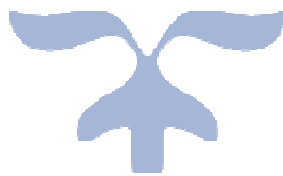


CENTRE FOR ROMA STUDIES AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

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Roma: Connecting with Indians

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Is the Romani Language Disappearing Because of its Absence in Czech Schools?

Roma aggregate 250,000 in the Czech Republic but not all of them speak Romani language. Most of families discontinued Romani language in communication with their preschool children, believing that children will not face difficulties in attending the classes conducted in the Czech language. Many Romani parents don't speak Romani to their children as they are advised by the school to communicate with their children in Czech. The Romani children generally speak Czech in kindergarten or during interaction with non-Roma children. Romani language expert Pavel Kubanik mentions that multilingualism is not a reason to abandon one's language in favour of the mastery over another but it develops children's potential. He further asserts that Romani can play an important role in the children's future lives.

Read More at

https://radiozurnal.rozhlas.cz/vytraci-se-romstina-kvuli-jeji-absenci-na-ceskych-skolach-odpovedi-hleda-vyzkum-9174829?fbclid=IwAR22TL2-I_vlq9PvlsnrurfGxb-y56H1X2eZNUtSGJd6lvEd2paMXqgdBbs

Slovaks Show Hatred towards Roma on Social Networks.

According to research by the Human Rights Institute and other organizations, Roma are targeted with hateful attacks on social media anonymously. Such hatred is derived from stereotypes and lack of education about the Roma community. The Human Rights Institute points out that the five percent out of 50,000 posts on three most used social media networks is related to the different topics of Roma and its director Peter Weisenbacher has said that more than 56 percent are the hateful content whereas 82 percent negative content like not to have Roma as neighbors. He further adds that the main problem is the generation that hurls hatred at the Roma community and it is due to the dearth of knowledge about the community.

Read More at

<https://www.netky.sk/clanok/slovaci-na-socialnych-sietach-prejavuju-nenavist-voci-romom-komentare-pisu-pod-anonymnymi-prezyvkami?fbclid=IwAR2kTpTqgdbpE7sNPDgWAZO1A0RUVSqAVx49b-ipoChK6vRnKSS31-bmIR4>

Slovenian Democratic Party and Mayors: Prepare the Promised Legislation to Solve the Roma Problem

Slovenian Democratic Party convened the meeting of the Committee of the National Assembly for Petitions, Human Rights and Equal Opportunities to discuss the critically serious Roma issues in Southeastern Slovenia. The meeting was attended by some mayors and deputy mayors and councilors, representatives of the Novo mesto Police Department and Sentjerne Police Station. Parliamentarian Anja Bah Zibert initiated the meeting to remind the promise made by the coalition Government to provide the legal solutions to the Roma issues by the end of 2023. But there is neither any legislation nor the drive for solutions to the problems. The head of the interdepartmental working group for dealing with the Roma issues agreed to the changes in legislation as children's absenteeism and the low percentage of completion of primary school by Roma children. However, the coalition MPs rejected all the proposed resolutions of the meeting and suggested preparing the detailed report.

Read More at

https://moja-dolenjska.si/zupani-in-sds-pripravite-obljubljeno-zakonodajo-za-resevanje-romske-problematike/?fbclid=IwAR38QP8pb_2t3aKcXeIkir7zPETR_Zu0gH4zXPQPl0f-7iFngpWe17PPmMc

The Czech Senate Supported the Definition of anti-Cyanism (Anti-gypsyism)

The Senate Committee on Human Rights unanimously put forth a working definition of anti-gypsyism as discrimination against Roma. The definition was recommended by the Council for Roma Minority Affairs; discrimination against Roma is the expression and actions of individuals, strategies and practices of institutions that lead to marginalization or exclusion of Roma, devaluation of Roma culture and lifestyle, physical violence or expressions of hatred directed against Roma and other individuals and groups that are considered "Gypsies". According to the committee, the Roma are often stigmatized for their ethnic origin and faced with offensive stereotypes. Robert Rehak, head of the Czech delegation of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), told that the adoption of this definition would reject the discrimination against Roma. Lucie Fukova, the commissioner for Roma minority affairs, said that anti-Roma attitudes are not welcome and exclusion and marginalization of the Roma minority in Czech society are not accepted.

Read More at

<https://romea.cz/cz/domaci/senat-podporil-definici-anticikanismu-je-to-jasny-signal-pro-spolecnost-rika-zmocnenkyne-fukova-jiri-cunek-obhajoval-pouzivani-urazliveho-vyrazu-cikan?fbclid=IwAR2fIQB5FuDIbCNz4RubPhMhXeVvEdEzWY-39yrzhZKUnD5zqV6FBIO-azA>

Roma Suspected of Abusing Protection Status 'S'

According to estimates, between 200,000 and 400,000 Roma live in Ukraine. Many Roma continue to take refuge in Switzerland to escape the war. Roma obtain protection status 'S' in Switzerland if they have Ukrainian identity and had their center of interests in Ukraine before the start of the war. Otherwise, the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) rejects the request for protection after carefully examining the documents of the persons concerned. This procedure is applicable to all who apply for the protection status 'S'. The SEM also points out that identity papers are produced and sold illegally in Ukraine but falsification can be easily detected by specialists during authenticity checks. The debate on the Roma fuels the discussion on dismissal and continuation of the protection status 'S'. The Federal Council has emphasized that it will abolish the 'S' protection status in accordance with the European Union but it lasts until March 2025.

