

## International Conference

# IS “AUSCHWITZ ONLY SLEEPING”? SINTI AND ROMA NARRATIVES AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of 2 August 1944  
European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

31<sup>st</sup> of July – 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2019



*“I’m afraid that Europe is forgetting its past  
and that Auschwitz is only sleeping.  
Antigypsyist threats, policies and actions  
worry me greatly and make me very sad.”*

Ceija Stojka, Roma Holocaust survivor (1933 - 2013)

International Conference

## **IS “AUSCHWITZ ONLY SLEEPING”?**

### **SINTI AND ROMA NARRATIVES AFTER THE HOLOCAUST**

On August 2, 2019, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of the remaining Sinti and Roma in the so called “gypsy family camp” will be commemorated at the former German concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. This day was officially declared by the European Parliament in 2015 as the “European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day” commemorating 500,000 Sinti and Roma murdered in Nazi-occupied Europe.

#### **Main organizers of the conference:**

Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN) and ternType International Roma Youth Network

#### **Main issues of the conference**

##### **1. Representation of Roma memory in arts and culture**

This panel addresses key questions of the representation of the Roma memory in arts and culture. The arts are a powerful vehicle that can communicate passionately the subjective Roma experiences of the past. In particular, the Holocaust is a common reference point of inspiration and a relevant theme in Roma cultural productions. The arts can also serve as a premise to deal with individual and collective trauma of the past. These cultural productions and artefacts are important in shaping a collective culture of remembrance among Roma throughout Europe and beyond.

##### **2. Roma historical narratives about the Holocaust**

This panel looks into historical narratives of Roma about the Holocaust, the recognition of subjective narrations, historical interpretations and testimonies, as well as the existing structures and forms to archive and transmit the memory: What are the Roma historical interpretations of the past and its implications in the present? What are the forms and objects which can transmit the Roma historical memory? What are the Roma historical artifacts and do we have access to them? How are the Roma experiences of the past communicated and transmitted – internally, within the communities – and externally, to the broader non-Roma society.

##### **3. Spaces of memory and representation of the Romani experience**

Collective memory requires institutions, spaces and rituals to promote and disseminate a Roma historical narratives of the Holocaust experiences. Currently, there are important initiatives focused on erecting memorials and/or building Roma museums that are taking place in a few places around Europe (Lety, Jasenovac). How can we reinforce networking and exchange of experiences between existing and future institutions representing Roma collective memory, to establish a joined, negotiated and consolidated interpretation of the Roma collective history, including in mainstream institutions?

##### **4. Romani civil rights struggle for recognition and against antigypsyism**

Four decades after the hunger strike of Sinti and Roma Holocaust survivors and activists in the former concentration camp in Dachau in 1980, the Romani resistance and civil rights struggle continues against Holocaust denial, for the recognition and fight against antigypsyism, as well as for political, cultural and social rights. This panel creates a space to negotiate current strategies and future perspectives of the Romani struggle, both to strengthen Romani mobilization, as well as to advance processes of uncovering the truth about deeply structural racism, and advancing recognition and remedy for antigypsyism in mainstream institutions.

## Conference Program

### 31 July 2019

Venue: *Auditorium Maximum, Jagiellonian University (UJ), Krakow*

#### 19.30-21.00 **Panel 1: Representation of Roma memory in arts and culture**

Moderation by Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

- Valerie Leray, visual artist and photographer
- Ricardo M. Sahiti, conductor of the Roma and Sinti Philharmonic Orchestra
- Andre Raatzsch, Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma
- Krzysztof Gil, artist and scholar, Department of Painting, Drawing and Sculpture, Pedagogical University in Krakow

#### 21.00 – 22.00 **Exhibition Opening: “Tears of gold/ Sownakune Jasfa”**

Curated by Krzysztof Gil and Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka

Exhibiting artists:

Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Valerie Leray, Emilia Rigova, Marcin Tas, Kalman Varady with performance “Alurican...” by Bogusia Delimata and Cristo Osorio

