

ROMA HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE 2020



24-hours name reading and commemoration Phiren Amenca, Budapest, Hungary

Phiren Amenca held a 24-hours name reading to commemorate the victims of the Roma Holocaust, on the occasion of August 2, International Roma Holocaust Memorial Day. The 24-hours reading took place between August 1, 5 pm and August 2, 5 pm at the Nehru bank in Budapest, in front of the Roma Holocaust Memorial and was live streamed on social media. During the first hour public figures and artists

from Hungary read the names of the Roma victims, who were killed in Auschwitz, Lety or Jasenovac. The name reading was started by Éva Fahidi, Holocaust survivor, who was herself in Auschwitz on the day, on August 2, 1944., when more than 4000 Roma and Sinti men, women and children were gassed to death and the 'Gypsy camp' was liquidated. Nearly 120 volunteers and civil society



Éva Fahidi, Holocaust survivor

Reading the names of the victims is a symbolic yet very significant way of commemorating their lives. Holocaust victims have no graves or headstones, but mentioning their names provides an opportunity to remember them individually.

representatives were part of 24-hour commemoration and read the names of around 12.000 victims. Symbolically, the last readings were given by Tamás Verő rabbi and by two primary school students, a young Roma girl and a Jewish boy, symbolizing that the memory of the victims must be passed on to the next generation. The 24-hour reading was followed by a commemoration and wreath-laying in front of the Roma Holocaust Memorial at the Nehru bank, in Budapest. The commemoration started with a performance of the

students of Karaván Art School and the Gypsy Soloists Orchestra, followed by a speech of Anna Daróczi, Phiren Amenca coordinator and Zsolt Kalányos, lawyer, Roma activist. Both speeches highlighted that systematic racism and antigypsyism did not stop in 1945 and they are still legitimate and accepted in our societies. As a closing, representatives of NGOs, municipalities, political parties, embassies and public figures placed their flowers and bow their heads in memory of the victims.



Anna Daróczi and Kalányos Zsolt / Photo: Józsefváros



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN

On the occasion of August 2, Roma Holocaust Memorial Day 2020, young Roma and non-Roma people shared their messages about the importance of remembrance, challenging antigypsyism and youth activism.

Phiren Amenca, ternYpe and its partners, as part of their Roma Youth Voices project, run an online campaign around August 2, Roma Holocaust Memorial Day and 30 young Roma and non-Roma people from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Spain spread their messages and shared their thoughts about the importance of Holocaust remembrance, Roma History and remembrance education. Besides the videos, the partnership develop

information sheets in English, Bulgarian, Romanian, Slovak, Hungarian, Spanish, German, French and in Romani to provide short information about the Roma Holocaust; what happened on August 2, 1944; where do we stand with the official recognition of August 2 in Europe; introduced the Dikh he na Bister youth initiative on its 10th anniversary and emphasized the importance and need to keep the memory of the Roma Holocaust survivors alive.

Tens of thousands of viewers have been reached and engaged through the social media channels of the „Roma Youth Voices” and partners.

The campaign run together with RGDTs, e-Romnja, FAGIC, Diverse Youth Network, Association of Young Roma, Opre Heroes Collective and Amalipe.



*„Today, on 2nd of August, I'm commemorating and I'm remembering, because I want a better and more equal society in which racism has no place and cannot rule.”
Aaron Cortes, Spain*

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Roma Holocaust
The Roma Holocaust – also known and mentioned as Roma Genocide, the Porajmos (meaning “the Devouring” in Romani) or Samudaripen (“Mass killing” in Romani) is the systematic ethnic cleansing against Europe’s Roma people committed by the Nazi regimes during World War II. Approximately 500 000-1,5 million (precise numbers are unknown) Roma people were targets of Nazi persecution and lost their lives by being shot into mass graves or exterminated in concentration camps, crematoria.



Why 2 August
On 2 August 1944 more than 4 000 Roma and Sinti men, women and children were gassed to death in Auschwitz-Birkenau. The Gypsy Family Camp was liquidated. This tragic day became a date to commemorate the hundreds of thousands of Roma and Sinti who lost their lives as victims of national socialism and perished in mass graves and crematoria all around Europe.



Recognition of the Roma Holocaust
As of 2 August 2020 only 5 of the 27 Member States of the European Union observe August 2 as Roma Holocaust Memorial Day: Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania and Romania. On 15 April 2015, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on all Member States to recognize 2 August as European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day to commemorate the victims of the Roma genocide during World War II.



Roma Holocaust survivors
We are the very last generation which has genuine connections with survivors of the Holocaust. With each passing year there are less and less people who can testify about the horrors they had to experience. The stories of some are recorded, but many leave this world with the unspoken grief of the suffering they had to go through as children. Therefore, it is our duty to preserve and pass on their memory to future generations.



