



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREALERS CONTINUE TO CALL FOR RECOGNITION OF ROMANI GENOCIDE

Montreal, July 28, 2020 – On August 2, the Montreal Holocaust Museum, in partnership with Romanipe, will host its fifth annual commemoration of the Romani Genocide. The public is invited to virtually attend and learn more about the organized murder of Roma and Sinti peoples by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II.

The commemoration will take place on the Facebook pages of the Montreal Holocaust Museum and Romanipe on Sunday, August 2nd at 5 pm. This year, participants will hear video testimony from Romani genocide survivors as well as commemorative songs and messages from Romani peoples in Canada and abroad.

August 2nd has been designated by Roma and Sinti across the world as the day to commemorate the Romani Genocide perpetrated by the Nazis and their collaborators. On this date in 1944, the last remaining 4,300 Roma and Sinti imprisoned in the so-called Zigeunerlager, or “Gypsy Camp” were murdered in the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The most recent estimate indicates that at least 500,000 Roma and Sinti were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II.

Two years ago, on August 2, 2018, the Canadian government issued a statement in remembrance and in recognition of the Romani Genocide. Now, Canadians and the few remaining genocide survivors are eagerly awaiting an Act of Parliament from the Federal government to make the recognition of the Porrajmos official.

“The government’s announcement two years ago was a hugely significant step in acknowledging the often-overlooked and ongoing history of Romani suffering,” expressed Dafina Savic, Founder of Romanipe. “We now ask that the government fulfill its commitment by passing an Act of Parliament, which would officially recognize the Romani Genocide. This is a crucial step in not only recognizing the persecution of Roma and Sinti by the Nazis and their collaborators, but also of combatting their ongoing discrimination today.”

A lack of recognition and awareness of the Romani Genocide has contributed to ongoing segregation, persecution, and violence. Currently, few countries in the world officially recognize the genocide. “While this commemoration is a meaningful opportunity to gather and learn about the persecution of Romani peoples during the Second World War, it is crucial that the years of remembrance and efforts from Romani civil society lead to official recognition,” stated Daniel Amar, Executive Director of the Montreal Holocaust Museum.



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

About the Montreal Holocaust Museum: The Montreal Holocaust Museum educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, while sensitising the public to the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference. Through its Museum, its commemorative programs and educational initiatives, the Montreal Holocaust Museum promotes respect for diversity and the sanctity of human life.

About Romanipe: Romanipe is a not-for-profit organization whose main mission is to defend the dignity and human rights of Roma populations worldwide. Securing official recognition of the Romani Genocide from the Government of Canada, working to prevent the unjust deportation of Romani refugees, and advocacy has been at core of Romanipe's work.

- 30 -

Press contact:

Sarah Fogg
Head of Communications, Marketing, and PR
Montreal Holocaust Museum
sarah.fogg@museeholocauste.ca
514-240-7357