

April 8. International Roma Day

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EMPOWERMENT

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1st World Romani Congress, Phiren Amenca has held and partnered in a series of online events to celebrate April 8 – International Roma Day, the achievements of the last five decades of the Roma Movement, and to discuss the role of young Roma people in what is still

in front of us in the next 50 years. Our online event in the afternoon of April 6, entitled **International Roma Youth United: 50 years after the First World Romani Congress** brought together more than 60 young Roma from 38 countries: from Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina,



"We, Roma youth, are the leading force for the development of our communities through direct community work, volunteering, and various other forms of grassroots activities."

Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Kosovo, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK (England and Scotland), USA and Ukraine. The event gave us the opportunity to meet each other from all corners of the globe and exchange our ideas. Each participant expressed the willingness to continue our

work to fight against antigypsyism and to promote Roma youth participation together, globally. This event was a starting point to broaden our Roma youth movement and to show the great diversity of our Roma communities.



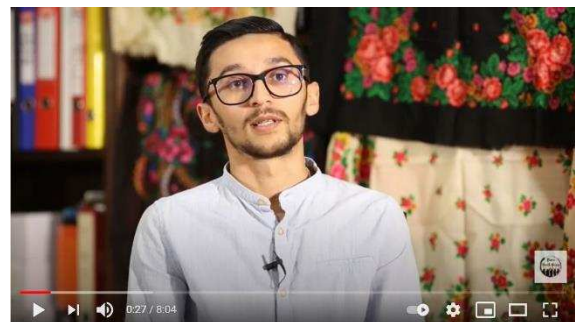
The event was live streamed and can be watched at the Roma Youth Voices Facebook [page](#).



Historias inspiradoras

Phiren Amenca has celebrated April 8 with a series of **"Inspirational Stories"** made by young Roma about young Roma from Hungary, Slovakia and Spain. Since April 7, we have shared three interviews from Hungary with Sándor Gáspár, Kitti Bayer and Norbert Hegedűs. **Sándor** is currently finishing university.

He shares his experience as the president of the university student government, and the challenges his family faced during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. **Kitti** is studying Korean and Chinese at the university and her dream is to become a translator. She is only 20 years old, but she stands up whenever she sees



"Among us, there are a big number of dedicated young Roma who have all the knowledge and capacities to become our future leaders."

discrimination against Roma or Asian people. **Norbert** shares his vision about Roma youth political participation and his own experiences in politics.

From Slovakia we interviewed **Richard, Adam, Dominik and Janka**, who besides introducing themselves and sharing their own personal goals also explain what being Roma means for them.

Besides Hungary and Slovakia, we are sharing four inspirational stories from Spain, introducing four

young Roma people, who want to be reference people for their communities: **Aarón Moreno, Elisabeth Cortés, Vanesa Sánchez and Paco Vargas** share their personal stories of how they overcome their difficulties to combine education and work since their childhood.

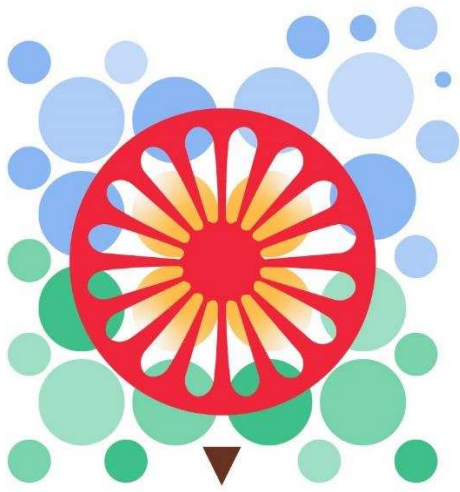
We believe their stories can be a great inspiration for both young Roma and non-Roma.

For more videos, follow the Phiren Amenca YouTube channel.



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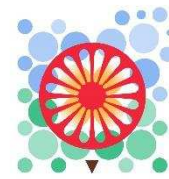


Roma Youth Together for Emancipation and Empowerment

The role of history in the participation and inclusion of Roma young people

The conference "Roma Youth: Together for Emancipation and Empowerment" brought together a wide audience of Roma and non-Roma stakeholders in the youth and human rights fields. Almost 200 young Roma and non-Roma people from all around Europe and beyond joined the

conference actively between April 7 and 9, 2021. The aim of the conference was to strengthen the knowledge about Roma and Traveller history, cultures, and identities, discuss the past achievements, but also to look into the future and the role of young Roma in our societies.



Terne Roma
**Khetane vash Emancipacija
thaj Zuripe**

E historijaki rola ande participacija
thaj terne Romengi inkluzija

*"It is more dangerous for Roma than it has ever been but Roma people also have more strength they have ever had."
Thomas Acton*

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1st World Romani Congress in 1971, a live discussion was organized with Grattan Puxon and Thomas Acton, who have both taken part in the 1st congress in 1971. They shared background stories of the conference and also discussed the role of young Roma in today's Roma movement.

On April 8, a Roma Youth Statement was presented, a document prepared during the conference by the Roma youth networks, youth organizations and

participants which includes recommendations on Roma youth to the Council of Europe and its member states. The full statement in English, French and Romani, can be found [here](#).

The conference also gave the participants space to send their messages about how they want to see the future of Roma by 2071, and to discuss important topics such as Roma youth participation, antigypsyism, impacts of Covid-19 or intersectionality.



The event was live streamed on the Youth Department - Council of Europe and ERIAC's Facebook pages.

