



Season's Greetings!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Roma Support Group! As the year draws to a close, we thank you for your support and wish you a joyful festive season.

As ever, the past year has been busy one for RSG, however in 2023 we were very proud to mark a significant milestone, celebrating 25 years as an organisation.

In this Christmas edition we share some of our achievements from the last 25 years, a special video and report created for our anniversary, and some important news.

25 years of RSG



We are delighted to share our report on our achievements over the past 25 years.

Some of the highlights include:

65,767 Roma people were supported through our advice project, with 80% reporting reduced poverty and 46% being prevented from homelessness.

3380 Roma children were supported through our education advocacy, mentoring, and afterschool aspirational activities.

3800 school children benefitted from our Roma culture and history workshops.

1443 Roma people benefitted from our health awareness and mental health advocacy services.

1452 Roma people were supported to make EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applications.

13,200+ Roma people were informed about EUSS via schools, churches and community centres.

7405 professionals were trained and/or supported through the Roma Support and Engagement Programme, benefitting **80,641** Roma people across the country.

336 volunteers contributed to and supported our work.

Click [here](#) to read the report in full.

We've also made the video below about our work and achievements, that features staff, community members and archive footage.



RSG 25th anniversary video

25th Annual General Meeting



At our 25th annual general meeting we celebrated with friends, community members and supporters at the Trinity Centre in East Ham. Thanks to all who came and made it such a memorable evening full of fun, food, music and dance!

We presented our 2022-2023 annual report at the meeting, which can be read [here](#).

International Volunteers Day

The 5th of December was International Volunteers Day. To mark it we would like to say a big thank you to our exceptional volunteers for the time, effort and expertise they have dedicated to Roma Support Group.

Without volunteers the achievements of the past 25 years would not have been possible.

We would like to share a couple of quotes from previous RSG volunteers on their experiences:

'I have spent a year at the Roma Support Group and I can truly say that this was one of the greatest experiences in my life. People who are working there and the atmosphere are amazing... I am impressed how fast and easily they can resolve sometimes very difficult issues. But this organisation also is a meeting place and a culture centre where Roma community members can spend such a lovely time...' (Volunteer)

'Being a volunteer allowed me to make a positive impact on people's lives and share a smile with them. I understand the importance of it more than ever and I'm proud to be given an opportunity to help others to take control over their lives. I have enjoyed a freedom to learn on my own terms without being judged or marked, without stress and pressure. This learning process has been very motivational and encouraging for me. I was given the opportunity to grow as an individual. I have enhanced my skills, broadened my horizons, and established lasting friendships. In general, this has been one of the most unforgettable experiences in my life.' (Magda Rupnik, Volunteer)

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to six of our longstanding volunteers: Aneta Dolinska, Andy Ingmire, Jeremy O'Callaghan, Pauline Rowe, Marylka Szapszowicz, and Peter Williams. They have provided essential support to the RSG team as well as our Roma families for many years. We are grateful for their dedication and wish them a joyous Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

Roma in the 2021 census

We are pleased to announce that the ONS has released the first ever [bespoke analysis article](#) on Roma people in the census. 103,000 people who took part in the census identified as Roma.

The article gives a detailed breakdown of the demographics of those identifying as Roma, including housing, health, education employment and national identity.

Tajsa prize



Tajsa Roma cultural heritage awards 2023 (ERIAC)

The European Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) hosted the Tajsa prize ceremony in Berlin on November 30th. The Tajsa Prize aims to honour outstanding individuals and leading voices of the Roma cultural movement.

The event featured talented Roma artists from across Europe and can be viewed in full [here](#) or by clicking the video above.

Voting resources

RSG are happy to announce that new resources informing EU citizens on their voting rights and how to vote have been published by New Europeans.

The resources can be accessed [here](#).

The guides are in community languages such as Albanian, Bulgarian, Polish, Romanian and Slovak Romanes, and we encourage you to share them with your friends, clients and coworkers!

Until next year!

Once again we thank you for your support, and wish you a very happy festive season!

We hope you have a wonderful time with friends and family, and leave you with some beautiful Roma music from our friends Ando Glaso to provide a soundtrack to your festivities.



Cajori Romani (Ando Glaso Collective)

For more information about Roma Support Group, go to our website and look at the ["projects" pages](#).

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