property wanted to build big residential and commercial buildings on the plot. Many of the Roma, who were displaced, have shifted to different places in Berlin. David Paraschiv, one of the protagonists of the movie gives an insight into their lives and motivates a new generation of Roma to confidently take their place in the German society.

Read More at

https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/bezirke/film-uber-rassismus-und-antiziganismus-viele-menschen-haben-stereotype-uber-sinti-und-roma-in-ihren-kopfen-9211560.html?fbclid=IwAR0sVcEEdFDqtWqP1sjq3iTJc0XZW75cNyW_Inmk4ZhZ1QYauF5AX2oc4Q

No Institution in Germany is Free of Racism

Individual members of the Nuremberg Integration Council have been criticized for racist statements. The chairwoman of the working group of foreigners, migrants and integration advisory boards in Bavaria, Mitra Sharifi pointed out that Racism against Sinti and Roma was quite prevalent and explains why the institutions are not free from racism. Sharifi further said "prejudices against Roma and Sinti are widespread, in Germany and in other European countries". She says, there is not a single institution in Germany that is free of racism.

Read More at

<https://www.sonntagsblatt.de/artikel/gesellschaft/rassistische-aussagen-integrationsraete-institution-deutschland?fbclid=IwAR3pR6SXvFLZZxwCwT9scvuynZ8I5njiwqPp2PRJe-chzMOnj4b5CVn6cL0>

From the Street and Prison to Stardom

An excerpt from an article is about the Czech Roma actor Zdeněk Godla who is well known Roma actor in the Czech Republic. He started his life on the street at the age of 13 and was also imprisoned. He got into acting by accident when he was doing community service in Chomutov. Godla became famous in the series Most!, where he played the scavenger Franta. Currently, he is perhaps the best-known Roma actor in the Czech Republic. The comedy is his favorite genre and he is playing a comic role in two Slovak movies named Invalido and Villa Lucia. The movie "Invalido" has been filmed in a Roma settlement.

Read More at

<https://kultura.sme.sk/c/23114404/od-trinastich-bol-na-ulici-potom-vo-vazeni-herectvo-ma-zachranilo-hovori-zdenek-godla.html>

European Union Roma Strategic Framework and Human Rights Challenges Faced by Roma

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the Nineteenth Virtual Lecture of its monthly Lecture Series on the theme of “European Union Roma Strategic Framework and Human Rights Challenges Faced by Roma” on 28 December, 2022. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Dezideriu Gergely, who spoke about the enforcement of EU anti-discrimination law related to Roma as well as addressing the vulnerability of Roma in the case law of European Convention on Human Rights. Gergely spoke about European Council Strategic Plan dealing with extreme discrimination, antigysism, poverty and exclusion suffered by Roma community. Despite the fact that Roma minority members

experience disadvantages in all areas of life due to their ethnicity, the fight against discrimination has achieved a little since 2014. He pointed out that Roma face serious issues on account of lack of awareness about their rights and access to justice.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3GK97cBTel&t=2424s>