



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

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ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

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History, Culture and Language- Most Important Elements of the National Identity of Romani Men and Women

Roma have maintained their own values, language and culture without a state and territory of their own and regardless of which country they live in. Professor Dr. Rajko Đuric, one of the most respected romologists in the world, asserted that until today the Roma have managed to preserve a number of cultural elements that clearly testify to their ethnic identity in the area of material and spiritual culture, including beliefs, customs, habits, norms, laws, language and symbols. Romani people brought a series of symbols from their ancestral homeland of India. They continue to use these symbols within their community despite their exodus for more than a millennium. The study of the history and culture of Roma, and the languages of the territories which the Roma passed through or lived on during the centuries-long journey from India to their current habitats, play a significant role in shaping their cultural identity.

Read More at

<https://www.telegraf.rs/vesti/srbija/3742643-elementi-nacionalnog-identita-roma-i-romkinja>

OĽANO Coalition Political Parties Dominated in Roma Populous Municipalities in Slovakia

The OĽANO coalition outstripped other Slovak political parties in the recent parliamentary elections in the municipalities with a large number of Romani residents. In some of the municipalities, OĽANO coalition got more than 40% of votes. In the district of Stara Ľubovna, OĽANO bagged over 90% of votes.

Read More at

https://spravy.rtv.slovakia.sk/2023/10/u-romov-dominovala-koalicia-olano-v-niektorych-romskych-osadach-mala-viac-ako-70-percent-hlasov/?fbclid=IwAR2w0nP8C0Avy4zKnpWfCIHYfJSjVUeliQKj3BhdYDHZrpQUH_wlqyNzQyM

Members of Slovenian Parliament Discussed the Roma Issues

Discussions on the situation of the Roma community in Slovenia were held by the members of the Parliamentary Committee for Internal Affairs, Public Administration and Local Self-Government. The discussions pointed out that the situation of Roma has not improved, but worsened, besides citing the examples of some good practices such as afternoon activities for children in Roma communities. The Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee, Tereza Novak presented the government's activities to improve the situation of the Roma community and their integration. The President of the Council of the Roma Community, Joze kHorvat, called for involving the community in finding solutions to Roma's issues. State Secretary at the Ministry of Labor, Dan Juvan emphasized the strengthening of social work centers as one of the important measures. The committee adopted several resolutions including the participation of representatives of the Roma in the formulation of measures and allocation of additional funds for the municipalities where Roma communities live.

Read More at

<https://n1info.si/novice/slovenija/poslanci-o-romski-problematiki-v-jugovzhodni-sloveniji-vre/?fbclid=IwAR16a94hwDF9n60VZ6f1re-9bpMeLuisbnXIH1UANWQ45HNaAWDY-ygwDyw>

A Complete Solution to Statelessness in the Republic of North Macedonia

A large number of citizens in North Macedonia, especially from the Roma community, who lived in informal or illegal settlements or in temporary facilities or were homeless, continued to live without ID cards. Therefore, these people were deprived of basic rights and freedoms including health insurance, social protection, education, employment and housing. With the recent adoption of the Law on Civil Registration and the Law on Residence and Domicile, the Administration for Keeping Registers (UVMK) in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Advisor for Roma Inclusion in the Office of the President of the Government was able to resolve 310 cases related to birth certificates and ID Cards of unregistered persons.

Read More at

https://racin.mk/analizi/nema-veke-nevidlivi-gragani-sega-site-imaat-pristap-do-socijalna-i-zdravstvena-poddrshka/?fbclid=IwAR1iIDmZSY_NPyUjKiJDKch4GA5a2o10hBinoyDcyo0EUseFVTiWeQA7bn0

Roma Live on Garbage in the Largest Ghetto in Europe

A garbage dump on the outskirts of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, has become a home for 1.5 thousand Romani people who are not treated as citizens. The four Romani groups comprise Dallas Roma, Cantonului, Rampa - Corturari and Coastei Roma who came to Cluj-Napoca in different time period but due to common problems like eviction and demolition of their huts and shanties by authorities. The authorities of Cluj-Napoca have created a ghetto with unhygienic shacks, deprived of municipal basic services and infested with lots of rats and fleas. Most of the adults living in this ghetto work in the sanitation industry as garbage truck drivers and waste loader and sorter.