#### 22.00 **Concert: Romano Ifo (Nowa Huta, Krakow)**

In the framework of the “Dikh He Na Bister” youth event  
*Zaczek Student Klub, aleja 3 Maja 5, Krakow*

### 1 August 2019

Venue: *Auditorium Maximum, Jagiellonian University (UJ), Krakow*

#### 09.15 **Opening of the Conference**

- Romani Rose, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma
- Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
- Rita Prigmore, Holocaust survivor

#### 09.40 **Panel 2: Roma historical narratives about the Holocaust**

Moderation: Joanna Talewicz-Kwiatkowska, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum/Jagiellonian University

- Gerhard Baumgartner, Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance: RomArchive: “Voices of victims”
- Lise Foisneau, Aix-Marseille University, Marseille; Central European University: Romani Resistance in France
- Marko Pecak, Roma Education Fund - Representation of Roma in European Curricula and Textbooks
- Emran Elmazi, Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma

11.00 *Coffee break*

- 11.30      **Panel 3: Spaces of memory**  
 Moderation: Sławomir Kaprański, Pedagogical University
- Anna Vrtálová, Roma Museum Brno: the memorial site Lety u Písku, Czech Republic
  - Andrzej Kacprzyk, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
  - Paul Shapiro, Director of International Affairs, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)
  - Irina Spataru, Junior Expert OSCE-ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, Dikh He Na Bister initiative/ternYpe
  - Paul Verschure, Future Memory Foundation
- 13.00      *Lunch break*
- 14.30      **Key note speech**  
 Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., PUSH/Rainbow Coalition
- 15.00      **Panel 4: Romani civil rights struggle for recognition and against antigypsyism**  
 Moderation: Iulius Rostas, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC)/ Central European University
- Soraya Post, former Member of the European Parliament, Sweden
  - Zola Kondur, Council of Europe/ Chirikli Roma Foundation, Ukraine
  - Ismael Cortés Gómez, Member of the Spanish Parliament
- 16.15      **Is “Auschwitz only sleeping”? Reflections from the conference**  
 Moderation: Vivian Isberg, Dikh He Na Bister initiative
- Szabolcs Schmidt, DG Justice, European Commission
  - Thorsten Afflerbach, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe
  - Isabela Mihalache, ENAR/ Alliance against Antigypsyism
  - Moritz Kilger, EVZ Foundation
- 17.00      *Minute’s silence to commemorate the Warsaw Uprising*

## Official program of the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration

### 1 August 2019

*Auditorium Maximum of Jagiellonian University, Krakow*

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 19.00-20.00 | Arrival and welcome of international delegations and representatives   |
| 20.00-22.00 | <b>Concert in memory of the Sinti and Roma murdered on 2 August 1944</b><br>Roma and Sinti Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Riccardo M Sahiti                 |
|             | <b>Recognition of Dr. Piotr Cywinski</b> , Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum,<br>with the special award of the European Civil Rights Prize of Sinti and Roma |
| 22.00       | Reception  |

### 2 August 2019

*Birkenau, camp section B II e*

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 09.45-10.30        | Entrance and security-check, walk to the memorial  |
| 10.30              | Arrival of survivors and VIP delegations   |
| <b>10.00</b>       | <b>Reading of names of the victims at the memorial by Sinti and Roma youth</b>   |
| <b>11.00-12.15</b> | <b>Commemoration ceremony</b>  |
| <b>12.15-12.45</b> | <b>Wreath laying ceremony</b>  |
| 13.00              | End of the commemoration ceremony  |
| 13.00              | <b>Lunch and Reception in the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer</b> , <i>hosted by Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, and the Roma Association in Poland in cooperation with the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau</i>               |
| 14.30-15.30        | <b>Commemoration ceremony: Speeches by international organizations, parliamentary and governmental representatives</b>   |
| 13.00              | <b>Lunch and Youth Conference "Dikh He Na Bister" in the International Youth Meeting Centre</b> in Oświęcim, hosted by the International Roma Youth Network ternYpe and the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma |
| 15.00              | Youth debate with international youth organizations  |
| 16.00              | <b>Opening of the international youth event</b>  |
| 16.30              | <b>Encounter of young people with Holocaust survivors</b>  |
| Until 20.00        | Opportunity to visit the Roma Museum in Oświęcim   |
| Until 20.00        | Opportunity to visit Auschwitz Museum, in particular the exhibition about the genocide of Sinti and Roma in Block 13.  |

