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Programme



Keeping the Memory Alive: the Roma and Sinti Holocaust

Regards de
Femmes
Tsiganes

**National workshop “Roma, Gypsies, Travellers.
Internment, genocide and Resistance. Exploring an
inclusive approach to minorities’ stories in France.”**

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1. PRESENTATION

The French MemoROM workshop (26/02/2014) was designed to forge a mature reflection shared by Roma and non-Roma in France on the imperative and fundamental need to **deconstruct, develop, promote and give visibility to the Second World War Roma genocide, internment and Resistance history**. Under the title **“Roma, Gypsies, Travellers. Internment, genocide and Resistance. Exploring an inclusive approach to minorities stories in France”**, we decide to address the topic from and with the margins (others underrepresented ethnic, social and religious minorities in the II WW historiography as Black People, “colonial Indigenous”, homosexuals, etc.) using as paradigm the need of inclusive history.

In the current French climate of Gypsophobia/Romaphobia (political, social, academic), it is important to offer a different perspective on Romani Studies. Unfortunately, nowadays, the subject suffered harm from an intellectual approach heavily influenced in France by denial and “memories battles”. Despite the ever-increasing number of Romani and non-Romani researchers, academics working on Roma genocide and Resistance, their products, their contributions and their voices are either little considered by the institutionalized Shoah experts or “Romologist”. The national French MemoROM round table was the first global initiative to bring together Romani and non-Romani researchers, Romani and mainstream civil society, educational and media professional so they can present, share together and contemplate the possibility of forging joint educational and media projects, strategies and research on the topic.



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List of participants:

Ghislaine Durand, Regards de Femmes Tsiganes president

Jean Pierre Liegeois, sociologist, CoE expert

Leila Bencherif, Région Rhône Alpes Vice President

Françoise Vergès, political specialist, university professor. Former president of the Slavery and Memory Committee

Louis George Tin, university professor, president of the CCIF

Sarah Carmona, historian, Université de la Manouba (IRMC) Tunisie

Maryse Adam Maillet, CASNAV de Besançon

Marc Cheb Sun, journalist and editorialist

Saimir Mile, lawyer, La Voix des Roms president

Ines Agnes de Luna, LGBT Roma Mouvement Activist

Pierre Chopinaud, La Voix des Roms, project coordinator

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Jacques Debot, writer, former parliamentary assistant. Conseil Général 71

Tara Dickman, community organizer, Studio Praxis, Humanity in Action former director

Beatrice Szwec, journalist

Henri Dravet, education professional



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Rénée Dravet, education professional

Xavier Perrin, civil society active member





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2. MAIN POINTS ADDRESSED DURING THE ROUNDTABLE AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Internment, deportation, genocide and resistance from the margins

- About the need to decolonize knowledge.
- Specificities and confluences. Experiences of otherness epistemological approaches regarding history and memory.
- The age of barbarism and beyond. History, memories and present.

Inclusive history in France facing minority's denial

- Pedagogical challenges
- Societal challenges
- The role of national and European public institutions

Recommendations and collaboration trails for a pluralistic approach to teaching, research and knowledge of minorities' experiences during the Second World War

2 mains key challenges have been highlighted during the workshop.

In the field of **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION HISTORY**:

- There is an imperative necessity to improve inclusive history education creating updated **inclusive history/literature/art curricula**.
- Should be created on behalf of the Education Ministry an **interdisciplinary experts working committee** on minorities knowledge and inclusive history.
- Address recommendations /joint actions with national, regional and local institutions: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Research, CASNAV, Region Rhône Alpes...
- Previous works and edited teaching materials (history, literature, and art textbooks) should be **analysed and updated** in order to underline the matter (omissions, terminology, definition...), detected and corrected any kind of mistake, misuse in their form and content.

In the field of **CIVIL SOCIETY COMMITMENT/ MARGINS ALLIANCES**

- During the workshop, it appeared to us obvious that any kind of reflexion on Romani history during the Second World War would not be productive without taking into consideration other minorities paradigms. The alliances between epistemological margins points are politically strategic and necessary for a full understanding of the otherness process construction.
- Need to put into historical context the actual racist/homophobe rebirth with the pre Second World War political, economic and sociological situation.

