



European Roma Information Office

ERIO Newsletter

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NEWS

Serbia's Stateless Roma Struggle for Visibility



By Balkan Insight

It is estimated that Serbia is home to about 500,000 Roma in all, of whom about 32,000, or 6 per cent, do not have IDs. Without these documents – lost through war, displacement or just sheer bad luck – they are classified as stateless persons.

Read more [here](#).

Proxy for Rom criticises minister Kaliňák for ethnical and group discrimination



By The Slovak Spectator

The Government Proxy for Roma Communities, Ábel Ravasz (junior coalition party Most-Híd), objected to the intention of Interior Minister Robert Kaliňák (ruling Smer party) to push through the law on repressing criminality in Roma settlements.

Read more [here](#).

Centre for Roma Rights sues Slovak interior minister over discrimination



By The Slovak Spectator

The ERRC has been collecting evidence of discriminatory practices against Roma in recent years by police, including ethnic profiling and Roma-targeted police raids. Most recently, Minister Robert Kaliňák has also announced a new law to collect statistics on “Roma crime” and increase police powers, the website reads, adding that the ERRC finds this announcement to

be further evidence for the institutional racism present in the ministry.

Read more [here](#).

Slovak anti-Romani law protested by Amnesty International, Justice Minister and Plenipotentiary for Roma Affairs



By Romea.cz

Amnesty International Slovakia is criticizing proposed measures for combating so-called "Romani crime" which were presented last week by Slovak Interior Minister Robert Kaliňák (Smer) and Police President Tibor Gašpar. According to AI, the measures are aimed against ethnic Roma as a group and violated international and national

legal regulations about discrimination and equal opportunity, which means they are illegal.

Read more [here](#).

Ireland's Roma community living in 'extreme poverty' and marginalised from state services and support



By the Irish Post

The survey as carried out by the Traveller and Roma support organisation Pavee Point, says that the Roma community are completely marginalised from State services and supports, while “over half of respondents reported someone in the household has gone to bed hungry.”

The report also estimates that around 5,000 members of the Roma community, mostly of Romanian origin are living in Ireland, with the majority residing in Dublin, Cork, Kerry, Kildare, Louth, Clare and Donegal.

Read more [here](#).

Roma children living in 'overcrowded houses with rats, damp and sewage'



By thejournal.ie

A report on living conditions for the Roma community in Ireland has highlighted issues with severe poverty and exclusion from services in the country. The report launched by the Department of Justice and Equality today found many Roma are living in overcrowded rat infested accommodation sometimes with no gas, water or electricity.

One in ten have no kitchen, fridge or bathroom in their accommodation. The findings revealed that there are up to 20% of respondents who are completely marginalised from services and supports. Respondents reported children living in these situations of extreme poverty and deprivation, with children being sent to school hungry and with no lunch.

Read more [here](#).

Many Roma in Ireland are living in terrible conditions but they need to meet us halfway to solve the issues



By The Irish Sun

With many Roma living in extreme poverty the author questions the Irish attitude towards that community but reckons they need to meet us half way

Read more [here](#).

First Holocaust exhibition on display in Perth. Memorial to Roma Gypsy Travellers



By Daily Record

The exhibition, which highlights the plight of Roma and Gypsy Travellers across Europe during the Holocaust, was officially unveiled at Perth's AK Bell Library on Friday.

The project has been led by Gypsy Traveller inter-cultural project Rajpot, which aims to develop the Travellers' cultural centre in the Pitlochry area. The display will now be on show at the York Place library until Friday.

Read more [here](#).

'They took my life. I'm grieving for a child who is still alive'



By The Guardian

New figures show a huge rise in Romany and Traveller families having their children taken away. It's being blamed on institutional prejudice. Jessica Simpson goes as far as to say that she lost her child not because of alleged neglect but as a result of prejudice because she is an English Romany Gypsy. And her

belief appears to be borne out in a new study shared exclusively with the Guardian, which reveals that since 2009, government figures show the number of Gypsy or Roma children in care in England has surged by 93% and those of Travellers of Irish heritage by 400%. Over the same period, the overall number of children in care increased by an average 19%.

