

The Roma living in the Czech Republic spent WWII. in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia, in „Sudety“, occupied by the Germany, in south Slovakia, occupied by the Hungary and in the Slovak Republic. From the first three regions the Roma were gradually deported to internment and concentration camps, in the Slovakia they had to face various suppressions like mass displacement from the villages, forced labour and finally they had to hide in the forests to protect themselves from Gestapo and Hlinka's guard.

In the year 1998 the Czech Roma had the first opportunity to ask for the financial allowance for the suffered distress and torture. Swiss banks deposited 273 million CHF into a special fund, 88% out of this sum should have been divided to Jews and 12% to victims without Jewish origin. The fund did not accept any individual requests but cooperated with local organizations. In the Czech Republic it was first and foremost the League for the assistance to Roma war victims, which was founded by the Roma civic initiative in this purpose. The League set a list of about 3000 applicants, who met the requirement of the date of birth before 31st December 1944, who spent the war-time in the Czechoslovakia and who were able to prove they are socially needy. However, the Swiss fund did not presume so high number of Czech applicants and thus had to change the criteria. From then on only the prisoners from concentration camps were able to apply for the allowance. The new criteria were accepted only by Ing. Karel Holomek who represented moravian Roma, 221 out of them finally got the allowance.

In 2001, new opportunity arose. The German government together with the German industry deposited 10,1 milliard DM into the German foundation „Remembrance, Responsibility and Future“. This money was intended to people who had to work involuntarily during WWII.