



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

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Roma: Connecting with Indians

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Prestigious Tajsá Award 2023 Accorded to Małgorzata Mirgu-Tas

Małgorzata Mirgu-Tas, a Polish-Roma artist, has been awarded the Tajsá Cultural Heritage Prize 2023 for making significant contribution to Roma cultural heritage. The award ceremony, which was hosted by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN), took place on 30

November at Berlin's Maxim Gorki Theater. The Tajsja Award aims at celebrating and awarding distinguished Roma personalities who are the leading figures of the contemporary Roma cultural movement. It intends to support creativity and talent of Roma cultural artists who excelled in the field of arts, literature, photography, film, design, dance, music, fashion and media. Małgorzata Mirga-Tas presented her works dealing with the issue of anti-Roma stereotypes and their everyday life in solo and group exhibitions around the world.

Read More at

<https://romea.cz/cz/kultura/cena-tajsja-2023-pro-malgorzatu-mirgu-tas-umelkyne-ktera-bojuje-proti-stereotypum?fbclid=IwAR37A4Mnrdjoz23t7TTCYT0tZMrwivGj-NfiCGDzMeKS7EY9fwBkxEynWVU>

The Roma Population in Sutka boasts of Great Recognition, Tradition and Uniqueness

Suto Orizari, also known as Sutka, is the municipality in Skopje, the capital city of North Macedonia, where about 55 percent of the Roma population of the country lives. It is also the only local administrative unit in the world where the Romani is the official language. Suto Orizari is the only municipality in North Macedonia with a Roma majority contributing 90 percent to the total population of the municipality. Roma were first elected as members of the Skopje city council in 1948 and subsequently Faik Abdi was the first representative of the Macedonian parliament. Macedonian Roma boast of many successful Romani people who grew up in Sutka and have become famous, a few to name Nezhdet Mustafa (Minister without portfolio), Bajram Severdzhan, alias Dr. Koljo (actor), Zabit Memedov (actor), Ferus Mustafov (saxophonist), Veli Mumin (boxing champion). Though Sutka is a world-famous and unique Roma municipality, yet a majority of the Roma people face difficult living conditions and live on social welfare help or seasonal jobs and 63 percent of them are unemployed.

Read More at

https://www.telegraf.rs/vesti/jugosfera/3799385-suto-orizari-jedina-opstina-na-svetu-sa-sluzbenim-romskim-jezikom?fbclid=IwAR330ha7_A8gzJKJIXwHtFqRaBp8zkFJCP0a0or7HaBaW_jngqEyyPuMxsM

30th Anniversary of the Recognition of Roma Community in Austria

The Minister for ethnic groups, Susanne Raab (OVP) hosted a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the recognition of the Roma as an ethnic group at the Federal Chancellery in

Austria. She pointed out that culture and history of the Roma was an integral part of Austria's history. The event witnessed the participation of members of the National Council including Chancellor Karl Nehammer. In his speech, the Chancellor recalled the dark chapters in Austria's history as also persecution of the ethnic group during Nazi regime. At the same time, he emphasized importance of traditions and diversity in the country, which was worth preserving.

Read More at

<https://www.puls24.at/news/politik/festakt-zum-30-jahrestag-der-erkennung-der-roma/315446?fbclid=IwAR2ZACaYODRaYALJPPEgHApBQhpPC UMvwbug o9OGEh1ByvZIRD-QCSfXw>

Roma Spirit 2023 Award Ceremony in the National Theatre of Kosice, Slovakia

The fifteenth Roma Spirit Award 2023 was given to Roma individuals and organizations for improving the lives of Roma and their coexistence with the majority in Slovakia. The award ceremony witnessed mesmerizing performances by the Sendrei Gypsy Band, the Band of the Bugal Brothers, Children's Choir and Soloists of the Kosice National Theater Ballet. The winner of the Non-Governmental Organization category was Sukar Zivipen from Banska Bystrica for the unyielding community work and Zdrave Reginy Organization, a state contribution organization of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, was the recipient of the award in the category of Company and Employer for improving the health of the segregated communities. Barbora Botosova received the prestigious award in the Culture category for her splendid artistic works and overwhelming contribution to the field of youth education. The special award of the jury went to the Slovak writer, dramaturg and screenwriter and co-founder of Romathan Roma Theater, Daniela Hivesova Silanova for her unwavering commitment to non-discrimination, development of Romani culture, journalism and theater.

