



## 2. Brief introduction to cases of discrimination gathered by the FSG in 2008

- 1. January. Jerez. Discrimination in housing/racism.** A man living in Jerez de la Frontera was constantly targeted with insults regarding his ethnicity by a woman living in his neighbourhood. All attempts at mediation were in vain so, given the persistent situation of harassment he was subjected to, he decided to file a complaint against his neighbour. We believe this case is an example of ethnicity-based harassment, prohibited by Directive 2000/43/Ed and the Spanish law of transposition.
- 2. January. Granada. Discrimination in education.** A 10-year-old boy of Roma ethnicity told his mother that his teacher had been slapping him for some time and that the teacher yelled at him. The boy started to show changes in his attitude and no longer wanted to go to school. The mother went to the school to discuss the matter with the teacher, who replied that he was going to hit him whenever he needed to, that it was something that he had to do. That mother objected, telling him not to put his hands on the boy again; if he needed to punish him, he should do so, but that he should not hit him again. Faced with this situation, the mother requested a psychologist for the boy but, when the psychologist went to the school to assess/diagnose the child, the teacher told him that the child was fine and that his services were not needed. At that point, the mother filed a complaint against the teacher; when the school's Director found out about it, it led to another confrontation as he warned her to withdraw the complaint or he himself would file a complaint about her. The FSG offered to collaborate with the family's attorney on the particular emphasis on discrimination in the case.
- 3. January. Córdoba. Discrimination by the police.** As part of a regional celebration, an illegal cockfight with betting was organised in the Moreras neighbourhood. When it was over, 14 riot police showed up to stop it and started to ask for the identification cards of everyone present. One of the policemen scolded a child, and the mother told him to leave her child alone. The officer pushed the mother hard, and the child did the same to the officer. Those present began to rebuke the officer for his attitude; the officer then took out his truncheon and began to hit the people rebuking him. Next, the 14 officers adopted their colleague's attitude; the result was more than 20 people injured from being clubbed. The next day a demonstration was organised to protest about the disproportionate police activity; this was attended by a job placement services worker from the FSG. The FSG staff member met with the chief of police and with the Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos to assess the possibility of filing a judicial complaint.
- 4. January. Valladolid. Discrimination in the media.** A news item about several people being sentenced to prison appeared in a local paper. The text of the article expressly stated that the family was of Roma ethnicity, giving both surnames and the nickname by which they are known, as well as accusing them of being responsible for turning a neighbourhood into the area's largest drug supermarket. We understand that stating their ethnicity is unnecessary, since it does not provide any information that makes the news more understandable. Moreover, it may have detrimental effects as it identified the crime committed by particular individuals with the entire **Roma community. A telephone call was made from the Valladolid office of the FSG in which a conversation was held with the author, explaining and discussing the discrimination that we believe results from identifying the Roma ethnicity with crimes. Nevertheless, according to the author, the information "Roma ethnicity" does indeed contribute information to the news item and helps in understanding it better.**



- 5. January. Murcia. Discrimination by the government.** Twelve people with Romanian citizenship and of Roma ethnicity, with UE member residency certificates and without permission to work, asked to be registered as seeking jobs and training in the SEF (Regional Employment and Training Service) in Molina de Segura. When this was refused, the local FSG services worker called the office's director, explaining that all of the SEF offices are carrying out this procedure and that the law allows this, even providing the articles of that legislation. The director's response was categorical, stating that they had no right to register and that no one was going to tell her how to do things when she had completed two Master's degrees on Immigration in the Catholic University of Murcia. The FSG's regional office got in contact with a senior worker at Murcia's SEF administration, who stated that we could provide him with the information on the persons who were denied this right, and he himself would take care of the paperwork. Since then, this is how things are being done.
- 6. January. Murcia. Discrimination by the government.** The Murcia City Council's Department of Safety and Traffic decided to "take off the street" the people who are cleaning the windscreens of cars stopped at the traffic lights. To do this, it seems that they ordered the local police officers to fine people "walking in the street when there is a pedestrian area" 36.6 euros. They also allegedly threatened the people who had been fined that if they were fined three times they would be charged with disobeying authority, adding that it would be an administrative procedure that could result in jail time, despite the fact that this is not entirely true. In addition, a campaign of 36-euro fines was begun, aimed at people transporting scrap metal in supermarket trolleys in public thoroughfares. We believe this is an obvious example of indirect discrimination: the application of a law that in principle seems to be neutral, but that almost exclusively affects people of Roma ethnicity, since they are the ones who work at these jobs. It can thus be seen how a law's effects are not the same for everyone, thus causing an obvious situation of inequality.
- 7. January. Zaragoza. Discrimination in employment (training).** A hairdressers' school called a young Roma woman to offer her the opportunity to take a course on make-up. They offered her an appointment that was convenient for her, based on her working hours, and told her that they would inform her about the rest of the conditions during the interview. The young woman showed up on the day she had the appointment, and found herself in a room where there were a number of girls sitting down and listening to two men who were seated in the middle. In order to not disturb the talk, she entered and stayed to one side. At that time, another man came up to her and insisted on asking for all of her contact information: name, address, telephone number, etc., and explained to her that the course didn't start that day, and that they had just called the girls to ask for their information. She answered that she had already provided her information by internet. The young woman felt so disappointed that she told him that she was going to go to the selection process for another course –from the UGT– and if they called her first, she'd take that course. The following day, she received a message on her answering service in which a woman said that she was calling from the hairdressers' school and that she hadn't been chosen for the course, but that they'd see each other at some other time. However, she hadn't taken part in any selection process; all they had done was take her contact information. She was even more surprised when, looking for more courses on the internet, she saw that there was time to register for this one and, therefore, there were places available. She asked a friend to call and see if there were indeed places, and found to her surprise that she was given an appointment for that very afternoon and that there were still places available. Thus, this is a case of direct discrimination in access to education due to ethnicity, which is prohibited by Directive 2000/43/EC and the Spanish law of transposition. The regional manager of the FSG in Aragón spoke with the manager of the INAEM, which issued a warning to the school so that this type of discrimination would not take place in the future.



- 8. January. Murcia. Discrimination by the police.** The complainant was in a public street with a friend of Moroccan origin when a local police officer approached them. He asked for their identification, so they gave it to him, the NIE (foreigner identification number) and the EU Resident Registration Certificate and passport, respectively. The officer looked at the documents and began to attack them verbally with phrases such as: *“Go back to your countries; we don’t need more foreigners in Spain”*. The officer did not return their documentation and left. The next day, the complainant went to the local police station to try to get back his documentation. According to the complainant, they refused to listen to his statements, and told him to leave the station as he was annoying them. He stood in the street at the door to the station from 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., waiting for the officer that had taken his documentation to arrive. He arrived about 9:20 p.m. and, according to the complainant, when the officer saw him, he started to shout at him to get out and that if he didn’t, he’d cuff him and beat him. They confronted each other verbally and, according to the complainant, five or six officers approached him and hit him with their truncheons until he fell down and finally ran away from the officers. A services worker from the FSG went to the police station on several occasions in an attempt to get back the client’s documentation, however all he was able to get was a recommendation that he file a complaint with the national police. A complaint was finally filed. At the date of this report, as far as is known, no further information has been received. Moreover, since the complainant was a temporary worker, he went back to Romania without the case being resolved.
- 9. February. Ciudad Real. Discrimination on the internet.** On a web page used for uploading “funny” jokes, videos, etc., there was a PowerPoint presentation called “The Three Gypsy Women” in which a “joke” appeared about Roma women competing to see which of their children is the best and biggest thief. The FSG sent a letter to the webmaster informing him of the non-compliance with the entire anti-discrimination legislative framework as well as the law of information society services and e-commerce. The next day, a reply was received in which they stated that the presentation had been removed, saying that they had just thought it was funny and asking to be forgiven.
- 10. February. Málaga. Ethnicity-based on-the-job harassment.** A young man of Roma ethnicity, an ACCEDER Programme user, had an uncontracted job with a metal works company in the city for several years. The worker had an accident with the company’s van and the vehicle was taken away by a breakdown van; by mistake, he left his mobile inside the van. At the end of the workday, the manager reproached the worker because he hadn’t been able to get in touch with him the entire day, using racist expressions such as *“a Gypsy, if he doesn’t do it to you when he comes in, he’ll do it to you when he comes out”*. The worker decided to leave the company despite the years he had been working there, conscience of the fact that *“things would never be the same again”*. Expressions such as this one created an environment with so much hostility towards the user –based solely on his ethnicity– that it resulted in him leaving his job despite the years he had been doing it. This is, therefore, a clear example of ethnicity-based on-the-job harassment that would be very difficult to prove if the victim were to file a complaint.
- 11. February. Málaga. Discrimination in employment.** A young man of Roma ethnicity, an ACCEDER Programme user, had an uncontracted job with a local fruit storage company for six months. He was never given a contract despite the verbal commitment he had arrived to with the company’s Human Resources manager. He was surprised to see how other workers who had started after he had were given proper contracts. Based on the attitude of the company’s Human Resources manager –who did not fulfil his agreement– and on discriminatory comments he began to notice, the worker decided to leave the job. This case is a clear example of direct ethnicity-based discrimination in access to employment, prohibited by Directive 2000/43/EC and its law of transition, since ethnicity seems to be the only reason for his situation; had he not done his job well, he would have been terminated. Nevertheless, they kept him on working but they didn’t give him a contract.



