



# DIKH HE NA BISTER ROMA GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE

EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES

**AUG 2**

This booklet will provide you with helpful information about the Holocaust and the Roma Genocide Remembrance Day 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. The aim of this booklet is to increase solidarity among people and to bring a tribute to the lost victims of the Holocaust.

**This booklet has been compiled by: Terezia Rostas and Rosa Maria Kostic Cisneros.**

**DISCLAIMER:** Please note that this list does not intend to be exhaustive and is simply a guide to help you get started. There are several debates around official numbers and this guide does not pretend to be an official voice but rather is a starting point for you to do your own research and to find more information. This resource was compiled using several reputable resources that are found online. Credit to those sources are included. Please ensure you respect any intellectual property rights and copyright when reusing.

<b>Section one:</b>	Roma Genocide history: The Fate of European Roma and Sinti during Genocide
<b>Section two:</b>	Raymond Gureme Holocaust survivor and resistance, Pavel Friedman – Jewish Czechoslovak poet- victim of Holocaust
<b>Section three:</b>	Getting to know you , colouring and educational activities/ideas to commemorate the Roma Genocide

#### **Videos:**

Roma Holocaust Memorial Day 2017: [LINK](#)

Roma Genocide Remembrance Day: [LINK](#)

Sinti Roma Survivor Lina Jackson remembers liberation of Dachau: [LINK](#)

#### **Online References:**

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazi-persecution/the-porrajmos/>

RomArchive: <https://www.romarchive.eu/en/voices-of-the-victims/genocide-holocaust-porajmos-samudaripen/>

#### **Teaching Resources:**

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/holocaust-collection-teaching-resources/>

<https://www.teachwire.net/news/holocaust-memorial-day-teaching-resources>

<https://www.holocausteducation.org.uk/teacher-resources/materials/>

<http://auschwitz.org/en/history/categories-of-prisoners/sinti-and-roma-gypsies-in-auschwitz/>

# What is Roma Genocide Remembrance Day?

**2<sup>nd</sup> of August each year is Holocaust Remembrance Day**

On this day, we remember events that have happened in the past, when people were treated badly. This is so that we can learn from them and make sure they don't happen again.

We remember the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and terrible crimes committed during **1941-1945**.

Today, to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and Roma Genocide Remembrance Day we are bringing it to the attention of the public and we ask everyone to stand together for Solidarity.

## Why is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August Roma Genocide Remembrance Day?

On the night of **2/3 August 1944**, the 'Gypsy Family Camp' (The Zigeunerlager) at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liquidated. 2,897 men, women and children of Roma or Sinti origin were murdered in the gas chambers by Nazi officers. Their bodies were burned in pits.

Of the **23,000 Roma and Sinti people imprisoned within the camp**, it is estimated that around **20,000 were ultimately murdered**. The anniversary, often referred to as Zigeunernacht, is an opportunity to remember the Roma and Sinti people murdered under the Nazi regime, and is now marked as Roma Genocide Remembrance Day.



The Porrajmos/Samudaripen ('the Devouring'), is the term used to describe the Nazi genocide of Europe's Roma and Sinti population, who were targeted for total destruction.

More than 200,000 Roma and Sinti were murdered or died as a result of starvation or disease; around 25% of the pre-war population. Many more were imprisoned, used as forced labour or subject to forced sterilisation and medical experimentation.



An estimated 500,000 European Roma and Sinti were murdered during the Holocaust - victims of racist persecution by the German Nazis and their fascist allies. But this genocide is still largely unknown. Roma and Sinti were murdered in extermination camps and died of hunger and disease in forced labour and concentration camps. Many more were deported and exploited as forced labour on farms, construction sites and in industry. For decades after the war the survivors were not recognised as victims of the Nazi persecution and received little or no compensation or restitution for their lost property.

Between 1941 and 1945 a large proportion of the Central European Roma and Sinti populations were murdered by National Socialists or by members of fascist governments and movements allied with the Third Reich. Among the Roma and Sinti the tragedy is sometimes referred to as Pharrajimos -the Great Devouring - or as Samurdaripen - the great Killing. Close to half a million Roma and Sinti perished during the Holocaust.

- Allies of the German Reich
- German Reich and occupied territories
- Camps before 1933
- Detention- and Work Camps
- Concentration Camps
- Extermination Camps
- \* Massacre

<https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/home>

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/resource/nazi-persecution-of-roma-and-sinti-people/>

## Camps before 1933:



\*[CREST \(F\)](#)

\*[FRANKFURT \(D\)](#)

\*[WITZWIL \(CH\)](#)

\*Click on the word- link embedded.  
Visit the website for more information and resources.

