



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

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ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

New Delhi, 5th July, 2023

Issue: 35

Former Slovak President Launches a Project to Employ Roma

Andrej Kiska, the head of the state from 2004 to 2019, has launched a project for Roma seamstresses who will sew clothing for a new brand named 'Romade', inspired by Romani culture. The clothing will be designed by top fashion designers and will be sewn by Roma. The objective of the project is to employ Romani people who have work experience, but do not have employment opportunities. Andrej is personally participating in the selection of Roma for the sewing workshop. He states that the whole process is extensively influenced by the Roma themselves.

Read More at

<https://plus7dni.pluska.sk/domov/exprezidenta-kisku-je-modny-guru-romkami-vychodu-siju-prevratnu-kolekciu-foto?fbclid=IwAR2TJ19LKZTE9KN0TNCIKgFJAD9c9ztl-gryhmjflOk-WM0mzXwnRordOeU>

Ukrainian Roma Living in the Forest near Lviv

About two hundred Roma are living in tents made of branches and foil. They have come from Zakarpattia where they did not have jobs so they were basically engaged in collecting scrap from garbage dumps and sometimes they were hired to do odd farm jobs. The "Signs of Memory" Foundation found out the slums in the forest and supplied a large amount of food.

The Foundation is also helping in the erection of the tent where the school will also be operated by a group of teachers from the parish Christian Theater. The head of the Military Administration of the Lviv region also supported this initiative.

Read More at

https://misyjne.pl/romowie-zyja-w-lesie-w-namiotach-z-galezi-i-folii-pomagaja-im-polacy-i-parafianie-ze-lwowa/?fbclid=IwAR2j1s56mqhiHkKXum-6LX_H349WG6uvewNL50NGTH28xcc5rHzVO95P76E

International Romani Organizations Call on Ukrainian President to Condemn Attacks on Roma in Czech Republic

The European Roma Grassroots Organizations' Network (ERGO) and the ICO Roma Women's Fund, a Ukrainian Romani organization, drew the attention of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy who has recently visited Prague to attacks against Roma in the Czech Republic, allegedly by Ukrainian nationals. The organizations also pointed out that Ukrainian Roma, seeking protection, are being discriminated against. They also stated the maltreatment, in the host countries including Czech Republic, meted out to refugees with a Romani background as they are considered to be migrants not as a refugee, so they are being denied equal aid and support. Both the organizations issued a joint declaration for taking immediate action to bring to justice the perpetrators of the two recent attacks against Roma individuals in the Czech Republic.

Read More at

<https://romea.cz/en/world/international-romani-organizations-call-on-ukrainian-president-to-condemn-attacks-on-roma-call-on-czech-police-to-quickly-investigate-the-cases>

A Social Bomb in South-eastern Slovenia is Ticking If Roma Issue is not Properly Addressed

The mayors from 11 municipalities of south-eastern Slovenia and Posavje including Krsko and Novo Mesto supported the signatures for amendment in four laws related to social welfare, the labor market, driver's licenses and education. There is serious Roma problem owing to a higher birth rate of the Roma community than the majority population. The number of Roma is rapidly growing, so social problems are becoming acutely severe. The proposal to a change in the Social Security Benefits Act aims at improving the attendance of Roma in primary schools through stopping the monetary payment of social assistance to those who do not attend the primary school. The changes in an Act related to the parental care and family benefits refer to the

payment of child allowance, if Roma's children do not get enrolled in further education, the reduction by one third in allowance will take place.

Read More at

https://reporter.si/clanek/slovenija/romska-socialna-bomba-na-dolenjskem-1069639?fbclid=IwAR3nHhpdJ5zcDt6VBvQFWMg-nCKM8-Xk_uqQKY9aXnp_kJu3X7DDW3vtBGk

A Romni, Lucia Tulejova, the Winner of the Czech-Slovak Miss Roma 2023

Seventeen-year-old Lucie Tulejova from Ceska Lipa of the Czech Republic became Czech-Slovak Miss Roma 2023 in the Beauty Contest, organized by the Romia CZ Association, whereas 18-year-old Vanesa Hrabalova from Usti nad Labem of the Czech Republic stood the first runner-up. The contest aims at showing the beauty, talent and personality of young Roma girls from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The organizer pointed out that this Competition also meant to change the point of view of the majority society about Roma community and to help in their emancipation. As there are negative news spread about Roma so this pageant intends to demonstrate the rich culture and the talent of Roma who are representing not only their community and family but also their country with dignity.

