



1.3 Introduction



'Roma Stories' – Roma Oral History Project

This Learning Resource has been produced to address the lack of resources on Roma history, to overturn stereotypes by sharing Roma people's positive contributions, and encourage respect and tolerance of other cultures.

The Roma Oral History Project has focussed on the unrecorded oral histories of Roma refugees and migrants from Eastern and Central Europe living in London, exploring themes of displacement and the Holocaust, a sense of belonging and changing identities.

Thirty-two Roma people of different ages and from different countries were interviewed. The stories were audio recorded, filmed, transcribed and are now archived in the London Metropolitan Archives. These collected interviews have informed school workshops, a mobile exhibition, a short film documentary, academic seminars and this Learning Resource.

The Learning Resource includes three individual Oral History Stories: Alexandru Silaghi, Elzbieta Glowacka and Rozalia Glowacka. Their stories tell us about life growing up in their home country; family members' persecution and survival during the Second World War; migration, Roma identity and integration in the UK.

This Project promotes the voices of a group of people that still experience overt racism and discrimination in Europe and the UK. Roma people have often been marginalised, 'hidden' or written out of mainstream history. By using the Oral History method, the Project has given the Roma community a rare opportunity to capture their own knowledge and histories, which have been passed down across generations, orally rather than in a written form, before they are lost.

The Project findings are shared and explained through this Learning Resource. The school materials have been produced in collaboration with Redbridge Primary School and Southern Road Primary School. Some of the text and images used are from class workshops in these schools, and the materials are designed to fit with the school curriculum.



Southern Road Primary School Roma Oral History Workshop ©RSG



Southern Road children's work from the Oral History Workshops with Siladevi Chawda, EAL Coordinator ©RSG

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 Email us on: info@romasupportgroup.org.uk