## Concentration camps and extermination camps



\*[AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU \(PL\)](#)

\*[BERGEN-BELSEN \(D\)](#)

\*[BELZEC \(PL\)](#)

\*[BUCHENWALD \(D\)](#)

\*[CHELMNO/KULMHOF \(PL\)](#)

[DACHAU \(D\)](#)

[FLOSSENBÜRG \(D\)](#)

[JASENOVAC \(HR\)](#)

[MAUTHAUSEN \(A\)](#)

[RAVENSBRÜCK \(D\)](#)

[WESTERBORK \(NL\)](#)

\*Click on the word- link embedded.  
Visit the website for more information and resources.

## Detention and Work Camps:



- \*[BERLIN-MARZAN \(D\)](#)
- \*[COLOGNE \(D\)](#)
- \*[DUBNICA NAD VÁHOM \(SK\)](#)
- \*[DÜSSELDORF \(D\)](#)
- \*[GELSENKIRCHEN \(D\)](#)
- \*[HAMBURG \(D\)](#)
- \*[HODONÍN U KUNSTÁTU \(CZ\)](#)
- \*[KOMÁROM \(H\)](#)
- \*[LACKENBACH \(A\)](#)
- \*[LETY U PÍSKU \(CZ\)](#)
- \*[LODZ \(PL\)](#)
- \*[MAXGLAN \(A\)](#)
- \*[MECHELEN / MALINES \(B\)](#)
- \*[MONTREUIL-BELLAY \(F\)](#)
- \*[TRANSNISTRIA \(UA\)](#)
- \*[WEYER \(A\)](#)

\*Click on the word- link embedded.  
Visit the website for more information and resources.

## Massacres:



[BABYN YAR \(UA\)](#)  
[HRASTINA \(HR\)](#)  
[SZCZUROWA \(PL\)](#)  
[SABAC \(SRB\)](#)  
[VÁRPALOTA \(H\)](#)

# The Need for Remembrance:

... 'everything possible should be done in the educational sphere to prevent recurrence or denial of the devastating events that have marked this century, namely the Holocaust, genocides and other crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and the massive violations of human rights and of the fundamental values to which the Council of Europe is particularly committed. '

*Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, Recommendation Rec(2001)15  
on history teaching in twenty-first-century Europe*

## What is remembrance?

*Remembering* is not the same as *remembrance*. Although remembering will always be a part of remembrance, it is primarily a personal matter and often something we cannot avoid, even if we want to. Remembrance, on the other hand, is a structured event with a purpose in mind: it is designed to address not only individuals, but also communities or groups – even society as a whole.

In acts of remembrance, we stop short for a while and focus our minds on an event which happened in the past.

## Why do we need to remember?

There are more than enough examples of abuse today which need to be understood and addressed by the next generation. It is important to be clear about why the Roma Genocide, which took place some 70 years ago, is something that needs to be brought to the attention of society as a whole, and of young people in particular.

## Past victims need acknowledgement

The reasons for raising awareness of the Genocide are not difficult to see when we consider the nature and scale of the crimes, and put ourselves in the position of the victims. The 'thought experiment' on the next page places the reader in the position of one whose family has experienced gross abuse and a gross injustice. It reminds us that the trauma of our parents is often something that succeeding generations have to carry, and will not forget. It emphasises the entirely human need for past crimes to receive acknowledgement, not only because injustice is painful in itself, but also because a past injustice often affects our current possibilities.

## How should we 'remember'?

All who have taken seriously the admonition 'Never Again' must ask ourselves – as we observe the horrors around us in the world – if we have used that phrase as a beginning or as an end to our moral concern.

*Harold Zinn, Historian*

# The fate of the European Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust

Information provided by: Roma Genocide: [www.romasintigenocide.eu](http://www.romasintigenocide.eu)

## ANNA MARIA “SETTELA” STEINBACH



Photo provided by: Archives of the Westerbork

Settela Steinbach was one of 574 Roma and Sinti arrested in 1944 and taken to Camp Westerbork. Her hair was cut off there, so she covered her head with a strip torn from a sheet as a scarf.

On 19 March 1944, Settela was put on a freight train to Auschwitz. As the doors of the wagon closed, she was filmed staring out by Rudolf Breslauer, a Jewish prisoner who had been ordered to record the scene by the camp commander.

