

MUGUR VĂRZARIU

GYPSY OR ROMA?

who is asking?



**ONLY THE UNEDUCATED
OR THE FASCISTS**

ARE STILL IN DOUBT ABOUT THIS QUESTION



BACKGROUND

- **Fact: Alleged confusion between “Roma” and the name of the country, Romania**
- **Fact: “Rom” overlaps with the abbreviation of Romania – ROM**
- **Fact: Now, and increasingly in the future, Romania will be perceived as the “Roma country” (due to the growing Roma population)**

- **Popular belief:**
This confusion would have never happened if we hadn’t allowed the “gypsies” to call themselves Roma in the early ’90s...





REASONS NOT TO USE THE TERM 'GYPSY'

- The expressed will of the Roma people
- International recognition and national laws validating the “Roma” term
- The Pogroms
- The derogatory connotations of “gypsy” — from slave to dirty, uneducated, lazy, thief, etc.
- The word is used as an insult, even among non-Roma
- Historian Neagu Djuvara noted that, historically, the Roma might have a stronger claim to being called Romanians than many non-Roma today

THE EFFECTS OF A LAW

REINSTATING THE “GYPSY” TERM

THE EFFECTS OF SUCH A SHAMEFUL LAW

- **Positive: None.**
Even if census data refers to them as “Romanians of gypsy origin,” it will have zero impact on international perception.
- **Two reasons:**
 - Internationally, they are already known — and often accepted — as Roma.
 - When traveling, Roma individuals identify as Romanian citizens, not as gypsies or Roma.
In legal or media contexts abroad, it is not “a Roma” or “a gypsy” who commits a crime, but a Romanian, a German, an Italian, etc.
This perception won’t change, no matter how the majority population chooses to label them locally.



THE FUTILITY OF SUCH A LAW

- One could argue that if we really want to suppress the term “Roma,” we’d need an international law banning its use.
Could this happen?
Yes—if you're Hitler.
But history has shown us such repression doesn’t last.
- A historical fact or perception cannot be changed by law.

THE ROMA CAN CALL THEMSELVES 'GYPSIES'

USED IN FAVOR OF THE LAW BY MISGUIDED ARGUMENTS

- Some “intelligent” supporters of this law argue that many Roma people themselves use the word “gypsy.”
- But:
- An African-American might call his friend “nigger” or “coon” — yet the rest of the world, out of respect and historical awareness, uses “African-American.”
- Similarly, Jews cannot be referred to as “kikes” (jidani), and Hungarians in Romania should not be called “bozgori.”
- It’s the same with “homosexual” vs. “faggot.”
- Societies evolve:
 - “Secretary” becomes “Personal Assistant”
 - “Stewardess” becomes “Flight Attendant”
- Language matters.

THE ABSURDITY

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- In a bizarre attempt to soften the racism, this law claims it will prohibit the negative meanings of the term “gypsy.”
- But the only real outcome is to enshrine ignorance into law. It’s like saying that, starting tomorrow, “sex” by law can only mean love—not also a way to transmit STDs.
- We, the Romanian majority, already use the word “gypsy” as an insult. Legal redefinition won’t erase that.

ROMANIAN ACADEMY'S MISJUDGMENT

THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY'S RESPONSE

- In a pathetic attempt to dignify this shameful law, Parliament sought the opinion of the Romanian Academy.
Their conclusion, authored by academician Ionel Haiduc:
- “The gypsy term is the correct one to define this transnational population.”
- In a normal society, the Academy would have replied:
 - “It is not our place to dictate how an ethnic group chooses to identify.”
- That would have preserved their dignity.
But instead, they supported reinstating the “gypsy” term.
- Let’s not forget—they also once awarded academician titles to Elena Ceaușescu.
Should we be surprised?

CHANGE YOURSELF BEFORE CHANGING OTHERS

TRY THIS FOR A CHANGE

- If we honestly think that confusion over the word “Roma” is what’s stopping Romania from achieving greatness, then maybe we should just change the name of the country—to Dacia, Wallachia, or whatever else you think sounds smarter... if you're that kind of genius.

IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE

- If we expect the Roma to change their name — and think it's that simple — why can't we do the same?
- What's so glorious about the name Romania, anyway?
Our role in WWII crimes?
The communist horrors that followed?
The total failure to reform after '89, or the ongoing democratic dysfunction three decades later?







THE UNDERLINING TRUTH

THE REAL MEANING OF THIS SHAMEFUL LAW

- In a country with no clear culprits, we invent scapegoats. And the Roma are the easiest to blame.
- Instead of hating them, we should thank them—not only for their contributions, but because by comparing ourselves to them, our own misery seems more bearable.
- If it weren't for the Roma, our fallback comparison would be Somalis. And the only “advantage” we'd have left is that we don't kill each other with machetes.

**THE NAME 'ROMANIAN' IS SO STAINED THAT, FOR
THE ROMA, RECLAIMING THEIR IDENTITY BECOMES
NOT A LIBERATION, BUT A SECOND CURSE.**

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