## International Conference Biographies of the Contributors

### Panel 1: Representation of Roma memory in arts and culture

#### **Krzysztof Gil**

Krzysztof was born on December 30, 1987, in Krakow. He studied graphics at the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, where he obtained a master's degree under the supervision of prof. Piotr Panasiewicz. In 2018, he defended his Doctoral thesis at his home university. Currently a lecturer at the Faculty of Arts of the Pedagogical University and the National Commission in Krakow. He deals with drawing, painting, installation, and workshop graphics. In 2016, he was honored with the Creative Scholarship of the City of Krakow. Your work presented in institutions and galleries such as European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture - ERIAC (Berlin), BWA Wrocław, BWA Tarnów, Szara Kamienica Gallery (Krakow), MWW Museum of Contemporary Art Wrocław, le e'trangere art gallery London, Akedemie der Kunst Berlin.

#### **Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka**

Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka is an anthropologist and Roma activist, born in 1985 in Cracow/Poland. She earned her Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) in 2016. She holds an MA in European Integration from UAB and an MA in Comparative Studies of Civilizations from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow (UJ). She is author of policy evaluations, reports, and articles, and is the co-editor of the book "Education for Remembrance of the Roma Genocide: Scholarship, Commemoration and the Role of Youth" (Libron, 2015). She has been an employee, member, founder, and collaborator of numerous Roma organizations in Poland and Spain. From 2008 to 2012 she was the European project coordinator at the Federation of Roma Associations in Catalonia (FAGIC). From 2013 to 2015 she was an Open Society Foundations Roma Initiatives Fellow, conducting a comparative study of the Roma associative movements in various countries of Latin America and Europe. From 2015 to 2017 she was the coordinator and curator of the Academic Section (aka. Roma Civil Rights Movement Section) in the RomArchive – Digital Archive of the Roma. Between 2017 and 2018 she was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow of the Romani Studies Program at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. Since 2017 she is the deputy director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC).

#### **Valerie Leray**

Valérie is a visual artist-photographer, researcher, curator and art director of the artist-run alliance *la mire*. Valérie Leray is a visual artist photographer, researcher, curator and art director of the artist run alliance *la mire* based in Region Loire Valley (France) and Berlin which runs an AIR program for visual artists called A ROOF ABOVE YOU HEAD in Berlin and a future one in Mumbai, India and Chittagong, Bangladesh. Valérie Leray was born in Chartres, France in 1975. She began her artistic career as a reportage photographer and quickly conceptualized her approach in the documentary photography. She graduated as Master of Photography and Multimedia at the Paris 8 University. She was awarded "The European year of intercultural dialogue" award and received few visual art grants in France and Europe. Her works has been exhibited in various countries including: Europäischer Monat der Fotografie (Berlin), Fotoseptiembre (Mexico D.F), Pyngyao International Photography festival, Taiwan, Serbia, Croatia, Poland, Paris... At the moment, her series "Place With No Name" is shown at the prestigious contemporary art Biennale of Venizia under the exhibition FUTUROMA curated by Daniel Baker and commissioned by ERIAC. She develops also a series of art pieces can be performed as a conference with European visual artists, most of them, are from the Roma background.

