



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

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The Only "Roma/Gypsy" Who Played for England

Rabbi Howell, a celebrated football player of Romani origin, was born in tent in the wooded area of Knoll Green Lane. He is considered to be the first professional footballer of Roma origin in the history of the soccer game. He has played for the England team and his debut against Ireland in 1895 and second match against Scotland. At present, Howell is not quite known to football fans but his story is iconic. In the later part of his career, Howell was charged by some with suspicion of playing simulative during the matches and in a game against Sunderland he scored two own goals, which were described as "mysterious" by the team's goal keeper.

However, a book about the life and stories surrounding Rab Howell refutes the claims. There was another famous football player Sir Alf Ramsey who was of Romani roots and is only manager having led England football team to the World Cup in 1966.

Read More at

<https://temasport.com/%d0%b5%d0%b4%d0%b8%d0%bd%d1%81%d1%82%d0%b2%d0%b5%d0%bd%d0%be%d1%82%d0%be-%d0%b4%d0%b6%d0%b8%d0%bf%d1%81%d0%b8-%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%b5%d1%82%d0%be-%d0%b8%d0%b3%d1%80%d0%b0-%d0%b7%d0%b0-%d0%b0%d0%bd/?fbclid=IwAR09YTA1E6k7qF5QxivArEL5Se770PfYUnqFSEMzrwtTn8x8vbNEW92WTHI>

European Commission Suing Slovakia for Discrimination against Roma Children

The European Commission announced start of legal action against Slovakia in connection with its failure to take measures against segregation of Roma children in schools. The commission argues that the segregation of Roma children in separate schools or classes violates European Union law, which strictly prohibits discrimination based on ethnic origin in key areas of life, including education. The reform measures taken by the Slovak government have not produced sufficient results despite the European Council having raised this issue with Bratislava in 2015.

Read More at

<https://partidaromilor.ro/comisia-europeana-da-in-judecata-slovia-pentru-discriminarea-copiilor-romi/>

Focus on the Fate of Roma and Sinti

The commemoration of the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp after 78 years was hosted with focus on the suffering and death of Sinti and Roma who were deported to the concentration camp. According to historians, around 3,500 Sinti and Roma were imprisoned in Buchenwald camp. The Prime Minister of Thuringia Bodo Ramelow said at the memorial event that it took around 40 years for the crimes committed against Sinti and Roma to be recognized as genocide in Germany. The Prime Minister stated that we should be humble and ashamed of the crimes against humanity that have been committed in the name of a blinded racial ideology. The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma also urged the state institutions to take antigypsyism seriously as a danger.

Read More at

https://www.mdr.de/nachrichten/thueringen/mitte-thueringen/weimar/kz-gedenkstaette-buchenwald-gedenken-sinti-und-roma-100.html?fbclid=IwAR1evJR8J7rE-3tmkJZGZ13Yyo_1TxWDYG1pBDq0F9abXN-gSvYjzZEqM7o

Serbia to Classify Child Marriage as Human Trafficking

Serbian Government is working on to amend family law to define and recognize child marriage as a form of human trafficking. According to recent report of UNICEF, more than half of Romani girls in Serbia marry before the age of 18. Even more worryingly, 16% of Roma girls marry before the age of 15 and 5% gives birth at this age. In Serbia, Romani girls and girls from low-income families are the most vulnerable. 56 per cent living in Roma settlements marry before their 18 birthday. The authorities warn that these marriages constitute the most serious form

of violation of the rights of child, depriving them of the right to childhood, to education, to work and to a healthy upbringing.

Read More at

<https://www.euractiv.fr/section/justice-affaires-interieures/news/la-serbie-va-qualifier-le-mariage-denfants-de-traite-des-etres-humains/?fbclid=IwAR3j0lzTGRf3mUtQb9Fayg2fqkjsQlgaYbyZVq-eAzMENSnnkNPtSEAg8ZU>

Grimme Prize Gala in Germany

The Grimme Prize is considered one of the highest accolades of German television. About 20 awards in several different categories were presented in order to exhibit the resilience, diversity and innovative strength of German television. ZDF (German public-service television broadcaster) received the coveted Grimme Prize in several categories including Information & Culture. In this category, Peter Nestler was honored with the award for his documentary movie about the injustice against German Sinti and Roma families which have experienced injustice for more than eight decades. The Documentary speaks about Romani Rose's family, their resistance and their insistence on justice.

