ROMANI COMMUNITIES AND TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

A New Social Europe
I am a Sinto, the son of a Holocaust survivor who lost six aunts and uncles in the Holocaust. I know how racism feels and I don’t want anyone to endure what my people and I have to endure on a daily basis … We not only have COVID-19 in Europe, but a pandemic that is older and even more dangerous – RACISM! Are we finally prepared to confront this reality and correct this injustice?

*Romeo Franz, Member of European Parliament, Greens/EFA, speech before the European Parliament in favour of a new and more robust EU Romani policy, Brussels, 9 July 2020*

A great icy mountain, an iceberg,
Is standing in front of me,
It’s made out of arrogant lords …

All of them speak of something.
All of them know something.
All of them one to another
Are telling foolish stories
about the Roma …

Stop it, gentleman!
Do you all want the truth?
If you want, I’ll show you
Real Gypsydom (*Romanipen*)

The Roma, gentlemen
Are a people, just a people …

*Extract from Iceberg, a poem written in 1976 by Leksa Manush (Aleksandr Belugin), a Latvian Romani poet*