

Centre For Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)

Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP)

Roma: Connecting with India

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Roma Voters Deliver Decisive Margin in Romania's Presidential Runoff

An analysis, carried out by the Roma for Democracy Foundation, revealed that Roma voters voted decisively in Romania's May 2025 Presidential Election in favour of the Liberal Nicușor Dan who defeated pro-Russian challenger George Simion. The voting turnout from 144 municipalities with significant Roma populations demonstrated a large-scale electoral engagement by Roma voters for the first time in more than a decade. The study also pointed out massive rise in support for Nicușor Dan because he publicly acknowledged Roma exclusion and structural racism as political issues. Alin Banu, Executive Director of the Roma for Democracy Foundation Romania, said that Dan's public acknowledgement was seen as the minimum act of recognition.

Read More at

<https://www.romania-insider.com/roma-voters-presidential-elections-may-2025>

Exclude Roma from Switzerland

PLR National Councillor Philippe Nantermod sparked controversy by his statement, "We must be able to ban Roma/travellers from entering Switzerland" in an interview with 24 Heures despite being the President of the Valais branch of the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism. Samson Yemane, a Municipal Councillor in Lausanne and also Vice-President of the Federal Commission against Racism, stated that Mr Nantermod's comments were both worrying and irresponsible. He further pointed out that it would be better to address the structural causes of the problem rather than making Roma/Travellers scapegoat. Later, Philippe Nantermod clarified that he spoke of a specific case and talked about specific individuals who had committed offenses in Switzerland that disturbed public order.

Read More at

<https://surl.li/pdfyuu>

Roma People Honour Memory of their Ancestors In the Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Roma communities commemorate Romani Resistance Day on May 16 every year to honour the memory of their ancestors who rebelled 81 years ago in the Gypsy camp, which was part of the German Auschwitz II-Birkenau concentration camp. The Auschwitz Museum estimates that 23,000 Roma and Sinti were deported to Auschwitz and 21,000 were murdered. The vast majority of them were imprisoned in the Zigeunerlager, which existed in Birkenau from February 1943 to August 1944. Speaking at the function, Director of the Roma History and Culture Center Władysław Kwiatkowski emphasized that it was an act of maintaining dignity in the face of death and termed that event as most heroic in the history of Auschwitz.

Read More at

<https://surl.lu/peghrm>

Khamoro: The Biggest Romani Cultural Festival in the World

The Khamoro is a weeklong annual World Romani Festival, held in Prague on 25 May 2025. Khamoro brings Romani artists from all over Europe to the metropolis with a colorful program full of concerts, discussions, and film screenings. The 27th festival showcases seven evenings of music from various genres, documentary films, literary readings, a parade by Romani artists through the City Centre, and organizing a conference on the subject of domestic violence within the Romani community in the Czech Republic. Artists from France, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Spain and, Greece will perform along with 20 additional activities like documentary film about one of the most iconic figures in film history, Charlie Chaplin, who had Romani roots, and also panel discussions themed on "Fighting Antigypsyism through Culture" with the aim of combating discrimination and prejudice.

Read More at

<https://romea.cz/en/czech-republic/khamoro-the-biggest-romani-cultural-festival-in-the-world-starts-25-may-in-prague>

Breaking Down Anti-Roma Prejudice through Poetry in Bosnia and Herzegovina

An article, written by Amina Sejfic, depicts how the poetry can help fighting prejudice and discrimination against Roma community. Almir Agic, a Romani poet from Ilijas, near Sarajevo, fights prejudice with poetry and art, giving a voice to those who are invisible in society. Roma are faced with prejudice, discrimination, and exclusion though they are the largest minority group in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He explains that poetry has the power to reach people in a way that arguments and statistics often cannot. Through verse, reality is presented not as a mere statistic but as an emotion that cannot be ignored. He further added that his poetry was not only a personal story; but giving out a broader message about the position of Roma in the society. Agic elucidated that prejudice was not always explicit but often appeared in subtle forms, through unspoken expectations, closed doors, and limited opportunities.

Read More at

<https://globalvoices.org/2025/04/28/breaking-down-anti-roma-prejudice-through-poetry-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina/>

Why I Hesitate to Tell People I am a Gypsy/Roma

Chantelle from Bedfordshire said that she was proud of her Romani background, however she has sometimes become nervous to share it because of negative portrayals of her community in the media. Chantelle features in Stacey Dooley's BBC documentary 'Growing Up Gypsy', which follows three young Romany women as they navigate everyday life. Romany Gypsies are one of the three ethnic groups within the GRT community in UK. Some in the community prefer to refer to themselves as travellers, while others prefer to use the term, Gypsy. Another Romani girl named Ebony from Nottinghamshire, works as a beautician and recalls a client at a previous job, who didn't know about her heritage, telling her she didn't want to park in a certain area because there were Gypsies living near there. She said that she was incredibly proud of her Romani heritage.

Read More at

<https://surl.li/qwbpfp>

Three Sentenced to Prison for Fatal Attack on Romani Camp in Lviv, Ukraine

On the night of 23 June 2018, racially motivated and brutal attack on a Romani camp on the outskirts of Lviv was perpetrated by a group of armed men who violently destroyed the tents of the Romani community and stabbed a 10-year-old Romani boy and a 24-year-old Romani man and beat another Romani person with hammer. After seven years of the incident, the Sykhiv District Court has sentenced three of the perpetrators (Roman Kalmuk, Yaroslav Puzhyl, and Andriy Tychka) to prison. Two group members received 10-year sentences and the group's organiser was given 10 years and 6 months to the prison. The attackers pleaded guilty and admitted forming the far-right group "Sober and Evil Youth", intentionally targeting the Romani community for elimination through violent means. The European Roma Rights Centre and the National Roma Centre on behalf of the victims took the Ukrainian National Police to court in 2018 for failing to protect Romani communities from racist violence, which amounted to violations of the European Convention on Human Rights and breached many other national and international human rights obligations.

Read More at

<https://surl.li/ookaof>

We are not a Problem – We are Potential

According to the Monitoring Report of the Roma Strategy 2022–2030, less than 15% of Roma in North Macedonia have completed secondary education, and only 1.3% have higher education. This is not because Roma do not want to learn but because they often do not have an equal start. Schools without teachers, discrimination in the classroom, poverty at home – these are the real barriers. 2023 Report of the European Commission informs that Roma remain the most marginalized community in the country, with limited access to healthcare, housing and social services. Roma are not a burden on the state, but an untapped resource. They are a young population with energy, talent and creativity. They are not systematically given access to opportunities, so they still continue to spiral into a vicious circle of exclusion.

Read More at

<https://surl.lu/fkkifu>

Roma Community in Norway

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi hosted the Fortieth Virtual Lecture of the monthly Lecture Series on 26th April, 2025. The speaker was Ms. Solomia Karoli from Norway who stated that Roma of Europe were the lost and forgotten children of India and their forefathers left India approximately 1000 years ago. European Roma brought Indian philosophy, thinking and experiences with themselves in Europe. She pointed out that Roma had never started any war but Kings and Emperors had engaged our ancestors to join wars because of the knowledge of weapons and art of the warfare. She further added that the European Roma were largest but most persecuted national minority. The biggest tragedy in Romani history took place during the Second World War when half million of Roma were killed in their homes and exterminated in Concentration Camps. She said that her family was hit directly and her family was very large before Second World War but only 66 of them survived.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrN8vfG-Ld0>

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