



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

New Delhi, 5th September, 2023

Issue: 36

Europe Marks Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma

Events were organized across Europe on August 2 to mark Holocaust Day for the Sinti and Roma in remembrance of estimated 500,000 Romani men, women and children who were murdered by Nazi during Second World War. On this occasion, German Minister of Culture and Media, Claudia Roth pointed out that anti-Romani prejudices and sentiments in our society were still widespread. She further added that discrimination against Sinti and Roma neither began in 1933 nor ended in 1945. The Vice-President of European Parliament Nicola Beer remarked that the discrimination against four out of 10 Roma/Sinti people in past four years stands in contradiction with European basic values and its principle of equality for all. A statement issued by the European Commission emphasized that Europe has the duty to protect its minorities from racism and discrimination.

Read More at

<https://www.dw.com/en/europe-marks-holocaust-memorial-day-for-sinti-and-roma/a-66419816?fbclid=IwAR3jZttEFnvBUOkFNw1cubUfvoMjbWORgJWAY9edBw4x7MtTOa8LdnKpGLU>

The Roma at the Cronenbourg Slum in France

More than a hundred Roma live in a shanty town infested with bed bugs and rats in Strasbourg. Since April 2019, Roma have settled in this slum that is near the depot of the Compagnie des Transports Strasbourgeois (CTS) at Cronenbourg. Besides the problem of pests, Romani people reveal their difficulties in accessing water as they are tired of walking through the M35 Bridge and cross busy roads

to the city centre to fetch water from a tap. On the other side of the slum, young Romani children face immense difficulties for enrollment in the school due to complications, though it is compulsory to send children to school in France. Marie-Dominique Dreyse, Vice-President of the Eurometropolis, announced that the City of Strasbourg and the prefecture would implement a plan for gradual dismantling of the slum and offer solutions to cater to needs of each person in the camp.

Read More at

<https://www.rue89strasbourg.com/roms-bidonville-cronenbourg-peuvent-plus-cette-vie-276660?fbclid=IwAR2rpphaPXFpDn5frUEkNgkXHEBJfpNWa9EJzdAWJJhLhXxOSWtD8PJQ2ig>

U.S. Embassy in Moldova Awards Roma Woman for her Fight against Discrimination

Romani activist Victorina Luca has received the Global Anti-Racism Hero Award. At the awards ceremony, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken stated that her fight against discrimination and protection of the interests of the Moldovan Roma community, was an example for everyone. Blinken further noted that “We honor Victorina and all human rights defenders and are proud to work with them to solve current challenges and build a more democratic, prosperous and a secure future in Moldova”.

Read More at

<https://esp.md/ru/sobytiya/2023/08/10/posolstvo-ssha-v-moldove-nagradilo-zhenshchinu-naroda-romov-za-borbu-s>

Romani Art - With Activism for Traditions

Romani Design is the world's first Roma fashion studio, established in 2010 with the aim of helping social and cultural integration of Roma communities. Romani Design is immensely popular brand that represents Roma culture and its connections to Hungarian culture and one of important players in the contemporary Hungarian fashion and design sector. Roma clothing culture is a significant part of not only the Hungarian but also of the Carpathian basin folk dress traditions. Romani Design creates modern trendy clothing, jewelry and accessories that place Romani cultural traditions in a modern and contemporary context. Erika Varga and Helena Varga, the founders and designers, create quality handcraft-design products in the spirit of social responsibility. Romani Design is committed to preserving Romani cultural heritage and passing it on to younger generations.

Read More at

https://cseppek.hu/cikk/21789romani-design-fashion-art-aktivizmussal-a-tradiciekert?fbclid=IwAR0m2KYt2R_vvkWDYGstooHPgg36jrgQVuhIEQkFdpV92PquZCq5wUL0hFE

European Court of Human Rights Investigates the Death's Case of Romani Person in Czech Republic

In 2021, the death of a Romani person following a police intervention in the Czech city of Teplice received wide media coverage. A video of the incident circulated at that time showed a Czech policeman kneeling on the neck of a Romani person for several minutes, while another was holding his legs. From the very beginning, the police have denied blame for his death, which was supported by the forensic autopsy. The Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic has rejected the complaint filed by the ERRC and FORUM organizations as the link between coercion used by the police officers and the subsequent death has not been established. The General Inspection of the Security Forces (GIBS) has closed the case in March 2022. Not being satisfied with actions of governmental authorities, European Roma Rights Center (ERRC) along with the Forum for Human Rights (FORUM) filed a lawsuit against the Czech Republic in European Court of Human Rights.

Read More at

<https://spravy.rtv.slovakia.sk/2023/08/smrt-roma-po-polica-jnom-zasahu-v-cesku-preveri-europsky-sud-pre-ludske-prava/?fbclid=IwAR2zvNjaJ5YV7mT1wclXeNTWsl1Cn5b5EckRGLesaMjI9IJkc5pMRQ2w6D4>

Roma Culture: Identity, Resistance and Pride

The House of Roma Culture in Belgrade is the first Romani museum in Southeastern Europe. The museum displays a variety of Roma's clothing items, decorations on things, dishes, tools and weapons, besides symbols, flag and anthem. It also shows the crafts, occupations, as well as music and games of the community. Jadranka Ivkovic, director of the European Roma Institute for Culture and Art in Serbia (ERIAC), remarked that culture was the pivot of identity, resistance and pride and that is what makes Romani culture specific. He added that the Roma have made an immeasurable contribution to European culture, but their contribution remained invisible. ERIAC works to promote Roma Culture and to make it visible.

Read More at

https://www.dw.com/sr/romska-kultura-identitet-otpor-i-ponos/a-66721349?fbclid=IwAR23oONvb6tUSd3vXYBHRGd9KwZG2kII-ZSBHS4DHhyvOtEe_5-A_zFbnls

Romani Philosophy of Living and Surviving

The Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-ARSP organized twenty-fifth monthly virtual lecture on the theme of "Romani Philosophy of Living and Surviving" delivered by Mr. Orhan Tahir (Germany & Bulgaria) Lawyer, Political Scientist and Journalist on 4 August, 2023. Mr. Tahir spoke about the philosophy of living of Roma people, which primarily focused on their survival. Not any other ethnic

group in Europe except Roma faced such atrocious treatments, persecution, deportation and assimilation. Roma communities have been subjected to violence and persecution over many centuries. He noted that Roma preserved Romani language, identity and culture despite such appalling conditions. Roma neither have a holy book nor a written memory, under such circumstances the survival of Roma is a miracle. He further pointed out that important elements of Romani philosophy are the principle of non violence and the acceptance of every religion without any conflict.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Orwqjzpvmc&t=1255s>