

Associations from Romania, Naples/Italy, and Germany

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Initiated and first drafted by The Romani Elders, in consultancy with Herbert Heuss, historian in Berlin on June 2, 2012 at the *Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Murdered under the National Socialist Regime*

(www.theromanielders.org)

**DRAFT FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE ROMA HOLOCAUST/
SAMUDARIPEN**

The European Parliament

- having regard to its resolution of 27 January 2005 on remembrance of the Holocaust, anti-Semitism and racism;
- having regard to Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union, which enable the EU to take appropriate action to combat discrimination against all citizens and promote respect for human rights;
- having regard to its resolution of 28 April 2005 on the situation of the Roma in the European Union¹;
- having regard to the resolution of 1 June 2006 on the situation of Roma women in the European Union²;
- having regard to the resolution of 31 January 2008 on a European Strategy on the Roma³;
- having regard to Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin⁴;
- having regard to the reports on Roma, racism and xenophobia in the Member States of the EU in 2009, published by the Fundamental Rights Agency⁵, and to the reports by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Thomas Hammarberg,

¹ Texts adopted, P6_TA(2005)0151.

² Texts adopted, P6_TA(2006)0244.

³ Texts adopted, P6_TA(2008)0035.

⁴ OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22.

⁵ Report on Racism and Xenophobia in the Member States of the EU in 2009; European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey, Data in Focus Report: The Roma in 2009; The Situation of Roma EU Citizens Moving to and Settling in Other EU Member States; and Housing Conditions of Roma and Travellers in the European Union: Comparative Report.

- A. whereas the 12-15 million Roma living in Europe, 7-9 million of whom live in the European Union, suffer racial discrimination and in many cases are subject to severe structural discrimination, poverty and social exclusion, as well as multiple discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability and sexual orientation,
- B. whereas the European Union has committed itself several times to actively promoting the principles of equal opportunities and social inclusion with regard to the Roma population across Europe,
- C. whereas the Romani Holocaust/ Samudaripen deserves full recognition, commensurate with the gravity of Nazi crimes designed to physically eliminate the Roma of Europe, counting up to minimum 250.000 victims;
- D. reminding that after the war, the surviving Roma were confronted with the same prejudices they had had to endure already before 1933 in the whole of Europe. After 1945, there was no public interest on the Holocaust of Roma being only a minority of the surviving German and Austrian Roma and Sinti able to assert their claims;
- E. whereas a large number of Roma were victims of war and of ethnic cleansing and continue to be victims of persecution in parts of regions across Europe;
- F. recalling historic experience which teaches us that we can no longer afford the risk to tolerate ideologies and to create premises, through unclear legislation, similar to the genocide against Roma during the Second World War.
- G. reminding that to Jews and Roma from the Nazis Germany and occupied and allied states of the Third Reich, citizenship was denied even before to be evacuated, deported, sent to concentration camps and exterminated. These state policies have been justified through vicious theories, administrative criteria and institutional practices profoundly discriminatory based on Blood right-based citizenship, the assumed hierarchy of fictive human races.
- H. stressing that in no case should new citizenship laws be drafted and implemented in such a way as to discriminate against legitimate claimants to citizenship or to withhold citizenship from long-term Roma residents of the Member State or candidate country concerned;
- I. welcoming the initiatives of some member states for political recognition of the Genocide or Holocaust against Roma, known also as *Samudaripen*.
- J. Considering the initiatives of the Members of the European Parliament for a Written Declaration of the European Parliament proposing that 2 August be proclaimed European Day of Remembrance for Victims of the Holocaust, in order to preserve the memory of the victims while simultaneously reinforcing peace and stability and confirming the unity of our continent of free and equal European citizens;

Recommendations

1. Recommend that on 27 January 2013 the Genocide of Roma to be commemorated across the EU member states as part of the United Nations Day of Commemoration of the Holocaust;
2. Members states should adopt national legislation for commemoration/remembrance of the Holocaust of Roma/ Samudaripen
3. Calls on member states on the territories of which concentration camps existed to recognise and introduce in their Roma-oriented public policies actions which are meant to eliminate the treatment of Roma otherwise than as citizens in their own full rights; as **moral and political responsibility**
4. Urges the member states and European Commission to take action for introducing the education of the Holocaust/Samudaripen of Roma into the campaigns for the 2013 EU Year of Active Citizenship, based on previous experience of the OSCE and Council of Europe;
5. To inaugurate the 2nd of August as the day of commemoration of the Roma Holocaust, following the initiative of Poland. The European Parliament invites the member states and the neighbouring to establish the 2nd of August as national days of remembrance
6. To identify and to protect the places of mass executions of Roma during the Nazi regime and its allies, to identify and protect the mass graves of Roma victims; to provide adequate financial resources for the identification and documentation of these places; to initiate and support research in archives and by collection of testimonies to identify the localities;
7. To invite the countries concerned to protect the graves of NS-persecutees whenever their graves are endangered to be removed because of local or national ending of the periods of rest (Ruhezeiten auf den Friedhöfen). The cultural identity of successive generations of Sinti and Roma has been and still is characterized by the experience of the Holocaust left a lasting impression. For the families the graves are particularly important as family memorials, since for the relatives murdered in the concentration and extermination camps, there are no graves
8. To promote the dialogue and encounter between survivors of the Holocaust and young people.
9. To preserve, construct and extend memorial sites where Sinti and Roma were tortured and murdered.
10. To strengthen the involvement of Roma organizations in scientific discourses on the Holocaust, politics of memory and Holocaust-education.

For Additional information :

- in [limba romana](#) / text of the proposal in Romanian language

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