

The August 2015 copy of the Roma Support Group newsletter includes:

- The report from Roma Support Group (Andy Shallice and Laura Greason) on the impact that benefit changes have had on migrant Roma communities in the UK; an assessment of the 'call for evidence' and conclusions/recommendations
- At Roma Support Group, we are worried about the number of incidents we hear of clients and others are facing 'informal removals' from the UK. We are therefore pleased to have this guest post from colleagues and friends at the Aire Centre, (Anna Błus and Matthew Moriarty); *Migration is not a crime; deportation of EU citizens from the UK – when are they permitted?*
- News about the newly reformed National Roma Network by David Brown (Migration Yorkshire); and details of the next meeting in Birmingham, September 2015
- The 2015 assessment by the European Commission of the progress of the implementation and effectiveness of member states' national Roma integration strategies, with recommendations
- The recent blog by the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner for Human Rights about Roma minorities in Europe; *Time to debunk myths and prejudices about Roma migrants in Europe.*
- European Roma Information Office fact sheet; *Hate speech against Roma in the media*
- Guardian article about the formation and development of the Gypsy Roma Traveller Police Association (GRTPA)
- News from Sheffield about the local community and public health initiative
- UK government consultations about the 2021 census
- Books; *Hearing the voices of Gypsy Roma Traveller communities; inclusive community development* (Ryder, Cemlyn, Acton)
- Call for delegates; *Roma Youth Conference, Budapest, 19-22 October*
- Research position for a PhD; *The development of a tool to gauge the health and well-being needs of the Roma community in the UK, Greenwich University*



July 2015 newsletter

Welcome from Roma Support Group

Welcome to the July 2015 edition of the newsletter. We want to bring you information, reflections, arguments and discussion about the issues that face Roma communities in the UK. The Roma Support Group has developed over the last fifteen years into a major service agency working for and with Roma communities, mainly in London. We run advice and advocacy sessions; education support programmes (including homework support) for children and families; a Roma Support and Engagement Programme (including tailored staff training and development); and an arts and culture programme. Recently, RSG has been able to develop its work on developing Roma advocacy and mediation, community engagement and development, and also in policy development and information provision. This e-bulletin is one manifestation of these recent developments.

Contact us via:

andy@romasupportgroup.org.uk

BRIEFING PAPER

THE IMPACT ON MIGRANT ROMA COMMUNITIES OF CHANGES TO WELFARE AND ENTITLEMENTS; a briefing paper based on a 'call for evidence' (Andy Shallice & Laura Greason)

Readers of this newsletter will know the range of welfare and benefit changes that have directly affected EU migrant workers since 2014. You might also have seen the 'call for evidence' which Roma Support Group made last year, with the support of a number of other agencies, to seek case studies of how

these changes were and are affecting Roma families. We received responses from seven agencies and services, with particularly impressive documentation from East Liverpool CAB and the Aire Centre. In total, just over 50 cases were shared with us, all of which are guaranteed anonymity.

Most Roma families rely on paid employment, particularly through casual work accessed via employment agencies. Particularly with casual employment, in sectors of the economy that are prone to changes in production (construction, warehousing/distribution, food processing) it is not uncommon for people to find themselves without work. The principle of the safety net has long been established throughout Europe; this principle, for particular groups of people like EU migrants, is being dismantled. Welfare benefits have never been straightforward to access, and the complex and ever-changing rules over eligibility and conditionality have meant that both families and individuals wanting and able to claim, formal and informal advisors, and the staff of DWP and HMRC (and council housing benefit departments) are all faced with endless difficulties of interpretation.

The report catalogues the impact on individuals and families. It also describes the impact that these changes are having on wider local public services. The report locates a number of distinct areas where the changes have been most destructive:

- Claimants deemed not to have a right to reside for benefit purposes despite their length of residence in the UK, or their history of employment in the UK
- Claimants being defined not as workers but as jobseekers, and so denying their right to housing benefit
- Administrative delays as a route to destitution
- The cumulative effect of changes to eligibility, administrative delays and systematic errors is felt by individuals and families alike
- The extensive and pervasive impact on other public services

The report concludes with a set of recommendations for a variety of agencies and services – both at a European level, to a national government and local authorities, and also the voluntary sector/NGO organisations in the UK.