Read More at

https://wiadomosci.onet.pl/swiat/najwieksze-w-europie-getto-na-wysypisku-smieci-sa-kierowcami-smieciarek/5e5szgf?utm_source=l.facebook.com_viasg_wiadomosci&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=leo_automatic&srcc=undefined&utm_v=2

Deutsche Bahn Presents an Exhibition against Antigypsyism

Adhering to its commitment towards combating antigypsyism, Deutsche Bahn (DB) has launched the travelling exhibition with various information panels which provide an overview of

the history, culture and persecution and prejudices against the Sinti and Roma in Germany. DB Chairman Dr. Richard Lutz along with Romani Rose, Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Katja Meier, Saxon State Minister for Justice and for Democracy, Europe and Equality, and Dr. Mehmet Daimagüler, Federal Government Commissioner against Antigypsyism and for the Life of Sinti and Roma in Germany, opened the exhibition which continues at Dresden Central Station until October 8, 2023 and from October 11th to October 25th, 2023 it would be displayed at Wiesbaden Central Station.

Read More at

https://www.deutschebahn.com/de/presse/pressestart_zentrales_uebersicht/Fuer-Toleranz-und-Respekt-Deutsche-Bahn-praesentiert-erstmals-Ausstellung-gegen-Antiziganismus-11863636?fbclid=IwAR2A2D41Z40KHsSx8Sv4pW7TV0K8sk5fexYKyBMI56DUMFoBU5BqFtu8ISE

Violence against Roma in Italy

A Molotov Bomb was thrown at the entrance of the Roma/Sinti village in San Giorgio a Colonica a Prato near Florence, in Italy. The bomb caused significant material damage including the destruction of a village worker's truck, fortunately no one was injured. Romani/Sinti NGOs like Prato and the Movement Khetane denounced the attack and asked the police to carry out a serious investigation to identify the culprits and to protect the community in the meantime so as to prevent further attacks. They also urged political parties to publicly condemn this vile, criminal and racist act and express solidarity with the families who are the victims of this attack.

Read More at

https://eutoday.net/violence-against-roma-in-italy-activists-fear-an-increase-in-attacks/?fbclid=IwAR0pJJdQzL0BegtkFfQ-1g-zvnc-4xpAMKBb_gTWJ9XkFbkHABVBySZd4AI

It's a Nightmare for Roma to Get an Apartment on Rent in Poland

A Polish city, Przemysl opened up to helping refugees, but not everyone particularly Roma. Przemysl is where thousands of refugees from Ukraine have passed through in order to go to other Polish cities or to Western European countries. Data from the European Commission 2022 show that approximately 100,000 Roma left Ukraine in the face of war. Joanna Talewicz, President of the wStrona Dialogu Foundation, said that it was a nightmare when the apartment owners tell on the face that they won't rent apartments to a Roma family. Roma families are

not rented an apartment due to their origin. The "W Toward Dialogue" Foundation published a report on the situation of Roma refugees in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship 2022-2023. It notes that the vast majority of Roma were deprived of sufficient systemic support.

Read More at

https://www.tokfm.pl/Tokfm/7,189660,30212973,koszmar-gdy-ktos-ci-mowi-ze-wynajmie-mieszkanie-tylko-bialym.html?fbclid=IwAR3YgWpwLu-bpjRrxZziP1vNYUo8WYqYC8DWqBsKw905Hlv9uy0FnWm_4r8l

Twenty Sixth monthly lecture organised by the Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR) – Indian Council for International Cooperation (ARSP) organized the Twenty-sixth Virtual Lecture as part of its monthly lecture series on the topic "**Cultural Odyssey: Exploring the Timeless Bonds - Roma's Historical and Cultural Connections with India**" on 28th September 2023. The lecture was delivered by Ms. Sevdija Demirova Abdulova, Romani Activist, Author, Linguist and Cultural Preservationist (North Macedonia), who spoke about a Romani legend that tells Roma used to live at the course of Ganga River in a powerful kingdom. She said that family was the most significant factor, which plays a crucial role, in the life of every individual from the Roma community. In justification of her statement, she referred to nomadic nature of their life whereas their family cannot be changed. She pointed out that the extended family too plays an essential and foundational role in Romani culture and serves as a cornerstone of the social organization and support. The elders in the family are generally the keepers of the Romani tradition, ensuring their continuity, but decision making in the Romani family is collective.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkeDOYRmCrA&t=786s>