



Keeping the Memory Alive: the Roma and Sinti Holocaust

**ROMA CENTER
FOR
INTERCULTURAL
DIALOG**

**Report on the International Debate “Keeping Alive:
the Roma and Sinti Holocaust”**

Berlin, 16-17 December 2014

The national debate took place on December 16th and 17th, 2014 in Berlin. The total number of the participants was 52 (40 participants from Germany, 8 participants from Slovakia and 4 participants from Bulgaria).



The debate was organised around the DVD produced under the MemorOM project. The participants had the opportunity to see the interviews with Rita Prigmore and Zoni Weisz.

On December 16th, there were two debates: “What happened to Roma and Sinti during the WW II”, moderated by Sava Samuilov and “Roma and Sinti children in Auschwitz and medical experiments with them”, moderated by Georgi Ivanov.

The participants shared their knowledge of the two topics and participated in the debate and reflecting on the documentary. The Slovak participants and a large part of the German participants had relatives that had been sent to the concentration camps



in Lety, Auschwitz and Buchenwald, and so were emotionally involved in the debate and discussions. Reflecting on the interviews with Rita Prigmore and Zoni Weisz the participants received insightful information on what happened to the children during WWII and how the children were sent to the concentration camps, as well as what happened to them in the camps.

All the debates were around the topic how and what happened during the WWII, but through the eyes of the children.

The next day, December 17th 2014, Hristo Kyuchukov gave a presentation on the IQ tests performed on Roma children during the Nazi regime and since then to nowadays. Publications of European psychologists, anthropologists and educators from Central European countries were discussed and the consequences for Roma children were debated. Nowadays many Roma children are sent to “special schools”, based on the psychological experiments which are very similar to the experimental tests performed on Roma children during WWII, when the children were sent to concentration camps and were objects of medical experiments by Dr Mengele or his students.



Participants in the debate also visited the Roma memorials dedicated to WWII.

The conclusion drawn from the debate was that the neo-Nazism in Europe has increased whilst the genocide against Roma in Europe still continues under different forms. One of these forms is the segregation of Roma in the society, putting them in ghettos. Another form is creating special schools for Roma children and sending them there because they do not speak the official language of the country of residence.

The motto “*Te na bistras – Not to forget*” was accepted as a motto of the debate and the participants decided to disseminate the information which they got during the debate in their countries among the Roma communities.