Settela was killed within the next few months, together with her mother, two brothers, two sisters, her aunt, her two nephews and her niece. Of the large Steinbach family, only her father survived.

### Did you know:

... that for decades everybody thought the photograph was of a young Jewish girl? The “Girl with the Headscarf” became a symbol of the sufferings of the Jews during the German occupation.

... that her true identity was only discovered in 1994 by a Dutch journalist, Aad Wagenaar?

### For you to do:

To find out more about Settela and write a short list of things learned.

Visit: [www.romasinti.eu](http://www.romasinti.eu) for more information.



# The fate of the European Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust

Information provided by: Roma Genocide: [www.romasintigenocide.eu](http://www.romasintigenocide.eu)

## WOUNDED SOULS: CEIJA STOJKA



Ceija Stojka (1933 - 2013), a survivor of Auschwitz, with her daughter Silvia in 1953.  
Photo provided by: Documentation Centre of Austrian Roma, Vienna, Austria

“When we got out, we were ill, completely ill! Our hearts were wounded; our heads, our souls were ill ... Those people should all have been given treatment. They should not have had children for five, six years - the few who did get out, who were still there - until they had enough strength, were healthy again, were able to laugh again and see that the world is not so bad ... And the fear, always the fear. The children grew up with it. That is why they still turn round when they walk the streets today. Do you understand? They turn round. Only someone who is afraid turns round! Somebody who emerges ill from the camp, whose head hurts and soul bleeds for a father, a sister, a brother who never came out can only have children that are also wounded in their souls. They come into this world, you see how sweet they are, how beautiful. You raise them and care for them, you kiss them and love them. They grow up. But the fear that was in you flows to the children with their mothers' milk.”

### Did you know:

... that Ceija Stojka's book “We Live in Seclusion”, which was published in 1988, was one of the first books telling the tragic fate of the Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust from a survivor's point of view?

### For you to do:

Choose a sentence from Ceija Stojka's text that moves you most. Discuss it in small groups.

# The fate of the European Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust

Information provided by: Roma Genocide: [www.romasintigenocide.eu](http://www.romasintigenocide.eu)

## FORCED RELOCATION



Anuta Branzan (second right) and her sisters in 1942. An aunt had the photograph taken a few days before their deportation, to have a memento of her nieces. Private collection of Michelle Kelso, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Memorial Site, Netherlands

In 1942, eight-year-old Anuta Branzan and her family were forcibly relocated - together with 30,000 other Romanian Roma and Sinti - from Bucharest to Transnistria, on the border with Ukraine. The camps mostly consisted of primitive huts, and many of the deportees had to sleep out in the fields or in barns. Anuta survived two years of hunger and forced labour under inhuman conditions there. More than half of the other deportees did not.

### Did you know:

... that Romania has the largest Roma population in the European Union, estimated at between 1.8 million and 2.5 million people?

... that about half of all people regarded as Roma do not see themselves as Roma, but half of those who actually are Roma are often not recognised as such?

### For you to do:

Pick a moment in the life of Anuta Branzan (before relocation, in the camp, after her liberation) and write a letter she might have written to a friend.

**Section two:**

Raymond Gureme Holocaust survivor and resistance, Pavel Friedman – Jewish Czechoslovak poet- victim of Holocaust

## Raymond Gureme

Raymond Gureme, a French Roma who survived the war hiding and taking part in the resistance movement actions said that he looked into the eyes of death many times. “I know that my name was on the list of those who were supposed to perish in Auschwitz”. He addressed his testimony to the young: “You are obliged to fight against discrimination, racism and violence the victims of which are the Roma and Sinti of the entire Europe. We, the old generation, raised the flame. Now it is your turn to keep it and make it burn brighter and brighter so that we get stronger”, he said.



**“ Never give up, always resist! Please continue my fight! ”**

**Raymond Gureme**

(11/08/1925- 25/05/2020)

**Holocaust survivor and member of the French resistance**

**(DIKH HE NA BISTER 2018)**

His granddaughter Marine Hageman emphasized that she is very proud of her grandfather: “He fought to protect his family. He was trying to save them. He did not give up. He was fighting. He resisted. And despite the harm he suffered from the German and the French, he survived. As he says himself, he kindled the fire of strength and courage, in order to pass it to us so that we protect it and keep on kindling following his example”.