- 12. February. Pontevedra. Discrimination in housing/racism.** On 5 February, three Roma families from O Bao in the municipality of Poio in Pontevedra were to be moved to new homes, and they moved to Monte Porreiro, in Pontevedra, to live. When it was announced that the families were to move in, the residents of Monte Porreiro said they would hold protests. The protests have been ongoing since then. In coordination with the FSG's office in Pontevedra, the main FSG office submitted a document to the Regional Government Office in Pontevedra asking that permits for these demonstrations which –although indirectly– were aimed at protesting against people of Roma ethnicity, not be given. Nevertheless, the demonstrations continue to take place and several families have left their homes due to the pressure to which they were being subjected.
- 13. February. Lugo. Discrimination in housing.** The Housing Department in Lugo began to renovate the old part of town, with the rented renovated houses being aimed at young people under 35 having an income of between 1.5 and 3.5 of the Multi-purpose Public Index of Income (Spanish acronym IPREM). In December, the list of those who had been awarded the homes was published, and among them were several Roma and Arab families. This caused the Hospitality Industry Business Owners' Association, which has businesses located in the old part of town, to express a number of statements to the media critical of the families moving in to the neighbourhood. They met a number of times over several months, and published all of their activities in the press. In addition, several businesses in the area displayed the following sign: *"REHABILITATION OR MARGINATION?"*, and gathered signatures from their clients against the process. The People's Party joined in the effort, making themselves available to the Hospitality Industry Business Owners' Association, even questioning the awards process and asking that the process be reviewed and that the awards be made directly to students and local hospitality industry Business Owners. The Housing Department responded to these accusation by explaining the terms and conditions of the awards process and reviewing the files in order to create a final list of those who would be awarded a home. It's clear how prejudices and negative stereotypes towards the Roma community turn into discriminatory acts such as those we see here, in which –despite not knowing anything about the families awarded the homes– the fact that they are of Roma ethnicity is seen as something negative that must be fought against, even though that means violating the legal process established for awarding the houses.
- 14. February. Linares (Jaén). Discrimination in employment.** A Roma woman went to for an interview at a local restaurant and the manager asked her about her job experience. The next day, the manager called the woman to tell her that the job was hers, and to ask for her documentation so she could register the contract. So she told the manager her surnames, and she realised she was Roma, so she was warned that she would have to pass a probationary period and then she was asked for personal references (which were not requested from the others). Forty-two days later, she was called and told that she had not passed the probationary period, not because of the way she did her job, but because there was less business in the restaurant, which doesn't fit in with what is going on in the hospitality sector at that time of year. This would then be a case of direct ethnicity-based discrimination in access to employment, prohibited by the Directive and its law of transposition to the Spanish legal system.
- 15. February. Linares (Jaén). Discrimination in employment.** The FSG job prospector called an area bar when she saw in an advert that they were looking for waiters. She went in and told the manager that FSG had a job bank, and she responded that she was already trying out someone. A few days later, the manager called her and asked to send someone over, so the job prospector asked her what kind of worker she was looking for and what the job conditions were. The answer was –literally– *"I don't want Gypsies or Romanians"*: When the job prospector asked her why, she just answered "because I don't", that she'd had bad experiences with them and never wanted to lay eyes on one again. When the worker told her she worked for the FSG and could send her a lot of people who were Roma and would make her change her opinion, she was told *"Then don't send me anybody. Thank you"* and hung up. This is an example of discrimination in access to employment, prohibited by both Directive 2000/43/EC and by the law of transposition to the Spanish legal system. Moreover, the Criminal Code applies a punishment of six months to two years –or a fine of 12 to 24 months– to those committing serious discrimination in employment due to –among other reasons– ethnicity.



**16. February. Linares (Jaén). Discrimination in employment.** A middle-aged Roma man –an ACCE- DER Programme user– got a job, and on the second day he saw a young Roma woman who, after having worked for six days, asked the boss to be paid. The boss told her to stop by that evening and he would pay her. The next day, he didn't see the young woman, and he discovered that she'd been given the boot. The boss –who didn't know that this man was Roma– made the following comments to him: *"the Gypsies are all alike; they're a problem and no good. They should be dead; I can't stand the sight of them"*. The man carried on working there, but he saw that they weren't paying him on time so –as he had another job offer– he talked with the boss and they ended up agreeing that the man would be paid on time every Saturday, and he offered him an extra five euros a day so he wouldn't leave, as well as 15 euros for petrol. At the end of the conversation, the boss said that he was really demanding, and asked him if he acted like that at all of his jobs. Seven days went by, and the man asked to be paid. To his surprise, they were planning to pay him for only five days, nor were they going to give him the promised petrol money. The boss only paid him that amount, and he asked him to give him time to talk to the farm's owner. After the agreed time passed, the man went back to get paid, and the boss paid him the rest, but said to him, *"Don't come back any more because people like you are very demanding"*. The man signed the receipts, and the boss added: *"You must be a Gypsy"*, and the man responded telling him how proud he was to be Roma. The victim of discrimination remembers how –once when they were working together– the boss asked him unbelievably if he was a Gypsy because, in his opinion, he didn't look like one. He believes that the boss finding out that he is Roma is what set off the whole serious situation of discrimination and manifestations of racism.

**17. February. León. Discrimination in access to goods and services/Government/Police.** A Roma woman went into a shopping centre with her sister to do some shopping. While in a clothing store, a security guard spoke with her and told her to please leave the shop, because two other security guards wished to speak with her. Without further explanation, these guards told her to leave the shopping centre. When she asked why, they told her that she already knew quite well why and that she was totally forbidden from going into any part of the shopping centre; they accompanied her to one of exit doors. The victim of discrimination –who had never had any problems inside the shopping centre– states that she felt humiliated; that same day she went into the police station to file a complaint. Once inside the station, she was told that that type of complaint couldn't be filed there and they referred her to the León City Hall and the Regional Government of Castile and León. The victim went to both governmental agencies and was given the same response each time: that type of complaint can't be filed here. In coordination with FSG staff, the Department of Equal Treatment provided legal advice to the victim, as she had decided to file a complaint as a result of what had happened.