To read the full report, go to the “Our Research” page on the Roma Support Group website: http://romasupportgroup.org.uk/?page_id=72

GUEST BLOG

Migration is not a crime! Deportation and removal of EU citizens from the UK – when are they permitted?

Guest post by Anna Błuś and Matthew Moriarty from the AIRE Centre

In this guests post, we briefly define ‘removal’ and ‘deportation’ and outline protections available to EU citizens against expulsion from the UK.

As European Union nationals, we have the right to move to other EU countries to live, work and study, as well as look for employment.

These rights are enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and defined in the ‘Citizens Directive’ (2004/38). In the UK, this Directive was implemented by the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006 and if you receive a removal decision, it is likely that it will refer to this piece of legislation.

It is possible to live in another EU country first for three months without any conditions (apart from having a valid passport or ID card), and for longer than three months if the person is working, studying or has enough money to live off without becoming an ‘unreasonable burden’ on the host Member State. Starting your own business, being self-employed or working for an employer all count, as does part-time work, as long the work is judged ‘genuine and effective’, that is are not just marginal activities or performed occasionally and bringing a regular income that can sustain basic needs. Students and those with sufficient resources also need to have comprehensive sickness insurance,

which in the UK is currently understood as some form of private health insurance. If you are entitled to healthcare in your home country that would count too - but bear in mind that such entitlements are usually lost after you have lived abroad for a while (this is different in every country).

It is also possible to move to another EU country to look for work, at least for six months. Family members of EU citizens who stay in their new country and fall under any of the categories described above have the right to move and live there as well. It doesn't matter if they themselves are from the EU or from a non-EU country. It's important to remember, however, that only some categories of family relationships 'count': spouses and civil partners (also those of the same sex), children and grandchildren under 21, parents and grandparents, if they depend materially on their EU child, as well as older children, again, if they are dependent. Brothers and sisters, for example, don't enjoy these rights to the same extent but may fall under the 'extended family members' category.

Example:

Marcin is Polish and moved to London in June 2015 with his wife, Clara, her mum, Sofija and the couple's baby, Adrian. Clara and Sofija are Serbian and Adrian is a dual Polish-Serbian national. Marcin is a chef and started his own catering company shortly after their arrival. Clara is focusing on being a mum for now and her mum is not in a position to work anymore. Marcin's business is going well and the couple support Sofija financially. Because of this, as well as the fact that Marcin is working, Clara (as his wife), Sofija (as her dependent parent) and Adrian (as a child under 21) all have the right to be in the UK.

Permanent residence

After 5 years of living in another EU country and performing any of the activities described above (or a combination of these), EU citizens gain permanent residence status. This is in recognition of their level of integration in their new home and means that they have stronger protection from expulsion than those who have lived there for a shorter period.

Deportation vs removal – definitions

Deportation is when a person is removed to another country on the basis of having been convicted of a crime committed in the UK. This usually applies to people who have been sentenced to over 12 months. However, the AIRE Centre is also aware of suspected criminals being deported as part of the so-called *Operation Nexus*. We are currently working towards challenging this practice. Removal (or administrative removal) is when a person did not commit a crime but is being sent back to their country on the basis that they are not exercising Treaty rights, i.e. not working or looking for work, studying, being self-sufficient, a family member, etc.

Does this mean that EU citizens who don't fall into any of the categories can simply be sent back? This seems to be the emerging position of the UK authorities. However, we don't believe that it is lawful, proportionate or in any way justified in many cases. Let's look at the UK's point of view first.

The UK Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006, which we mentioned above, allow for administrative removal of EU citizens and their family members in some circumstances. Under Regulation 19(3)(a), an EU citizen may be removed where there is evidence that the person never had, or stopped having, what the UK authorities call a 'right to reside'. Under Regulation 19(3)(c), an EU citizen may be removed on the grounds of an 'abuse of rights'. This is defined in the following broad terms:

- intending to circumvent the requirement to be a qualified person;
- trying to return to the UK within 12 months of a previous removal and not being able to show to they will have a right to reside after coming back;
- entering or trying to enter a marriage of convenience or helping another person in doing so;
- trying to 'obtain' a right to reside by fraud or helping someone else do so.