Sourced from: <http://auschwitz.org/en/museum/news/roma-and-sinti-genocide-rem>

**Section three:**

**Getting to know you, colouring and educational activities/ideas to commemorate the Roma Genocide**



Foto: A. B. C. P. / Contrasto (2011) - Foto: A. B. C. P. / Contrasto (2011)



Foto: A. B. C. P. / Contrasto (2011) - Foto: A. B. C. P. / Contrasto (2011)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Butterfly

by Pavel Friedmann

Read for **comprehension** below.

The last, the very last,  
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.  
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing  
against a white stone...

Such, such a yellow  
Is carried lightly 'way up high.  
It went away I'm sure because it wished to  
kiss the world goodbye.

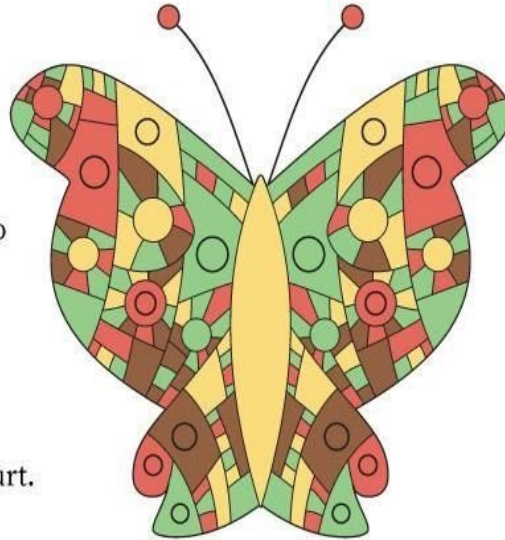
For seven weeks I've lived in here,  
Penned up inside this ghetto  
But I have found my people here.  
The dandelions call to me  
And the white chestnut candles in the court.  
Only I never saw another butterfly.

That butterfly was the last one.  
Butterflies don't live in here,  
In the ghetto.

Pavel Friedmann  
4.6.1942

Pavel Friedmann was a Jewish Czechoslovak poet during World War II. He wrote "The Butterfly" shortly after he was deported to the Terezin Ghetto in 1942. He was 21 years old. Eighteen months later, Pavel was sent to Auschwitz and executed.

In 1996, Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) launched The Butterfly Project. The project was centered around Friedmann's poem and asked children to submit handmade butterflies. Each butterfly represented a child that had died during the Holocaust. But children weren't the only ones to participate. The project struck a chord in people around the world and butterflies began to flow it. The Butterfly Project lasted for 20 years and received 1.5 million butterflies.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Holocaust Questions

**Respond** to the questions below.

1. **What are examples of groups of people persecuted by the Nazi party?**

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Go back through your copy of the speech and highlight every time Mr. Weisel uses the word "indifference".**

3. **In your own words, explain what "Indifference" means to you after reading Elie Wiesel's speech.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Use a dictionary to define the following words:**

**Commemorate:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Refugee:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **What are two actions the United States could have done during the 1940s to help victims of the Nazi party, but did not do?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. **What does the butterfly represent in Pavel Friedmann's poem?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

