



CENTRE FOR ROMA STUDIE AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

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Roma Connecting with Indians

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The Roma Started Controlling the Slovak Spis

Slovakia boasts several beautiful places but Spis is perhaps the most picturesque of them. It had been rich German region since the middle ages as the immigrants from Germany settled and founded mines and developed it as trading hub. However, at the end of the Second World War, most of the local Germans fled because of the fear of the persecution by Red Army. Those who did not flee were banished and those who wanted to return were prevented by Czechoslovakia with the Benes decrees. They left behind beautiful medieval towns with Gothic temples and churches which have no parallel not only in Slovakia, but in the entire former Hungary. Today, Spis is becoming kingdom of Roma who have penetrated the city surrounded by Romani element and the rich Roma build magnificent palaces. Thanks to democracy, the Slovak Roma in Spis are gradually gaining control of one village after another. Roma from the settlement democratically overrule the local Slovaks. There are six Roma members of parliament in the current Slovak parliament. The number of parliamentarian and mayors and councillors has been increasing with each election.

Read More at

<https://shorturl.at/cduz3>

The Romani Female Trailblazers Shaping Romania's Cultural Landscape

A group of Roma women have been fighting their perpetual exclusion in order to create space for representation in the arts. One of those trailblazers is Mihaela Dragan who has co-founded Romania's first feminist Roma theatre company "Giuvlipen" with the aim of challenging the oppressive status quo. Giuvlipen has dealt with the controversial subjects like the hyper-sexualisation of Roma women, structural racism, and the #MeToo movement in Romanian theatre and cinema. It has provided a platform for Roma actors to carve out their place in the national theatre. Alina Serban, a feminist Romani director, said that Romania's second-largest minority is Roma who have long been denied their rightful space in the arts. She used cinema to depict the intriguing tale of a young Roma woman living in an orphanage and struggling social hindrances to become an actress in her short movie titled "I Matter".

Read More at

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/news/article/the-female-roma-trailblazers-shaping-romanias-cultural-landscape>

Segregation of Roma Children is a Manifestation of Unresolved Anti-Roma Attitudes in Czech Society and Politics

Despite condemnation of Czech Republic by the European Court of Human Rights in 2007 for unequal access to the education of Romani men, the segregation of Roma children in education continues. The news report argues for the need to resolve this long-term overlooked issue of education and start exploring way out to provide suitable education to Roma children so that their conditions could be

improved. Report mentions that Roma minority are constantly faced with everyday racism, they are a butt of a wide array of myths, and even political elite attack them for being "socially maladjusted".

Read More at

<https://shorturl.at/bjkM0>

Human Lives Matter: The Roma Covered their Mouths after the Verdict in Brno

The Regional Court in Brno pardoned a Ukrainian who was charged with the murder of a Rom during the violent fight at the Brno Dam last June. The verdict sparked uproar and caused dissatisfaction among the Roma minority. The trial panel, headed by Judge Dita Repkova, after evaluating all statements, stated that the thirty-seven-year-old Ukrainian, Roman Rohozin acted in necessary self-defense. She further said that the incident was a misfortune that cannot be ignored. According to the indictment, the accused attacked and injured three people with a knife who ended up in hospital. One of them later died in hospital. The deceased was a young Rom, named Nikolas. Lucie Fukova, the commissioner for Roma minority affairs in the government, told that the court's decision must be respected, though there is an appeal court here and the roads lead all the way to Strasbourg.

Read More at

<https://shorturl.at/rxMQ9>

Ukrainian Roma Suddenly Became Homeless in a refugee centre in Poland

Hundred of refugees of Roma origin from Ukraine were rendered homeless overnight due to the closure of the refugee center in Kidałowice in Podkarpacie. The center was set up by the Unitatem Foundation in the forest without access to school and public transport and with no sewage system. As a result, some Romani families decided to return to Ukraine. Joanna Talewicz, president of the w Strone Dialogu Foundation said that they found out about the closure when some of these people showed up at the station in Przemyśl and they did not expect that the center would be closed overnight. Joanna Talewicz also shared information about arrangements for accommodation of these people in other centres where Roma have been staying in Jarosław for a long time.

Read More at

<https://shorturl.at/djzDW>

Denmark's Tough Laws on Begging Hit Roma Women

Denmark is one of the European countries with the harshest begging laws, besides Hungary that has identical laws. The most affected are Roma people, mainly originating from Romania and Bulgaria. Pia

Justesen, a human rights lawyer, says that begging has been illegal in Denmark for hundreds of years. But in 2017, the parliament decided to end so-called 'intimidating' begging. For most poor illiterate and undocumented migrants begging, which is a criminal offence, is only option to earn their livelihood in Denmark. International institutions have constantly criticized the begging law. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees urged Denmark to repeal this law in 2021. A European Union-wide network of lawyers made a third-party intervention to the European Court of Human Rights — arguing that Denmark's ban on begging is illegal in 2023.

Read More at

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/3/4/denmarks-tough-laws-on-begging-hit-roma-women-with-few-other-options>

New Legal Troubles for Ex. President of the Flemish Socialist Party in Belgium

The former president of the Flemish socialist party (Vooruit) of Belgium, Conner Rousseau, attempted to avoid a trial for his racist remarks against the Roma community. The Brussels based non-profit organization Kham is planning to initiate further legal action and file a complaint either with the constitution of a civil party or they could directly summon Mr. Rousseau before the criminal court. Mr. Rousseau reacted to this report through his lawyer Christine Mussche who pointed out that he has already had talks with representatives of different Roma communities, who have accepted his apology.

Read More at

<https://shorturl.at/iADOZ>

UNFPA Delivers Motivational Kits to Women and Girls of Roma Community in Zakarpattia

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) works for combating gender-based violence in all regions of Ukraine, including Zakarpattia, which is a home to the largest Roma community. The team of specialists visited the Roma camp in Zakarpattia and distributed 150 motivational kits to women and girls of Roma community as well as made them aware of services designed to prevent and address gender-based violence.

Read More at

https://ukraine.unfpa.org/en/motivationalkits_Roma_community_Zakarpattia_ENG

Situations of Roma Spanning from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Current Republic of Serbia

The Thirtieth Virtual Lecture of monthly Lecture Series was hosted by Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-ARSP on 29th February, 2024. The speaker of lecture was Sainovic Kadrije Vladimir,

Member of the National Council of the Roma National Minority of the Republic of Serbia and President of the Board for Education (Republic of Serbia). He explicated that the Roma have faced various challenges and difficulties to settle somewhere precisely because of their appearance, way of life, their language and customs. Given the specifics of the Roma way of life, they were often exposed to stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination on multiple levels, which affected their status in different societies. In modern times, through the efforts of Roma activists, progress has been made to improve the position of Roma and overcome prejudice. He also talked about the Decade of Roma beginning 2005 during which various activities have been carried out across Europe in order to achieve set goals. It is important to emphasize that the fight against discrimination and improvement of Roma rights was a continuous process that required the engagement of states, international organizations and civil society.

Watch Full Lecture at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg9E_wpO5so&t=26s