**18. February. Linares (Jaén). Discrimination in employment.** As the result of a disagreement between workers and the business owner due to issues that were strictly job-related, the business owner shows a racist attitude towards two workers. She expressly says that *"I try hard enough, hiring this kind of people knowing that they don't find work like normal people"*, *"all the Gypsies are alike"*, *"this is all the result of hiring Gypsies"*. When the workers warn her that she's making racist comments, she says that she is not a racist, since she has two "Moors" working for her who are giving good results. After keeping the same attitude during the entire conversation, she finally agrees to go FSG's facilities to pay their wages, warning them that it wouldn't be what was initially agreed on, but rather *"what they get on their pay check"*, to emphasise the difference between one thing and another because, according to her, they had to pay for their lack of responsibility on the job in some way. During her phone calls to the FSG, she has maintained a threatening tone, warning that she could do them a lot of damage with the law, but that she doesn't because she's a nice lady. She has also made other threats, such as not paying for the time they had worked.



- 19. February. National. Discrimination in the media.** A highly popular television programme –the most seen, according their own information– started off the following way: *“Good afternoon, and welcome to (...)”: Today, we woke up with, besides sleep in our eyes, an incredible piece of news. These are some statements from Madonna, in which she has said: “I always wanted to be a Gypsy”. Well, she said it in English, but that’s what she meant. And so we’ve wondered: What would a “caló” version of Madonna be like? Would she have sold so many records? Or, maybe she would have stolen them? Who knows? For that reason, and to show off some originality and clichés like the one I just mentioned, we’ve made a video. But we can’t see it right now...so we’re going to take a look at it later on...it’s pretty true-to-life. We’ll see it later...”* In coordination with the Department of Communication, the Department of Equal Treatment sent a certified letter addressed to the television channel’s General Manager. In the letter, he was informed of the existence of daily discrimination towards the Roma community, and how this kind of comments actively contribute to the creation of discriminatory practices and to the persistence of social prejudices. In addition, appealing to their *“commitment to social causes”*, we requested that more care be taken about showing this kind of commentary, as well as a rectification as a way of making repairs. No response has been received from this television channel.
- 20. February. Madrid. Discrimination in the access to goods and services.** Two young women travelling on the subway are approached by a security guard, who asks them to show their tickets. When they do so, he states that they are false, he takes them out of the subway car and starts to insult them. The guard admitted he was a racist, and he told one of the girls that he was going to kill her.
- 21. February. Palencia. Discrimination in the media.** During the news programmes on a radio station, coverage is given to statements from the secretary of the neighbours’ association/platform in defence of housing depreciation. In these statement, he talks about the Roma families living in the housing in Yutera and, stating that the neighbours aren’t racist, he continues to state that the Gypsy residents are criminals because they spit, don’t pay the residents’ association fees, there are bullet marks on the front door, and they have from 15 to 17 crimes, “well, they’re in jail”. To finish off, he insists that the neighbours also have the right to have the City Council give them another house, as they did for this family, but somewhere in Palencia where there aren’t any Gypsy families. That same day, the FSG’s provincial coordinator talks with the City Councillor in charge of Social Welfare and explained the case to her. She immediately spoke with the manager of the radio station, who recognises that the news item was not fairly presented, and this could do “damage” to the Roma family’s adaptation process, as well as to that of other families going through the same process. The radio station offered airtime as a way of “making up for” the damage caused. The FSG used the airtime to explain the ACCEDER Jobs Programme, and its campaign to increase social awareness. The radio station also offered the possibility of collaborating in the future.
- 22. February. Seville. Discrimination by the government/racism.** Several Roma individuals return to their town (El Saucejo) after having moved to Osuna to live due to racial disturbances that took place in 2006. Upon their arrival, they are allegedly received by more than 100 people armed with “sticks and axes”, who attacked their vehicle. After this, a fight between both groups began in which several people ended up being hurt. However, only the six Roma men were arrested and placed into preventive custody. They were accused of attempted homicide, disorder, bodily harm and criminal damages. We found out what took place in April and, according to the newspapers, they are still in preventive custody. According to the *ABC Sevilla* newspaper, the Public Prosecutor’s Office supports the release of those arrested. The El Saucejo Town Council presented itself as a private plaintiff against the six Roma men. The Civil Guard supposedly taped the conversation that they had with their legal advisers, and included a transcript of what was said in the indictment. According to the judge’s statement to the newspaper, provisional custody is justified due to the seriousness of the acts and because of a report from the Civil Guard describing





how dangerous the six Roma men are, and the men have a long record of “false complaints”, which, in his opinion, makes the families’ accusations less believable.

- 23. March. Huesca. Discrimination in employment.** As the result of a job opening for a shop clerk, the ACCEDER programme’s prospector stops by to introduce the employment programme and submit the CVs of two Roma girls registered in the job bank who had just finished a course on working as a shop clerk. When she saw that the CVs were from two Roma girls, the woman in charge of hiring commented that she didn’t want Gypsy girls, that she didn’t like how they talked and that if she hired a Gypsy girl, the shop would fill up with Gypsy girls. This is a case of direct ethnicity-based discrimination in access to employment.
- 24. March. Linares (Jaén). Discrimination in employment.** After having been attended to at the “Andalucía Orienta” job service, a married Roma couple comes out of the office and approaches an iron window that had been left in the facility’s patio. Since they work at gathering scrap metal, they ask a man there if they could take it, but he told them to ask one of the staff. Right then, the guard came out and asked them what they were doing there, and who had given them permission to be there. The couple answer that they had just been attended to by a counsellor, and that they were going to ask about the window. So, the guard calls the counsellor, saying they had told him that she herself had sent them there, which caused the counsellor to get angry and tell them not to ever come back to the “Andalucía Orienta” service, that she wasn’t going to give them any work because of “*what they had been doing*”, referring to the “theft of the window in the facility”. Obviously, the Roma/theft relation is a clear manifestation of this person’s prejudices and stereotypes that ended up as a discriminatory action.
- 25. March. National. Discrimination and racism on the internet.** We’d like to mention this case, which FSG found out about through a private email complaint we received. The mail alerted us to the existence of a web page where the honour of Mari Luz –the little girl murdered in Huelva– as well as that of that of the entire Roma community is attacked. Steps were taken to confirm the truth of the contents of the complaint and, indeed, very offensive phrases can be read in the forum, among them “*The death of a Gypsy is a joy for anyone*”. At that point, a decision is taken that the authorities must be made aware of this information. However, when proceeding to make a copy of all of the information so that it could be attached to the complaint, it was confirmed that the forum and all of the entries in it have been removed from public access. Fortunately, a few days later we found out through the press that the Public Prosecutor was investigating this web page and that, specifically, the Chief Prosecutor of the Huelva Public Prosecutor’s Office had stated that they had initiated an investigative process to find out what really happened and the actual legal situation.
- 26. March. National. Racism (email against the Roma community).** An email from a personal account with a name and surnames is received in the inbox of the FSG in Zaragoza. The contents were completely discriminatory and racist towards the Roma community as a whole. The following –among other things– can be read: “*How can you say that it is society that typecasts Gypsies? (...) they are the ones who make ghettos, they don’t mix, not because they can’t, but because they don’t want to. It’s you Gypsies who want to typecast yourselves and not integrate*”; “*Since when have Gypsies had job issues? The vast majority of Gypsies are no friends of working, that stuff about having to get up early to get to the factory and earn one’s bread honestly eight hours a day seven days a week causes them to break out in a rash just thinking about it*”; “*For a long time, Gypsies have shown how lazy and slothful they are and we, the non-Gypsies – who aren’t stupid – realise it*”; “*Why wear oneself out earning money in a job when they can do it selling drugs or picking pockets?*”; “*Another reason that might make it hard for them to take part in proper society is their aversion to soap and water*”; “*The change in skin colour that any member of the Gypsy race put into a bathtub and scrubbed enough with a good sponge and soap*”; “*(...) their filthy customs*”; “*Thank you for attending to me, and beg*



*your pardon for this long message, I really hope you know how to read. Kind regards. Jorge.* A few days later, this person sent this same email to all of FSG's regional offices; we even received printed copies of it sent by regular mail to the main office. We at the FSG decide not to take get involved in provocations at the institutional level. Nevertheless, the identity of the letters' author was soon discovered. Surprised at having been discovered, he sent an email apologising.

