

Annual Appeal

nursery for Roma children in Sofia, Bulgaria



Roma children from the Fakulteta learning and having fun

Dear Friends,

2006 has been a very busy year for European Dialogue (further details of all our projects can be found on our website www.europeandialogue.org).

In February we finished our project on Access to Justice in Turkey, working with Bosphorus University in Istanbul to provide continuous professional development in human rights to members of criminal justice professions - police, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and NGO representatives.

We have continued our work under the TRAILER project, comparing the effectiveness of anti-discrimination legislation with regard to Roma people in five different countries - Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Ireland and the UK.

We have worked with Roma organisations and the police service in Romania to develop a model whereby police forces can undertake a self-assessment of how they police Roma people and how they can avoid discrimination.

And we recently held a very successful workshop for UK Gypsies and Travellers and representatives of the police (including from other European countries), on behalf of the OSCE, to discuss how relations between Gypsies and Travellers and the police can be improved.

Finally, in our education project in Bulgaria, we have been working with local Roma NGOs, schools and local authorities to pioneer new approaches to education for Roma children - changes in the curriculum, employment of Roma teaching assistants, as well as working with parents and the local community to raise attendance rates.

The project finished in November with a reception at the national Museum in Sofia, and has been very successful in reaching its targets of raising standards and attendance rates.

One of the communities we work in is the "Fakulteta" district of Sofia - an area inhabited exclusively by Roma people - about 35,000 in total. Living conditions there are extremely poor. However, we work with a lively and successful Roma NGO, the Romani Baht Foundation, which won the Bodyshop's NGO of the Year award in 2002.

Romani Baht has recently established a nursery for some of the local children from this deprived district, and this year we are appealing for funds which will be used to buy toys, books and other materials for use in the nursery.

Please send donations to the address below.

With very best wishes

Jeanette Buirski, Programme Director ~ European Dialogue

I enclose a cheque made payable to "European Dialogue"

Name

Address

Tel **Email**

Please send to: Jeanette Buirski, European Dialogue, 175 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7HJ



scenes from Fakulteta

