

8 April 2021

#InternationalRomaniDay

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST ROMANI CONGRESS



Context

International Romani Day (8 April) is a day to celebrate Romani culture, history and language, and to raise awareness of the issues Romani people still face. It was officially declared in 1990 during the 4th World Romani Congress, in honour of the first major international meeting of Romani representatives, 7-12 April 1971, in Orpington near London, UK.

This day should serve as a reminder that Romani people – as the largest European ethnic minority – have contributed to Europe's diversity and enriched our heritage for centuries. However, many of the 10-12 million Romani people in Europe still suffer from poverty and exclusion. The existence of widespread antigypsyism reinforces and aggravates their economic and social deprivation. These inequalities persist despite ongoing efforts at national, European, and international level to tackle prejudice and discrimination.

Experience with Romani inclusion actions shows that long-term change in any of the policy areas requires tackling antigypsyism and discrimination towards Romani people. To succeed, Roma inclusion actions in all policy areas must be linked to common values and include awareness raising among the public. To fight stereotypes, hate speech, and hate crime it is necessary to build positive narratives among mainstream society and strengthen Romani identity, via specific targeted and binding measures to ensure equality and inclusion, to fight antigypsyism and promote recognition of Romani history (including the Holocaust).

The conference brings together EU leaders, representatives of European and national institutions, Romani politicians and civil society, grassroots activists, youth, women and ordinary Romani people. A diversity of skills and experiences that will make the Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Romani people more possible and will stay united against antigypsyism.

8 April 2021

#InternationalRomaniDay

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST ROMANI CONGRESS



Online High-level Conference

12:00 - 15:00

AGENDA

- 12:00 - 12:05** **Opening ceremony**
Intonation of the Romani Anthem Gelem, Gelem
- 12:05 - 12:10** **Welcoming remarks**
Mr. Romeo Franz, Member of the European Parliament
- 12:10 - 12:30** **Keynote speech from the leaders of EU Institutions**
Ms. Ursula von der LEYEN - President of the European Commission (tbc)
Mr. Davida Sassoli - President of the European Parliament
Mr. Charles Michel - President of the European Council
Ms. Nuno Brito - Council of the European Union
- 12:30 - 12:45** **50 years after the First Romani Congress. How it started and what has been done?**
Mr. Grattan Puxon - Romani activist, participant at the First Romani Congress
Ms. Soraya Post - former Member of the European Parliament
Mr. Juan de Dios Ramírez-Heredia- former Member of the European Parliament tbc
Ms. Miranda Vuolasranta - European Roma and Travellers Forum
- 12:45 - 12:55** **Break - Romani Musicians performance**

8 April 2021

#InternationalRomaniDay

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST ROMANI CONGRESS



Making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality. The way forward to fight against antigypsyism. Who, what and how?

12:55 - 13:20

EU policy making and support

Ms. Helena Dalli - EU Commissioner for Equality
MEP Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
MEP Peter Polack, EPP
MEP Anna Donath, RE
MEP Cornelia Ernst, GUE
MEP Terry Reintke, GREENS
MEP Sergey Lagodinsky, GREENS,
MEP Carmen Avram, S&D

13:20 - 13:35

The way forward to combat negative attitudes against Romani People

Ms. Margareta Matache, Harvard University, U.S.A.
Mr. Dan Pavel Doghi, Chief of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE/ODIHR, Poland
Ms. Jelena Jovanovic, Coordinator of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup, European Parliament
Mr. Frank Reuter, University of Heidelberg, Germany
National Agency for Roma, Romania

13:35 - 13:55

The role of youth and women in making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality

Ms. Maria Atanasova, youth activist, Bulgaria
Mr. Atanas Stoyanov, Phiren Amenca, Brussels
Ms. Irina Spataru, youth activist, Austria
Mr. Norbert Iuonas, Civic Union of Romanian Roma Youth, Romania
Ms. Maria Dumitru, youth activist, Spain

8 April 2021

#InternationalRomaniDay

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST ROMANI CONGRESS



Mr. Senad Sakipovsky, Institute for Roma and Minorities Integration
Wuppertal, Germany
Ms. Adriana Lamackova, Center for Reproductive Rights, Switzerland
Ms. Terezia Rostas - Kskosan, UK
Ms. Daniela Lakatos, youth activist, Hungary

14:55 - 14:00

Break - Romani musician performance

14:00 - 14:20

The role of Civil Society in making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality

Ms. Gabriela Hrabanova, European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network, Brussels
Mr. Daniel Strauss, Romno Kher, Germany
Ms. Belen Sanchez, Fundation Secretariado Gitano, Spain
Mr. Ivan Ivanov, European Roma Information Office, Brussels
Ms. Radost Zaharieva, European Public Health Alliance, Brussels
Mr. Adem Ademi, European Roma Equality Network, Brussels
Ms. Tanja Dzordzevic, Association of Roma Coordinators, Serbia
Ms. Victoria Aluna, UK

14:20 - 14:35

The power of political representation in making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality

Ms. Liliana Hristache, Local Councilor, Montreuil - Paris, France
Mr. Ismael Cortez, Member of the Spanish Parliament, Spain
Mr. Catalin Manea, Member of the Romanian Parliament, Romania
Ms. Arabela Iljaz, Ministry of Education and Science, Senior Associate for Implementation of Romani Education Policies, Northern Macedonia
Mr. Tefik Mahmut, politician from Northern Macedonia

8 April 2021

#InternationalRomaniDay

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST ROMANI CONGRESS



14:35 - 14:55

The role of grassroots activism in making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality

Ms. Eva Rizzini, Italy

Mr. Andren Bejta, Germany

Ms. Milla Burik, Roma Association Utrecht, Netherlands

Mr. Sebihan Demirovsky, Northern Macedonia

Ms. Marina Horvat, Roma Youth Organization, Croatia

Mr. Bruno Gomes, Letras Nomadas, Portugal

Ms. Marge Lehmann, Sinti and Roma Pride, Germany

Mr. Robert Brisenstam, Sweden

Mr. Emiliano Aliu, Roma Versitas, Albania

14:55 - 15:00

Conclusions by MEP Romeo Franz

8 April 2021 International Romani Day