According to the Regulations, the Secretary of State may make a removal decision on the grounds of abuse of rights where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that such abuse is taking place and it is proportionate to do so.

From these Regulations, it seems that the UK has broad powers to send EU citizens back to their home countries AND not allow them to come back in. However, EU free movement law gives quite strong protection against expulsion to EU migrants and we strongly believe that the measures described above violate it quite clearly.

Protection from expulsion

Under EU law, EU citizens' freedom of movement can only be restricted in very specific circumstances. Under Article 27(1) of the Citizens Directive referred to above, Member States may restrict this freedom of movement and residence only **on grounds of public policy, public security or public health**. The Directive further specifies that 'these grounds shall not be invoked to serve economic ends.' So, for example, it is not enough for a government to decide that in order to save some money, as a matter of policy, it will send other EU countries' citizens who are on benefits away.

Moreover, a deportation or removal decision can only be taken against those EU citizens who acquired the right of permanent residence on **serious grounds of public policy or public security** (Article 28(2) of the Citizens Directive). Note that the public health ground is not applicable at all here and that the requirement for the other concerns to be serious has appeared. This is because permanent residents enjoy stronger protection from expulsion than those with shorter residence periods.

EU citizens with 10 years' residence in the UK (in accordance with the Directive), as well as EU citizen children (unless the removal would be in their best interest), can only be deported or removed on **imperative grounds of public security** (Article 28(3) of the Directive). As you can see, protection from expulsion is even stronger for EU citizens and their family members in this category.

In all cases, the personal conduct of the individual concerned must represent a **genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat** affecting one of the fundamental interests of society. Moreover, every removal or deportation

decision must comply with the fundamental EU law principle of **proportionality**.

What this all means is that if the authorities propose to remove or deport an EU citizen in any of these three categories, they need to show how their presence may constitute a **genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat** to public policy, security or health, as appropriate, **and** weigh this against considerations such as how long the person has lived in the country, his/her age, state of health, family and economic situation, social and cultural integration into the host society and the extent of his/her links with the country of origin.

Moreover, in contrast to what seems to be the practice under *Operation Nexus*, for example, Article 27(2) of the Directive clearly states that 'previous criminal convictions shall not in themselves constitute grounds for taking such measures.'

Example

Flora is a 76-year old Romanian woman and who has been living in the UK since 2008. She came to the UK with her extended family and has been living with them throughout this time. Her son, Sorin, has been working as a self-employed mechanic ever since their move and Flora has been dependent on him. Last year, there was some violence in Flora's family and she ended up leaving her home with nowhere to go. She didn't know if she could access any support from the authorities or what to do in this situation and ended up sleeping on park benches and having to steal food to survive. She was stopped by the police and taken to a custody suite, where she was served with a removal decision on the basis that she was not a worker, jobseeker, student, family member, etc. Luckily, Flora was able to obtain legal advice and appeal the decision, which was unlawful as (a) she has been a permanent resident since 2012 having been dependent on her EU worker son for over 5 years and (b) her offence was minor and did not constitute a sufficiently serious threat to public policy or public security.

To summarise, the Directive does not envisage the removal of EU citizens only because they don't have or lost their 'right to reside'. It also doesn't allow for deporting them solely on the basis of having committed petty crime or minor offences (for instance theft or 'vagrancy', i.e. sleeping in the street or begging) or just because they had a conviction in their home country. The grounds for removal or deportation have to be sufficiently serious.

For these reasons, the AIRE Centre believes that the purported powers to remove, bar from re-entry, and question Union citizens who are not (or are suspected of not) exercising a right to reside in the UK under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 are incompatible with EU law. They fail to comply with safeguards provided by European Union law: in particular, those laid out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Directive 2004/38, as detailed above. We have raised our concerns with the European Commission and we would encourage any EU citizens who are issued with removal directions which they do not feel are justified to seek an independent appeal against such decision.

Anna Błuś, Legal Project Manager

Matthew Moriarty, Barrister and Legal Project Manager

Did you know?

