



PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, March 27, 2019

Romaday 2019 – Roma for Europa!

On the occasion of ROMADAY 2019 and the approaching European elections, the Alliance for Solidarity with the Sinti and Roma of Europe is asking what Sinti and Roma have to say about the fragile Europe of the present – what strategies can they use based on their individual biographies and experiences facing the increasingly polarizing society? Every year the ROMADAY commemorates the first World Roma Congress on 8 April 1971 and therefore pays tribute to the beginning of the worldwide Roma and Sinti emancipation movement.

From the 4th to 8th April 2019, representatives of the minority which has been living in Europe for over 1,000 years will discuss their perspectives on Europe in a series of events and tell stories that have remained unheard for centuries: Stories of self-assertion, cohesion and defiance against social antagonism, as well as stories of arrival.

A time witness discussion with Zilli Reichmann at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on April 4, 2019 at 6 p.m. will mark the start. Zilli Reichmann, born 1924 in Thuringia, survived the concentration camp Lety in Bohemia, the so-called Gypsy Family Camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau and the concentration camp Ravensbrück.

On the 7th of April 2019 at 3.30 p.m., the Alliance is calling for solidarity with opening speeches in front of the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered under the National Socialist Regime, followed by a Romaday parade. Speakers include: Ferda Ataman (co-founder of the Neue Deutsche Medienmacher and spokeswoman of the Neue Deutsche Organisationen), Berenice Böhlo (board member of the Republican Lawyers' Association and co-initiator of the Alliance #unteilbar), Henny Engels (board member of the Lesbian and Gay Association), Romeo Franz (Member of the European Parliament), Uwe Neumärker (Director of the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe), Petra Pau (Vice-President of the German Parliament), Tetiana Storozhko (Roma activist from Ukraine) and Karen Taylor (Member of the Board of the European Network Against Racism and Political Officer for Human Rights at the German Parliament).

The musical reading and discussion »GYPSY REPORTS AND SONGS FROM BREXITLAND« and the Forum Theater Workshop »KNOW. ACT. CHANGE« with young people from Ukraine and Berlin deal with current problems at the borders of the EU.

The complete programme of ROMADAY 2019 with all participants and campaign material can be found at <https://romaday.org/> or Facebook and Twitter @romadayeveryday.

Background

The Alliance for Solidarity with the Sinti and Roma of Europe was founded in 2015 on the initiative of the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and RomaTrial e. V. It unites almost 30 civil society organisations that work together in fighting Antigypsyism. On the World Roma Day 2016, the Alliance made its first public appearance with a rally and a call for solidarity with the Sinti and Roma of Europe. Since then it has been organising events with partners in the context of World Roma Day and beyond, such as the first Roma Biennale in April 2018 or a nationwide conference to mark the fifth anniversary of the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered under the National Socialist Regime in November 2017. The Alliance also calls for a worthy commemoration of places of persecution and murder of the minority during National Socialism. The call »Every Day is Romaday!« can be signed at <https://romaday.org/>.

Contact

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GORKI STUDIO Я



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