#### **Andre Raatzsch**

Raatzsch, born 1978 in Ilmenau/Germany, has participated in numerous international exhibitions over the past few years, among them the first Roma Pavilion "Paradise Lost" at the Venice Biennial in 2007. Subsequently, he carried out several artistic and cultural projects, including "Rewritable Pictures",

which – as part of a studio work using participatory and artistic methods – questions, expands, and critically reflects on pictorial representations in private Roma image archives. He is currently in the final year of a doctoral programme at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, working on the transdisciplinary research topic “The Roma Image Studio”. The Roma Image Studio is an artistic and critical platform that links the representation of European Roma with the reconstruction and deconstruction of Roma identity, taking into account photography, photographic archives, and the accompanying photographic discourse. André Raatzsch is head of the Documentation Department at the Documentation and Cultural Centre for German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg.

### **Riccardo M. Sahiti**

Riccardo was born in 1961 near Pristina. He is the founder and director of the Roma and Sinti Philharmonic in Frankfurt. In 1990, he completed his conducting/music pedagogics studies at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade with Prof Stanko Sepic. He deepened this education by studying opera symphonic conducting at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow under Yuri Ivanovic Simonov, as well as at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts with Prof Jiří Stárek. He has attended masterclasses with Jorma Panula and Péter Eötvös. Sahiti has gained wide experience as a conductor working with the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, the Silesian Philharmonic Orchestra Katowice, the Radio Symphony Orchestra Belgrade, and the Symphony Orchestra Savarija Szombathely of Hungary. Sahiti is Riccardo was born in 1961 near Pristina. He is the founder and director of the Roma and Sinti Philharmonic in Frankfurt. In 1990, he completed his conducting/music pedagogics studies at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade with Prof Stanko Sepic. He deepened this education by studying opera symphonic conducting at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow under Yuri Ivanovic Simonov, as well as at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts with Prof Jiří Stárek. He has attended masterclasses with Jorma Panula and Péter Eötvös. Sahiti has gained wide experience as a conductor working with the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, the Silesian Philharmonic Orchestra Katowice, the Radio Symphony Orchestra Belgrade, and the Symphony Orchestra Savarija Szombathely of Hungary. Sahiti is the artistic director and conductor of the Roma and Sinti Philharmonic Orchestra since 2002.

### **Opening of the Conference:**

### **Rita Prigmore**

Prigmore was born on 3 March 1943 in Würzburg, Germany, together with a twin sister, Rolanda, to a Sinti family. Her parents, Gabriel and Theresia, worked at a theatre in Würzburg. In 1941 Rita’s mother was taken by the Gestapo and forced to sign forms agreeing to be sterilized, under the threat of deportation. Theresia agreed but tried to fall pregnant before her appointment. In summer 1942 the doctors discovered that she was expecting twins. Theresia was told she would be allowed to give birth if she agreed to give her children to the authorities once they were born. She agreed and after their birth, Rita and Rolanda spent most of their time in a university clinic. In April 1943 Theresia headed to the university to see her children and found Rolanda dead after being experimented on. In a panic, she grabbed Rita and ran out of the clinic, but a few days later the authorities took Rita back. She remained there until April 1944. As a child and an adult, Rita started to experience various health problems. She discovered that these were caused by the various brain experiments that had been conducted on her as a child by Nazi doctors. Rita is currently living in Würzburg, Germany and is actively engaged in Roma Holocaust remembrance.

### **Romani Rose**

Romani Rose is a Romani activist who lost 13 relatives in the Holocaust of the Nazi purges against the Romani people and Jews and is the head of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. During the founding of the Central Council in 1982, he was voted to the position of Chairman by the delegates of the member organizations. From 1991, Rose took over the management of the Documentation and Culture Centre of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg. For years he has been known by the federal and state governments for his resoluteness and his persistent and unyielding work. Together with the Chairpersons of the National Minorities in Germany, Rose leads the Minority Council, which was



founded on September 9, 2004. It is the union of the umbrella organizations of the four national minorities which belong to the German nation and have always been resident and autochthonous here. For three decades—since June 1979 to be exact—he has led the work for the civil rights of German Sinti and Roma before the eyes of the German as well as the international public. In May 1995, in cooperation with the member organizations of the Central Council, Rose achieved recognition for German Sinti and Roma as a national minority in Germany with their own minority language, connected with their goal of equal participation in social and political life.