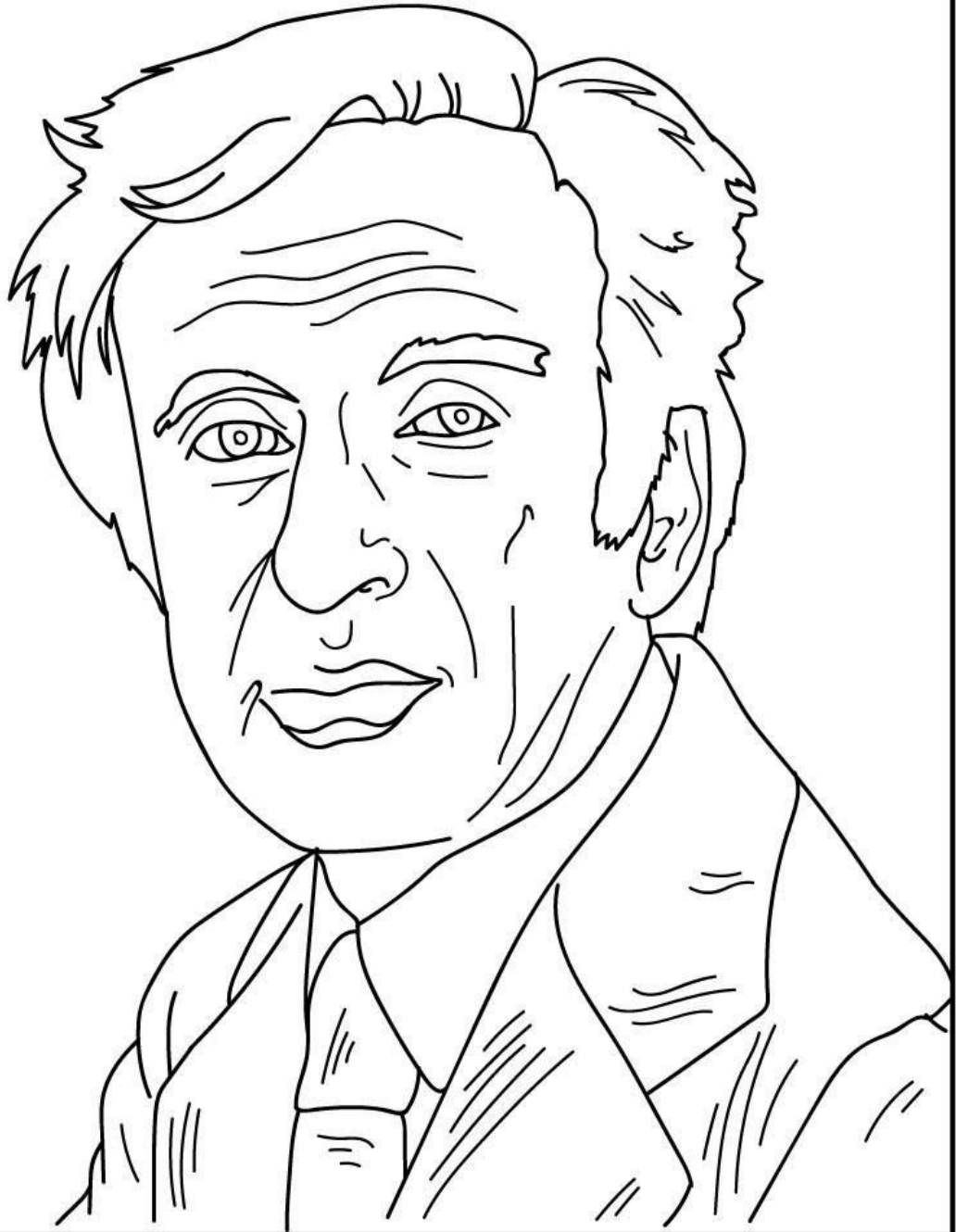


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Coloring: A Nobel Laureate

**Color** Mr. Elie Wiesel below.

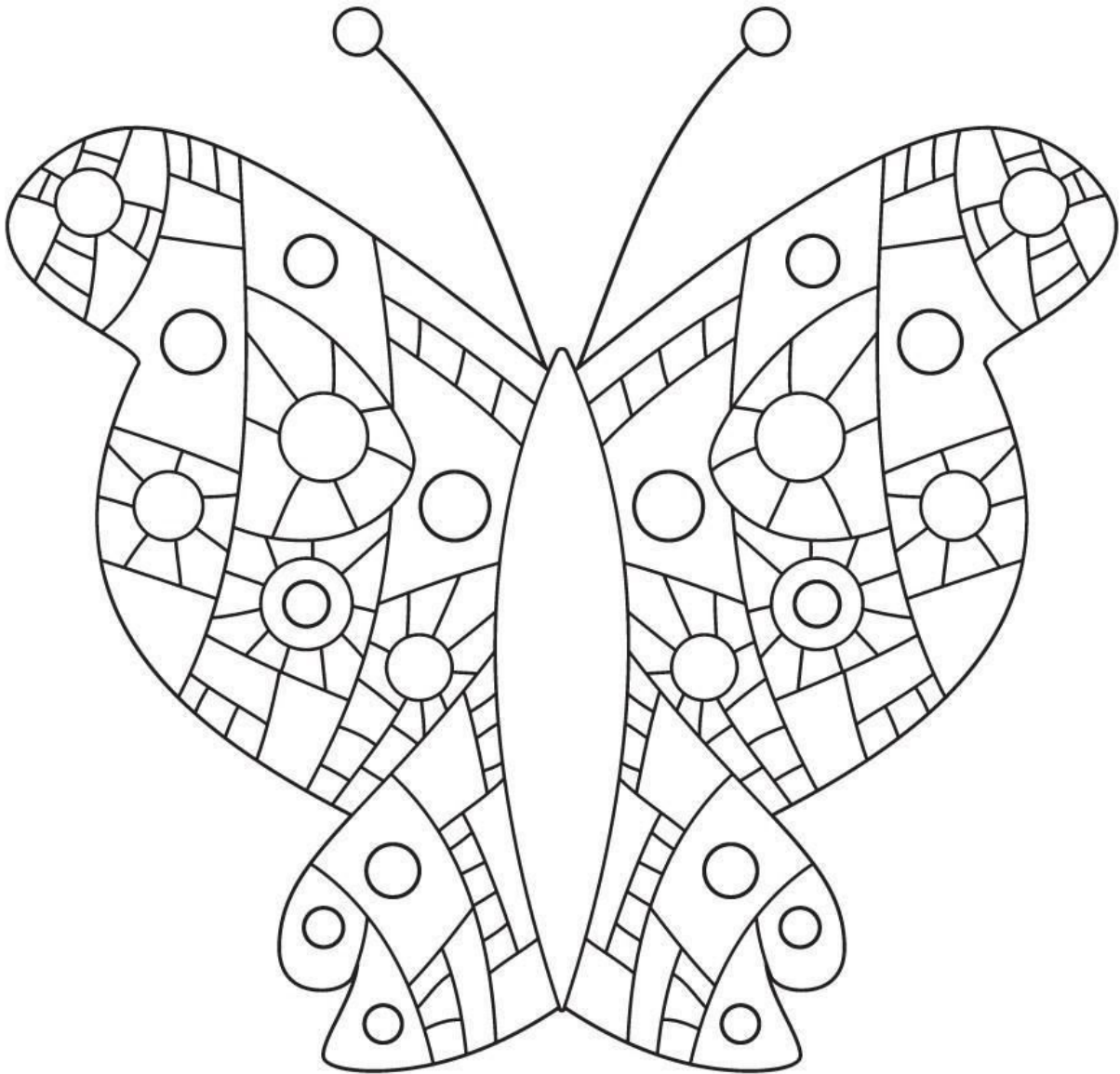


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Coloring: The Butterfly

**Color** the butterfly below.





# DIKH I NA BISTAR 2014

TernYpe – International Roma Youth Network and its partners gather 1000 young Roma and non-Roma from all over Europe around August 2nd 2014, marking the 70th anniversary of the remembrance day of the Roma Genocide. The initiative raises awareness among young Europeans, civil society, political stakeholders and decision-makers on the Roma Genocide, the mechanisms of stereotypes, antigypsyism, and current challenges of racism, hate speech and extremism in Europe.

ternYpe aims to empower young Roma to have a voice and to be key actors for change! We have a strong vision to make a change in Europe. As young Roma and non-Roma we believe that we can build a European culture based on respect, dialogue, human rights and equal opportunities. We strongly follow our mission to create space for young people to become active citizens through empowerment, mobilization, self-organization and participation. We advocate a wider official recognition of the Roma Genocide in Europe and the recognition of August 2nd as a memorial day of the Roma Genocide during World War II.

January 2014, ternYpe - International Roma Youth Network



**“Today, we are standing on the very ground, where so many of our loved ones were murdered. This pond is probably where my mother, sisters and brother are buried. I always come here. Listen how quiet and peaceful this place is. I still cannot comprehend that there is such quiet in the place where all these horrible things happened.”**

**Zoni Weisz, Holocaust survivor**

The Roma Genocide  
The lack of recognition  
Education for Remembrance

Youth Remembrance Event 2014  
International Conference  
on Remembrance & Holocaust Education  
One Million for Roma - The Campaign for Recognition  
Awareness-Raising - Educational Activities around Europe  
Partnership and Supporters

## Make your own recycled "Remembrance tree"

For this activity you need:  
a jar, some wooden sticks,  
string, cardboard paper and  
extra for decoration,  
stickers, ribbons, various  
pens/paint colours .