You can find the Citizens Directive (2004/38/EC) in most EU languages here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32004L0038>

A full, regularly updated version of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006 is available here:

<http://www.eearegulations.co.uk/Latest>

About the AIRE Centre

The AIRE Centre is a specialist human rights NGO in London. Our mission is to promote awareness of European law rights and assist people in vulnerable circumstances to assert those rights. We do this by taking cases to the

European Court of Human Rights and acting as a third party intervener, providing free legal advice to individuals and other organisations, pursuing strategic litigation and raising awareness of European law rights through publications, specialist consultations and a variety of capacity building for communities, other organisations and lawyers in the UK and internationally. Our work focuses on several areas specifically: human trafficking, 'invisible' EU migrants, EU migrant homelessness, rights of female EU prisoners, Roma rights, asylum and the rule of law in the Western Balkans. We currently run two projects allowing us to support migrant Roma communities in the UK thanks to [Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust](#) and the [Open Society Initiative for Europe](#), focusing on [legal advocacy](#) and [legal empowerment](#).

To contact our dedicated [Advice Line](#), email info@airecentre.org or call 020 7831 4276.

Visit us online: www.airecentre.org

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NATIONAL ROMA NETWORK

David Brown from Migration Yorkshire writes:

We are launching the new National Roma Network Forum on 29th September 2015 in Birmingham.

The National Roma Network began in 2012 in order to fill the gap at national level on migrant Roma both strategically and in practical information sharing. The network met every few months but the structure couldn't meet the demand and was reviewed and changed.

The changes to the National Roma Network were launched earlier this year and the aims are to:

- Develop structures to enable sustainable a national strategic approach to Roma integration

- Ensure a more joined up and effective cross-sector approach to Roma integration across key areas of the UK
- To improve integration and reduce exclusion through influencing policy and practice at national and local level
- Increase Roma participation and meaningful involvement in policy and practice across the UK

A new National Roma Network Forum will be held three times per year with larger events to enable wider participation to as many people as possible who wish to attend, focusing on particular themes. The first NRN Forum will be held on 29th September in Birmingham, from 11am – 3pm. The first Forum and will focus on Roma community development, leadership and needs and issues defined by migrant Roma. The speakers will be mainly Roma individuals and community groups.

Please register your interest and book a place for the Forum by emailing Nicola.Baylis@migrationyorkshire.org.uk and we will send further information

We can reimburse travel costs for Roma attendees.

Please note that although the Forum is a large event, the spaces are limited, so please book early

INFORMATION FROM EUROPE

The European Commission's assessment of progress of "national Roma integration strategies"

Five years ago, the Commission agreed to invite all member states to "prepare, update or develop their national Roma inclusion strategies, or integrated sets of policy measures within their broader social inclusion policies".

Understandably, most of the focus is on the member states' of Central & East Europe. As we have reported in the past, the Commission has produced an

annual assessment of each member state's progress. The Commission suggests that "*...many stakeholders developed hopes for large-scale short-term improvements in Roma living conditions, while the economic crisis contributed to the further deterioration of the situation, especially in countries with the largest Roma communities*".

This year there is a change for the worse - the assessments are not focused on each member state, but are based around certain themes, in particular,

- the use of European structural and investment funds (e.g. ESF and ERDF);
- the national co-ordination of measures (and action plans) to try and ensure Roma inclusion;
- combating discrimination against Roma, especially on hate crime, education of Roma children and within employment;
- and developing better monitoring systems to assess progress.

The Commission makes recommendations for all member states, emphasising the need for national co-ordination of Roma integration measures and making "full use" of the European structural funds. We shall be trying to make sure how effectively the UK government is pursuing these and the other recommendations.

To see the Commission's report, click here.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_communication2015_en.pdf

The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights

We are pleased to include a recent blog post from the Human Rights Commissioner, entitled *Time to debunk myths and prejudices about Roma migrants in Europe*. This hard hitting statement from the Council of Europe tackles both the misinformation, and racist reporting, about the migration of Roma within Europe; he says that Roma are not 'over-represented' in migration from their countries of origin. Many are well integrated after migration and overall, there is a net fiscal benefit to the countries of arrival.

