

JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026

ETHICAL REPORTING ON ROMA AND TRAVELLERS
AND COMBATING RACISM AND ANTIGYPSYISM
THROUGH THE MEDIA



Roma and Travellers

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



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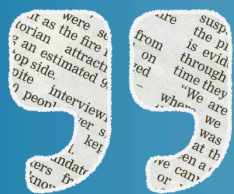


Roma and Travellers



ALAIN BERSET

Secretary General of the Council of Europe



Today's award recipients restore complexity where others see only stereotypes. They make racism and antigypsyism impossible to ignore. And through them, we hear Roma and Travellers in their own words – and see more clearly their rightful place in Europe's common story."

Opening speech at the Ceremony, 18 June 2026.



ABOUT

The Journalism Excellence Awards “Ethical reporting on Roma and Travellers and combating antigypsyism through the media” aim at honouring and promoting media contributions that counter the stigmatisation often faced by Roma and Travellers, while bringing forward their human stories in an ethical and respectful manner.

The Awards were initially launched in 2024 within the framework of the Joint Programme EQUIROM (Equality and Freedom from Discrimination for Roma) funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe (2022 - 2024).

The competition targeted active journalists, media professionals and journalism students from the Council of Europe Member States. Eligible content of their production needed to be objective, neutral, bias-free, or positively reporting on the key issues faced by Roma and Travellers.

The Awards recognise outstanding achievements across a range of categories that reflect the diversity and evolving nature of the media landscape. These include:

- **Photojournalism Award** for using images to tell unbiased stories of Roma and Travellers, refraining from generalisation and stereotyping;
- **Investigative Journalism Award** for reporting on hardship of and exposing discrimination, unequal treatment, and human rights violations towards Roma and Travellers, as well as showcasing initiatives and promising or constructive practices tackling antigypsyism, racism and discrimination;
- **Best Interview Award** for conducting an interview on Roma and Traveller-related topics and/or broader issues linked to racism, particularly antigypsyism and discrimination, including with (famous) Roma and Traveller individuals;
- **Roma history and Holocaust remembrance Award** for reporting on commemoration events, memorial sites or pedagogical initiatives (or lack of) related to Roma and Travellers' history at large or specifically on the holocaust;
- **Young Journalists Award** for journalists under the age of 30 (at the time of application) reporting on human rights, or ethnic minorities and racialised groups.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Jury was composed of five individuals with recognised expertise and moral standing in the fields of Roma equality, anti-racism, including antigypsyism, and human rights, three of whom had documented expertise in journalism and media. The composition of the Jury was based on suggestions from the Council of Europe and the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN), the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA), and the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI).

The Jury examined each submission based on various criteria outlined in the competition regulations. Due to the exceptional value of the works submitted, the jury decided to award **two participants in the Roma History and Holocaust Remembrance category**. Additionally, the jury decided not to award in the Photojournalism category.

This booklet presents the awarded candidates to recognise their work in the fields of Roma advocacy, anti-discrimination, and human rights.



BEST INTERVIEW AWARD



Jana BAUDYSOVA

"The Congress in London United Roma Around the World, Recalls Its Artistic Director, Journalist, Manager and Activist Tore-Jarl Bielenberg"

■ About the Awarded Material

The interview recounts Tore-Jarl Bielenberg and his wife Raya's role in the historic 1971 First World Romani Congress, which unified Roma communities globally and established key cultural symbols like the Romani flag and anthem. The Congress marked the start of a common political movement and led to the formation of the International Romani Union. Bielenberg and Raya went on to promote Romani culture and rights through concerts, education, and publications. While recognition and representation of Roma have grown, he emphasises that discrimination and marginalisation remain serious issues across Europe.

■ About the Author

Editor-in-chief of the magazine *Romano vodi*, published by ROMEA. She studied socio-cultural anthropology at Charles University in Prague. In addition to journalism, during her many years of work in the Romani non-governmental sector, she has also worked with children and youth in a low-threshold center and participated in projects and campaigns focused on education and combating racism. In the editorial team, she also serves as a mentor for young aspiring Romani journalists.