## **Panel 2: Roma historical narratives about the Holocaust**

### **Gerhard Baumgartner**

Dr. Baumgartner was born in Oberwart (Burgenland/Austria) in 1957. Since May 2014 he has been head of research at the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance. Gerhard studied English, history, and Uralic Studies at the University of Vienna from 1977 to 1984. From 1991 to 2011, he was the executive editor for Hungarian-language television broadcasts at ORF Burgenland. Concurrently, from 1994 to 1997, he directed the Institute for Comparative Education and University Research (Austria). Baumgartner has been a member of the Roma Genocide Working Group of the IHRA – Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Before taking up his post at the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance, he was a senior research fellow at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies. He is a recipient of many awards, between them is the Burgenland Order of Merit "first-class" (Großes Ehrenzeichen des Landes Burgenland) in 2008.

### **Emran Elmazi**

Emran came to Germany as a refugee before the war in the former Yugoslavia. After his graduation from high school, he studied law at the university of Trier. Now he heads the Unit "Dialogue" in the Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma, in Heidelberg. He also occupies the position of Deputy Chairman within the youth self-organization *Amaro Drom eV "Our Way"*.

### **Lise Foisneau**

Lise Foisneau is a postdoctoral research fellow in the CEU Romani Studies Program and an associate researcher at IDEMEC (Aix-Marseille University – AMU). She is a Doctor in anthropology at AMU and has received a Master degree in history at Sciences Po Paris. Her current research focuses on the role of Roma and Sinti in the French Resistance during World War II. She has published several historical and anthropological articles in scientific journals such as *Ethnologie française*, *Tracés*, *Health*, and *Human Rights Journal*, as well as book chapters.

### **Marko Pecak**

Marko Pecak is a Research Officer at the Roma Education Fund. Within his role Marko Pecak conducts and manages research projects investigating critical topics to influence closing educational gaps between Roma and non-Roma. Marko obtained a Master in Public Policy at the University of Berkeley, California Goldman School of Public Policy. His policy and research interests include participatory action research, racial equity, education, public health, human rights, and applied econometrics. Marko is a first-generation Romani college student. Born in Croatia to a Hungarian Roma mother and a Croatian father, the family moved to the United States in 1988. Marko returned to Europe in late 2017 to use his skills and determination to support the Roma Education Fund's mission of closing educational gaps between Roma and non-Roma.

### **Joanna Talewicz-Kwiatkowska**

Dr. Joanna Talewicz-Kwiatkowska holds a Ph.D. in anthropology. Besides teaching at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, she works as an Academic Advisor for Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau. She is a member of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies and recipient of multiple prestigious awards and fellowships, including from the Gypsy Lore Society, the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and the Accountability Program at Columbia University, the Leadership Academy



for Poland, a Fulbright scholarship (2015-2016) and the European Commission. Professor Talewicz-Kwiatkowska has published edited collections, a monograph "The influence of the EU funding on the social conditions of the Roma people in Poland. Kraków, 2013" and articles to the history and present conditions of Roma communities, perceptions of Roma, education, Roma history, Roma genocide during the WWII, and minorities' rights in Poland.

### **Panel 3: Spaces of Memory**

#### **Andrzej Kacorzak**

He has been a staff member at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum since 1997. Initially as a guide, then in February 1998 an employee at the Education Department. In September 2001, he suited a managerial position at the Education Center. While the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust came into existence he became its organization manager and since March 2011 he has been the head manager of the Visitor Service Section. Currently, he is the ICEAH Director. He graduated from the Higher School of Pedagogy in Opole and the Teacher Training College in Bielsko-Biała. He also completed the postgraduate studies in the field of history and museology at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. He took training courses in Germany, the USA, Israel, and Italy.

