

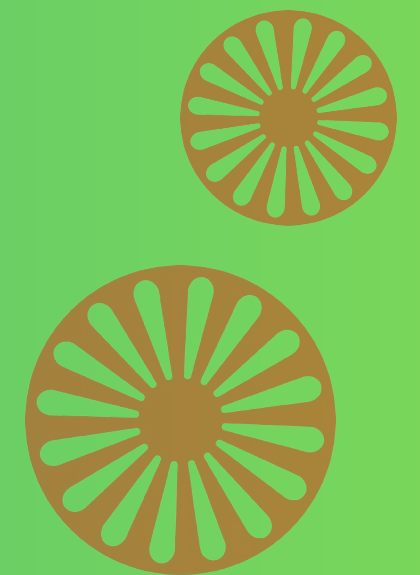


Overview of **Samudaripen - Roma Genocide Remembrance Day**

3rd September 2026, Consulate General of Romanian in London

An event organised by Roma Voice Centre, supported by the Consulate General of Romania in London, Roma Support Group, Friends, Families and Travellers, Moving For Change and The National Lottery Community Fund.

A special thank you to the Keynote Speaker - Lord David Alton of Liverpool, pannel chair - Mihai Bica of Roma Support group, pannel speakers: Cllr Laura Janes of H&F council, Prof. Marius Turda of Oxford Brookes University, Maria Hamza of Roma Suport Group and Nicu Ion of Roma Access Newcastle.



Information materials:



The event aimed to address the limited recognition of the Roma genocide during the Holocaust period by raising awareness of the persecution experienced by Roma communities and promoting their inclusion in Holocaust education and remembrance. It provides an opportunity to honour the victims, foster informed discussion, and encourage greater representation of Roma history in public commemorative and educational initiatives.

This event was dedicated to the International Roma Genocide Remembrance Day, which is annually marked on 2nd August. Due to parliamentary recess period and holiday season, we moved the event in September - in order to allow more people and key speakers to attend in person.



Agenda

The event consisted of two parts:

1. Commemoration ceremony, paying tribute to the Roma Victims of Samudaripen (translated from Romanes as mass murder);
2. Panel discussion, addressing the question: ‘Why is it important to speak about Roma in the context of Holocaust and wider Nazi persecution?’

2:00	Robert Marin, Consul General of Romania in London – Welcome word
2:05	Commemorating ceremony Chair: Lord Alton of Liverpool, member of the House of Lords and member of APPG GRT • Commemoration word - Lord Alton of Liverpool • Music - Marian Bango, Violin • Poem - Aluna Lepadatu, Roma Voice Centre • Moment of silence
2:25	Panel discussion Chair: Mihai Bica, Policy and Campaign lead, Roma Support Group Panellists: • Cllr Laura Janes, Hammersmith & Fullham, Deputy Cabinet Member for Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Hate • Marius Turda, Professor in Central and Eastern European Biomedicine at Oxford Brookes University • Marija Hamza, Social Welfare Advisor at the Roma Support Group and MA Holocaust Studies student at Royal Holloway. • Nicu Ion, Roma Access, Newcastle
2:55	Q&A session
3:10	Networking
3:30	Closing

Robert Marin - Consul General of Romania in London, opening the event, emphasized the importance of building and maintaining a dialogue with the authorities to support the Roma community in the UK.



Lord David Alton of Liverpool, member of Gypsy, Roma and Travellers APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) - Keynote Speaker, brought to our attention that “Neglecting to understand the enormities committed in the past puts us at risk of allowing the enormities of the past to happen all over again.”





After the Keynote speaker delivered His speech, we turned to music as an expression of remembrance.

Marian Bango, a Slovak Roma violonist, performed a pieces reflecting on the Holocaust, which is called (in Romanes) Auschwitzake o Kher Baro, translated as The Big House of Aushwitz.

As a background to the music we had archival footage (viewer discretion is advised) and parts of interviews with Roma Holocaust survivors which was filmed by Aluna Lepadatu (Director of Roma Voice Centre and event organiser) in 2012.

Video available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOR-CqCN_IQ

Following a moving musical tribute, Aluna Lepadatu, Director of Roma Voice Centre, shared a poem she wrote in memory of the Roma victims of Holocaust.

The poem is in Romanes language, but also has an English translation. It can be heard and read here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXUHFgHi3gc>



Cirikli / Little bird

*Little bird, why do you sing such a cheerful, joyful song?
Do you not know our days will end, that we shall not live for long?*

*High above, your wings spread wide, you are free beneath the sky;
While you soar above our prison, here in chains, captive, we lie.*

*To this place they brought us—cold, dark and damp, where sorrow dwells;
They promised us the gates of heaven, then cast us into living hell.*

*We believed the soldiers' words, but they deceived us with their lies;
They sent us helpless to the camps, like abandoned dogs to die.*

*Do not cry, my little bird, do not fear—you're free above;
While our blood stained blackened soil, you still sang your song of life.*

*Weep no more, my little bird, for those darkest years are gone;
Pray to God they never return, and that peace may carry on.*

Aluna Lepadatu



Pannel discussion chaired by Mihai Bica,
Advocacy and Campaign lead at Roma Support Group.

Topic: *‘Why is it important to speak about Roma in the context of Holocaust and wider Nazi persecution?’*

Pannelists and key contributions:

- **Cllr Laura Janes**, Hammersmith and Fulham Council, spoke about how Genocide remembrance and recognition by the state and services will help building trust with the local Roma community.
- **Prof. Marius Turda**, Oxford Brookes University, reflected on historical facts of the Holocaust events, bringing examples from the Nazi persecution of Roma in Romania.
- **Maria Hamza**, Roma Support Group, spoke about the experiences of Roma victims of Holocaust, never knew before.
- **Nicu Ion**, Roma Access Newcastle, shared about his efforts in building a memorial for Roma Holocaust victims in Newcastle.



Audience.

Almost 100 people registered their interest to attend our event. The audience consisted of state officials, charity workers, Holocaust museums representatives, diplomats and Roma community members.



Q&A session.

Questions covered topics around inclusion of Roma history in education materials; widening and improving awareness and recognition of the roma genocide; necessity of continue the dialogue; etc.



The Roma Oral History exhibition by Roma Support Group, will be held at the Romanian Consulate in London for over 2 weeks for public view.



Networking





Follow up and feedback.

Here are some feedback and comments we received after the event.

Today's event was powerful and I am grateful you invited me.

Prof. Marius Turda, Oxford
Brookes University

I just wanted to say a big thank you for inviting me to be part of yesterday's event. It was a really meaningful event which was very well put together.

Adam Nickels, HMDT

Just a quick note to say well done for the successful event yesterday. It was very moving, with the speaker contributions, the poem, music and short film.

Abbie Kirkby, FFT



Thank you



**MOVING FOR
CHANGE**



and the **Consulate General of Romania in London**