

Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month 2024



Introduction & Welcome

Welcome to the Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month (GRTHM) edition of our newsletter! This month we celebrate and raise awareness of the diverse histories and cultures of the GRT communities. To help you join in the celebrations we've highlighted some upcoming events, and share some useful educational resources.

In this edition we bring you some important Roma heritage news, with a new Roma archive to open in Peterborough, and a fundraiser to build the first Roma Holocaust in England.

Additionally, we provide an update on our latest policy news, featuring the launch of two new EUSS papers and a report focused on increasing diversity within clinical trials.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month!

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GRT History Month

Resources to help celebrate GRTHM:

FFT: GRTHM resources including brochure, pack for schools and prisons, digital engagement pack, and an archive of previous GRTHM resources. Click [here](#) to access.

Traveller Movement: Downloadable KS1 and KS2 GRTHM worksheets, GRTHM assembly pack, KS1 GRTHM Resource pack, GRT display bunting and design a Romani Caravan worksheet. Click [here](#) to access.

Leeds GATE: History Month Pack for Primary schools. Click [here](#) to access.

Norfolk County Council: resources for primary and secondary education, celebrations, displays and assemblies, and resources about GRT culture. Click [here](#) to access.

Roma Support Group: resources for primary schools developed through the Roma Oral History Project. Click [here](#) to access.

GRTHM events:

Bradford: Free event to celebrate Gypsy, Traveller and Roma History Month aimed at staff in schools with introduction to GRT history, organised by City of Bradford Council (Friday 28th June, 9:30-12:00) click [here](#) for more information.

Chelmsford: Unlearning Lightbulb: Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month in person free seminar and networking event, organised by Anglia Ruskin University (Monday 24th June, 12:00-17:00) click [here](#) for more information.

Salford: Traveller Wagon Project goes on tour for Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month, organised by Salford City Council (Thursday 22nd, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June) click [here](#) for more information.

Online: Free online Story into Song interactive online masterclass for years 4-6 with Romany storyteller Richard O'Neill and songwriter George Hoyle, organised by the

University of Sunderland (Wednesday 26th June, 9:30-10:30) click [here](#) for more information.

Online: Unlearning Lightbulb: Celebrating Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month – Free online event featuring speakers from the GRT communities. (Monday 24th June 12pm-5pm) click [here](#) for more information.

Roma Holocaust memorial fundraiser

A coalition of Roma organisations from across the UK are fundraising to create the first Roma Holocaust memorial in England.

Initiated by friend of Roma Support Group Nicu Ion, the memorial is to be built in Newcastle upon Tyne by Roma artist Mircea Lacatus. The initiative was launched at event at the House of Commons on the 22nd of April and was attended by Dory Szij from Roma Support Group who spoke about our oral history project.

If you would like to donate to this important memorial, click [here](#).

Roma archive

COMPAS charity in Peterborough have received a grant from the National Trust Heritage to create a Roma Archive. The charity has guardianship of American writer and Roma rights activist Paul Polansky's archive, including material relating to Roma experiences in the WWII Lety concentration camp and the 1990s Balkan war.

The Roma Archive and Cultural Centre (RACC) will focus on identity, pride, remembrance and solidarity, and aims to create a digital archive of resources, including a podcast and digitised oral histories and artwork.

COMPAS states that its goal is to “preserve heritage of European Roma migrants” and that it will do this through its library of resources acting as a hub for schools to learn about Roma heritage, as well as providing experts on Roma culture and history. Alongside this, the archival team will create a contemporary companion collection to explore the current experiences of Roma people living in Peterborough, as well as their perspective on the

archive.

To find out more and get updates on the progress of the archive, check out the [Roma Archive and Cultural Centre Facebook](#) page.

EUSS reports

Roma Support Group has published two reports highlighting the ongoing challenges that Roma encounter in relation to EUSS. The first report, completed in collaboration with the University of Sheffield, is focused on the struggles that [Roma across the UK](#) have encountered in relation to EUSS. The second report zooms in on the experiences of [Roma in London](#).

The most important message of the reports, is that without concerted action and sustained support we are likely to see a **repeat of something like the Windrush scandal** for ethnic minority Roma EU citizens (among others) in the UK.

Key findings:

Roma continue to **struggle to acquire status:**

- Many Roma children do not have status.
- Joining family members, late applicants and those seeking to upgrade from pre-settled to settled status encounter difficulties and need support.
- Many Roma live in the UK without status (in many instances where they are entitled to it).

Roma continue to **struggle to use status:**

- The 'digital only' process for proving status is very challenging for many Roma
- Roma struggle to access their online account and keep it up to date.

Key recommendations:

- **Fund those supporting and educating Roma**
in relation to EUSS – both in the community and with higher tier legal advice

- **Create a physical form of ID** that those with EUSS status can opt to use to easily prove their status in the UK

Report on increasing diversity in clinical trials

Through our work on the Health and Wellbeing Alliance, we have collaborated on a report published by National Voices, on creating more accessible patient information leaflets to enable greater diversity in those choosing to take part in clinical trials. Click [here](#) to view the report.

We are recruiting!

Romanian-speaking Advice & Advocacy Worker (21 hrs/wk)


We're currently looking for a Romanian-speaking Advice and Advocacy Worker to join our team. We're seeking to appoint a motivated person to provide advice to Romanian-speaking Roma migrants on a range of areas including welfare benefits, debt/money management and housing.

The deadline for applications is 8am on **Monday 15th July**. For more information, please visit our jobs page: <https://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk/jobs.html>.

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

We would be grateful if our subscribers could help us to reach more people by using the "Forward" button below to share the newsletter in your networks.

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

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