NEWS

ERIO’s advocacy training on Roma inclusion

By ERIO

On 19-20 December 2018 ERIO organised the training “Advocacy for Roma inclusion” in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The training aimed to assist Roma activists in conducting advocacy campaigns to fight discrimination and improving their advocacy skills to advance the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies, as well as anti-discrimination and social inclusion policies at national and local level.

The training was developed with the view that Roma community-based advocacy needs to be better promoted, especially at the level of grassroots groups, networks, and organisations with the necessary information and advocacy skills to demand that Roma community needs and priorities need to be addressed. Special focus was placed on the delivery of information concerning Roma rights and recent developments in European Roma policy making at EU and national level relevant to community- and national-based organisations. Participants were also informed about the different types of EU funds, how to apply and how to use them for the successful integration of Roma.

Participants had the opportunity to put into practice what they learned during the two-days training through practical exercises. The advocacy training offered our team as well as our trainees the opportunity to exchange experiences, and good practice examples in terms of advocacy approaches, and establish new contacts with a view to improving the tools for the social inclusion and non-discrimination of Roma in the EU.
Roma In Greece: Another Story Of Invisibility

By medium.com

In the first days of summer 2018, a 9 year old Roma girl was shot in the head in front of her parents and the rest of her community. The offender, a Greek butcher, aged 34, had allegedly come to the Roma’s camp in the city of Amfissa, Greece, to find the burglars that had some days ago invaded his butchery. He carried a gun with him and shot: the young girl died in her mother’s arms within minutes.

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Documentary highlights how Slovak society failed its Roma minority

By newsmavens.com

Slovakia has not yet dealt with its widespread racism towards the Roma minority. And Slovaks do not want to admit that the Roma minority is struggling not because they are unable to succeed, but rather because of systemic racism and the prejudice of the people who are supposed to help them.

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Grammy nominee Rosalía's flamenco fame is questioned by Spain's Roma community

By pri.org

Rosalía Vila Tobella was up for five Latin Grammys—the second-most nominated artist behind reggaeton giant J Balvin. A pop sensation credited with revolutionizing flamenco, the singer known simply as Rosalía had been steadily gaining traction for a few years when her smash hit, “Malamente” (“Badly”), released in May this year, shot her to stardom.

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Gypsy and traveller families ‘hounded out’ of areas in act of ‘social cleansing’ as councils impose sweeping bans

By independent.co.uk

Gypsies and travellers are being “hounded out” of parts of England as a growing number of local authorities impose sweeping bans to prevent them from settling on their land, in what has been described as a form of social cleansing.

Families are being constantly ordered to move on, leading to mental health issues and disruption to children’s development, as a string of councils obtain wide high court injunction orders ban unauthorised encampments across entire towns.

Lawyers, MPs and charities accused ministers of “ratcheting up” action against travellers on unauthorised sites without ensuring there was enough supply to address the “chronic shortage” of authorised encampments across the country.

Read more here

LGT acts to stop encampment bans

By londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk

London Gypsies and Travellers stepped up its fight against legal moves by local authorities to effectively ban nomadic Gypsies and Travellers from making encampments on any parks, commons, open spaces and industrial land. On 26th November, it began a legal challenge against the London Borough of Bromley’s attempts to gain such an injunction order.

“We are seeing a rapid increase in the number of local authorities applying for wide injunction orders,” says LGT’s Chief Executive Debby Kennett. “This is fast becoming one of the biggest issues facing those in the Gypsy and Traveller community who are still nomadic and living on roadside camps.”

Read more here
Record results for gypsy and traveller children in Torfaen

By Torfaen.gov.uk

Record numbers of gypsy and traveller children in Torfaen are gaining new skills and qualifications thanks to the success of the borough's Gypsy and Traveller Education Service. More than 130 gypsy and traveller children are supported each year by the service which provides support across primary, secondary and post-16 education.

This year, Carly Morgan became the first traveller pupil to move into sixth form education and study for her A-Levels while the latest statistics show that all pupils are now leaving school with at least five GCSEs with one achieving 12 A-C grades. All pupils are supported to go onto further education, employment or training.

Read more here

Gypsies and Travellers are filling up foodbanks across the UK

By travellerstimes.org.uk

Gypsies and Travellers have been donating and filling up food banks across the UK as part of the #Foodbankchallenge. Travellers' Times news feeds have been swamped with Travellers posting photos and videos of their shopping trolley donations and nominating friends and family on facebook to take on the #foodbankChallenge.

Read more here

Gypsy women in Spain poised to start a health revolution

By elpais.com

“We are embarking on a silent revolution,” says Ana Vázquez from the Alboreá Association of Roma Women during a workshop held in the Santa Cristina Hospital to explore the challenges of health in this marginalized community. “We are promoting development within the Gypsy community by empowering the women.”

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Conference on anti-Gypsyism

By eu2018.at

The expert conference on anti-Gypsyism on the 27.11.2018 in Vienna, looked specifically into how anti-Gypsyism can be addressed in a possible post-2020 EU Roma Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies.