- 27. March. Cordoba. Discrimination in health care.** A job prospector from the FSG went to her health centre to see her primary care physician. The doctor asked her where she worked, and when she answered with the Foundation's name, the physician began to discredit the Roma community as a social blight and to come out saying all kinds of prejudices (they're dirty, they don't clean their houses, they don't want to work, they're criminals, etc.).
- 28. April. Castrillón (Asturias). Discrimination in education.** In one of the municipality's secondary schools, one minor student repeatedly put down another who was Roma, insulting him during break in front of classmates and calling him a "filthy trash picker". The Roma student, faced with the other's insults, responded with the same behaviour and reported what had happened to his tutor. Even so, the situation went on for months and ended up overwhelming him, finally ending in a fight where the boy attacked the other student and hit him several times. The student's mother filed a complaint at the school. Finally aware of how serious the situation was, the tutors of both boys and the school's administrative team became involved. Both students ended up being punished, but the Roma boy was the only one given a one-day suspension from school. FSG service workers mediated in the conflict, holding meetings with the Roma boy, his parents and the school's tutor and head teacher. FSG service workers took part in a meeting with the head teacher, the boy's tutor and the family. During this meeting, the school's teachers expressed their concern about what had happened; they were aware of the other student's insults, but argued that there was a mutually adversarial relationship between the two and that, over the school year, they had repeatedly spoken with them and asked them to stay away from each other, but they boys carried on. They mentioned to us the measures they had taken with the other boy, the consequences a formal complaint by the other family could have had, and the need for there to be no more aggressions, and so the head teacher would be notified at once if any more insults were to take place from this or any student.
- 29. April. Jaén. Discrimination towards the FSG.** On 9 April, the "Work makes us equal" awareness-raising campaign was introduced and so we left the FSG office and went to take photos of the job programme's clients at a number of shops where they were interns. To be specific, we visited a welding workshop where a client was being trained, but when we went to take the photos, the trainer approached us and prevented us from doing so, inviting the FSG worker to leave the workshop. The monitor calls the company president by phone and explains to him who the person from the FSG was and what he wanted to do; he's given the phone and the gentleman tells him that he doesn't want anything to do with Gypsy associations and stuff like that, and that an authorisation from the Andalusian Regional Government is required. The next day, the client stops in at the FSG office in Jaén and mentions that the trainer told her that neither he nor the president wanted any photos taken there that might link them to some incidents involving Gypsies that had taken place some weeks earlier. The authorisation from the Andalusian Regional Government was finally obtained through the head of Development Services. This is a discriminatory act resulting from a stereotypical view of the Roma community, in which the violent acts of particular individuals are attributed to the community as a whole. The trainer's explanations don't make any sense, unless the fear was that, in general, they would be linked to "Gypsies".





- 30. April. National. Discrimination in the media.** A nationally-distributed newspaper published an article with the following headline: *“More than 270 Romanian Gypsies were arrested in Spain in the last five months”*. In the article’s text, one can see that the total number refers to the number of arrests (they added up the month-by-month breakdown, even though one child may have been arrested on several occasions), and even count the high number of repeat offenders; nevertheless, the headline talks about the total number of children and thus it might seem that the information in the headline is being willingly manipulated in order to create an impact. What’s more, at no time is it compared with the total number of children who had been arrested, which seems to be slanted and discriminatory and with no aim other than to create prejudices and bad relations between members of society. Headlines like this go completely against the European Council’s idea that *“the media have a key role to play in the fight against prejudices and stereotypes and can thus help to improve equal opportunities for all men and women”*.
- 31. April. Madrid. Discrimination by the government.** A five-year old Roma boy of Portuguese origin drowned in a large pool of water near the La Jungla shanty town located in Madrid’s Vicálvaro district. This is a large pool of water approximately four-metres deep that has likely been created by the accumulation of water in an artificially dug hole some months ago (when work on an industrial complex began) and which is entirely lacking in any type of warning signs or fencing to limit access. The Madrid City Council told the press that they were not aware if any building was planned for the area, and if any construction work had been done there. The reality is that the government continues to allow the existence of these settlements, where even minimum living conditions don’t exist for these families who, at the end of the day, are the ones who have to risk living in these conditions. The government should take a pro-active approach against the persistence of these settlements and facilitate access to regulation housing for these families. Moreover, in this particular case, the government presumably did not comply with the safety laws applicable to public works as it began construction work, dug an enormous hole, and allowed this pool of water to be created without duly placing signs in the area.
- 32. April. Mérida. Discrimination in employment.** While doing prospecting work for the ACCEDER Jobs Programme with a local hotel, the owner had two job openings for chambermaids. The job prospector suggests a young Roma client whom the owner hadn’t hired the previous year claiming he had a prior commitment with another worker. This time the hotel’s owner explains that although he has hired Roma men as waiters and claims to be satisfied with the results of their work, he prefers to not hire Roma women as chambermaids. Notwithstanding this, several CVs from women who fit the job requirements were sent to him, but in a follow-up call he told us that he is already trying someone out, a woman who is not part of the ACCEDER programme. This is a clear case of direct ethnicity-based discrimination in access to employment, prohibited by Directive 2000/43/EC and the Spanish law of transposition.
- 33. April. Cordoba. Discrimination in the media.** A health professional is attacked, and both the police as well as different media prevent the alleged attacker’s personal information from being made public. All of them, except in the local edition of a large national newspaper that even states that the alleged attacker was accompanying a Gypsy family member, when this information doesn’t add any relevant information to understanding the news item. On the contrary, because by doing so what is achieved is to link the commission of a crime with the entire Roma community, thus creating and reinforcing prejudices and negative stereotypes towards its members.



- 34. April. Cordoba. Discrimination in employment/access to services.** Five Roma men who are performers were hired by the Brotherhood of Cordoba's Tax Authority, since there was going to be a dinner in one of the city's well-known flamenco and artistic wine cellars. When the performers arrive at the set time, bringing with them their rhythm boxes and guitars and with the manager having been told of their arrival, a waiter –apparently the head waiter– stops them and, in front of everyone there and without allowing them to say a word, orders them to get out since "it's not a party with Gypsy guests". A social/employment intervention worker from the FSG who had acted as mediator when they were hired reproached the waiter for his attitude. The waiter finally apologises and the appropriate person at the Tax Authority Office is notified, but does nothing to correct the waiter's discriminatory attitude.
- 35. April. Cantabria. Discrimination in the media.** As the result of an administrative procedure to "re-establish the legality of land use planning", a local newspaper publishes a news item with the following headline: *"The Gypsies of Viérnoles request that the case be closed"*. The ethnicity of the parties involved is again mentioned in the body of the article; they're described as *"Gypsy families living there illegally"* and, what's more, they're identified by name and surnames. The reference to ethnicity adds nothing to understanding the story; all it does is encourage the association of terms such as "illegality-Gypsies", the proliferation of negative stereotypes and the appearance of discriminatory practices against all the members of the Roma community.
- 36. April. Granada. Ethnicity-based harassment.** A young adult Roma woman who was sharing a flat with other students began to be accused by another flatmate of stealing keys. She never even asked the other flatmates if they had seen them, but instead turned directly on the Roma woman. From that point on, the situation became unbearable; she constantly received insults and threats and this also has an effect on her relationship with the rest of her flatmates. This resulted in the young woman moving house, as she couldn't stand the constant psychological harassment. This is a case of harassment where an environment that is hostile and intimidating towards the victim is created with the only reason being her ethnicity.
- 37. May. Valencia. Discrimination in the media.** In its Valencia version of 1 May, a nationally-distributed newspaper published a column with the following headline in its "Update" section: *"The Gypsy who fired a gun in a parking lot in revenge for the four crimes in Alzira has been arrested"*. In the body of the column, the arrestee's ethnicity is mentioned several times and mention is made of "rival clans". The reference to ethnicity in stories about events that have taken place is one of the most typical and repeated discriminations in the media. Ethnicity is personal information that enjoys special protection, and specifying it adds nothing to understanding the news; all it does is maintain prejudices and stereotypes against the Roma community, which they continue to link with crime.

