

About the history of racism in Finland

Old minorities in antiracism debate
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The myth of unified Finland: a white-washed history 1/2

People imagine that there is one people in Finland and everyone speaks Finnish and their religion is Lutheran and that they are genetically or even racially extraordinarily homogenous: researcher Miika Tervonen.

The myth of unified Finland: a white-washed history 2/2

What is problematic and typical in nationalism according to Tervonen is the way people exclude others and simplify the reality.

The myth about Finnishness and whiteness as a norm are still an obstacle on the path to equality.

National minorities

- Sámi
- Roma
- Tatars
- Jews
- Karelians
- Swedish-speakers
- Russian-speakers

Racism in Finland is not a new phenomenon

When we talk about our national minorities, we also talk about

- Russophobia,
- anti-Roma sentiment,
- islamophobia,
- antisemitism
- and assimilation of indigenous people.

A few legal definitions

There is no consensus over the definition of a minority.

The Finnish League for Human Rights states that countries have traditionally been inclined to provide protection primarily to so-called old minorities.

Indigenous rights/EU Roma Framework on equality, inclusion and participation.

Burden of history 1/2

Old minorities carry the burden of history on their shoulders.

Discrimination, exclusion and forced assimilation become transgenerational experiences.

Burden of history 2/2

Restoring trust in the social system is challenging, and it can be seen today in everyday life, for example, in social and healthcare services.

RomForum 1/2



ROMFORUM

- Nostetaan ihmisten tietoisuuteen romanien kohtaama syrjiintä
- Kasvatetaan yhteiskunnan moninaisuutta tukemalla ja voimaannuttamalla romaniväestöä
- Rakennetaan yhdenvertaisempaa ja tasa-arvoisempaa yhteiskuntaa
- Hankkeessa nostetaan esille romanien kohtaamia syrjintäkokemuksia Forum -teatteri menetelmän avulla

Lue lisää esityksestä www.kajaaninteatteri.fi

I AM ANTIRACIST • I AM ANTIRACIST • I AM ANTIRACIST • OLEN ANTIRASISTI • OLEN ANTIRASISTI • OLEN ANTIRASISTI

 ROMFORUM -HANKE  

The struggle for equality continues—RomForum—I'm an antiracist

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RomForum 2/2

- Let's raise people's awareness of the discrimination experienced by the Roma.
- Let's nurture diversity in our society by supporting and empowering the Roma.
- Let's build a more equal society.
- Using the forum theatre method, the RomForum project brings into focus discrimination experienced by the Roma.
- Read more about the show: www-kajaaninteatteri.fi

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Inclusion as an antiracist act

Ensuring inclusion in the different sectors in society and in the service sector promotes equality.

Inclusion in the structures reduces tokenism. Tokenism means using one member of a minority as a token to prove the (work) community is diverse.

Inclusion of minorities demands concrete actions and examination of power structures.

Government programmes alone are not enough

There is political will in Finland to guarantee equality and eliminate discrimination. The Equality Act is an example.

The law alone doesn't matter if there is no equality in people's everyday lives everywhere in the country.

THANK YOU

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