



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

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The Government of Slovakia Approved the First Action Plan for the Roma Inclusion Strategy until 2030

The Slovak government approved the action plan for the period of 2022-2030 with focus on five priority areas including employment, education, health and housing which are prerequisite for meeting the proposed goals, besides the intensive emphasis on fight against anti-Roma racism. For education, the action plan intended to improve quality and results of Roma pupils as well as increase the number of schools and kindergartens in areas of marginalized Roma communities. In the area of employment, the action plan defines measures to enhance prospects of Roma in the labor market and in housing aims at reducing number of illegal dwellings in addition to bettering the civic amenities in their localities. The draft plan also focuses on improving health conditions at the community level and addressing the challenges faced by Roma communities.

Read More at

https://www.teraz.sk/slovensko/vlada-schvalila-prvy-akcny-plan-st/624820-clanok.html?fbclid=IwAR106gMaXqFm24DU5DnOYOI9z51i_hoI0vPpfC46Ax3by6uJ_NmYak0iBR4

The Crime Rates against Roma/ Sinti Decreased in Germany

For the first time since the beginning of the systematic record in 2017, the number of crimes against Roma/Sinti fell slightly in the year 2021. According to report of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the year 2021 saw 109 antiziganist crimes, 18 percent fewer than in 2020 owing to

the sensitivity of authorities to issues. Most of the cases are related to bodily harm, insult, threat and damage of Roma property.

Read More at

https://www.olderburger-onlinezeitung.de/nachrichten/erstmal-seit-jahren-weniger-straftaten-gegen-sinti-und-roma-83439.html?fbclid=IwAR1QY8ftqeMV2vbm3VnRA00_JYCHQ9r50Xms8cIJMP58LETZBKhpuilbOcg

Even during the War, Prejudices against Roma do not Disappear

According to the 2019 report of Minority Rights Group Europe, there were between 200,000 and 400,000 Roma in Ukraine. Many Roma have chosen to leave the country, and some choosing to go to the Czech Republic, as things are less bad for the Roma in the Czech Republic, alongside Poland, Germany and the Netherlands. However, the Czech Republic is not spared from anti-Roma sentiments, as Alena Drbohlavova Gronzikova, member of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs pointed out that many Roma refugees from Ukraine have been and continue to face racism and prejudice in Czech Republic.

Read More at

https://francais.radio.cz/refugies-roms-dukrairie-meme-pendant-la-guerre-les-prejuges-ne-disparaissent-pas-8746061?fbclid=IwAR3haOwh58YAvXl3siN6sTRTYawuWctJYnLRaOBQi4lgn1KpQEI_dbws3xY

Discrimination against Sinti in German Education System

Discrimination is preventing Roma from educational advancement, according to the report of the Independent Commission for Combating Anti-Gypsyism from 2021. The 2021 study of Romnokher reports, 614 people from the Sinti and Roma community in Germany were interviewed. Only 1.7 percent holds a bachelor's degree, and only 1.9 percent has a master's degree. Owing to deep racist prejudice Sinti and Roma are sent to special schools and the teachers assume that children from this ethnic community either do not have the appropriate predispositions or are not interested in learning.

Read More at

<https://www.dw.com/pl/dyskryminacja-sinti-i-rom%C3%B3w-w-niemieckim-systemie-edukacji-jeste%C5%9B-inny-bez-wzgl%C4%99du-na-to-co-robisz/a-61353153?fbclid=IwAR01DnSUIQ-BZD7o8v1In9QaUsAPZTtZLVwKa55IJGogn6YshTIMEmsKyKQ>

The Federal President of Germany Asked for Forgiveness

The Federal President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier sought forgiveness from Roma/ Sinti for degrading treatment and discrimination in the aftermath of the Second World War in Germany. Frank-Walter in his video message, marking the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Central Council of Sinti and Roma, said that the genocide of the Sinti and Roma perpetrated by the National Socialists was concealed, denied or repressed and their claims for compensation were not recognized for too long. He further added that the police and the judiciary continue to stigmatize and criminalize Roma/Sinti.

Read More at

https://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2022-04/steinmeier-bittet-sinti-und-roma-um-vergebung?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F&fbclid=IwAR2EROIvcAHASc84nRmq1v5-DMlfj2fSoDypa5YEFQNGbHJgJ1-5S8qz6k

Twelfth Roma Virtual Lecture

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the Twelfth Virtual Lecture of the monthly Lecture Series on the theme of "The Historical, Social & Cultural Accounts of Dom/Domari (Roma) in Middle East Asia and Europe" on 31 March, 2022. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Pooya Hemmati (Australia), Social Worker and Freelance Advocate for Roma, Migrants and Refugee. He spoke about the migration of proto Roma including poets, musicians, entertainers, etc. from India to Persia during the reign of Bahram Gor, that historical event was recorded in the book, 'The Book of Kings', written by Firdausi. Mr. Pooya said that Domari people came from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan areas and pointed out that Roma and Doma are the same people with same Indian origin, though there are differences in their language because European Roma included German, Slavic, Latin and other European languages in Romani language whereas Doma used a lot of Persian words in the Domari language. There are around 1 million Doma living in Persia now. They still preserve and practice some cultural habits of India in spite of their assimilation in Persian societies and adoption of Islam.

Watch full video at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_GefJNcq-U

Roma Soldiers Serving in the Ukrainian Army

The soldiers of Romani origin in Ukrainian army have been on the frontline of the war between Russia and Ukraine. In an interview with Romea Tv, Romani activist from Ukraine, Myroslav Horvat said that the Romani people along with Ukrainian soldiers went to Donbas, Kharkov, Mariupol, Odessa and Kherson to fight against Russian aggressors and stood up in the defence of Kiev, the capital city. He further said that Roma were not afraid on the front line and volunteered to defend their homeland from a barbaric attack by the Russian army.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/cz/zpravodajstvi/romea-tv-exkluzivne-rozhovor-s-romskymi-vojaky-slouzici-v-ukrajinske-armade-primo-na-frontove-linii?fbclid=IwAR2YLNqVFNjSAx4PqW7q1aszKLbxNwDvnU6F4todXV6ImDfqaum3KeyfAK4>

Exhibition of Holocaust of Roma/ Sinti in Hamburg, Germany

An exhibition titled "Last Seen" shows pictures of Romani people, who were deported by the Nazis during the Second World War. The mobile exhibition titled "Last Seen" is a project of the Arolsen Archives, and intends to find the unknown photos of Nazi deportations through encouraging people to share pictures or objects from prisoners of war. The director of Arolsen Archives explains that the archives will give an insight into everyday life in the region during the National Socialist era as well as help in better understanding of the photographs. The project also collects information of people who were deported from German Reich to ghettos or camps between 1938 and 1945.

Read More at

https://www.mopo.de/hamburg/historisch/erschuetternde-ausstellung-bei-hamburg-letztes-foto-vor-der-deportation/?fbclid=IwAR0cd-ErVTIS3TMGDH2ar5uaUroalb19PQQ2nq_Xh6kg9JW4W6qcc4pybw