## EL MUNDO VALENCIA

### Detenido el gitano que disparó en un parking en venganza de los 4 crímenes de Alzira

G.R.S.

VALENCIA.- Agentes de la Policía Nacional de Alzira y Valencia detuvieron ayer en Carlet a un joven de 20 años de etnia gitana como presunto autor de los disparos en un parking de un centro comercial sobre una embarazada del clan rival de 34 años, que acabó herida en un muslo. Los hechos ocurrieron el 31 de enero pasado como supuesta venganza por el cuádruple crimen cometido en el barrio de la Alquerieta de Alzira, en marzo de 2006, donde murieron miembros de los Kung-fu a manos de los Mantequilla.

Durante esta última operación, los policías han realizado dos registros, uno donde fue arrestado el supuesto autor de los disparos, y otro en un domicilio contiguo, y han incautado una escopeta, 19 cartuchos –dos de ellos de postas–, un machete, un cuchillo y cuatro navajas. Los agentes ya detuvieron en su día a la mujer que huyó en una furgoneta junto al joven ahora arrestado tras los disparos que éste efectuó.



- 38. May. Cordoba. Discrimination in the access to goods and services.** A young Roma woman with Andalusian features visits a dress shop to buy a dress for a wedding. Since she wants her mother's opinion, instead of buying it, she puts down a deposit of 100 euros on it. The next day, the young woman returns to the store with her mother –whose features are more typically Roma– and asks the shop clerk to show her the dress. The clerk replies that until the woman shows her the receipt, she isn't going to show her the dress. The young woman asks her if she doesn't remember her, and the clerk tells her that if she carries on shouting (the young woman hadn't raised her voice) she would call the police at once. A worker from the FSG comes in and notices how the entire shop is paying attention to the two Roma women, and the clerk insists on calling the police. The worker tells the young woman that she should be the one calling the police because of the way she is being treated, and then another customer in the store interrupts the conversation, warning the clerk that the two Roma women have not raised their voices at any time and that her behaviour was senseless. The FSG worker and the young woman fill in a complaints sheet and ask the owner to return the 100 euros, and she does so even though at the beginning she claimed that there was no money without the receipt.
- 39. May. Avilés. Discrimination in housing.** An older married couple who, due to health issues, are temporarily living at their daughter's house. They decide to look for rental housing for senior citizens and visit a rental agency along with a worker from the FSG. At the agency, they're told that there's no problem with them renting, and they agree to fill in the paperwork immediately. The next day, they are told that it isn't going to work out since the owner is going to sell the flat. The FSG trainer gets in contact with the owner and though she tries to get the owner to reconsider, she fails to do so. After a few days go by, the owner rents the flat to another family. We're aware of this because one of the couple's granddaughters lives in the same building and has informed us that the flat has been rented to a non-Roma family. This is a clear example of direct (concealed) discrimination in housing, where it is common to deny access to renting a house claiming reasons that have nothing to do with reality.
- 40. May. Corvera (Asturias). Discrimination in housing.** The owner of a flat offers to rent it to Social Services in Corvera. When they find out about it, the trainer from Social Services and the trainer from the FSG visit it, and find that it is appropriate for one of the FSG's local clients. When the owner discovers that it is for a Roma family and despite knowing that the rent payment is guaranteed by Social Services, she refuses to rent it. In spite of all of this, the Roma woman for whom the flat been requested personally called the owner and made an appointment to see the flat. On this occasion, she was accompanied by a student intern, so that she wouldn't recognise the worker from the FSG. The woman was thus able to rent the flat, since the owner didn't recognise her as a "Gypsy woman". Once again, a rental flat owner refuses to access to the flat to certain people based only on their ethnicity. This case is even more obvious, since the rent payments were guaranteed by Social Services.



**41. May. Pontevedra. Discrimination in housing.** At the weekend, there are throngs of people from the municipal federation of Caritel concentrated in front of the homes of the families who have been moved from Vao (Poio), as has been occurring for the past two months. The demonstrations have been taking place throughout this period, but without any significant impact. The line was crossed when, on this latest occasion, those participating in the demonstration decide to cut off the mains electricity, putting placards on the balconies with slogans such as "WE ARE ALL CARITEL", "A WHOLE LIFETIME STUDYING TO GET A JOB, AND IF WE HUSTLED FOR A LIVING THEY'D HAVE TO GIVE US A HOUSE". They also painted graffiti on the ground ("NO INTEGRATION", with the swastika), on the lamp posts ("NO TO THE SECOND VAO"), and on garbage bins (more swastikas). Faced with this situation, the families are terrified and afraid that something will be done to them while they're in their homes, and they don't even want their child to go to school because they're afraid that someone could try to retaliate through him. In coordination with the Department for Equal Treatment, the local FSG office submitted a complaint to the Public Prosecutor regarding the aforementioned situation. The Prosecutor's Office has notified the FSG that this complaint led to the initiation of a criminal investigation, which was submitted to the Superior Court of First Instance in Pontevedra so that the appropriate preliminary investigation may be initiated.

## La Voz de Galicia



Las cruces gamadas aparecieron pintadas sobre el pavimento, mientras que en los contenedores dibujaron cruces similares a las del Ku Klux Klan | CAPOTRILLO

Esvásticas, cruces del Ku Klux Klan y mensajes xenófobos inundan las calles desde la madrugada del domingo

### Pintadas nazis y racistas sitian la casa de los realojados de O Vao en Caritel

**Jaime Velázquez**

PONTEVEDRA | La pequeña localidad de Caritel, en Ponte Caldelas, en la que apenas viven 80 vecinos, se encuentra inundada desde la madrugada del domingo por pintadas nazis y racistas contra las dos familias gitanas de O Vao que fueron realojadas en la villa.

El pavimento de la carretera general que une la localidad con la ciudad de Pontevedra está marcado por enormes cruces gamadas con las letras G y Z a cada lado. En una de ellas, se puede leer «Non xitanos». En las farolas cuelgan banderas de Galicia con crespones negros. Carteles pegados en los postes rezan «Non integración», «Non ao segundo Vao», «Caritel contra os realoxos ilegais».

Las esvásticas parecen marcar el camino desde la carretera principal hasta la casa en la que están realojadas las dos familias chabolistas de O Vao. Las pintadas de simbología nazi continúan invadiendo el recorrido hasta llegar a una pequeña plaza, situada frente al inmueble de acogida.

Las cruces gamadas se repiten en el suelo, las farolas y en los contenedores de basura, vidrio y papel. Y a escasos metros de la puerta de la casa de los gitanos aparecen nuevos signos: cruces blancas que recuerdan a las estacas que el Ku Klux Klan, la organización racista de ultraderecha americana, colocaba e incendiaba frente a las viviendas de los negros en el sur de los Estados Unidos.

La asociación Pueblo Gitano, que preside Sinaí Giménez, mostró ayer su repulsa a las acciones xenófobas y anunció que llevará los hechos ante la Fiscalía, como ya hizo en el caso de las manifestaciones frente a las casas de los realojados en el barrio pontevedrés de Monte Porreiro. Su denuncia ha cristalizado en la imputación de seis vecinos.

