

Press invitation 20.9.2018

## Federal Youth Conference of the Roma 2018

### Young Roma create space for development and solidarity

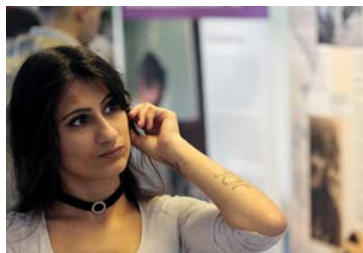
Dear journalists and media professionals,

We cordially invite you to the Federal Youth Conference of the Roma, which will take place from 28 September to 1 October 2018 in Berlin-Wannsee. The Federal Youth Conference is the largest nationwide gathering of young Roma and non-Roma in Germany. It will be organized this year by Amaro Drom e.V. and Amaro Foro e.V.

Our central concern for the Federal Youth Conference 2018 is to create space for the personal development and political participation of young people. This space cannot be taken for granted. This is illustrated by the events of recent weeks in Saxony as well as the intensifying right-wing populist debates and the increasing division of the German society. The racist mobilizations by organized neo-Nazis and their supporters in politics and society stir up a mood of fear. This affects all people who do not fit into their image of humanity. In particular, Black people, People of Color, Jewish people and Roma are threatened in their psychological and increasingly also their physical well-being.

With our Federal Youth Conference we want to set a clear sign for solidarity instead of social division. The Federal Youth Conference of the Roma has always been an emancipatory place. A place of standing together and mutual understanding for another society. We share this attitude and the associated policies with all those who find themselves in the statement “We are more”. Together we are not just more people, we also have multiple perspectives and visions of what this other, solidary society can look like. We point beyond limiting and limited worldviews.

The Federal Youth Conference will become a place of empowerment for young Roma through shared learning, creative processes, the creation of self-determined self-portraits and, last but not least, lots of fun. This is ensured by a versatile workshop and evening program. On Sunday evening, young participants will discuss their demands and possible strategies for more political participation of Roma with the politicians Ulla Jelpke (Die LINKE) and Susanna Kahlefeld (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen). This will take place during a public panel discussion.



Participants of the Federal Youth Conference 2017 in Baden-Württemberg  
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The motto of this year's Federal Youth Conference is: “Dikhen palal mire jakha!”, which can be translated as “Look through my eyes”. According to the motto, the public panel discussion is also an invitation to a change of perspective. It offers members of the majority population the opportunity to become aware of prejudice and

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racism against Roma. In addition, press representatives will have the opportunity to interview young participants and members of the association. Literally translated, the Romani motto means “Look behind my eyes!” And it aims at the experiences and stories that establish the individual perspectives of young Roma.

For questions and appointments please contact me. On request, I will gladly provide you with pictures for your reporting. Best regards Anita Burchardt

**Interview times:**

Sunday 30.9.2018: 13: 00-14: 00 & 19: 00-21: 30

(Further dates for interviews are possible after arrangement)

**Public panel discussion:**

Sunday 30.9.2018, 19:00 “Political demands of young Roma“

On the podium, young participants will discuss with Ulla Jelpke (Member of the Parliament, Die Linke) and Susanna Kahlefeld (Member of the Berlin Chamber of Deputies, Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen).

**Venue:** DJH Youth Hostel Berlin - Am Wannsee, Badeweg 1, 14129 Berlin

**Further information:** <http://amarodrom.de/bundesjugendkonferenz-2018>

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