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM AWARD



Adam CHARLTON

*"Is This the Last "Acceptable"
Form of Racism? | Beyond
Borders"*

■ About the Awarded Material

'Being Gypsy in Britain' examines the ongoing struggle of Roma, Gypsy, and Traveller communities in the Britain to live in a dignified manner and to dispel the misconceptions around the community perpetrated by the media and society. The film explores the structural barriers and social exclusion lived by by the communities due to restrictive laws, prejudice and stereotypes through the voices of families, artists, activists, and everyday community members. Through these perspectives, the documentary highlights both the persistence of antigypsyism and the community's efforts to resist discrimination, celebrate Roma identity and culture, and change harmful stereotypes and narrativerers from within.

■ About the Author

Adam Charlton is a broadcast journalist and executive producer with 20 years of experience across CNN, TRT World, and beyond. From Hong Kong to Atlanta to London, he has shaped flagship programmes including Amanpour and CNN Newsroom. He now presents and edits Beyond Borders and The Beyond Borders Podcast, on TRT World.

YOUNG JOURNALISTS AWARD



Eftichia SOUFLERI

“Roma on TikTok:
How Their Life Went Viral”

■ About the Awarded Material

This documentary explores why Roma communities in Greece have become highly active on TikTok while rarely using other social media platforms. Filmed across multiple Roma settlements and towns, it features interviews with people of different ages and backgrounds, highlighting how TikTok is used for live events, community announcements, leisure, and business promotion. The film reveals that TikTok—centered around videos and audio—much more accessible for the Roma than text-based platforms, often serving as their first experience with social media and the internet.

■ About the Author

Eftichia Soufleri is a journalist and multimedia producer at News247.gr, one of Greece's leading news websites. Her work covers a wide range of crucial social issues, with a strong focus on human rights, migration, technology, and holding power to account. Alongside her investigative articles, she produces explainer videos and mini-documentaries. In 2026, she launched the social media column "Long Story Short" to make complex current affairs accessible to a wider audience. Her work has been featured in respected Greek and international media outlets, including Solomon, Balkan Insight, and Le Courrier des Balkans. Eftichia holds a degree in Communication and Media Studies from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She further advanced her training by completing the LEDE Data Journalism program at Columbia University in New York as a Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) fellow.

ROMA HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE



Višnja VIŠNJIĆ MILIĆ

“Porajmos - The suffering of the Roma in World War II”

■ About the Awarded Material

The article documents the persecution and genocide of the Roma community in occupied Serbia during World War II and calls for increased public awareness and institutional memory on the history of the Roma Holocaust. Drawing from archival sources, survivor testimonies, and official documentation, it provides an evidence-based account of the systemic oppression of Roma people. The article challenges stereotypes and showcases the cultural richness and resilience of Roma communities, fostering a positive and respectful representation of Roma communities

■ About the Author

Visnja Visnjic Milic has been employed at RTS since 2013, when she won the public competition “One Hundred Young Experts for the 21st Century.” Since then, she continuously worked within the News Program department, contributing to major programs like the Morning Program, Belgrade Chronicle, News program, including work for the public broadcaster’s online portal. For the past five years, she was engaged in the TV show “Građanin,” which focuses on national minorities. She received several awards and recognitions for her work, including the National Award for Responsible Reporting on Poverty, the Equality Protection Commissioner’s Award, and the OSCE Mission Award for overall contribution to the promotion of national minorities, as well as the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities Award for examples of good practice at the local level.

ROMA HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE



Paula SZEWCZYK

"We dressed up so as not to look like Roma. When the Germans saw a skirt, they shot immediately"

■ About the Awarded Material

The article documents the persecution of Roma and Sinti people by Nazi Germany during World War II based on survivor testimonies, standing out for its emotional depth and authenticity. It describes the constant fear Roma lived under, knowing that being identified could mean death. Everyday decisions like what to wear or where to go became crucial for survival, offering insight into the daily dangers and difficult choices faced by Roma during the Holocaust. The article highlights the brutality of the era, with accounts of Nazi soldiers shooting Roma on sight and whole families being murdered. The work also raises awareness, encourages reflection, and helps preserve the memory of the Roma Holocaust.

■ About the Author

A reporter and journalist for TVP.Info covering social issues. She was awarded the "Crown of Equality" of the Campaign Against Homophobia, the NGO Hero award, and a distinction in Amnesty International's "Pen of Hope" competition. She is also the author of the book "Foreign Bodies" a nonfiction book about transgender people in Poland. She is currently working on a book about the Holocaust of the Roma community.