

ROMA HOLOCAUST

JEKHIPE RESEARCH FINDINGS 2025

Sources:
JEKHIPE Research Papers (2025)
ERIAN Holocaust Memory Initiatives
Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma
Roma Holocaust Memorial Day (August 2)

Recognizing the Forgotten Genocide

The Roma Holocaust, often referred to as the Porajmos or Samudaripen, was the systematic persecution and murder of Roma and Sinti under Nazi rule and its collaborators.

AT LEAST 500,000 ROMA WERE KILLED ACROSS EUROPE.

Roma were targeted through racial laws, forced sterilization, deportation, forced labor, and mass murder.

Nazi racial science categorized Roma as “racially inferior”.

Thousands were deported to Auschwitz–Birkenau and other camps.

On the night of August 2–3, 1944, over 4,000 Roma were murdered in the “Gypsy family camp” at Auschwitz.

August 2 is now commemorated as Roma Holocaust Memorial Day.

After 1945: Denial and Delayed Recognition

Recognition of the Roma genocide was delayed for decades.

- Survivors faced continued discrimination
- Compensation claims were rejected
- Police and administrative structures reused Nazi racial classifications

In Germany, official recognition of the genocide of Sinti and Roma came only in 1982

The Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered under National Socialism was inaugurated in Berlin in 2012.

The Roma Holocaust is an integral part of European Holocaust history.



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Memory, Education, and Responsibility

Remembering the Roma Holocaust is essential for:

- Understanding contemporary antigypsyism
- Combating historical denial and distortion
- Strengthening European democratic memory

Educational approaches should:

- Integrate survivor testimonies
- Connect racial laws to modern discrimination
- Embed Roma history within broader Holocaust education

Initiatives such as Roma Holocaust Memorial Day (August 2) and youth-led remembrance actions like Dikh He Na Bister strengthen transnational memory.



Why It Matters Today

The Roma Holocaust is not only a historical tragedy, it reveals how racism becomes institutional policy.

Recognizing it affirms:

- Roma dignity
- European responsibility
- The necessity of confronting structural antigypsyism



**Memory is a
foundation
for justice.**