#### **Sławomir Kapralski**

Dr. Kapralski is Professor of Sociology at the Pedagogical University of Kraków and a recurrent visiting lecturer at the Centre for Social Studies operated by Lancaster University and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. He graduated from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków where he also received his Ph.D. in Sociology and started his academic career. Then for many years, he was associated with the Central European University (Prague, Warsaw, Budapest). In 2013-2014 he was Senior Fellow at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, and in 2016-2017 he was Senior EURIAS Fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala. His research focuses on nationalism, ethnicity and identity, collective memory, antisemitism and the Holocaust, and the Roma communities in Europe. He is a member of the Editorial Boards of Romani Studies and Studia Romologica.

#### **Paul Shapiro**

Shapiro is Director of International Affairs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. From 1998 to 2016 he was Founding Director of the Museum's Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. He participated in the Congressionally-mandated archival declassification effort of the Interagency Working Group on Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records. In 2003-4 he wrote major sections of the final report of the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania, chaired by Elie Wiesel. He led the Museum's successful effort to open the archives of the International Tracing Service (ITS) and served on the ITS International Commission from 2001 to 2018. His publications include *The Kishinev Ghetto 1941-1942: A Documentary History of the Holocaust in Romania's Contested Borderlands* (2015) and numerous articles and book chapters on Romanian and Holocaust history. Prior to 1997, he was an editor of the journal *Problems of Communism* (Washington) and Editor in Chief of the *Journal of International Affairs* (New York). Mr. Shapiro holds degrees from Harvard College and Columbia University. He is the recipient of the Verdienstkreuz of the Federal Republic of Germany (2010); the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award for Preservation of the Legacy of the Holocaust (2010); and the Order of Merit of the Republic of Romania (2009).

#### **Irina Spataru**

Spataru is a Roma Rights Activist and a board member of the Austrian Roma NGO Romano Centro, where she initiated the yearly youth commemoration on August 2 in Vienna since 2015. She is a certified trainer for human rights education by the Council of Europe and in March this year, she was elected as a board member of the Austrian National Youth Council. After her Traineeship at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, she joined the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and is working as a Junior Expert with the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues.

where her focus is mainly on activities promoting awareness about the specific interests and need of Roma and Sinti women, including participation of Roma and Sinti youth.

#### **Paul Verschure**

Dr. Verschure is a Research Professor with the Catalan Institute of Advanced Studies, Director of the Synthetic Perceptive, Emotive and Cognitive Systems Laboratory (specs-lab.com) at the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology and the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia. Paul has received his MA and Ph.D. in Psychology and pursued his research at different leading international institutes. To bring his science to society Paul has founded a spin-off company and two foundations. Paul is founder/Chairman of the Future Memory Foundation, which aims at supporting the development of new tools and paradigms for the conservation, presentation, and education of the history of the Holocaust and Nazi crimes that are in use at a memorial sites and museums across Europe including Bergen Belsen, Falstad, Jasenovac, and the Dutch National Holocaust Museum. Paul is founder/CEO of Eodyne Systems S.L., which is commercializing novel science grounded neurorehabilitation, education and cultural heritage technologies, in particular, the neuroRehabilitation Gaming System. Besides, Paul is founder/Chairman of the Convergent Science Network Foundation, which hosts the annual Living Machines conference and Barcelona Cognition, Brain and Technology summer school.

#### **Anna Vrtáľková**

Anna is a historian at the Museum of Romani Culture. She is focusing in her research on the holocaust of the Roma and Sinti and particularly on the so-called gypsy camps Lety u Písku and Hodonín u Kunštátu. She is part of the Czech delegation at IHRA and she is part of the team who will create a new exhibition for future Lety Memorial. She is also part of the working group for the architectural competition for Lety Memorial.

#### **Key note speech:**

#### **Rev. Jessie L. Jackson Sr.**

The Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., founder, and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, is one of America's foremost civil rights, religious and political figures. A top lieutenant to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Jackson has played a pivotal role in virtually every movement for empowerment, peace, civil rights, gender equality, and economic and social justice since the 1960s.