#### Cortes de electricidad

Sinaí Giménez aseguró que en la madrugada del domingo, momento en que se realizaron también las pintadas, alguien se subió al poste de la luz y cortó el cable de suministro eléctrico de la casa. «Los niños se asustaron mucho y alguna familia tuvo que volver a O Vao. No vamos a consentir que se sigan realizando

este tipo de actos», dijo ayer de manera tajante Giménez.

El líder gitano afirmó que los habitantes de Caritel se manifiestan a menudo sin permiso de la Subdelegación del Gobierno, y aseguró que cuenta con testigos que pueden confirmar cómo los propios vecinos reconocieron haber lanzado petardos de gran potencia frente a la casa de los afectados.

Las manifestaciones que cada noche realizan los opositores a los realojos incluyen gritos y cachoroladas. Según los afectados, también insultos y amenazas. Algunos vecinos de Caritel que ayer pasaban sobre las pintadas afirmaron que ellos no son quienes las han realizado, y se lamentaron de que «ahora nos vayan a denunciar a nosotros».

#### TESTIMONIO

**MARIANO SILVA**

Chabolista realojado en Caritel

«Esto ya ha llegado a un límite que no se puede consentir»

Mariano Silva es uno de los diez chabolistas de O Vao que fueron realojados en la parroquia de Ponte Caldelas. Además de ellos, otra familia gitana del poblado marginal convive en el piso de abajo de la misma vivienda.



Han tenido que soportar durante meses las manifestaciones diarias a las puertas de su casa. Han aguantado las consignas y los ruidos, pero las pintadas que desde hace días sitian su casa han terminado por agotar su paciencia. «Esto ya ha llegado a un límite que no se puede permitir», explicó ayer el afectado. «Les voy a denunciar a la policía, porque es algo insoportable. No pueden hacer esto, poner esas pintadas de "Gitanos no", "No a la integración"; está todo lleno de insultos».

Silva dice saber quiénes son los responsables de tales amenazas y mensajes fascistas y xenófobos. «Son los mismos que se manifiestan delante de la casa y nos insultan y nos amenazan. En persona no se atreven a decir nada».

#### Preocupación

Los mediadores sociales que trabajan con las familias realojadas en el barrio de Caritel se encuentran seriamente preocupados. «Como siga esta oleada de rechazo, esto puede acabar en agresiones personales, contra los gitanos o contra responsables políticos», afirmó ayer un trabajador social.





**42. May. Corvera (Asturias). Discrimination in housing.** A family comprising the father, mother and three minor children end up without their own home, and find themselves practically “squatting” in the house of the woman’s sister. Given the seriousness of the situation, Social Services in Corvera believes there is a need to support this family, and request the FSG to collaborate with them in looking for housing. Through an estate agent, we find a flat in Las Vegas (Corvera) that fits their needs and the FSG staff accompany the family to take a look at the flat. The family express their interest in renting it to the owner and the owner, via the estate agent, asks for proof of income. Proof of a social wage income is submitted, and this kind of income is accepted. Arrangements for signing the contract are made and, two hours before it is to take place, the agency tells us that the owner has changed her mind and that she now wants someone with a pay check, or she won’t agree to sign the contract. Strangely enough, that same day –which was Monday (market day)– the owner had seen the future renter in the Avilés street market setting up the stand of a family member where he sells things. It seems clear that the owner changed her mind when she realised that the future renter and his family were Roma.

**43. Discrimination by the government.** By monitoring news items received through the FSG’s press alert service, we find a news item with an unusual headline in a local daily newspaper: *“The Gypsy Association files a complaint about the City Council”*. The article tells us that a “Platform of Gypsy Associations in Cantabria” has filed a complaint with the Ombudsman due to the defenceless of some Roma families affected by being evicted from their homes on a plot of land, without the local government offering them any solutions. The report from the Ombudsman recalls that, according to current legislation, *“Housing or financial assistance solutions must be offered to people who, as a consequence of planned activities on the land must be evicted from the modules where they habitually live on an ongoing basis”*. The Ombudsman also states –according to the newspaper– that the City Council *“is responsible for the settlement”* of the families on the plot and, thus *“it is obligated to provide them with assistance and ensure their social integration”*. By the same token, the question is raised as to *“where is”* the municipal plan for getting rid of the shanty town. The Ombudsman is aware that there is a plan, but no reference is made to it in the reports submitted by the City Council. Moreover, he describes as *“surprising”* that the City Council –in the name of social progress– should leave the affected families homeless. It thus seems that this is a case of direct discrimination in housing in which the discriminatory party is the government itself which, moreover, is not fulfilling its social obligations, according to what can be gathered from the Ombudsman’s report.



44. **May. National. Discrimination in the media.** A locally-distributed newspaper published an article with the following headline: “A Gypsy clan blows up the car of a rival family”. The headline already offers the totally unnecessary “Gypsy clan” information but, in addition, the rest of the column follows in the same vein with expressions such as “possible score-settling between Gypsy families”; “The victims of the explosion blame it on a clan –also Gypsy– with whom they had a confrontation in a shoot out last 1 August”. That day, the two rival families were having a meeting to settle unresolved issues related to drug dealing”. As a comparison, a nationally distributed newspaper (*Público*) published the following headline about the same news item: “A device explodes in a car in Almería”. The headline is completely objective, though the body of the article does refer to the possibility that there has been a settling of scores between Gypsy families.

**Público**

**CON LA FAMILIA DENTRO  
Estalla un artefacto en  
un coche en Almería**

**ALMERÍA//** Un artefacto adosado en los bajos de un todoterreno, ocupado por un matrimonio y sus tres hijas de entre 12 y 5 años, explotó ayer en Almería sin causar daños personales. Según han informado a Efe fuentes policiales, podría tratarse de un posible ajuste de cuentas entre familias rivales de etnia gitana, que ya se enfrentaron en un tiroteo en agosto de 2007, según las mismas fuentes.

**elCorreo** DE ANDALUCÍA

DISPUTA EN ALMERÍA

**Un clan gitano  
hace explotar  
el coche de una  
familia rival**

**ALMERÍA** ■ Un artefacto adosado en los bajos de un todoterreno, ocupado por un matrimonio y sus tres hijas de entre 12 y 5 años, explotó ayer en Almería sin causar daños personales, en un posible ajuste de cuentas entre familias rivales de etnia gitana, según informaron a Efe fuentes policiales.

La explosión del artefacto, al parecer de fabricación casera, se produjo frente al número 98 de la calle Abrucena, en el barrio de El Zapillo, según informaron la Policía Nacional y la esposa del propietario del todoterreno afectado por la deflagración. El incidente estaría relacionado con las disputas entre dos familias, que ya se enfrentaron en un tiroteo en agosto de 2007, según las mismas fuentes.

Acompañado de su familia, con la que desde hace meses reside en un inmueble alquilado en esta zona de Almería, Antonio S.O. se dirigió a su vehículo sobre las 12.15 horas, momento en el que se produjo la explosión al poner en marcha el turismo. “Justo al arrancar, hemos sentido un petardazo muy fuerte que ha llegado a levantar el coche del suelo”, explicó a los periodistas la mujer que, al igual que el resto de su familia, logró abandonar el turismo por su propio pie, aunque dos de sus hijas presentan molestias severas en los oídos.

Las víctimas de la deflagración culparon de ésta a un clan, también de etnia gitana, con el que se enfrentaron en un tiroteo el pasado 1 de agosto. Ese día, las dos familias rivales mantenían una reunión para zanjar cuestiones pendientes relacionadas con el tráfico de droga. El enfrentamiento se saldó con la muerte de F.O.G., tío de la esposa del dueño del turismo que explotó ayer.





