Romani Communities and Transformative Change

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Foreword

These studies and voices from Europe’s Roma lend force to the understanding that racism and exclusion are universal evils, to be fought and defeated by the common efforts of all. They provide insight into the special challenges faced by a community beset by ancient prejudice, by neoliberal austerity and now by rising ethno-nationalism in parts of Europe. They also show that in addition to these deep and dark matters, the issues faced by the Roma are not independent of the currents of social change and personal liberation sweeping across the planet.

An outsider with no special knowledge or experience can perhaps contribute little, except for an expression of solidarity and a commendation to readers that they take up these texts, read them with care and sympathy, and find in them the information, understanding and expression of what may possibly be termed ‘the Romani cause’. Our task, in short, is to learn, to appreciate and to lend a hand as chance and circumstance permit.

So, having said that much, let me stand aside and let these voices, from the Romani community and its distinguished and committed friends, be heard.

James K. Galbraith
Townshend, Vermont
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