Read More at

<https://www.aktuality.sk/clanok/d0Aog0P/pozname-laureatov-ocenenia-roma-spirit-2023/?fbclid=IwAR3K4kOgng7clqkd OUD0xQ6vtgmzayKn36DhB5ucr90hHwuJcmpzOqAfNg>

Italy : Inciting Hatred Against Romani Women

Far-right vigilantes in Brindisi (Italy) have targeted Roma by posting photos of young Romani girls and women on social media, accusing them of pick pocketing, thievery and stealing children and branding them as 'thieving gypsies'. This digital violence is leading them to be

pilloried publicly and making them vulnerable to racially-motivated assault and attack in the street. Such baseless accusations in recent past have led to outbreaks of mob violence against Roma. This latest action by web 'vigilantes' is just another example of what Council of Europe, Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatovic, spoke recently of digital violence, which can be especially harmful for those women and girls at risk or exposed to intersecting forms of discrimination. The government in Italy has voted for 'security decree' directed against Romani women accused of theft, that allows for the detention of mothers with children under the age of three. Judges will decide on the advisability of detention, and whether it is better for the detainees' minor children to be placed in the more suitable family.

Read More at

<http://www.errc.org/news/italy-inciting-hatred-against-romani-women?fbclid=IwAR0R2q61UB2bYCE1-tfhsj8IRb0D1-tB1WBPqwj7yOZcYzW8IIFzwTHSgiY>

A Documentary about Roma Refugees from Ukraine in Three European Countries

On the occasion of International Day of Migrants, Radio Liberty presented a documentary film titled "In the Eyes of God-We are All People" about Ukrainian Roma refugees who struggled for shelter in Moldova, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The film narrates the stories of Ukrainian citizens of Roma origin who faced prejudice from responsible authorities in three European countries. The documentary shows that Roma from Ukraine were initially refused help at all in Czech Republic as they were suspected to have Hungarian passport. Later, thousands of Roma refugees were forced to live at the station or in temporary accommodation centers, so many of them left the Czech Republic without waiting for the authorities' intervention. The documentary also shows that Roma refugees from Ukraine were denied housing as well as forced to live in cramped conditions in Moldova as well as in Hungary. The news report mentions that for the reason of not finding shelter in safe countries of Europe many Roma refugees have begun to return to Ukraine

Read More at

https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-radio-svoboda-dokumentalny-film-pro-bizhentsiv-romiv/32735552.html?fbclid=IwAR2Nn5B2BeLymXkaqAck_IldiQVa6gsyYbeFu6d91oFqjnnEYmSyI7Gt55E

Slavery and Memory in the case of Roma from Romania

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the Twenty-Eight Virtual Lecture on 30 November, 2023. The speaker was

Adrian-Nicolae Furtuna, PhD. Scholar at the Research Institute for Quality of Life of the Romanian Academy & Member of the Center for the History of Eugenics and Racism. He explained how Roma/Gypsies, who held slaves status in Wallachia and Moldova, were treated/ruled by their masters for five centuries in Romanian territories. He talked about then prevailing system of selling, buying and donating of Roma slaves to the monasteries or boyars or nobles as well as the roles of masters in regulating death, birth and marriage of their slaves. Adrian also pointed out similarities and changes in civil laws relating to the institution of slavery in both principalities as well as the abolition of slavery in Wallachia and Moldova in 1843 and 1844 respectively.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8EawuqLxRc>