He describes the level of discrimination in the countries of origin, but also says that such discrimination and rejection “doesn’t stop at the borders”. He examples national and local state actions in Norway, France and Italy as being of worrying concern. However, he also suggests that in, for example, Spain the presence of Roma is rarely a matter of public debate. He describes initiatives in Duisburg (Germany), Strasbourg (France) and the schools in the UK as being examples of positive responses for Roma inclusion. He concludes by reminding everyone that there has been no mass exodus from Romania and Bulgaria since January 2014; he says,

“It is time that politicians and media stop playing on fears of massive inflows of migrants and stigmatising Roma in this context. They should instead use objective demographic and economic data. Racist rhetoric should be firmly condemned at the highest level and ethical journalism should be promoted. Journalists should also report on positive examples of integration among Roma migrants, so as to provide a more balanced picture of the situation.”

To read his full blog, click here

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/time-to-debunk-myths-and-prejudices-about-roma-migrants-in-europe>

European Roma Information Office fact sheet

The ERIO produced last month a fact sheet *“Hate speech against Roma in the media”*. The fact sheet outlines a variety of definitions of hate speech, including the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. It describes the ever widening character and impact of hate crime and hate speech on Roma in Europe. It then describes six recent examples of hate speech against Roma in France, Italy, Hungary (three incidents) and in Slovakia – with the date of the incident, what happened, who the perpetrator was and what the response of the local agencies was. The fact sheet concludes with four sets of recommendations – to European institutions, to EU member states, to Roma civil, community and voluntary organisations and to the media.

To access the fact sheet, click here.

http://www.erionet.eu/doc-fact-sheet_media-hate-speech_2015

GYPSY ROMA TRAVELLER POLICE ASSOCIATION

Many of you will be aware that the GRTPA was set up about two years ago, and officially launched at the House of Commons last July. We are pleased to provide this link to a recent article in the Guardian newspaper about the GRTPA – *Gypsy police officers band together to beat prejudice in the force*. The article also includes a short interview with Petr Torak, a leading Roma activist from Czech Republic (and Peterborough) about setting up the association, who is now one of the two executive directors of GRTPA.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jul/21/gypsy-roma-traveller-police-officers-band-together-beat-prejudice#comment-56129212>

For contact with the GRTPA, please use this link for their website.

<http://www.grtpa.com/>

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ROMA COMMUNITIES IN SHEFFIELD

Continuing to bring to a wider audience information what's happening at a local level to strengthen Roma voices and to support full and proper access to public services for all Roma communities, we're pleased to carry information about a recently developed initiative in Sheffield.

OVERVIEW OF THE ROMA SLOVAK HEALTH PROJECT

- To embed a targeted, holistic community development approach to improving health & wellbeing outcomes for Slovak Roma patients.
- To work with individuals and families to build health literacy.
- Develop a dedicated core team to work in primary care and community settings, including a Slovak Roma Outreach Worker, Health Trainers and Coordinator.

- To engage patients via existing clinics, community health campaigns and 1to1 support.
- Increase knowledge, resilience and confidence of both individuals and families.

The project will work closely with GPs to develop an holistic approach to improving relationships, engagement and communication with Slovak Roma in the North & East of Sheffield. We will build on successful pilots, to further develop provision which responds to patient and service needs e.g. support groups, workshops, training and 1to1 support.

Key messages: common childhood illnesses, appropriate use of services, family health (e.g. uptake of screening, immunisations), self-care, safeguarding and women & sexual health.

We will work with practices with the highest Slovak Roma registrations: Page Hall Medical Centre, Upwell Street Surgery, Firth Park Surgery, Pitsmoor Surgery, Tinsley Highgate and Darnall Primary Care (total 5,045) in collaboration with local voluntary sector providers and stakeholders. The project aims to test the value of using a nationally recognised model – The Health Trainer Service – to support the Slovak Roma community.

The project builds on the 15-year history of Darnall Well Being's experience working with hard to reach communities and will align with citywide and Locality strategy and work-streams.

