



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

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ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

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Advisory Meeting for Roma Commemorative Memorial at Kannauj in India

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations-ARSP organized a virtual Consultative Meeting on 7th November regarding Roma Commemorative Memorial at Kannauj being built up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh with the support of Government of India. The purpose of the meeting was to seek valuable suggestions and ideas of Roma brothers and sisters with regards to design, architecture, structure and any other facilities, besides encouraging contribution of artifacts and cultural symbols representing Romani life for the Museum in Kannauj. The meeting was chaired by Amb. Rajesh Sachdeva, Chairperson-CRSCR who outlined the significance of the Memorial and explained role played by ARSP and CRSCR in this project. He envisaged that the memorial would further deepen the linkage between Roma and India. Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General-ARSP pointed out that one of the major migrations of Roma took place from Kannauj and how the memorial would be a catalyst for creating awareness about Roma and India connection amongst Indian masses. Shri Asim Arun, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Government of Uttar Pradesh, briefed about design of Memorial and also of dedicated gallery for Roma Community in the Museum of Kannauj. He elaborated the architectural design and cultural elements, indoor and outdoor facilities and event space like Amphitheatre associated with the Roma memorial. Shri Arun also expressed his wish to import traditional "Chakra" that would be installed in the museum. Mr. Orhan Galjus from Turkey, President of Euroasia Roma Academic Network, said that India demonstrated solidarity with Roma across the world through building a Roma memorial in Kannauj. Prof. Dr. Santino Spinelli from Italy, Vice President of International Romani Union (Latvia) and legendary musician, said

that he was proud of his Indian origin and pointed out similarities between Indian and Romani music. Among the participants, many Roma brothers and sisters; Djemaa Chraiti from Switzerland, Dr. Marianna Seslavinskaya from Bulgaria, Dr. Alexandru Zamfir from Romania, Mr. Vladimir Sainovic from Serbia, Ms. Felicia Derosa from USA, Dr. Diana Kirilova from France, Dr. Delia Grigore from Romania, Mr. Alex Stan from Romania, Dr. Neziri Nedzmedin from France welcomed the project and offered some valuable suggestions. Shri Pravin Tandon, Activist from Kannauj requested for ideas related to artifacts and murals for Museum. The meeting ended with vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Rajni Sarin, Convenor of CRSCR.

Watch Full Meeting Video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Riu9o8xJ-gU&t=183s>

A “Social Cleansing” of the Homeless Migrants in Paris before the Olympics

As the time of 2024 Olympics closing near, several humanitarian associations have accused the government to crowd out the homeless and migrants. In an open letter to the Organizing Committee for Olympic Games, several activists have expressed concerns over the French authorities’ intention to clear the way before the beginning of the Olympic events by emptying the streets of Ile-de-France where the shanty towns occupied by Roma populations exist. Several humanitarian associations denounce a “social cleansing” and called on the authorities to guarantee the care of these vulnerable populations.

Read More at

<https://www.rts.ch/info/monde/14459345-un-nettoyage-social-des-sansabri-et-des-migrants-denonce-a-paris-avant-les-jo.html?fbclid=IwAR2Zvw3A8tiHmJ2NsCfDCPHBGfHLA1IVdmgxkPRZY1bQyjHWk5J0MFHYu5M>

Lucie Fukova: I am not a Superwoman to Change the Unfair System in a Few Days

Lucie Fukova is the first Romani representative who has been appointed Commissioner for Roma Minority Affairs in Czech Republic in line with European Union framework strategy for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation for the period of 2021-2030. The Roma Commissioner is an advisory body to the government with focus on cooperating with different ministries which are related to programs for Roma minority. While pointed out the low representation of Roma in public administration and local bodies, she is confident of improving the position of Roma in the Czech Republic.

Read More at

<https://romea.cz/cz/komentare/romska-vladni-zmocnenkyne-lucie-fukova-nejsem-supermanka-abych-za-par-dni-zmenila-leckdy-nespravedlivy-system-co-mohu-ve-sve-funkci-delat?fbclid=IwAR3OqqORhAjm32fdme3cXfTRzB1SaZjy64I2bMprOzlweVUFU15UyDTluR0>

Roma appeal Google, Meta and Netflix for Inclusion of the People of Roma Communities

Billboards, created by the Central Roma Council of Poland, appeared on the streets of Warsaw, Poland with message of Stop Romophobia. Roma Doodle was designed in consultation with the famous Roma artist Małgorzata Mirga-Tas. It was the first time in the history of Google when Roma Doodle showed up on Towarowa Street as well as appeared on the Google search engine's home page on November 5 to commemorate the International Day of the Romani Language. Joanna Karwowska, Strategy & Growth Director at Publicis Worldwide Poland, said "Fighting stereotypes is possible by popularizing Roma communities and its culture".

Read More at

https://nowymarketing.pl/a/43566,apel-romow-przed-siedzibami-google-mety-i-netflixa?fbclid=IwAR1GIUnxuASAcWlhR8J5PezaKYxJb-Vut07I1_EqWA0MPFXvuJyleRdCDO4

Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Roma community in Croatia

Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and Minister of Culture and Media Nina Obuljen Koržinek participated in the commemoration of the World Roma Language Day on 4 November 2023 at Zagreb's Museum of Contemporary Art. Prime Minister Plenkovic pointed out that Uštica Roma Memorial Center was a confirmation about cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and representatives of the Roma community. Veljko Kajtazi reminded that the initiative to mark the World Roma Day on 5 November came from the Croatian Parliament, and subsequently the day was recognized by UNESCO and celebrated in 27 countries around the world.

