

## October 2019 RSG newsletter



### Introduction and welcome

We are pleased to produce a shorter, emergency edition of our newsletter. Why? Because Brexit won't go away – see what a government minister said to a German newspaper. And because Roma Support Group are advertising for two more jobs to support people throughout our families and communities applying for Settled Status. See below. But hurry if you are interested, or know someone who might be – the closing date is Friday.

We also carry more up to date information about Brexit from the excellent Housing Rights website.

And news of the first Roma film festival that was held in Glasgow last month. With the films shown.....

---

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

---

Contact us via:

[andy@romasupportgroup.org.uk](mailto:andy@romasupportgroup.org.uk)

 [@The Roma Support Group](#)

 [@RomaSupport](#)

---

## **News from Roma Support Group**

### **Ketane – Together: Roma Shaping Futures**

### **Two jobs - EUSS information, support and advocacy programme**

Two new jobs – one full time and one three days a week – have been advertised to support Roma people applying for Settled Status. Please see here for more information.

<https://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk/jobs.html>

Hurry; the closing date is Friday 18 October.

---

## **Brexit**

### **Roma Support Group EUSS team – contact details**

If you want to live in UK and have the same rights after BREXIT you have to apply for Settled or Pre-Settled Status

Book an appointment today by calling:

07440743866

07459319706

Monday to Friday, 11am until 4pm

Talk to us as we are here to help!

---

## **Brexit: why you need to apply for Settled Status**

## **Home Office minister talks to a German newspaper about what happens after Brexit: *After Brexit, non-registered Germans face deportation***

In 2021, applications for the Settlement Scheme will come to an end. The Home Office has said that late applications might be considered. Brandon Lewis, a Home Office minister, was recently asked by the German newspaper Die Welt what would happen to EU nationals who had not applied after the closing date.

He said:

*“If EU citizens have not registered by then without an adequate justification, the immigration rules will apply”.*

Asked whether those who did not apply in the next 14 months would face deportation even if they fulfilled all legal conditions for a residence permit, Lewis said:

*“Theoretically yes. We will apply the rules”.*

Brandon Lewis later said that his remarks “had been taken somewhat out of context”. He tweeted:

*[#EUcitizens](#) have till at least Dec 2020 & there’s plenty of help available to apply. We’ve now had 2 million applications & we’ve always said we’ll allow time for those with reasonable grounds for missing the deadline.*

If you want to see the original article in German, click here and click translate.

<https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article201671420/Brandon-Lewis-Nach-dem-Brexit-droht-nicht-registrierten-Deutschen-die-Abschiebung.html>

---

## **Brexit**

### **Excellent Housing Rights website**

### **Latest edition focuses particularly on the EU Settlement Scheme**

Available here

[https://i.emfiles4.com/cmpdoc/9/6/0/5/4/files/639969\\_0262-hrn-issue-7-v4.pdf?utm\\_source=Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Housing&utm\\_medium=](https://i.emfiles4.com/cmpdoc/9/6/0/5/4/files/639969_0262-hrn-issue-7-v4.pdf?utm_source=Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Housing&utm_medium=)

[email&utm\\_campaign=10969458\\_Housing%20rights%20newsletter%20Oct%202019&dm\\_i=YRX,6J436,50VND1,PY4GC,1](mailto:email&utm_campaign=10969458_Housing%20rights%20newsletter%20Oct%202019&dm_i=YRX,6J436,50VND1,PY4GC,1)

---

## First Roma film festival in the UK

### CineRoma held in Glasgow last month

Glasgow leads the way again! Friends of Romano Lav and Southside Film Festival were planning to show five films outdoors at the Govanhill International Festival & Carnival in the summer. The weather intervened – but it was re-arranged for September. Read this write up from *The National* newspaper.

[https://www.thenational.scot/news/17949426.film-festival-celebrates-romas-glasgow-home/?ref=fbshr&fbclid=IwAR3jM2i-WfKNk5CNyWPeU3Tz02\\_5tsqPhdcOeyxHtNF63v5lymq0i10Xof0](https://www.thenational.scot/news/17949426.film-festival-celebrates-romas-glasgow-home/?ref=fbshr&fbclid=IwAR3jM2i-WfKNk5CNyWPeU3Tz02_5tsqPhdcOeyxHtNF63v5lymq0i10Xof0)

### The films shown were (with links to their trailers):

#### Our School

<https://vimeo.com/20395928>

**Our School** follows three Roma (commonly known as "Gypsy") children in a rural Transylvanian village who are among the pioneer participants in an initiative to integrate the ethnically segregated Romanian schools. When their school is desegregated, Alin, Benjamin, and Dana set out for the city school, optimistic for education and new friendships, even as funds earmarked for integration are questionably used to build a "Roma-only" school in their village. Their innocent optimism quickly sours when the children are met with low expectations and further isolation.

Shot over four years, the filmmakers' tender portrait of rural village life and its rhythms fosters an intimacy in the children's profound reality and admiration for their indomitable spirit, punctuated by shocking instances of prejudice and ignorance. Their story touches on issues ranging from institutionalized racism, public education, and the intractability of poverty, culminating in an outrageous finale that cements the Roma children's struggle in the annals of egregious human rights violations. **Our School** is an absorbing, infuriating, and ultimately bittersweet story of tradition and progress.

