



European Roma Information Office

ERIO Newsletter

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NEWS

Far-right calls to register Roma 'echoes' Europe's dark history



By Aljazeera

On May 16, 1944, Nazi gunmen encircled a section of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland where some 6,000 Roma prisoners were held. They were preparing to send the inmates to the gas chambers. But the prisoners had caught wind of their plans and

armed themselves with pipes, sticks, stones and makeshift weapons cobbled together from scrap wood and sheet metal. While many Roma were murdered that night, their resistance led to Nazi Germany delaying their executions for several months, according to survivors.

During the Holocaust, censuses were used to identify minority groups to send to camps where Jews, Roma and others were slaughtered. Each year, the Romani Day of Resistance is marked in Europe on May 16 to commemorate the uprising in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Read more [here](#)

Hundreds of Roma forcibly evicted from camp in Rome



By Aljazeera

Despite a decision by the European Court of Human Rights to halt the evacuation of a Roma camp in northern Rome, Italian police and municipal authorities evicted its roughly 300 residents.

The operation at Camping River started in the early morning and deployed a large police contingent, continuing throughout the day. By early afternoon, however, more than 100 residents were still outside the camp's gate with their belongings and said they had nowhere to go. Some of the evicted families had been lucky to find some shade amid cardboard boxes, luggage, and piled up mattresses strewn in front of the entrance to the camp, as well as along the long country road that leads to the nearest village.

Read more [here](#)

Romania: 900 protest recent violence against Roma in Italy and Ukraine, more demonstrations in other European countries to follow



By Romea.cz

As many as 900 people assembled on Saturday, 28 July 2018 in Bucharest, Romani in front of the Italian and Ukrainian embassies to express their disagreement with many violent anti-Romani crimes and to protest antigypsyism in Europe. The

assemblies were the first in a series of protests that are being realized in nine European countries.

In the Czech Republic, Romani people and others assembled on Tuesday, 31 July 2018 in Prague to protest the same issue. "An informal group of Romani activists held a protest against the racist attacks in Ukraine. We also protested in front of the Italian Embassy against the plan of Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, a member of an ultra-right party, to conduct a census of Romani people in Italy and to apply some racist policies against them," Florin Nastule, a co-organizer of the Bucharest event, told news server Romea.cz.

Read more [here](#)

Council of Europe honours Roma victims of the Holocaust: “acknowledge the past and improve Roma rights today”



By Council of Europe

On the 2 August 2018 in Strasbourg, the Council of Europe held a commemorative wreath-laying ceremony in memory of Roma and Sinti victims of the Holocaust. This year marks the 74th anniversary of 2 August, 1944, when all remaining

Roma of the so-called “Zigeunerlager” (Gypsy camp) – 2,897 men, women and children – were exterminated in the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Romani genocide, later known as Pharrajimos, was the plan by the Nazi regime and those who supported it to exterminate the Romani people of Europe. While exact figures or percentages cannot be ascertained, historians estimate that around 25 per cent of all European Roma were killed, and over 90% in several European countries.

Read more [here](#)

New Romani and Travellers learning training module



By Travellers Times

Following the recent publication of the Welsh Government's 'Enabling Gypsies, Roma and Travellers' plan, the Centre for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) has released a new 'Romani and Traveller Healthcare' e-learning training module which is the culmination of a year-long collaboration with the Romani Cultural and Arts Company.

More than 100 stories were gathered for 'Stories of Health & Wellness', a three-year research project led by the Romani, Cultural and Arts Company and funded by the CEHR. Isaac Blake, Director of the Romani Cultural and Arts Company said that the e-learning module was essential for health services.

Read more [here](#)

Digital exhibition about the genocide of the Sinti and the Roma accompanied by stories from Central and Eastern Europe



By Travellers Times

The digital exhibition on Romasinti.eu about the genocide of the Sinti and the Roma during the Second World War is accompanied by special stories from Hungary, Croatia and Romania.