A two-time presidential candidate, Rev. Jackson has led massive voter-registration drives across the South and protests for dispossessed farmers in Iowa and displaced factory workers in the Rust Belt. He was at the forefront of the fight to Free South Africa and has traveled the world on missions of mercy, setting hundreds of captives free. On August 9, 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Rev. Jackson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honour.

For his work in human and civil rights and nonviolent social change, Rev. Jackson has received more than 40 honorary doctorate degrees and frequently lectures at major colleges and universities including Howard, Yale, Princeton, Morehouse, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Hampton and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. A hallmark of Rev. Jackson's work has been his commitment to youth. He has visited thousands of high schools, colleges, universities and correctional facilities encouraging excellence, inspiring hope and challenging young people to study diligently and stay drug-free.

#### **Panel 4: Romani civil rights struggle for recognition and against antigypsyism**

#### **Ismael Cortés Gómez**

Dr. Ismael Cortés is a Congressman in the Spanish Parliament with the political party Unidas Podemos – En Comú Podem. He is a policy analyst and a scholar on Peace and Conflicts Studies. He studied Literature, Anthropology, and Philosophy at the University of Granada and obtained an MA. He continued his studies at the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace, Universitat Jaume I, where he gained his Ph.D. on Conflict and Development Studies with an international award. His research interest focuses on the relation between law, culture, and politics, by analyzing how ideologies

constitute institutional norms and action programs. During his academic career, Ismael has been a visiting researcher at the School of Critical Theory, (University of Nottingham), the Institute for the Study of Peace and Conflicts (International University of Andalusia) and the Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology at Central European University. He has worked as a policy analyst for OSF from 2016 to 2018 both with RIO and OSEPI. He gained a postdoctoral fellowship at Central European University – Romani Studies Program. He collaborates with different media at national and European level with publications in HuffPost, Le Monde Diplomatique, Euractiv or El País among others. As a Roma activist, his main work has focused on political participation and knowledge production. Ismael is also a member of the Barvalipe Academy of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC).

### **Zola Kondur**

Zola Kondur has been a lifelong human rights advocate. She was born in 1976 in the small city of Kiliya in the Odessa region of Ukraine and was raised in a traditional Roma family. In 1993, Kondur and her family helped form the Izmail Roma Association, which works to protect the rights of Roma people in southern Ukraine. In 1997, Kondur became the head of the association's Sunday school. In response to a serious lack of services for Roma girls, Kondur helped launch the Chiricli International Roma Women's Fund in 2000 to advocate on behalf of Roma women across Eastern Europe. As the vice president of the nonprofit organization, Kondur's priorities are ensuring that Roma girls have access to adequate education and proper health care for themselves and their families. Kondur's advocacy on human rights and passion for Roma issues have led to consultancies with international human rights organizations, including a current role with the Council of Europe. Kondur has also been invited to speak at numerous conferences and conventions, and is a keynote speaker at the high level meetings. From 2019 Zola is a Tolerance Envoy of UNDP Ukraine.

### **Soraya Post**

Soraya Post was born 1956, in Gothenburg, Sweden. Her father is a German Jew and her mother belongs to the Swedish Traveling people, the Resande. She is a politician and Romani human rights activist from Sweden. She was elected as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 2014, as the representative of the Feminist Initiative party and joined the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) in the European Parliament shortly after. In 2015 she was a driving force behind the European Parliament's resolution, 'International Roma Day; anti-Gypsyism in Europe and European Union's recognition of the Memorial Day of the Roma genocide, during World War II'. She is co-president of the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI). Post has worked, as a National Minorities expert, at the Västra Götaland region's Office of the Justice and Equality Committee in Gothenburg and then became a member of the International Romani Women's Network (IRWN) in 2000, where she was elected chairperson in 2005. A member of the European Roma and Travellers Forum from 2004, she was elected Vice President in 2013. She was also a member of the Commission Against Antiziganism (anti-Gypsyism), where she worked with a proposal for establishing a national Roma centre in Sweden.

