

# HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

## 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, Romani 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 develop and implement legislation, but also 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, youth, men and women. 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.

**We are European Romani People! Equal and Diverse!**

## AGENDA

- 12:00 - 12:05**      **Opening Ceremony**  
Romani Anthem “Gelem, Gelem”  
**Sunny Franz & Sascha Reinhardt**
- 12:05 - 12:10**      **Welcoming Remarks**  
**Romeo Franz**, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA
- 12:10 - 12:20**      **Keynote Speech from Leaders of EU Institutions**  
**David Sassoli**, President of the European Parliament  
**Helena Dalli**, European Commissioner for Equality  
**Cláudia Pereira**, Secretary of State for Integration and Migration, Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- 12:20 - 12:40**      **50 Years after the First Romani Congress. What must be done?**  
**Juan de Dios Ramírez Heredia**, former Member of the European Parliament  
**Grattan Puxon**, Secretary General of the First Romani Congress  
**Miranda Vuolasranta**, European Roma and Travellers Forum
- 12:40 - 12:45**      **Break - Romani Musician Performance**  
**Rodica Elena Tudor**, Centre of Resources for Social Inclusion CRIS, Romania
- Making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality. The way forward to fight against antigypsyism. Who, what and how?**
- 12:40 - 13:05**      **EU Policy Making and Support**  
**Juan Fernando López Aguilar**, Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, S&D  
**Peter Pollák**, Member of the European Parliament, EPP  
**Anna Júlia Donáth**, Member of the European Parliament, RE  
**Terry Reintke**, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA  
**Sergey Lagodinsky**, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA  
**Carmen Avram**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D
- 13:05 - 13:30**      **The way forward to combat negative attitudes against Romani People**  
**Margareta Matache**, Director of the Roma Program at Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, U.S.  
**Dan Pavel Doghi**, Chief of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE/ODIHR, Poland  
**Jelena Jovanović**, Coordinator of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup in the European Parliament, Belgium  
**Frank Reuter**, Scientific Director of the Research Centre on Antigypsyism Heidelberg University, Germany  
**Eva Rizzini**, Scientific Coordinator of the National Antigypsyism Observatory, University of Verona, Italy  
**Radost Zaharieva**, European Public Health Alliance, Belgium

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- 13:30 - 13:35**      **Break - Romani Musician Performance**  
The music band of **Victor Rădulescu**
- 13:35 - 13:55**      **Making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality – Intersectional Perspectives**  
**Maria Atanasova**, 2020 Young European of the Year, Bulgaria  
**Atanas Stoyanov**, Phiren Amenca, Belgium  
**Maria Dumitru**, Youth and Gender Equality Activist, Spain  
**Senad Sakipovski**, Institute for Roma and Minorities Integration Wuppertal, Germany  
**Adriana Lamačková**, Centre for Reproductive Rights, Switzerland  
**Terezia Rostas**, Kaskosan, UK  
**Monika Ajvazović**, Association of Young Volunteers, Serbia  
**Shimano Petermann**, Youth Activist, Germany  
**Natasa Tasic Knezevic**, Opera Singer at the Serbian National Theatre
- 13:55 - 14:30**      **The Role of Civil Society in making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality**  
**Daniel Strauss**, Romno Kher, Germany  
**Maja Saitović**, Public Health Program, Open Society Foundations, Germany  
**Gabor Iancu**, Romani CRISS, Romania  
**Belen Sánchez Rubio**, Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Spain  
**Adem Ademi**, European Roma Equality Network, Belgium  
**Aluna Lepadatu**, Luton Roma Trust, UK  
**Đorđe Jovanović**, President of the European Roma Rights Centre, Belgium  
**Gabriela Hrabanova**, European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network, Belgium
- 14:30 - 14:35**      **Break - Romani Musician Performance**  
**Sunny Franz & Sascha Reinhardt**
- 14:35 - 14:55**      **The power of political representation in making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality**  
**Liliana Hristache**, Local Councillor, Montreuil - Paris, France  
**Cătălin Manea**, Member of the Parliament, Romania  
**Arabela Iljaz**, Senior Associate for Implementation of Romani Education Policies Ministry of Education and Science, North Macedonia  
**Rafael Saavedra**, Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Spain  
**Tefik Mahmut**, Human Rights Lawyer, North Macedonia
- 14:55 - 15:20**      **The role of grassroots activism in making Romani Equality, Inclusion and Participation a Reality**  
**Marina Horvat**, Roma Youth Organization, Croatia  
**Bruno Gomes**, Letras Nomadas, Portugal  
**Verana Lehmann**, Association of German Sinti & Roma, Mannheim  
**Orhan Tahir**, Citizens for Democracy and Rule of Law, Bulgaria  
**Sebihan Demirovski**, Roma Resource Centre, North Macedonia

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**Emiliano Aliu**, Roma Versitas, Albania

**Serkan Baysak**, Roma Education Fund, Turkey

**Robert Brisenstam**, Lawyer and Grassroots Activist, Sweden

**Andren Bejta**, Council of European Romani People, Germany

**15:20 - 15:25**

**Conclusions by MEP Romeo Franz**

**15:25 - 15:30**

**Closing of the High-level Conference, Romani Musician Performance**

**Rodica Elena Tudor**

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