



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

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ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

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Europe: Roma and the Misery of the Official Education Policy

Roma are one of the most uneducated ethnic minorities in Europe. The fact is recognized by most national governments in Europe, the European Commission and other international organizations. The latest report of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights shows that the discrimination against Roma and ethnic segregation among Roma children aged six to 15 in school has increased. The report points out terrible results in 10 countries including EU member states like Romania and Hungary as well as North Macedonia and Serbia. The authorities are not able to offer solutions to problems including poor school performance and high dropout rate, faced by Roma communities. Without appropriate public policy and action, it is not possible to deal with current Roma situations such as isolation, exclusion, criminalization, racism, exoticism and marginalization. The systemic racism is another challenging obstacle besides social and economic constraints.

Read More at

<https://www.dw.com/hr/moja-europa-romi-i-bijeda-slu%C5%BEBene-obrazovne-politike/a-67858665?fbclid=IwAR2USeabYIA3wjjMpEdOWjAXSYhf7rC99zrH08XrwXh3D3HQj7wgvSWXc0c>

Prejudice, Discrimination, Racism: How does the Coexistence of Different Cultures Work in the Czech Republic?

The commissioner for human rights, Klara Simackova Laurencikova says that Czech Republic recognizes fourteen official national minorities which make up about 10% of the total population. Czech society is gradually becoming more diverse as all minorities are officially represented in the Government Council for National Minorities. Roma minority has been living in Czech for centuries, but is a frequent target of political repression and victim of repressive policy. The racial persecution of Roma and Sinti reached a tragic proportion during the Nazi occupation. Most of them perished in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. It is estimated that more than 75 thousand Roma have left the Czech Republic for the West especially to the United Kingdom and Canada since the 1990s and according to data of the commissioner for Roma minority affairs, around 250,000 Roma have been living in the Czech Republic.

Read More at

https://cesky.radio.cz/predsudky-diskriminace-rasismus-jak-funguje-souziti-ruznych-kultur-v-cesku-8805407?fbclid=IwAR2P7qCFwFLpeSfE_qE7WF0ggFxcWJYC2VlccgDGsVB1q2LTkY6JiRvPUW8

Fusion of Christmas and St. Basil's Day – Roma New Year

Bango Vasil on 14th January is a Romani New Year, which is one of the most celebrated holidays for Roma in Bulgaria. The festivities, which last for three days, traditionally combines Christian holidays of Christmas with St. Basil's Day and is observed with solemnity. Children get new clothes and shoes. The young honor the old and ask for their forgiveness. There is a custom to place a missal on the reed mat and foods are served on the mat.

Read More at

<https://bnr.bg/radiobulgaria/post/101214186/>

North Macedonia's Roma Rock School Strikes Chord against Prejudice

Roma Rock School offers courses in music theory, instruments and voice classes along with rehearsal space to aspiring young musicians of all ages and backgrounds. Roma Rock School houses around 60 students between the ages of 10 and 19 who learn a range of instruments including guitar, bass, drums and wind instruments along with instruction on band arrangements. One of the school's main missions is to break the stereotypes through music that is the effective, functional and proven way to do it. The courses are free of charge for all the

students with focus on enrolling children from Skopje's largest Roma neighbourhood of Suto Orizari (Shutka) where poverty and a lack of opportunities remain deep rooted. It is also pitiful that Roma community in North Macedonia is grossly excluded from formal education in the arts despite the community's rich history of music and heritage.

Read More at

https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231222-n-macedonia-s-roma-rock-school-strikes-chord-against-prejudice?fbclid=IwAR1-Ho19qfalmN_w-y2w2UbrETJ_NIWXYZcZJgBiHx58b6yhlmQnzyEsc0J8

Golob's Government Failed to Solve Roma's Problem in South-eastern Slovenia

Last summer, the residents of Dolenjska, Bela Krajina and Posavje regions of southeastern part of Slovenia collected enough signatures to propose amendment in the legislation for providing social assistance in cash and child allowances to the Roma community. The situation of Roma at Romani settlements in South-eastern Slovenia is grim. Only handful of Romani children successfully complete primary school education, the unemployment rate of Roma is more than 90%, and their vast majority is dependent on social benefits. Till the end of year, no action has been taken by the government on the proposal, which was meant to adequately and effectively address the Roma issues, to integrate Roma into mainstream and to strengthen the social responsibility of the individual.

Read More at

https://reporter.si/clanek/slovenija/golobova-vlada-znova-zatajila-pri-resevanju-tezav-z-romi-v-jugovzhodni-sloveniji-1203851?fbclid=IwAR1OuBiShO66JgFpGjkdGXPTCo417_fmC89tyPGu6YCCjvPaLzvOLMqWQXE#google_vignette

Humiliation of Roma in Prisons in Poland

Reports reveal about widespread use of stereotypes and violations of prisoners' rights of Roma in Poland. The families of Roma prisoners speak about humiliation on account of their ethnic origin. There are allegations against Prison Service officers of degrading comments and stereotypical treatment. The Deputy Director General of the Prison Service, General Andrzej Lenczuk, assured that the Roma's comments would be taken into consideration during supervision.

Read More at

<https://pomorska.pl/ponizaja-romow-w-wiezieniach-rzecznik-praw-obywatelskich-interweniuje/ar/c1-18180553?fbclid=IwAR0kB9fhgWoET5arIxC3-cpuC9sAyHAvSY7oO-ul-q9REAUEng73hVJRU>

Migrants, Roma Evicted from Squats ahead of Paris 2024 Olympics

Romanian-born Toldea, her husband and three children are among thousands of Roma and migrants caught up in evictions in the north Paris suburb of Seine-Saint-Denis that is worsening the city's homelessness problem ahead of the Olympic games. More than half of the structures being built or renovated including Olympics Village for the Summer Olympic Games in July 2024 are located in Seine-Saint-Denis. This is the poorest commune in France where asylum seekers and Roma take shelter as the area has the largest number of squats and informally built slums according to 2021 report by the housing authority. However, the Seine-Saint-Denis branch of France's Interior Ministry told Reuters that the squat evictions has nothing to do with the Olympic Games, but is follow up of the normal legal procedures in compliance with a new law that imposes heavy fines and prison sentences for illegal occupation.

Read More at

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/migrants-roma-evicted-squats-ahead-paris-2024-olympics-2023-12-22/?fbclid=IwAR1R0ORk3gMak9rwH9QKgQybU4GA0Wj_ddP87BOW3PoW9rzD5nAFoieplU

Romani Actress- One of the Presenters of the European Film Academy Awards

Alina Şerban, actress as well as film and theater director, has been invited to present the European Film Academy Awards, alongside the eminent names of European cinema, such as the German actress Sandra Huller. Alina Şerban is internationally known for her role in the film Gypsy Queen, which won her the award for best actress in Germany in 2020. In Romania, she became the first director of Roma ethnicity to stage a show at the Bucharest National Theatre. She studied acting in New York and at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London and has struggled over the years with the stigma of her ethnicity.

Read More at

https://culturaladuba.ro/alina-serban-va-fi-una-dintre-prezentatoarele-premiilor-academiei-europene-de-film/?fbclid=IwAR0BtVSgyR-9Vcerwv0p_hKmPfZswr6ig_7aCfX6ISje824noxpBC6GxBaY