### **Iulius Rostas**

Dr. Rostas is the Chair of Romani Studies/Assistant Professor at Central European University in Budapest. He was an Affiliated Fellow with the Institute for Advanced Studies at CEU, Senior Fellow with the Open Society Foundations Roma Initiatives Office, and Visiting Lecturer at Corvinus University of Budapest. He has worked for the Open Society Foundations, the European Roma Rights Center, and the Government of Romania, and has consulted for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank, the European Commission, and the Roma Education Fund. Dr. Rostas is the editor of "Ten Years After: A History of Roma School Desegregation in Central and Eastern Europe" (CEU Press, 2012) and in 2011 he published "Social Inclusion or Exclusion: The Rights of Persons Living with HIV in Moldova" (Cartier Publishing, 2011). He published articles and book chapters on Roma participation, Romani identity, Roma school desegregation, the Romani movement, and civil society. Since 2019, he is a member of the Board of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC).

## **Is “Auschwitz only sleeping”? Reflections from the conference**

### **Thorsten Afflerbach**

Thorsten Afflerbach was born in 1961. In 1991, Afflerbach earned his Master of Arts (M.A.) in European History, Sociology from Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (University of Kiel). He was a lecturer at the University of Leicester, England. Thorsten is the Head of the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Roma Issues at Council of Europe. Prior to this position, he was Head of the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Head of the Social Cohesion and Integration Division, and Head of Integration of People with Disabilities Division at Council of Europe.

### **Vivian Isberg**

Vivian was born 1991, in Helsinki, Finland. Back home, she is doing her Bachelor degree in the field of Humanities. For the second year in a row, she gets to lead the national group from Finland in “Dikh he na bister youth initiative – event”. Being part of the Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative has been a great honor for her since raising the awareness about Roma holocaust is something we necessarily need to spread to make sure that the memory of victims won’t fade away in the upcoming years and decades. Isberg is quite an active advocate of Roma rights in her home country and consider herself as a Roma activist since she is a human rights defender from the bottom of her heart.

### **Moritz Kilger**

Dr. Kilger, born in 1975, board member of the Berlin Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (ECC) since the beginning of July 2017. He studied Political Science, Economics, History, Linguistics and Literature and received his doctorate in economics at the University of Cologne in 2007 on the topic of financial market regulation in the EU. Kilger was a Fellow of Teach First Germany for two years at a Werkrealschule in Heidelberg and has previously taught at a high school in Cologne politics and history. He is also a member of the advisory board for the preparation of the Ettersberg Foundation and a member of the advisory board of the Documentation Center for Nazi Forced Labor in Berlin.

### **Isabela Mihalache**

Isabela is the Advocacy Officer at the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) since February 2019. She has been working previously with the Council of Europe, European Roma Rights Centre and Open Society Foundations. As a member of ENAR, she is involved, among others, in the Alliance against Anti-gypsyism, advocating for the acknowledgment by the EU Member States of anti-gypsyism as a specific form of racism and promoting substantive equality for Roma in Europe.

### **Szabolcs Schmidt**

Schmidt graduated from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences with a specialisation in external economic relations. Before joining permanently, the European Commission services he accumulated professional and managerial experience both in the corporate and in the public sector with postings in Germany, Hungary and Poland where he got engaged at an early stage with the European reunification process that materialized with the 2004 enlargement of the European Union. Within the European Commission services, he worked in the areas of external and enlargement policies, cohesion policy and transport policy, since 2005 with managerial duties. Since 2017 holds the position of Head of Unit for Non-discrimination and Roma coordination of the European Commission. In this function he is responsible for ensuring the appropriate implementation of the European Union's legislation in the area of equality and for its further development, as well as for promoting best practices in this area through non-binding instruments such as the 2018 Commission Recommendation on Standards for Equality Bodies, the Diversity Charter, the EU List of Actions on LGBTI equality or the EU Framework on National Roma Integration Strategies.