Read More at

https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten/panorama/grimme-preis-2023-preistraeger-100.html?fbclid=IwAR2ezg3S9i5WcnvzltRagtCj8yEs0RoY0hdi_D-2X7WI9IigFuLwkeZnxE

Honoring Rich and Proud Heritage of the Roma People in France

Roma community is at the centre of an exhibition named "Barvalo" that offers a comprehensive, panoramic, and enlightening perspective on Romani history, culture, language, and society. The exhibition was conceived and co-curated by Prof. Jonah Steinberg. The exhibition will be premiered on 9th May, 2023 at the Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (Mucem) in Marseille, France. More than 200 works of art straddling documents and other pieces gathered from French and European public and private collections are showcased in Barvalo. The exhibition spans from the medieval into the modern time and covers Indian link of Roma and their arrival in Europe. It exhibits the portraits of around 50 Romani people including actors, entrepreneurs, musicians, political figures, pop stars, soccer stars who excelled in Roma culture.

Read More at

<https://www.uvm.edu/news/cas/barvalo-honoring-rich-proud-heritage-roma-people?fbclid=IwAR1vkHZYTZUkRpPpUsGP6bLLYd2V82bUA3AxJcJHNcPVGP6YJXoBFrT-cCA>

Roma Women a Source of Strength and Inspiration

Women's Organization of the Roma Party Pro-Europe Association organized a conference on the theme of "Women - Factor of Change" on the occasion of International Roma Day. Gabriela Firea, the Minister of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities of the Romanian Government, spoke on this occasion about active involvement of Romani women in the political life of the country as well as the significance of their participation in decision-making processes. She said that Roma women were a source of strength and inspiration for the entire community. The Minister further added that the Government of Romania was committed to promoting diversity and inclusion as well as to encouraging the Romani women to express their opinions and be represented in public institutions.

Read More at

<https://partidaromilor.ro/gabriela-firea-catre-femeile-rome-sunteti-o-sursa-de-putere-si-inspiratie-pentru-intreaga-comunitate/>

Roma community Celebrated World Roma Day in Slovenia

On World Roma Day, Association of Roma in Slovenia called for systematic solutions to problems faced by the community. It also stressed the need for allocation of appropriate resources and programs designed for integration of Roma. They also drew attention to the issues of education and employment concerning the community. RTV (Radiotelevizija) Slovenia sheds light on the challenges and achievements of the community through Roma radio show "Naše poti" that is broadcast every Monday, whereas the television program "Kaj govoriš", broadcast every second Saturday. The unique feature is that Roma themselves are involved in preparing these shows intending to direct attention to the hardships and problems faced by the Roma community as well as to show examples of good practices.

Read More at

<https://www.rtv slo.si/slovenija/brezposelnih-skoraj-80-odstotkov-romov-veliko-druzin-brez-pitne-vode-in-elektrike/575950>

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One Earth : One Family : One Future)- Romani Cultural Syncretism: Indian Heritage and Ethnic Identity

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) in collaboration with Vivekananda Kendra and Chinmaya Mission organized an International Roma Conference in hybrid mode as part of C20 (G20) to Commemorate World Roma Day on the theme of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One Earth : One Family : One Future)”- Romani Cultural Syncretism: Indian Heritage and Ethnic Identity at Pravasi Bhawan, Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi on 18 April, 2023. Mr. Peter Pollak, a Member of the European Parliament (Slovakia) mentioned that the dream of Roma was to establish close and strong connection with India. Dr. Livia Jaroka, Member of European Parliament (Hungary), expressed her views on identity, culture and discrimination which were very important issues for Roma community. Normunds Rudevics, President of the International Romani Union (Latvia) observed that the world was going through very different times, so Roma need to preserve their roots, culture, and civilization. Dr. Marianna Seslavinskaya discussed about ritual defilement as a traditional tool of separation among the Roma people. Prof. Santino Spinelli spoke about the Indian heritage in Romani music. Dr. Delia Grigore provided some aspects of shared Indian and Romani culture. Amb. Sanjay Rana, Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria and North Macedonia, stated that the recent efforts and initiatives taken by Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations –ARSP, have been playing an effective role in strengthening links with Roma community. Shri Asim Arun, Hon’ble Minister of State and Social Welfare (Independent Charge), Government of Uttar Pradesh, shared details about the proposed construction of Roma Memorial in Kannauj. Sh. Subrat Pathak, Member of Parliament spoke about historical connection of Roma with Kannauj.

Watch Full Conference at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKund90g37s>