The conference discussed ways forward in the fight against anti-Gypsyism under a possible future EU Framework. Expert recommendations produced during the conference contributed to the European Commission’s reflections on the post-2020 European approach to Roma inclusion, as called for by the member states in the Council conclusions on accelerating the process of Roma integration of 8 December 2016.

Read more here

Romani people adopted as children from Slovakia to Sweden 20 years ago revisit their native settlement

By romea.cz

Alexander Armbäck is 28 years old, has a Swedish name, a college degree, a job, owns an apartment and is married. Because of his darker skin and curly black hair, people usually take him for an Italian or a Spaniard.

He was actually born in a Romani settlement in eastern Slovakia. When he was a year and a half old, a Swedish couple adopted him. Alexander and two other adopted boys from Slovakia, Christofer and Erik, decided to find out what their biological families look like and how they are living today. Katarína Farkašová found their families and planned their visit, accompanying them with a film crew.

The men have now seen the place where they were born and where they might have grown up if everything had been different. They have also seen how their lives would have turned out if they had remained in the settlement.

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Two films prompt a debate about portrayals of Spain’s Roma on screen

By economist.com

FOR A wandering people, Andalusia, at the edge of the Iberian peninsula, is the end of the road. Many Roma have settled there and, compared to communities in other European countries, they are well integrated. They make use of education and health care, as well as housing and employment programmes; culturally, Roma are the lifeblood of flamenco. But when it comes to representation on screen, they are either invisible or mocked. That is why two recent films looking at Roma lives, both directed by non-Roma Spaniards, were scrutinised. One took the top prize at the San Sebastián Film Festival in September, while the other drew complaints and a boycott from Roma associations.

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GLA funds negotiated stopping research

By londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk

London Gypsies and Travellers announces the start of a research project to reveal the potential of negotiated stopping in London. The project will receive up to £30,000 of grant funding from the Mayor of London and will be carried out in collaboration with Professor Jo Richardson at DeMontfort University (DMU). The research will include interviews with Gypsy and Traveller families living in roadside camps, a survey of all London Boroughs and more in-depth interviews. Findings and recommendations will be published in a final report in June 2019.

Read more here
Early Rain Conference For Leaders

By gypsymissions.org

Hungarian Gypsy Missions International held the “Early Rain” conference in Kecskemét on 24th November, 2018. Nearly 100 people participated in the event from different parts of the country. Executive Elder András Berki led the event and it was launched with the songs of the worship band “Fiery Hearts” from Hajdúhadház. Following that the president of the mission, Albert Durkó shared his thoughts and vision.

“I Believe in revival—it spreads across all Europe”—he emphasized during his speech. This world is in crisis. The morals have fallen. The enemy is raging because he knows that his time is at its end. God’s promises are true and will be fulfilled. The Gypsy revival has begun in Europe and an estimated number of 2.5 million Gypsies have been saved. God will make Gypsies to become first from the last. Gypsies! Your time has come!

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Roma and Hungarian cultures complement one another

By kormany.hu

The cultures of the Roma and Hungarian people have mutually influenced one another over the centuries, and the two peoples share a common passion for family, faith and respect for traditions, the Minister of Human Capacities said at the meeting of the Roma Coordination Council held on Monday in Budapest.

Miklós Kásler took the view that the Hungarian people have always held ancient and Christian traditions in high regard, appreciated other nations which arrived in the Carpathian Basin, and strove to live together with them in peace.

This has also characterised the coexistence of Roma and Hungarians throughout history, the politician added.

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Anti-Gypsyism: the last acceptable form of racism in Europe?

By travellerstime.org.uk

Anti-Gypsyism is a particular form of racism that has been spreading across Europe for centuries, and it is now time to take action on how it can be challenged argue Brigitta Balogh and Colin Clark.

Anti-Gypsyism is a form of prejudice, discrimination and racism against Europe’s largest ethnic minority group. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe has defined anti-Gypsyism as a “specific form of racism, an ideology founded on racial superiority, a form of dehumanisation and institutional racism nurtured by historical discrimination, which is expressed, among others, by violence, hate speech, exploitation, stigmatisation and the most blatant kind of discrimination”

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Open call to Y12 students based in London - Kings College are offering GRT priority spaces

By travellerstime.org.uk

King’s College London are giving priority spaces for current year 12 students with Gypsy, Roma or Traveller Heritage (including Showpeople) for 3 or 4 day courses that include academic sessions, application support, and one to one advice from current medicine and dentistry students.

Dentview and Medview are 3 or 4 day courses that include academic sessions, application support, and one to one advice from current medicine and dentistry students. This is a great opportunity for current year 12s in London to gain experience and skills in a competitive area. Spaces are limited but for the first time King’s College London are giving special consideration and priority spaces for students with Gypsy, Roma or Traveller Heritage (including Showpeople). The application window for this is very short - it closes on 6th January.

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