Read More at

https://romea.cz/cz/domaci/romska-krasa-zazarila-v-hodonine-zname-vitezku-cesko-slovenske-miss-roma-2023-prvni-misto-patri-lucii-tulejove?fbclid=IwAR1E8oVGCpCCcGCwJF_s4qVHpy_VNUVIFwnuyL3UhBaD5KSIW5kQndms4C4

The Poor District of Sofia, Bulgaria

Fakulteta in Sofia is one of the largest Roma settlements in the Balkans, located at the west of the Bulgarian capital Sofia. According to the official data, about 40,000 Romani people live there, but non-official data shows a lot more. The perennial discrimination against Roma is still obvious and lays lingering impact on the life of the community. Roma, originally from India, settled in present-day Bulgaria at the beginning of the 13th century. At present their population is estimated to be over 10 percent of the total population of Bulgaria. Many Roma are unemployed and live in poverty. The first families settled at Fakulteta in the 1930s. In recent years, many Romani people from rural areas have moved to this locality now it appears to be a small town but there is no sewage system poor power supply, pile up of rubbish and unpaved streets.

Read More at

<https://www.nd-aktuell.de/artikel/1174235.roma-in-bulgarien-das-arme-viertel-von-sofia.html>

Roma Community: Lost Children of The Great Indian Family

The sum and substance of the piece is to demonstrate the forced dislocation of Roma from Kannauj, Mathura and other northern part of India as well as to posit religious and philosophical affinity with India. The article points out the shared history as Roma were displaced by Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, whereas numerous Indian villages and towns were burnt and desolated as well as a multitude of Indians were killed by the same sultan.

Read More at

<https://sundayguardianlive.com/featured/roma-community-lost-children-of-the-great-indian-family>

The Roma/Kale People: Vision and Reality of the Romani Nation in Spain

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the Twenty-fourth Virtual Lecture of the Lecture Series on the theme of "The Roma/Kale People: Vision and Reality of the Romani Nation in Spain" on 28 June 2023. Vicente Rodriguez Fernandez, Human Rights Activist, Educator, Writer & Artist from Spain delivered the lecture wherein he spoke about the arrival of Roma in Spain in 1425 and their forced assimilation in Southern Spain. Vicente pointed out in 1749 the authorities forced the separation of all Romani men and women, and also the removal of their children with an aim to eliminate the Roma community. He said that it was the first attempt of mass-organized ethnocide of Roma people in the history. Vicente further explicated the relation between Flamenco and Roma as traditionally Romani people used to call Flamenco "Gypsy songs" in Spanish "Cante Gitano".

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT5lhgDeZek>

600 years of Romani Presence in Bologna, Italy

The commemorative plaque for the 600th anniversary of the first testimony of the arrival of Roma and Sinti (1422-2022) was inaugurated in Porta Galliera by the deputy mayor Emily Marion Clancy, in the presence of representatives of Unar (National Office for Racial Anti-Discrimination) and of the Roma and Sinti communities in Bologna, Italy. The Municipality of Bologna in agreement with the Emilia-Romagna Region and Roma and Sinti Associations, has placed a plaque under the arch of Porta Galliera dedicated to the centuries-old memory of welcoming the city and the six hundred years that have passed since 18 July 1422.

Read More at

https://www.comune.bologna.it/notizie/600-anni-presenza-romani-bologna?fbclid=IwAR2397tKV2mV5qRlf24GxJcZlMnDip7Txs5pJPxTjdKJRtnz_eWxDiD_K8