- 45. May. Lugo. Discrimination in employment.** A young Roma man with an intellectual disability of 65% goes to a group interview to find out about the working conditions in a cooperative; he's accompanied by workers from the ACCEDER (FSG) job programme. The young man accepts the working conditions and, via employment mediation with the cooperative's director, they arrange that the following day he would find out about the production line and that he would start work as soon as possible. When they go in the next day to find out about the production process, the cooperative's director has been told that the abattoir's manager doesn't want the young man to work in the company; nevertheless, they carry on with the visit, and the director agrees to give them a call when she finds out what is going on. The next day, the job prospector in Lugo is informed by the director that the abattoir's manager doesn't want the young man to work because of how close the Roma settlement of O Carqueixo is, since he doesn't want problems with "those people", stating that he has had problems in the past. The Lugo office, in coordination with the Department of Equal Treatment, wrote a letter informing them of how discriminatory the manager's attitude is and what consequences might result from it.
- 46. May. Teruel. Discrimination in employment.** We'd like to reiterate the complaint made by Cáritas published as follows in a local newspaper regarding the discrimination in employment suffered by Roma people in Teruel: "*Cáritas denounces that 42% of companies don't want Roma workers*". The article continues: "*Nearly half of the companies in the capital –specifically, 42%– would never hire Roma workers, according to a survey sponsored by Cáritas-Teruel and carried out by the consulting company Geoter Services Territoriales*". The data from the survey sponsored by Cáritas reflect an undeniable social reality of employment discrimination towards the Roma community.
- 47. May. Pontevedra. Discrimination in the media.** An article is published in a local newspaper that contains a news item about the theft of several bikinis from a sports equipment shop. In this article, a reference is made to the people who have carried out the theft, stating their ethnicity ("*the Gypsy women made off with the bathing suits...*"). We understand that referring to their ethnicity adds nothing to understanding the story, but it does have a negative effect as it links crime to Roma ethnicity.
- 48. May. European Union (Italy). Racist acts and discrimination by the government.** On 14 May, the FSG finds out about the information that some media are disseminating about the violent attacks against shanty towns, whose residents are mostly Roma of Romanian citizenship. The statements by some Italian public authorities not only have not helped to calm things down, they're actually made them worse. The next day, social organisations react to this situation and an institutional communiqué signed by, among others, the FSG, was released which raises an alert about the seriousness of the situation, requesting that the EU take urgent measures to stop the violations of the Roma men and women's human rights in Italy. On 20 May, the European Roma Policy Coalition –of which the FSG is a part– released a joint communiqué calling for a coordinated EU action based on European anti-discrimination law, measures for social inclusion and respect for human rights. In addition, the European Parliament held a special meeting to deal with these events in which Commissary Vladimir Spidla roundly condemned the racist attacks on Roma settlements in Italy, warning the government that its duty is to protect these citizens from xenophobic attacks. On 3 June, more than 20 Spanish Roma associations called for a demonstration in Madrid to show their rejection and condemnation in front of the Italian Embassy, with more than 100 people joined together with the slogan "In favour of diversity and peaceful coexistence with the European Roma people". In Italy, on 8 June, hundreds of Roma and non-Roma demonstrated in the streets of Rome, denouncing the most recent attacked on Roma settlements. The main slogans for this demonstration were: "All peoples are humanity's wealth", and "Born condemned". Despite all of this international reaction against the attacks and poor management by the government, on 25 June the Italian Home Secretary announced to Parliament's



Commission on Constitutional Affairs that law enforcement officers would take the fingerprints of all of the Roma men and women, including minors. The Council of Ministers did not approve this measure on the date it was originally proposed, possibly due to international pressure and because the European Parliament announced that it was going to study these measures though the legal office of the Civil Liberties Commission, to see if they were in line with European legislation. It was finally the head of the government who, on a date later than that planned, awarded the extraordinary powers needed to “solve the Gypsy emergency”, empowering them to take a census, rehouse, remove or expel –either administratively or by court order– Roma men and women. From that point forward, the information on how the information was gathered and managed is not official: by whom, how or when this identification was carried out has not yet been published, nor how this information is and will be processed.

In situations such as the one that took place in Italy, the FSG believes it is imperative that words become actions and to demand –using all of the tools available– effective compliance with the legislation on Equal Treatment and non-discrimination throughout the entire territory of the European Union.

**49. May. Ciudad Real. Discrimination in employment.** A former client of one of FSG’s programmes comments during one of his appointments that he’s no longer working in the last company he was hired at because the business owner gave him the boot. He said that, since he found out what neighbourhood he lived in, his boss began to act strangely towards him. One day he asked him directly if he lived in San Martín de Porres, and he replied affirmatively. From that point forward, his boss’s behaviour towards him became more and more distant. A short time later –after working for nine months as a deliveryman with a short-term contract– they tell him that there’s no more work and that therefore, they don’t need him anymore. Subsequently, the man signs the severance form and accepts the business owner’s terms. The local office sees signs of discrimination, although the case is dealt with in terms of legal issues by the consultant services offered by one of the large unions.

**50. May. Mallorca. Discrimination in the access to goods and services.** We are presenting this case using data obtained from monitoring news items in the press. Several newspapers published that a sign was hanging in a local computer store with the following notice (spelling errors included): “WARNING! Dogs and Romanians are forbidden to enter without prior permission; otherwise, they’ll crawl out with their tails between their legs”. In addition –both in the display window and inside the shop– another document was hung up, entitled “Immigration. Description of how angry I was yesterday after three Romanians stole two laptops from me”. This was followed by a text full of racist insults and threats (I’m going to cut off your hands, you Romanian sons of bitches”). According to the information published in the same newspapers,





the local police removed the sign at the weekend (10-11 May). This is a clear case of ethnicity-based direct discrimination in accessing goods and services and, in our opinion, it is also a case of ethnicity-based discrimination, since most of the Romanians in that area are Roma.

- 51. May. Jaén. Discrimination in employment.** A middle-aged Roma man went to a local construction company to look for work. When he arrived, he asked the foreman if he needed a construction journeyman, and the manager replied *"We don't hire Gypsies. I've had a very bad experience with them and we don't accept Gypsies."* The foreman then walked away, ignoring the man's presence. This is a clear example of discrimination in access to employment, and a clear example of the difficulties that would involve filing a complaint about a case such as this one.
- 52. May. Vigo (Pontevedra). Discrimination in the access to goods and services.** This case is a repeat –with the same discriminative party– of one of last year's cases. An NGO moves its office to the top floor of the same building where the FSG has its regional office, and the FSG social worker stopped in to find out about the procedure for clients to follow in order to receive services. The NGO's social worker told her clearly that they don't provide services to Gypsy women and that is what the FSG is for. The FSG worker told her that there isn't any programme for helping with food, baby items or children's clothes, as they have. The other worker replies by saying that –as she already knows– Gypsies never collaborate and they don't do anything to change the situation they're in; they only thing they do is beg and that they were providing services to two Gypsy women because they were being forced to do so. When asked if they receive public moneys from the regional government, they answered that this year they are not, just a subsidy from Caixanova. The Department for Equal Treatment, in coordination with the FSG team in Vigo, drafts a letter to this NGO's director, informing her of what has happened and requesting a rectification.
- 53. May. Vigo (Pontevedra). Discrimination in employment.** A young Roma woman goes to an interview at a one of the country's largest clothing chains in order to do an internship as a shop clerk. According to the young woman, the entire interview was focused on the shop's problem with shoplifting by Gypsies and on the social environment she lived in, asking questions about her personal life such as *"Did you get married, or get married off?"*, *"You've got only one sister?"* *"Because you Gypsy families usually have nine or ten siblings and a bunch of kids."*, etc. Finally, after mentioning her fear that the shop would fill up with Gypsies if she were working there, she assesses the interview as positive, the young woman seems like an apt candidate and, despite her fears, she agrees that the woman can do her internship in her shop. When we found out about what had happened, the Vigo office of the FSG spoke with the shop's manager. It was concluded from this conversation that the interview was focused in that way due to the woman's lack of knowledge about the Roma culture; at no time –as she mentioned– did she mean to discriminate against her, but "she was concerned about her social environment". The manager apologised to the young woman and the FSG for what had happened, and insisted that she could do her internship there and that there would be no problem. Subsequently, the clothing chain's main office called the FSG, apologising for what had happened and offering other alternatives. This situation ended positively, as the young woman was finally able to do her internship in another of the clothing chain's shops.