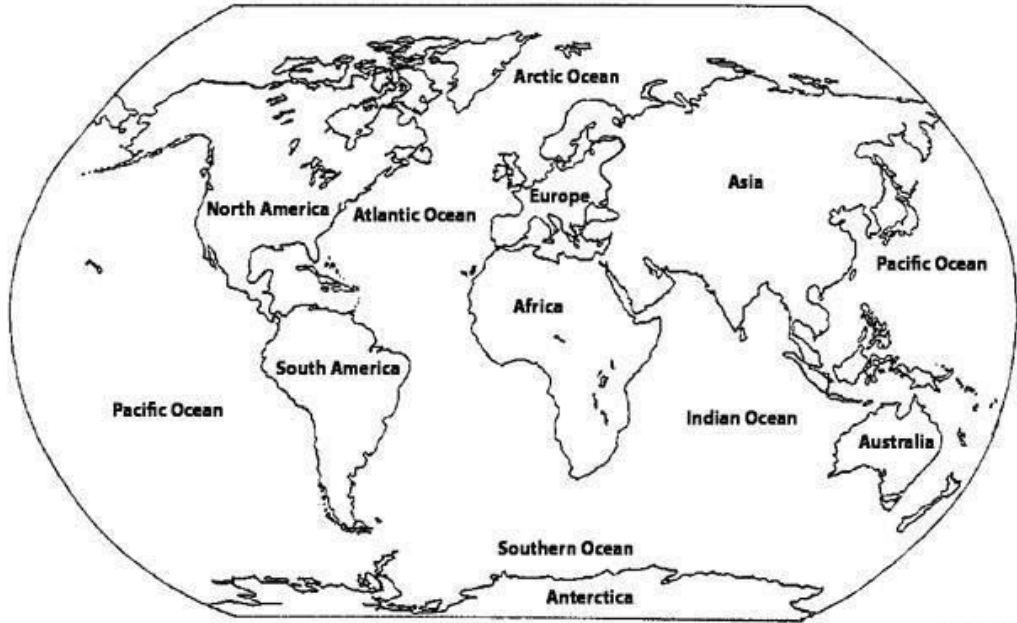
Take a piece of cardboard  
and draw different  
shapes for your tree tags

Cut the shapes out and  
use a paper perforator  
to cut a hole in each  
piece

Write your  
remembrance/  
solidarity message

Cut small pieces of  
string and tie them  
individually on your tree  
and voila !



