



3rd International IHRA Conference on the Persecution and Genocide of Roma During the Nazi Era.

Agency, Education & Anti-Discrimination

Date: 6 December 2024

Time: 9:30am-4:00pm

Venue: Lancaster House, London, United Kingdom.

Conference Concept Note:

More than ninety years have passed since the start of the Nazi policy of persecution of the Roma population in Germany. Such a policy was part of a centuries-old anti-Roma policy in which Roma were victims of discrimination, violence and persecution. The peak of such policy occurred during Second World War, when the Nazi authorities, together with their allied European state authorities, committed genocide against Roma. After World War II, Roma suffering was marginalised in cultural memory in many European countries. Lack of serious interest in the genocide of the Roma was evident in the field of research, especially in historiography.

At that first World Roma Congress, a number of Roma intellectuals and political representatives from European countries gathered in the outskirts of London in 1971. Landmark decisions were made related to their name, group identity and mission as well as flag and anthem, to press for recognition of Roma suffering in World War II and establishing an appropriate culture of remembrance for their victims.

The 3rd International IHRA Conference on the Persecution and Genocide of the Roma during the Nazi Era: *Agency, Education & Anti-Discrimination* in London, is organised under the chairmanship of the United Kingdom delegation in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. The Conference will focus on the need to raise awareness and understanding of Roma agency and action during the Nazi period of persecution and in the post-war period in Europe and will stress the importance of unravelling untold stories relating to this, both to set straight the historical record and for education.

In order to understand the complexity of the post-war situation of Roma communities and their efforts to establish an appropriate culture of memory, the Conference will also discuss the development of the Roma movement, especially in the period after the London Congress in 1971.

Education is often highlighted as a key factor in efforts to counter discrimination. In this context, new guidelines and resources developed by IHRA delegates will be presented at the Conference together with groundbreaking developments from other organisations/IHRA partners. Roma representatives of organisations from Great Britain will share their experiences, challenges and reflections in the fight against antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination, in society and politics.

The Conference will end with an open discussion about what has been learned and what still needs to be done within IHRA's remit particularly in terms of future such conferences.



INTERNATIONAL
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the Nazi Era.**

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Conference Programme:

8:30-9:30	Registration. Morning coffee, with breakfast pastries
9:30-9:40	Welcome and Opening of the conference: Lord Eric Pickles, Chair of The IHRA UK Presidency
9:40 – 11:00 1 hour 20 mins.	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Stories Untold: Roma agency and action during and after the Nazi Era.</p> <p><i>Moderators: Ruth-Anne Lenga (Opening & Introductions & Dr Danijel Vojak, (Questions and Discussion).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr Karola Fings (University of Heidelberg)</i> • <i>Emeritus Professor Eve Rosenhaft (University of Liverpool)</i> • <i>Professor Celia Donert (University of Cambridge)</i> <p>Open discussion and concluding remarks</p>
11-11:15	Coffee/Tea break
11:15 – 12:30 1 hour 15 mins	<p>Agency and Education: New guidelines and resources developed by IHRA delegates/partners. <i>Moderator: Ruth-Anne Lenga</i></p> <p>Speaker: Miško Stanišić: IHRA Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Persecution and Genocide of Roma during the Nazi Era.</p> <p>Speakers showcase other important developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandre Guessel: Council of Europe (TBC) • Patrick Siegele: Patrick Siegele, OeAD ERINNERN:AT, Austria • Karola Fings: "Encyclopaedia of the Nazi Genocide of the Sinti and Roma in Europe", University of Heidelberg
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30- 2:25 55mins	<p>Agency and Activism: Looking back to the First Roma Congress, & forward to activism today.</p> <p>Stephane Laederich in conversation with:</p>

	Dafina Savic, Mirijam Karoly, Fred Taikon, Beata Bislim Olahova, Anna Daroczi, and contributions from audience delegates.
2:25-3:15 50 mins	<p>Agency and Action to Address Antigypsyism/Anti-Roma Discrimination and Contemporary Challenges in the UK: the IHRA working definition and other tools.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Sally Sealey OBE</i> Head of Secretariat, UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government</p> <p>Conference guests will be given the floor to share contemporary challenges in combatting prejudice, and empowering Roma communities – UK based initiatives and perspectives.</p> <p>Brief 5-8 min Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicu Ion (Roma Access) • Sherrie Smith - Roma Activist and Campaigner • Mihai Calin Bica - Campaigning and Policy Coordinator (Roma Support Group)
3:15- 3:30 15 mins	<p>Afternoon Tea & Cake</p> <p>Conference photograph.</p>
3:15-3:45 35 mins	<p>Closing conversation: Reflections on the conference and next steps.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Stephane Laederich</i></p> <p>Panel: IHRA Recommendations Project Team: Misko Stanišić, Nina Krieger, Karola Fings, Danijel Vojak, Ruth-Anne Lenga</p>
3:50-4:00	<p>Final Thoughts:</p> <p>Dr Danijel Vojak</p>

Academic Conference Committee: Ruth Anne Lenga (IHRA United Kingdom, Stephane Laederich (IHRA Switzerland), Dr Danijel Vojak (IHRA Croatia) together with UK Presidency and IHRA Permanent Office.

Project Team for *Recommendations for the Teaching and Learning about the Persecution and Genocide of the Roma During the Nazi Era*: Lead: Miško Stanišić (IHRA Serbia) Co-lead: Nina Krieger (IHRA Canada), Karola Fings (IHRA Germany), Stephane Laederich (IHRA Switzerland), Ruth-Anne Lenga (IHRA UK) and Danijel Vojak (IHRA Croatia) with support from Natalie Harshman and Rebecca Bamberger (IHRA Permanent Office).