Identified needs

- Low levels of health literacy or knowledge of managing own health
- Lack of awareness of services available and how to access them
- High demand on primary & secondary care services (e.g. Children's A&E)
- Significant communication barriers – low levels of English
- Poor uptake of immunisations, vaccinations, screening
- Historical discrimination of community in country of origin leading to exclusion from mainstream education, employment, health care and poor housing conditions, impacting on overall engagement and mistrust of 'statutory' services
- Prevalence of poor nutrition, chronic

- disease, smoking & Hep B risk

Benefits

- Additional resource and language support to enhance current delivery
- Build on learning from previous and existing projects, locally & citywide
- 2-way communication between GPs and Slovak Roma patients
- Improved health literacy, awareness & self-management e.g. family nutrition, chronic disease, oral health, screening
- Reinforced health messages
- Align with citywide strategy
- Reduce reliance on Children's A&E and ambulatory admissions
- Reduce reliance on costly interpretation in long-term
- Greater collaboration & shared learning between services
- Healthier, happier families

For more information, contact sct-ctr.SheffieldPMCF2Enquiries@nhs.net

Or Darnall Wellbeing centre manager at
lucy.melleney@darnallwellbeing.org.uk

2021 CENSUS – CONSULTATION

As we've seen recently from bodies such as the European Commission to the Department for Education, there is a growing recognition that the existing terminology and bureaucratic descriptions are increasingly out of tune with the way that our communities are changing. From September 2015, the Department for Education will alter their "ethnicity codeset" to now define Gypsy/Roma pupils as either:

- Gypsy/Roma ("This category includes pupils who identify themselves as Gypsies and or Romanies, and or Travellers, and or Traditional Travellers, and or Romanichals, and or Romanichal Gypsies and or Welsh Gypsies/Kaale, and or Scottish Travellers/Gypsies, and or Roma. It includes all children of a Gypsy ethnic background or Roma ethnic background, irrespective of whether they are nomadic, semi nomadic

or living in static accommodation. Schools would use this where they do not wish to identify Gypsy and Roma pupils separately”)

- Gypsy (“Gypsy refers to: all pupils who identify themselves as Gypsies. This includes all children of a Gypsy ethnic background, irrespective of whether they are nomadic, semi-nomadic or living in static accommodation”)
- Roma (“Roma refers to: all pupils who identify themselves as Roma or Romany, part of a diverse community of related groups whose ancestors are believed to originate from the Indian sub-continent but who have more recently migrated from Central and Eastern Europe”)
- Other Gypsy/Roma (“This category is for Gypsy/Roma who do not identify with one or the other of the above groups – e.g. pupils with mixed Gypsy/Roma heritage”)

See this link for the guidance to schools (July 2015):

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/451003/2015_to_2016_School_Census_Guide_V_1_5.pdf

But should this apply to the next national census in 2021? Many Roma are understandably concerned that to describe themselves to authorities as “Roma” (and certainly as Gypsy), will further confirm their exclusion. But some groups and individuals insist that without knowing for instance, where migrant Roma families live, and how they are affected by unemployment, or ill-health, or poor housing conditions which can be analysed by the census, Roma inclusion will be further delayed.

Here’s your chance to participate in the census consultation. Go to this website before 27 August:

<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/census/2021-census-topics-consultation>

PUBLICATION: HEARING THE VOICES OF THE GYPSY ROMA TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES; inclusive community development (Andrew Ryder, Sarah Cemlyn, Thomas Acton)

Rarely does the Roma Support Group review a book which is co-edited by our patron, with a chapter co-authored by our chief executive; we hope that this undue influence doesn't compromise our objective review. This book charts two historical developments over the last forty years, neither of which are new. First, the tension within all social movements between those who want to create a new world, free of injustice and inequality and so seek to 'stand outside of the system'; and those who seek to effect incremental and long-term change by operating 'within the belly of beast'. Sometimes, these two approaches can work together; when they don't, the results and sparks and stories last for years. And secondly, how in the most marginalised and excluded communities, like the Roma and Gypsy communities, do activists from the oppressed work with and collaborate alongside, friends and allies who come from quite different ethnic and social backgrounds; in this setting, for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, the gorger or gadjo?