Read more [here](#).

Anti-Roma stigma of Czech president Miloš Zeman threatens progress over Romani rights



By The Conversation

In late 2017, Zeman provocatively claimed in a television interview that 90% of his country's "unadaptable" citizens are probably Roma. He was responding to a UN human rights report that called for better integration of Roma in the Czech Republic. Whoever wins the presidential election, Czech and Slovak Roma will continue to face long-running struggles:

to win compensation for Romani women sterilised without their consent, to desegregate the education of Romani school children, or to combat social exclusion.

Read more [here](#).

At Jewish-Roma Holocaust event, bowing heads to the ‘forgotten victims’



By The Times of Israel

BRUSSELS — Jewish European leaders and Israeli lawmakers gathered with representatives of the Roma community in the European Parliament on Wednesday for a joint commemoration of the Holocaust, the first such joint event at the legislative body, with European MPs of Romani extraction lamenting widespread ignorance about the “forgotten victims

of the Holocaust” and bemoaning the rise of the far-right.

Read more [here](#).

Holocaust remembrance – we cannot stay silent again



By Euractiv

SORAYA POST - On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January, we remember and honour all the children, women and men that were tortured and murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust and we reinstate our commitment to fighting anti-Semitism, anti-Gypsyism, racism, and other

forms of intolerance.

Read more [here](#).

Why I want the government to collect data about my ethnicity



By Norwich Radical

The collection of data by ethnicity is often implicitly associated with discrimination across Europe

The problem is, without data disaggregated by ethnicity, Romani and Traveller populations become invisible. The people who matter (politicians, policy makers and local authorities) have an easy excuse for not challenging disparities in health, education, welfare or employment because there is no information which tells them where the problems lie. Worse, this makes it easier for these same people and others to ignore, exploit, or discriminate against Romani and Traveller people across Europe.

Read more [here](#).

Pig farm to be removed from Roma Holocaust site



By The Times of Israel

PRAGUE — The decision, enshrined in an agreement signed Friday in Prague, came after months of campaigning spearheaded by the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM), and will see the farm removed from the village of Lety, south of Prague, by the end of February.

Read more [here](#).

Romania's Roma culture seeks stage through feminist theatre company Giuvlipen



By the Indian Express

The play, in which people from the community also act, addresses issues related to domestic violence, poverty, racism and the challenges of living and working in Western Europe.

Read more [here](#).

Gypsies and Travellers in UK face housing crisis, charities warn



By The Guardian

The UK is in the midst of a “housing crisis” among its nomadic communities, charities have warned, due to a shortage of authorized sites for Gypsies and Travellers to set up on.

The crisis has led to a reported rise in Gypsies and Travellers setting up unauthorized encampments in car parks and on playing fields, often enraging locals. In turn, local authorities, police and MPs across the country have called for increased eviction powers to move people on when they settle their caravans.

Read more [here](#).

Roma children malnourished due to 'extreme' poverty, report says



By the Irish Times

More than half the [Roma](#) people in [Ireland](#) are living in consistent poverty, a study has found.

Many Roma households have no income other than through begging, with some experiencing such deep poverty they do not send their children to school for fear of them being taken into care.

Read more [here](#).

The Roma are yet again scapegoats for society's ills



By the Guardian

In Govanhill, a little network of streets and avenues on Glasgow's South Side, the besmirching of another immigrant community is in full spate. A century ago, it was the poor Irish, fleeing famine and persecution by the British government, who were being demonised. Now it's the turn of the Roma people. Britain's largest concentration of Roma families resides in Glasgow, where they began to settle in numbers following the 2004 expansion of the EU.

Read more [here](#).