



JOŽEK HORVAT “MUC”

(Murska Sobota/Yugoslavia/Republic of Slovenia, October, 21, 1965)



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In 1990, Jožek Horvat completed his studies in Romology (history, language, culture, ethnology) in Vienna. He became a Romani language instructor.

Horvat distinguished himself as a **Roma activist**, becoming President of the Roma Association Romani Union (1991); President of the Roma Association of Slovenia (1996); the first president of the Council of the Roma Community of the Republic of Slovenia (2007); and founder and leader Romani Union (1992), positions which he retains to the present day.

A specialised cultural worker, Horvat is the **founder of the first Romani theatre group in Slovenia**. Dedicated to the preservation of the Romani language and culture in Slovenia, he has applied his expertise to language courses and workshops, edited various publications, and organised the International Roma Camp. He is director of the Institute for

Romological Studies, Education and Culture (Murska Sobota, Slovenia).

Horvat **pioneered the erection of a memorial plaque to victims of the Roma Holocaust** in the city of Murska Sobota on August 2, 2016 (Roma Genocide Remembrance Day). He has organised scientific conferences on the suffering of Roma in Slovenia and Europe during the Second World War, and he was an initiator of the establishment of European Museum of Roma Culture and History, founded in August 2012 in Murska Sobota, Slovenia.

“Recent events in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Italy, France and Ukraine confirm that intolerance against the Roma is spreading. In some cases, armed attacks on Roma are carried out by the police and other armed groups. Roma settlements are being demolished and set on fire, and there are more and more Roma killings. The genocide against the Roma continues after the Second World War and still exists today.” (Ficko 2018)

Sources and further information:

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This biography has been written by Daniel Vojak