



Roma Gypsies

The main group that Care4Romania support are the gypsy people.

People have suffered at every level of society in Romania. but none more so than the Gypsy population.

The gypsy people were originally from northern India. They arrived in Europe around the start of the 15th Century, and from the outset endured harsh treatment. They worked as servants, cooks, farm labourers, and musicians - and lived in the most dreadful conditions.

In 1837, a politician campaigning on their behalf wrote "I saw human beings wearing chains on their arms and legs, others with iron clamps on their foreheads, others with metal collars about their necks. Cruel beatings, and other punishments such as starvation, being hung in the snow or the frozen river - such was the fate of the wretched gypsy"

Vast numbers were killed under the Nazis in the World War 2, and the persecution continued during the communist regime.

Despite being the largest ethnic minority in Europe, they receive very little international aid and some have accused the European Commission of ignoring the widespread discrimination against gypsies.

Forced to settle on the edge of villages, their isolation, together with their large numbers, mean they are scapegoats for a variety of social problems. Education is often minimal, employment is hard to find and inevitably many have turned to crime. There is poverty, poor housing and inadequate access to healthcare. Such hopeless living conditions often lead to alcoholism and domestic violence - making life is particularly hard for the women and children.

Our objective is to assist these people by providing adequate housing, basic health education and occasionally paid employment to break the cycle of poverty.