The forgotten genocide exhibition tells the story of the persecuted Sinti and Roma children with the use of unique source materials. Together these diverse stories illustrate the events which occurred during that period. Very little is known about the genocide of the Sinti and the Roma during the Nazi regime. The persecution remained unmentioned until long after the war, even in the Sinti and Roma communities themselves. Hundreds and thousands of Sinti and Roma died, more than half of whom were under the age of 14. The digital exhibition gives an impression of this dark chapter in European history with the use of stories about children from different European countries.

Read more [here](#)

Register NOW for the study visit and WG meeting on Roma inclusion on 24-25 September in Leeds



By Eurocities

The autumn meeting of the working group Roma inclusion will take place on 24-25 September in Leeds. It will bring together cities from different corners of Europe to learn and inspire one another on how to address inequalities and foster the inclusion of Roma people, Europe's biggest ethnic minority. The meeting will include a study visit and an exhibition of projects and

services that support Roma inclusion in Leeds.

The thematic focus will be on the role of cities in safeguarding Roma people, especially children, from abuse and neglect by ensuring their access to healthcare and social rights.

Read more [here](#)

Catalan Gypsies, unique and embattled, resist as homes are reduced to rubble



By The New York Times

First it was the 20 old houses demolished several years ago. Then 13 more 19th-century houses came down in June, wrought-iron balconies and all, leaving only bare asphalt baking in the summer heat in Perpignan, a city near France's border with Spain and close to the Mediterranean coast.

Finally, the residents of the city's old Saint Jacques district had endured enough. Well over 50 dwellings in their neighborhood had been reduced to rubble since 2015. Late last month, they gathered in the district's ancient square high on a hill, as a city excavator was making another mess of bricks and jagged wall fragments nearby.

Dozens marched from there down to the prefecture, the central government's representative, demanding to be heard. City Hall backed down. The excavator was withdrawn, the demolitions left at a standstill.

Read more [here](#)

Gypsies by David Cressy and The Stopping Places by Damian Le Bas review – the truth about life on the road



By The Guardian

Elizabeth Canning, a maidservant, was abducted as she walked to her lodgings in the City of London on New Year's Day 1753. She claimed that two men dragged her away to "a house of ill-repute" in Enfield where she was confronted by an old Gypsy woman who asked

her to become a prostitute. When Canning refused, the Gypsy cut off the girl's corset and shut her up in the loft. After being kept prisoner for a month, Canning managed to scramble out of a window and limp the 10 miles home.

Initially it seemed an open and shut case with a pleasingly simple moral design. The "ugly, old, decrepit hag", Mary Squires, was condemned to hang and meek and mild Canning was lauded for her maidenly virtue. But something wasn't right. There was the stubborn fact that on the day of the abduction Squires and her adult children were 160 miles away in Dorset, and would not arrive in Enfield until three weeks later.

Read more [here](#)

Enacted Action plan for Roma in Tuzla



By IRIS Network

The Association of Roma "EuroRom", member of the IRIS BiH network dealing with Roma people, announced the information on the follow up activity completed in previous project phase of CSF funded IRIS project, that The Action plan for Roma in Tuzla City 2018-2021 was enacted in November 2017 by City Council of Tuzla.

Additionally, it was financially supported in amount of 40.000,00KM for its implementation. This advocacy activity was funded within Small Grant Facility program Phase II and the title of the Action was "Development of Local action plans for effective social inclusion of Roma" with the main goal to improve policies and practices in the area of social inclusion and establishment of the system of providing quality social services for the Roma population in the area of Tuzla Canton.

Read more [here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

International Seminar: From Education to Employment - a key step in Roma inclusion



By the Croatian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers

Making the transition from education to employment, a priority during the Croatian Chairmanship, will follow the European Commission recommendations related to these topics, build on the Council of Europe Thematic

Action Plan for the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019), as well as ensure follow-up to the 4th Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society (Strasbourg, October 2017) and the 11th meeting of the EU Platform for Roma Inclusion (Brussels, November 2017) which both focused on the transition from education to employment for young Roma. This event, which takes place from **25 to 26 September 2018**, will also follow-up CAHROM Thematic visits related to access to education and employment.

Read more [here](#)