Romani Memory Map for the Americas

Review, Acknowledgements, Consultation and Partnership

The Romani Memory Map for the Americas is a crowd-sourced collective project that benefits from the contributions and engagement of Romani people, Romani and pro-Romani civil organizations, human rights defenders, academics, public officials and other members of the public.

The Romani Memory Map for the Americas project is grateful for the time and effort of a broad range of people and institutions in taking the time to submit proposals for entry into the Romani Memory Map for the Americas. Persons or entities submitting proposals for entries to the map are recognized on each post in the Map.

Review bodies involving Roma human rights defenders from the Americas and academic institutions have been convened to review the materials submitted in response to the call for inputs. The following independent and voluntary review bodies have reviewed and assess submissions for the Romani Memory Map for the Americas:

1. **Expert Panel**

The role of the Expert Panel has been to ensure academic rigor, historical accuracy, and proper ethics in the review of the entries submitted. The Expert Panel worked on the basis of decisional consensus.

Ann Ostendorf – Gonzaga University, United States
Martin Fotta – Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia
Marcos Toyansk – Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil
Matias Dominguez – Universidad de Buenos Aires

The Romani Memory Map for the Americas is grateful for the extensive time and effort contributed by the members of the Expert Panel, as well as for their collaborative engagement.

2. Review Board

The role of the Review Board has been to ensure Romani community involvement and oversight in the assessment of materials submitted for inclusion in the Romani Memory Map for the Americas, as well as to complement the work of the Expert Panel in assessing academic rigor, historical accuracy, and proper ethics in the entries submitted. The Expert Panel similarly worked on the basis of decisional consensus.

Nathan Mick – Roma Advisory Council for the Americas
Javier Jimenez-Royo – Postdoctoral Conahcyt at El Colef, Mexico
Elisa Costa - President of AMSK/Brazil and vice-president IRU/South America, Brazil
Mariana Sabino - University of New Mexico, United States

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Summary of Review Considerations

It is not possible to summarize all aspects of the discussions of the Expert Panel and the Review Board. However, some notes are merited here:

- The boundaries of accepted entries is physical memory points. Thus, for example, educational curriculums recognizing Romani history, language and/or culture have not been accepted for inclusion. Similarly, where a national truth and reconciliation process has explicitly recognized Romani victims (in Colombia for example), this has not been included in the Map. However, physical memory points (statues, plaques, etc.) established to memorialize such a truth and reconciliation process and/or victims would be included in the Map.
- In the cases of Holocaust memorials or monuments commemorating slavery and/or the slave trade, these are not included if they do not explicitly recognize Romani victims of these practices, whereas they are included if they do provide such explicit recognition.
- In certain cases, memory points commemorating fictional characters have been included. The two review bodies proceeded on a case-by-case basis in the assessment of such submissions.

- In general, the review bodies accepted places memorializing publicly recognized personalities.
- For reasons of safety, security and privacy, it was decided to exclude any currently inhabited house, community, settlement or similar place;

Further Acknowledgements

The Romani Memory Map for the Americas is further grateful for the voluntary assistance of Carla Perez Abeniacar and Reynaldo Miguel de Leon Ceto, as well as the contribution provided by Henrique Napoleão Alves and Ana Elisa Barbosa Mourao, representing the Facts and Norms Institute..

Consultation and partnership

OHCHR has advanced efforts in different projects together with civil society, researchers and institutions interested in tackling anti-Gypsyism. Included to date have been Roma organizations such as the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma (Germany), Dikh he na Bister! (Europe); Mayle Sara Kali International Association (Brazil), Zor - Asociación para los derechos del Pueblo gitano/romani (Argentina), Instituto PluriBrasil (Brasil), PRORROM (Colombia), World Roma Federation, Asociatia Fast Forward (Romania), European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network (Europe), Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Cataluña (Spain) and others. Also involved to date in the development of this action are UNESCO Costa Rica and UNESCO Mexico. In addition, with the support of OHCHR, the Roma Advisory Council (RAC) North America was created in 2021 and the RAC Latin America was created in 2023. Both groups are made up of Roma activists from the Americas.

The Romani Memory Map is built in partnership with **Gonzaga University**, **the Laboratory of Studies on Ethnicity, Racism, and Discrimination (LEER) at the University of São Paulo (Brazil), the Institute of Ethnology at the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Anthropological Sciences at University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Associação Internacional Maylê Sara Kali (AMSK/Brazil)** longside Romani human rights defenders and civil society organizations from the Americas and beyond.

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