

HOUSING RIGHTS FOR ALL. ROMA ACTIVISM FROM CLUJ



INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY, 2014

Pata Rât, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

"We do not want to let this day passing nearby us unnoticed: we show that we are people who managed to improve their living conditions here, but most importantly that our place is back to the city" (Claudia Greta, Community Association of Roma from Coastei)

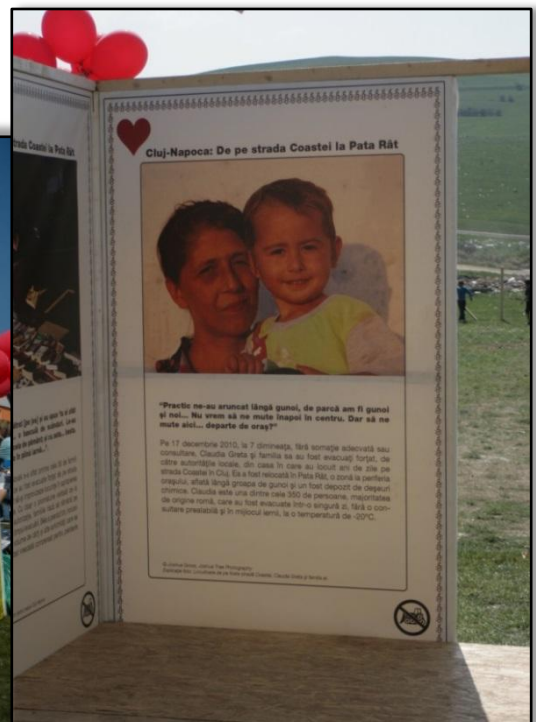


"We rebuilt this house sent to us by Amnesty International in Pata Rât in order to express our message that we do not want to see other forced evictions anywhere in the world anymore"

(Florin Stancu, Community Association of Roma from Coastei)



1



The main organizer of the event, the Community Association of Roma from Coastei, was created with the support of the European Roma Rights Center to act on the behalf of families evicted from a centrally placed location of Cluj-Napoca in December 2010 and relocated nearby the city's landfill.



Local Roma, Romanians and Hungarians and visitors from abroad, victims of forced evictions, supporters of evictees or more privileged citizens - gathered together on the 8th of April 2014 in Pata Rât Cluj-Napoca on the occasion of the International Roma Day to celebrate solidarity for social justice and housing rights for all.



Pushed to the margins, struggling with deprivation and stigmatization day by day, we learned how to raise our voice for the rights of the displaced. The Coastei Association expressed solidarity with its Roma fellows from Dallas and the landfill, from Cantonului and Stephenson streets and other parts of the city, but also with Romanians and Hungarians across Cluj and Romania, and with citizens of other countries who were

dispossessed of their rights to adequate and decent housing.



People from other communities, being under the risk of evictions, and the supporting local groups and organizations (Foundation Desire – founder member of gLOC, Colectiv A-Casă, Grupul Civic de Inițiativă SOS, the Common Front for the Right to Housing /Frontul Comun pentru Dreptul la Locuire) expressed their will of acting together and holding up each other in the future, too. The Roma activism for housing rights from Cluj is an important actor of the local civil society that frames claims which transcends interests put in ethno-cultural terms.





Moments in our fight:

Petitions and awareness raising campaigns

I am Roma, I want to live in dignity, January 2011

Stocktaking visit to Pata Rât, June 2011

March for Social Justice, December 2011

Pushed to the Margins - We also belong to the city, December 2012

Work is not a luxury, it is a right!, March 2013

Stop environmental racism, June 2013

Joining the AI campaign to Stop forced evictions, June 2013

SOS – Scoateti-ne din Pata Rât!, December 2013



Participants took the occasion of the International Roma Day to send messages to the world.



1. (up left) "Housing is a right not a privilege"
2. (up right) "I want to be moved out of this hell the soonest possible"
3. (down left) "We want equality, we want relocation, we want (decent) conditions, we want employment"
4. (down right) "Against paternalism, for more respect!"





1 (up left) "(We want) To be moved out"

2 (up right) "We want to move from here"

3 (down center) "We do not want forced eviction - Stephenson"



5 (above) "Stop evictions!, Stop racism!" and "Stop discrimination!"

1 (up left) "Houses, not humiliation. No discrimination! Stop evictions! Stop racism!" and "Together, united in the Common Front for the Right to Housing"

2 (up right) "We want our relocation deep from our soul!"

3 (middle left) "We want to be relocated!"

4 (middle right) "Laura, I love you with all my heart!"



1 (up left) "I want to be relocated"

2 (up right) "Take us out of Pata Rât!" and "No to evictions! No to racism! Justice!"

3 (above) "We want to move out from this jungle of landfill as soon as possible", "Move us out!"

4 (above right) "We want relocation"

5 (right) "We want to be relocated"

HOUSING RIGHTS FOR ALL. ROMA ACTIVISM FROM CLUJ



1 (above left) "I don't want forced evictions!"

2 (above) "We want to be relocated!", both messages

3 (left, written on t-shirt) The Alliance of good deeds in Pata Rat





“I am proud of being part of this space of social solidarity that assumes an explicit anti-racist standpoint. The "multicultural Cluj" or its targeted statute of "European Cultural Capital" needs new actors, energies and objectives far behind festivals, or behind the aim of using culture to re-create the town: it is time for people's large participation on socially creating a non-segregated city where everybody, regardless of her/his ethnic background or class, possesses adequate material means that facilitate their equal belonging to it.”

(Enikő Vincze, activist anthropologist)





On the 10th of April 2014, our messages were reaffirmed by the flash-mob that aligned to the protest from Bucharest for "*Locuințe, nu umilințe!*" (Homes, not humiliation) organized by the Common Front for the Right to Housing/ Frontul Comun pentru Dreptul la Locuire.



I AM ROMA, I WANT TO LIVE IN DIGNITY, January 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx3UOQkskkg#t=27>

ROMA PUSHED TO MARGINS - WE ALSO BELONG TO THE CITY, December 2012

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kWwVhJdZSs&feature=youtu.be>

STOP ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM, June 2013

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBGUV62iQ7M>

ANTI-SEGREGATION ACTIVISM IN CLUJ , 2010-2014

http://www.desire-ro.eu/wp-content/uploads/antisegregation_activism_Cluj_3.pdf

PATA CLUJ - NAPOCA RAT

<https://www.facebook.com/patacluj>



HOUSING RIGHTS FOR ALL. ROMA ACTIVISM FROM CLUJ

Event organized by Asociația Comunitară a Romilor din Coastei (Cluj) in collaboration with Foundation Desire, with the support of Amnesty International, European Roma Rights Centre, Colectiv A-Casă, Grupul civic de inițiativă SOS (Societatea Organizată Sustenabil), and Frontul Comun pentru Dreptul la Locuire.

08.04.2014