This book tries to analyse these issues, and the relevance of modern social theory, by looking back over the last forty years of campaign and struggle by Gypsy and Traveller organisations and groups, and more latterly, by migrant Roma. But the particular secret is that these essays are nearly all written by the participants themselves. Who cannot be fascinated by Arthur Ivatts' accounts of the campaigns alongside the Gypsy Council, the birth of ACERT and his evolution into one of *Her Majesty's Inspectors* (of schools), while retaining his own particular brand of radicalism? Or by the account of the life, and speeches, of Charles Smith, a recent mayor of Castle Point in Essex? And now, can the inflow of funds from philanthropists like George Soros co-exist with grass roots, Roma led, radical campaigning organisations? And do we pay homage to the European Commission by acknowledging and appearing to highlight Roma exclusion and oppression, or sup with them with a long spoon, or see the work of the Commission as another manifestation of neo-liberal hegemony?

Try not to be put off by some of the more esoteric academic language or reviews of current critical theory; or by its price – order it for/from your library (if they still buy books!) There is more than enough in these essays and stories to think about and argue about.

For more information:

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?k=9781447313564>

CALL FOR DELEGATES AT THE ROMA YOUTH CONFERENCE, 19-22 OCTOBER, BUDAPEST

Note. To apply you must first complete the registration form for the youth applications of the Council of Europe. Available here:

<http://admin.youthapplications.coe.int/user/register>

Then, fill in the application form with 35 questions about you, your experience and your organisation, which is available here:

<http://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms/ROMA-YOUTH-CONFERENCE-2015-TERNE-ROMENGI-KONFERENCIJA-2015>

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION - ROMA YOUTH CONFERENCE

19-22 October, European Youth Centre Budapest

The second Roma Youth Conference organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe will be held during 19-22 October at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

In 2011, the first Roma Youth Conference was organised by the Council of Europe, during which Roma youth people, youth leaders, members of international Roma youth networks and other international institutions defined the priorities for the Roma Youth Action Plan. Since then, the Roma Youth Action Plan has included a wide variety of activities, training courses, development of expertise related to the situation of Roma youth, educational manuals, study sessions in co-operation with international youth organisations, study visits at national level, support and funding to Roma youth projects and policy advising activities. The implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan is

led by the Youth Department in close cooperation with Roma youth organisations and other European stakeholders on Roma and youth policies.

The second Roma Youth Conference aims to bring together Roma youth organisations, Roma youth representatives, policy makers and relevant Roma youth stakeholders for taking stock of the results and relevance of the action plan so far and to discuss the future policy orientations and inclusion of Roma youth.

The main objectives of the conference are:

- To discuss, promote and learn from the Roma Youth Action Plan experiences and practices
- To promote and enable the participation of young Roma in policy making process at all levels
- To emphasize the role of Roma youth in fighting antigypsyism
- To enhance the inclusion of youth matters in policies and programmes dealing with Roma issues and promoting the inclusion of Roma youth issues in youth policies and programmes within the Council of Europe and all relevant stakeholders
- To shape the future of the Roma Youth Action Plan in coordination with young people in relation to the Council of Europe's policies and programmes and other relevant Roma and youth stakeholders
- To analyse the current place of Roma youth issues in regards of the national Roma inclusion policies, such as the National Roma Integration Strategies and other relevant policies.

The working languages of the conference will be English and Romany. Accommodation and travel expenses will be covered according the rules of the Council of Europe.

Detailed information about the conference can be found at the [Call for participants](#) in [English](#) and [Romany](#). Application forms must be submitted online through the following [link](#).

The deadline for submitting your application is 20 August at midnight CET.

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP, *health and well-being needs of the Roma community in the UK, Greenwich University*

A University of Greenwich Vice Chancellor's Scholarship 2015/16 is available to undertake doctoral research into the health status and needs of Roma migrants in the UK and to develop a validated tool to measure their health and well-being needs. Research will involve a combination of methods (national and local policy analysis and evaluation, literature review, case note review, in-depth interview, focus groups and surveys) to develop a health and well-being profile of the Roma population in London and a survey instrument for monitoring the health and well-being needs of the UK Roma community.

The Greenwich University web link for the research post is here (5th one - scroll down):

<http://www2.gre.ac.uk/research/study/studentships>

For more information contact, Liz West e.west@greenwich.ac.uk (0208 331 8850); or David Smith d.m.smith@greenwich.ac.uk

Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily suggest that they are in accordance with the trustees of the Roma Support Group