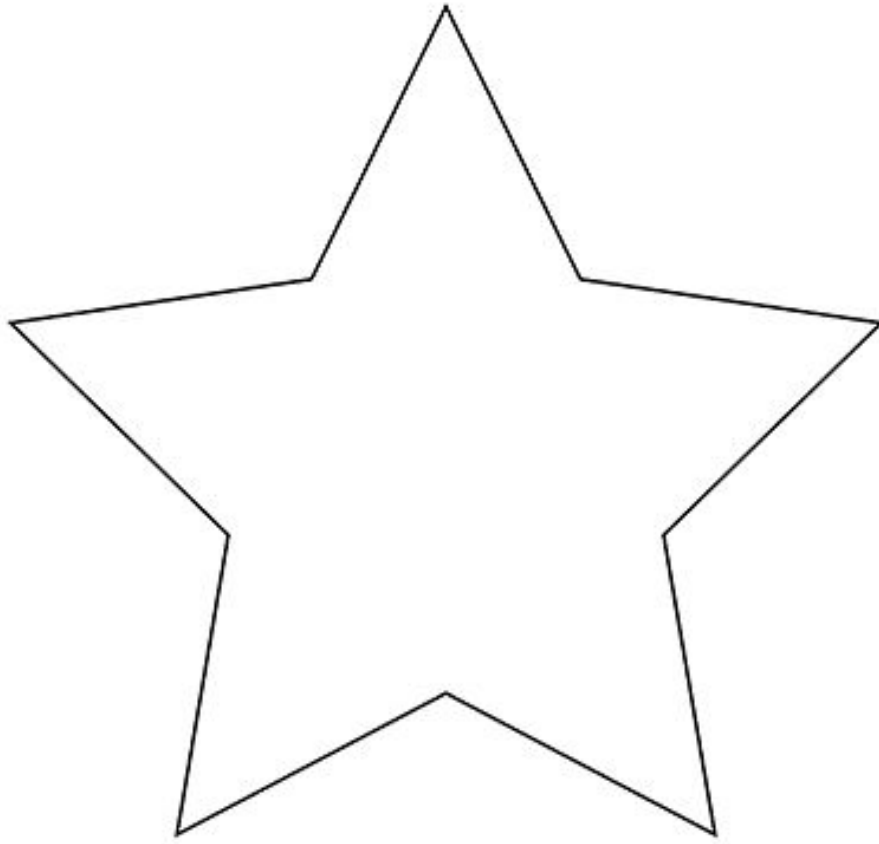


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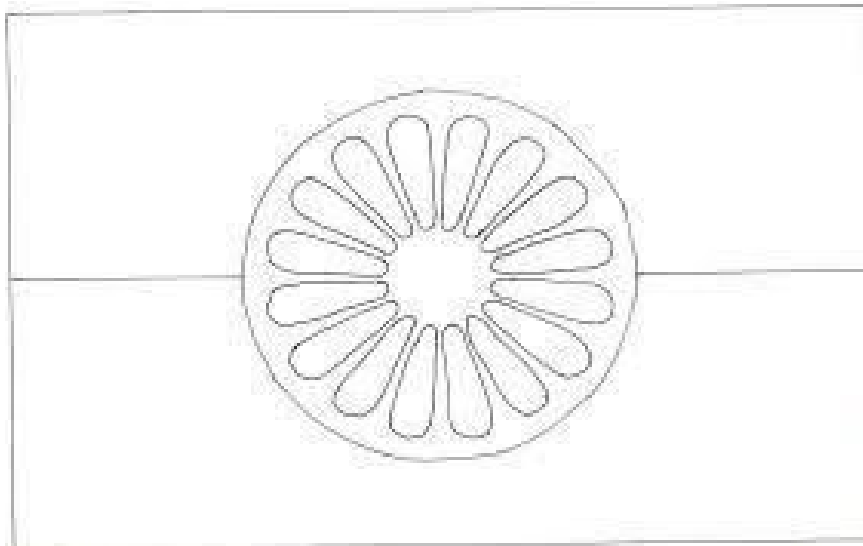


coloringpage.eu

7.5" STAR



copyright 2013 [www.firstpalette.com](http://www.firstpalette.com)



# Awareness-Raising Educational Activities around Europe

## Aim

The Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative aims to raise awareness about the Roma Genocide on the grassroots level all around Europe, and to strengthen a culture of remembrance. Therefore, the initiative aims to support local youth groups to realize non-formal educational activities in their communities.

## Educational suitcase:

The project creates an "educational suitcase" which will provide non-formal educational tools for youth leaders, activists and multipliers. These tools are less focused on providing information and hard facts about the Roma genocide, but they stimulate the critical thinking and debate of young people, their reflection and understanding of history, anti-Semitism, antigypsyism and exclusion mechanism, as well as the active engagement and human rights education of young people.



## Activity 1: Local research and testimonies

Youth groups make a local research in their environment about the Roma genocide, they visit local memorial sites, collect testimonies of survivors, eye-witnesses and different generations regarding culture of remembrance and the social memory.

## Activity 2: Celebrate the Roma Resistance on May 16

When the Nazis planned to eliminate the "gypsy camp" in Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Roma successfully resisted on that day May 16, 1944, and the Nazis had to stop the action. We celebrate the resistance of Roma on this day.

## Activity 3: Local commemoration ceremony

After researching about the Roma genocide in their communities, youth groups can organize a local commemoration, for instance on a deportation or mass shooting date.

## Activity 4: Intergenerational discussion about culture of remembrance

We intend to bring different generations together, but also Roma, Jewish and other youth organizations to debate about the culture of remembrance and the importance of Holocaust remembrance nowadays.

## Activity 5: Seminar for multipliers

We plan 2-3 days lasting seminars on national level for multipliers, youth leaders and activists to support them to realize local educational activities, and to share their experiences.

## Activity 6: Music, art and theatre

Young groups organize workshops based on art pieces and music, which were produced during the Holocaust. And they prepare small theatre performances based on Sinti and Roma life stories, such as the boxer Rukeli Trollmann or the survivor Else Baker.



# Getting to know you:



My name is **Teddy Bear**

You can call me **Teddy** 😊 I am from Romania



I am Romanian-Roma

I was born in England.

I live in Sheffield.

I have lived in Sheffield since I was born.

I am 5 years old.

I have 1 brother.

My family likes cooking gardening and dancing.

I like doing arts and crafts and dancing.

When I grow up I would like to be a **doctor**



, a **pilot**



and a **musician**



because, my mum told me that we can be whatever we like if this is what we dream 😊

What about you?

What would you like to become when you are a grown up?

Your turn to practise 😊



My name is:

You can call me:

I am from...

I am ...

I was born in ...

I live in ...

I am ....years old.

I have .....sister/brother

My family likes.....

I like doing...

When I grow up I would like to be...

## Credits:

This resource booklet was created with the goal to celebrate intercultural understanding and to raise awareness on Gypsy/Roma/Traveller history. Should you want more information on other resources that are available or to organise a training or workshop, please contact the team below.

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