#ROMAREMEMBER CAMPAIGN

#RomaRemember

2 August - International Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

#RomaRemember: International Campaign for Roma Holocaust Remembrance 2020 reinforces the spirit of solidarity and unity, provides visibility to Roma Holocaust Remembrance activities taking place around the world and mobilizes Roma and non-Roma around the same political message.

Joint statement and video message of civil society organizations on the occasion of 2 August 2020 – International Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma was issued and shared widely

Until today the Holocaust of Sinti and Roma still does not form part of the canon of European history and remains largely unknown. Most countries have no dedicated monuments to Roma victims, research on the Roma Holocaust is still rudimentary, much data is still unknown and the time will soon come when there will no longer be Roma Holocaust survivors, who will be able to share their testimonies for posterity. Exactly five years ago in 2015 the European Parliament passed

a resolution to declare 2 August as the European Holocaust Memorial Day in memory of the 500,000 Sinti and Roma murdered in Nazi-occupied Europe. Despite this, many governments have not officially recognized the historical facts and a common historical responsibility. Most countries have no dedicated monuments to Romani victims. There are few museums, fewer research centers and educational institutions, while at the same time the sites of the Holocaust of Sinti and Roma remain largely unpreserved.

Acknowledging Roma history is crucial not only for justice and dignity of those who died during the Holocaust but also to confront widespread antigypsyism. Romani history is part of European history, and it deserves to be told. Roma are an integral part of European and national histories and cultures.

Full statement and the video message can be found at: phirenamenca.eu

On the occasion of the commemoration of the International Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, we are calling on governments and the international community to:

- *Recognize formally the 2nd August as the official Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma;*
- *Build, honor and preserve monuments and memorial sites dedicated to the Sinti and Roma victims of the Holocaust;*
- *Invest into museums, research centers and other institutions dedicated to Roma Holocaust, Roma History and Roma Culture;*
- *Make Roma history and culture part of educational curricula and textbook;*
- *Acknowledge antigypsyism as a specific form of racism targeting Roma communities and adapt diverse preventive and reactive tools to fight it.*



ROMA YOUTH VOICES NATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Phiren Amenca and ternYe as part of their Roma Youth Voices project, coordinated several activities and events on national level and supported initiatives in Montenegro, Slovakia and Romania to promote Roma History and remembrance on the occasion of August 2, Roma Holocaust Memorial Day.

ROMA WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROMA HOLOCAUST

Online webinar live streamed at
eRomnja Facebook page

Speakers: Roxana Oprea, Anca
Nica, Delia Grigore, Catalina
Olteanu, Mariana Sandu

Moderator: Georgiana Lican



SURVIVORS – PEOPLE THAT NEVER GAVE UP

Exhibition of portraits of Holocaust survivors took by Kubo Krizo during Dikh he na Bister 2019 in Krakow. The exhibition was opened on August 5. 2020 at the Central European House Of Photography Bratislava, dedicated to the memory of Raymond Gureme.

PHIREN AMENCA – MONTENEGRO

The partnership have organized a commemoration in Montenegro and created a video to advocate for the recognition of the Roma Holocaust and for the inclusion of Roma history in school curriculum and textbooks.



ROMA GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE INITIATIVE



DIKH HE NA BISTER – LOOK AND DON'T FORGET

This year, due to the coronavirus epidemic, the regular one-week large-scale international event in Poland run by ternYpe and its members, could not take place, but on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Dikh He Na Bister, series of events and commemorations at national levels or online have been supported by ternYpe and a big online campaign have been realized.

Through the initiative social media channels, former Dikh He Na Bister facilitators and participants, as well as partner organizations such as the European Youth Forum, YEN or EUJS shared their messages on the occasion of Roma Holocaust Memorial Day.



Benjamin Günther,
European Youth Forum

“Never give up! Always resist! Always stand up!”

Raymond Gureme

On the occasion of the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma, ternYpe has organized a virtual name reading ceremony to read the names of the Roma and Sinti victims of the Roma Holocaust, and to bring their memory to the present, to try and unravel the incomprehensible numbers and statistics of victims. The virtual name reading is available on the DikhHeNaBister youtube channel, called **Amare Manusha - Remember Them**.

Through a video **„Tribute to Raymond Gureme”** ternYpe pays tribute to Raymond Gurême, French Roma Holocaust survivor, who died in May 2020. He would celebrated his 95th birthday this August. Raymond was born into a Manouche family of actors and acrobats in France. In Nazi-occupied Europe, his family had been imprisoned in camps, As a teenager, he would break into these camps to feed and care for his loved ones, before boldly escaping again! Raymond was a warm mischievous soul, at the center of the Dikh He Na Bister Commemoration meetings. Urging us to continue his fight, and to live freely and joyfully.