Read More at

<https://min-kulture.gov.hr/vijesti-8/suradnja-izmedju-vlade-rh-i-romske-zajednice-u-hrvatskoj-putokaz-za-europske-zemlje/24651?fbclid=IwAR1nlv4Bp8pPGL9b1z0rV5-7eJzI5Hv5U22wwb6b0ay832Ogc2mJI3UZa> |

Roma Remember their Loved Ones who Passed Away through Feasting and Music at Cemetery

Roma celebrate All Saints' Day by going to the cemetery where they remember their deceased loved ones by singing, playing music and pouring vodka. The Roma feed the souls of their dead with fruit, which they throw behind them, over their heads. The Roma gathered at the Osobowicki cemetery, Wroclaw in Poland and the tables are covered with food and vodka at the graves where feast is organized with music and play which lasts often until late.

Read More at

https://gazetawroclawska.pl/muzyka-wodka-i-biesiada-na-cmentarzu-tak-wroclawscy-romowie-wspominaja-bliskich-ktorzy-odeszli/ar/c1-18034387?fbclid=IwAR1IbYBfySjxfe_W8Th3IA20Tr5gECjIX_Lz3hs8m6QtJ1S7liCe5JRKP2w

Amnesty International: Slovak Government Failed to Solve the Situation of Roma

Amnesty International Slovakia (AIS) publishes a research report focusing on the consequences of the fire that broke out on July 20, 2023 at the poorest part of the Roma settlement in Telgart, Slovakia. The report pointed out that one person had died and more than 100 people, including 60 children, lost their homes. AIS also cautioned against the inhumane conditions of the affected Roma who still live in damp tents as well as the ineffectiveness of multi-level crisis management system.

Read More at

https://ereport.sk/kde-je-ludskost/?fbclid=IwAR0_qPI8D6Ejg_FY5bC6MpMqwAsYas1HoSEvJvOu_pBFQuoo0jvdjQaliYo

Romani language teaching in Serbia

Since 2015, the Romani language has gained an equal status with all other languages of national minorities and the teaching of the Romani language has been included in the basic academic

studies of the higher education institution. The Center for Professional Development and Evaluation organizes Romani language course that offers the certificate course to the graduated teachers as well as provides regular classes in primary and secondary schools. Since 2017, Roma language as the optional subject along with elements of national culture has been introduced in more than 50 schools in Serbia. This optional course is currently attended by about 600 students in different parts of Serbia and at present there are 117 Romani language teachers in Serbia but a large number of them are still not engaged in primary and secondary schools due to the insufficient number of registered students.

Read More at

<https://www.telegraf.rs/vesti/srbija/3775435-lektorat-za-romski-jezik-na-filoloskom-fakultetu-u-beogradu?fbclid=IwAR0RoX2TdQmnB45Q2ti6pFBr69BDLXpL9S1W7oLDuaHazgKaNqJuRrCLOfi>

The First Romani woman, Ida Kellarova Received a State Award from President in the Czech Republic

62 public figures including Romani woman Ida Kellarova were bestowed upon the state award during the 105th anniversary of the establishment of independent Czechoslovakia. Ms. Kellarova is a singer and choirmaster and has founded a group "Romano Rat (Roma blood)", with which she performs concerts all over the world. She has been dedicated to the education and upbringing of Romani children for a long time, and opens the way to Romani culture to non-Roma as well. Ida Kellarova received the Medal of Merit for services to the state in the field of culture and education. In an interview after the award ceremony, she remarked, "my greatest award will be when there is no racism in the Czech Republic".

Read More at

<https://romea.cz/cz/domaci/exkluzivni-video-ida-kellarova-prevzala-z-rukou-prezidenta-pavla-statni-vyznamenani-medaili-za-zasluchy-o-stat-v-oblasti-kultury-vychovy-a-skolstvi?fbclid=IwAR1s98B4teMdET5-Hfu0GVIQbxcblkwL6NpPUf-4UF2oKjLRorFWqtsP7o>

The Bridge of Support: Fostering Dialogue for Roma and Ukrainian Refugee Communities

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-ARSP organized the Twenty-Seventh virtual lecture of its monthly lecture series on 30th October 2023. The speaker was Ms. Sonia

Styrkacz, Practicing Psychologist and Researcher (Poland) who expressed her view about difficulties especially linguistic and cultural barriers which pushed Ukrainian Roma Refugee to vulnerable situations. She spoke about many initiatives like intercultural dialogue, Roma integration, education, employment and entrepreneurship and cooperation with public institutions, business and NGOs, taken by Dialogue foundation that she is associated with. Ms. Styrkacz pointed out the discrimination and prejudices faced by Ukrainian Roma at different levels in the society; hence the role of Foundation becomes critical for raising awareness about how to combat stereotypes against Roma and for promoting equality and tolerance among the majority.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jBa0uPJdGw&t=54s>