## Taikon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzJ9PF8vWTc>

Documentary about the Life of Romani writer and activist Katarina Taicon. The documentary tells the story of how Katarina Taicon became a leading voice when the Romani people in Sweden fought for their civil rights and how she influenced an entire generation of kids with her books about young Romani girl Katitzi.

You can also read her sister's account of Taikon's life and her campaigns here.

[https://web.archive.org/web/20060324081024/http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1310/is\\_1984\\_Oct/ai\\_3455607](https://web.archive.org/web/20060324081024/http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1310/is_1984_Oct/ai_3455607)

It is part of a collection of essays produced by Unesco in 1984; The Unesco Courier, 'The Gypsies'. See the whole collection here.

(Link to my copy...)

## Korkoro

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NV6xyNpidFU>

A Gypsy family travels the French roads during the Second World War, followed by Little Claude, a young boy seeking a new family after his parents "left and never returned". Upon reaching a town where they traditionally stop for a few months and work in vineyards, they learn that a new law forbids them from being nomadic. Theodore, the town's mayor, and Miss Lundi, the schoolteacher, protect and help the Gypsies. Despite this, they are arrested and placed in an internment camp. Theodore manages to rescue them and gives them a piece of property where they must settle. But the Gypsies' deeply ingrained thirst for freedom makes this sedentary lifestyle difficult to bear. After Theodore and Miss Lundi are arrested for resistance, the Gypsies decide they must get back on the move in order to remain free.

Throughout his career, the critical line on Tony Gatlif's feature filmmaking has remained consistent: brilliant ethnographer, suspect dramatist. Those tendencies are evident again in *Korkoro*, (meaning 'alone') which joins a vibrant, soulful celebration of Gypsy culture to an assortment of war-movie cliches that stand in for Vichy France. It's a project obviously close to Gatlif's

heart — and a rare cinematic tribute to the 250,000 to 500,000 Roma who were killed in the Holocaust.

### **An episode in the life of an iron picker**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtFrHUktgP8>

The latest drama from Bosnian director Danis Tanović enlists a cast of non-professionals to reconstruct a harrowing personal ordeal that became a national scandal. Awarded the Grand Jury Prize at Berlin, *An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker* is a story of courage in the face of hardship and injustice. It revisits the alarming saga of Senada Alimanović and partner Nazif Mujić (recipient of the Berlin Silver Bear for best actor for his autobiographical portrayal). Struggling to make ends meet as a scrap-metal forager in the remote Roma community of Poljice, Nazif's hardscrabble routine becomes a desperate fight for survival when Senada suffers a miscarriage. Without medical insurance or means to pay for a life-saving antiseptic procedure, Senada and Nazif are denied admittance to the local hospital. So begins a hellish ten-day odyssey pitting the couple against social prejudice and a callous bureaucracy, as Nazif scrounges and Senada's condition grows ever more critical. From these wrenching events, Tanović fashions an unflinching exposé of the institutional discrimination faced by Bosnia- Herzegovina's Roma minority. Shot with an unvarnished, verité aesthetic against the bleak backdrop of the Bosnian winter, his film treats its subject with great compassion, providing an intimate, empathetic portrait of dignity amid crisis. His non-professional performers, meanwhile, lend the project a compelling authenticity. The knowledge that they are reliving their own nightmarish memories only bolsters the emotional potency of Tanović's pointed social critique.

### **Carmen & Lola**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO\\_PZqilExE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO_PZqilExE)

*Carmen and Lola* offers a love story between two Roma girls facing the deeply homophobic mindset of their cultural background, which is both particular due to their heritage, and universal, as its equivalents can still be found across the globe.

The eponymous teenagers Carmen and Lola (Rosy Rodriguez and Zaira Morales respectively) are both part of a deeply religious and traditional Roma community in Madrid, in which same-sex love and attraction are not only despised, but their existence is simply denied. Yet despite the obstacles they face, they fall in love, dreaming of a future outside the strict limitations their culture offers, in which the only option for a girl is the role of wife and mother.

Inevitably, the film finds its climax in the reveal of the girls' secret love affair, but it ends on a positive note as they make their escape to the seaside. The happy ending, however, is one that lies in the eye of the beholder: the realist viewer knows, after all, that they stand little chance of surviving on their own without an education, jobs (or even applicable work-skills), or the support of family and friends.

In her first feature film – which was screened in the 2018 Cannes Director's Fortnight – director Arantxa Echevarria has assembled an entire cast of non-professional Roma actors, who bring a raw and truthful energy to their performance, as well as the portrayal of their own culture.

The film has its faults in the heavy-handed symbolism of imprisonment and freedom, as well as the predictable structure, but these are outweighed by its rare and authentic portrayal of Roma in cinema, as well as the hopeful message it carries for those members of the LGBT community who face similar obstacles.

---

### .....and finally

Friends of Roma Support Group were in Porto, Portugal on 2 August this year. They met a woman who knew about the significance of the day for Roma. She then told them the story about frogs, racism and Roma. Read about it here.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/portuguese-shopkeepers-ceramic-frogs-scare-roma-190203235953102.html>

A young Portuguese Roma woman made this film too.

<https://vimeo.com/150063404>

---

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

**We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by the Barrow Cadbury Trust.**