Read More at

<https://www.24heures.ch/refugies-ukrainiens-des-roms-abuseraient-du-statut-de-protection-s-563882600270?fbclid=IwAR0gUGwjSADmGDmi5hOuknX1Pr40vNNS7d5apS-IHvWz7UZxPJR5m7LhLos>

Having Music in Blood a Stereotype: Some Slovaks Want to See Roma in Colorful Costumes

An excerpt from the interview with Barbora Botosova, who belongs to a well-known Romani musician family of Slovakia, her grandfather, Jan Berky Mrenica, was a great violinist. Barbora has been playing violin since she was six year old, so she has been considered to have musical talent in her blood, however

she points out that Roma people have to train themselves and exercise a lot more. She challenges the stereotypes and prejudices like seeing the Roma artists in colourful costumes, playing cymbals and dancing Čardás, through displaying the evolution of Romani music as well as introduction of the elements of different musical genre like Rock, Pop, Dubstep, etc. Barbora also works with talented Roma children who are deprived of the opportunities to develop their skill and potential. She has won the Roma Spirit 2023 award in the Culture category for her long-term artistic contribution and wide outreach to youth education.

Read More at

https://www.aktuality.sk/clanok/pdKlKlG/primaska-botosova-mat-hudbu-v-krvi-je-stereotyp-niektori-slovaci-chcu-romov-vidiet-iba-vo-farebnych-krojoch-rozhovor/?fbclid=IwAR2ZvrJ2VcqZsyx1kxRQrLteXDIYUqFgy4_I455GwtIPGmy6pkSBKgjz8c

Roma Monaco (Palaces): Luxurious Houses, Kitsch and Mercedes

The town of Buzescu, lying at the south of Romania, manifests luxurious and grand palaces which are called "Roma Monaco", attracting the imagination of tourists. These extravagant palaces are the reminiscent of an architectural fusion of medieval castles and ancient temples. These buildings exhibit the wealth of Roma minority and their desire for higher social status in Romania, though majority of them are very marginalized and poor. During the fall of communism in early 1990s, Kalderas Romani clan got into unregulated scrap metal market that led them to becoming rich. Romanian architect Rudolf Graef says that these Romani palaces in style and architecture differ according to regions. He articulates about the architecture in central Romania inspired by Catholic churches and in southwest resembling neoclassical buildings whereas in the east and south Romani palaces replicating the houses of the former aristocrat and the boyars.

Read More at

https://n1info.si/magazin/potovanja/romski-monako-razkosne-hise-kic-in-mercedesi-foto-video/?fbclid=IwAR0de_Mhrg9xynFhCvtTB2DJ29rmvTem9BAoPBR94aE1zIVaVBCUzgzvQJs

Croatia and Its own Roma Theatre

The Roma Theatre - Theatre R, founded in 2018 made the significant contribution to Croatian culture, demonstrating the diversity and offering voice to the Roma community. Theater R commenced its expedition with the play "We would like to get married", under the project "Culture and art for young people", sponsored by the European Social Fund. The theatre R and the Association of Roma Women of Croatia Better Future in the association with Kultura Nova and iDEMO - Institute for Democracy, have collaborated to provide the space for the expression of Roma culture. It also involves the young Roma in the creation of theatrical works and use of their creativity in order to showcase their own experiences and perspectives and recognize their equality despite their marginalization. The theatre introduced many successful plays like "Mi bi da se ženimo" that won the award for the best original text as well as "Cigano de Fool" and "Blue Lightning". The latter play in 2023 was nominated for the best dramatic text at the Festival of Croatian Folk Drama "Murski Cimeri" that made Ivan Stanic win the award for the best supporting actor.

Read More at

https://medjimurjepress.net/kultura-i-obrazovanje/znete-li-da-hrvatska-ima-svoj-romski-teatar/?fbclid=IwAR3tQzECdJ13P1UtYCRHfiTgSpOhuX2_RkQwJKP4zo4JHNyfQAJV5992ynU#google_vignette

Lessons Learned about Roma' Holocaust and A Way Forward

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-ARSP has organized Twenty-Nine virtual lecture of the series on 24th January 2024. The lecture, delivered by Jud Nirenberg, Guest Lecturer at the US Department of State's Foreign Service Institute (Washington D.C., USA), reminds of the complete wipe out of Roma/Sinti and elimination of their culture and language in Croatia, Slovakia and etc. He said, "Roma showed their patriotism in several countries though they were viewed as foreign and incapable of national loyalty". History is full of Roma fighting and dying to prove their loyalty and winning medals of valour in both World War 1 and World War 2. Jud points out that the education on Romani history and holocaust is way to bring Roma/Sinti together and building solidarity across countries and continents despite the difference in their culture, dialects. The holocaust memory can also be very effective in bridging the gap amongst different Roma clans.

Watch Full Lecture at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_GZ-lwL76I

The Roma Sans Frontières Association Wants to Be a Point of Reference

The Roma sans frontières association was created in Luxembourg with the focus on breaking stereotypes, helping the Roma who live in the country and defending their rights and their culture. The president of the association, Dibran Saljihi, tells that Roma are a people of Indian origin. But now, Roma people changed a lot and are getting integrated. Their educational and professional level is progressing. He further added that the Association intends to collaborate with the Ministries of Family and Foreign Affairs for finding solutions to the problems like begging, besides addressing the issue like recognition of the Roma as victims of conflicts, particularly the Second World War.

Read More at

<https://www.virgule.lu/luxembourg/l-association-roms-sans-frontiere-veut-etre-un-point-de-repere-un-relais/8291109.html?fbclid=IwAR3fZDqBDAjCCCHELCOQjCXTojGuI5CnOwrHAt0JaCt3rIP2Jz2p4xFKLMo>