**54. June. Valencia. Discrimination in the media.** A local newspaper publishes an editorial that contained expressions such as the following: *"In France, Sarkozy is also getting ready to support other measures designed to put some order into a society surprised by the most negative aspects of the multiculturalism that has led to the avalanche of immigrants, mainly the North African and Sub-Saharan"; "In Spain, the Gypsy issue is just a mild expression, despite that a solution has not yet been found. Economic efforts and others of all types have not had the response that could have been expected from an ethnic group that –with few exceptions– has not integrated itself as hoped for, nor has it shown any desire whatsoever to do so into our society or any other. There's no exception"; "Spanish society has been generous with the Gypsies, and especially so over the last decades".* As the result of mediation carried out by an FSG worker, the newspaper offered us a space in which to publish a response.

**La Tribuna  
de Albacete**

**AL TRASLUZI DANIEL SÁNCHEZ ORTEGA**

## Nómadas

**E**l mandatario italiano Silvio Berlusconi ha dado la voz de alarma. El polémico proyecto de expulsión de ilegales y de *rom* o gitanos rumanos ya había sido impulsado por su antecesor Romano Prodi, ante la evidencia del vacío legal comunitario. Sarkozy, en Francia, se dispone también a proponer otras medidas conducentes a poner orden en una sociedad sorprendida por los aspectos más negativos del multiculturalismo a que ha llevado la avalancha inmigratoria, principalmente la norteafricana y subsahariana. El debate está ahí: o interculturalidad, que es préstamo e integración en la sociedad de acogida; o multiculturalismo, que es no integración, gueto y conflicto étnico asegurado a medio o largo plazo. En España, mientras tanto, toca la flauta Rodríguez Zapatero.

El fenómeno se encuentra menos avanzado en nuestro país, si bien cobra por momentos ritmo acelerado en muchos territorios. El problema es el multiculturalismo. En España, la cuestión gitana es sólo una expresión atenuada, pese a lo cual no ha encontrado todavía su punto de solución. Los esfuerzos económicos y de toda índole no han tenido la respuesta que cabría esperar de una etnia que, salvo casos puntuales, no se ha integrado según lo esperado ni manifiesta voluntad alguna de hacerlo en nuestra sociedad o en cualquier otra. No hay excepción. La sociedad española ha sido generosa con los gitanos, y de manera especial durante los últimos

»

*En España,  
la cuestión gitana  
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atenuada*



decenios. Por cuanto se refiere a Albacete, una ojeada más allá del Puente Madera da fe de ello; y, sin embargo, la noticia excepcional por aquellos pagos es el triunfo de Rafa, el chavallito gitano *cantaor* que tanta alegría dio a los albaceteños. La habitual es otra, por desgracia.

El pensamiento único tendrá ya preparada la batería de denuestos -racismo y xenofobia para empezar y fascismo para terminar- contra quienes pretendan ir a su aire y conocer datos fiables, que sin duda existen, para, a partir de ellos, realizar el basquejo que proceda. Por ejemplo: cuántas viviendas construidas y a qué precio; si este mismo criterio es extensible a la sociedad paya, especialmente jóvenes y trabajadores; cuánto dinero público y por todos los conceptos va destinado anualmente a subsidiar estos grupos; cuál es el índice de delincuencia en términos absolutos y en comparación con el conjunto de la población española; cuál el de escolarización y de absentismo escolar; qué medidas adoptan, en su caso, las autoridades y si son las mismas que las aplicadas al resto de la ciudadanía; cuáles son los índices de formación de grado medio o de nivel universitario en la etnia gitana; en caso negativo, cuáles son los obstáculos que se oponen a su nivelación con el resto de la población y si es ésta la responsable del fenómeno. El etcétera sería demasiado largo, pero ha cuajado en la opi-

alguna, para la integración de nuestra comunidad gitana. Diversas asociaciones de inmigrantes rumanos «convencionales» nos ponen ya sobre aviso de las graves repercusiones que conllevaría la llegada de miles de gitanos *rom*, o rumanos. Tienen antecedentes penales la mayoría y, a no dudar, proseguirán su actividad delictiva en España. Varios miles se han puesto en marcha hacia nuestro país: hacia la Comunidad de Madrid preferentemente, Cataluña, Levante y las tierras más cálidas del sur, atractivas sobremedida para el nomadismo. Nada de extraño pues que la permisividad de la legislación española, la flauta de Zapatero y la benignidad del clima hayan hecho de España el segundo receptor de gitanos *rom* - pronto será el primero- de toda la Unión Europea.

Badalona es ya paradigma de lo que está por venir. Esta ciudad ha sido modelo de integración y de convivencia sin fricciones entre los emigrantes de toda España y la población autóctona. Hoy, sin embargo, la inmigración norteafricana en general y la *rom* en particular está generando tensiones al borde del estallido. Más próxima a nosotros, la comunidad gitana de Viliena ha recogido firmas para erradicar la presencia creciente de gitanos rumanos en sus barrios. Durante la dictadura comunista y en los primeros años de democracia en Rumanía, se ejecutaron programas de integración. La solución fue cero. Hoy, lo es la permisividad oficial para abandonar el país. Este año hacia La Herrera, pongamos por caso.

**55. June. Cordoba. Discrimination in health care.** On 2 June, a Roma woman about 44 years old goes to the Health Centre with blood pressure so high that she was running a great risk of having a stroke. Prior to this, Emergency Services had gone to her home and they were the ones who decided to take her to the closest Health Centre so she could be treated. Both the woman as well as the emergency workers taking her to the centre was stunned when, upon arriving, the orderly refuses to notify the doctor because "these scum don't tell the truth". The emergency workers themselves advise her husband to fill in a complaint form. The victim also decides to file a complaint about the orderly, and on 28 September 2008, a misdemeanour trial was held. Once again, something as serious as the aforementioned is described as a mere misdemeanour, without taking into account the legislation on equal treatment.





**56. June. Torrelavega. Discrimination in the media.** On 5 June, a locally distributed newspaper published an article with the following headline: "A Gypsy woman appeals her eviction and delay the occupation of the Asilo parcel of land". The woman's name and two surnames are given in the sub-title below. In our opinion, this is a case in which a person is defending her interests legitimately and through the established legal channels; however, based on the way the newspaper handled the information, it seems that this person is being blamed for doing something that is –at the very least– illegal. In any event, all the information possibly needed to identify this person (name and surnames) have been made public as well as her ethnicity –information that is specially protected in accordance with the law on data protection, when providing information on ethnicity adds nothing to the news item and besides including "a Gypsy woman" as part of the title being extremely demeaning, it is also sensationalistic. Events in which participants do not belong to ethnic minorities are not handled in this way, and so in our opinion this is a case of ethnicity-based direct discrimination where the discriminatory party is both the journalist/author and the newspaper printing his story.

## EL DIARIO MONTAÑÉS

# Una gitana recurre el desahucio y retrasa la ocupación de la finca del Asilo

Pilar Gabarri Pérez no desalojará su módulo-vivienda en un año

El asesor jurídico advierte del riesgo procesal de pedir el lanzamiento

**N. BOLADO TORRELAVEGA**

En la finca del Asilo solamente queda un módulo-vivienda ocupado por Pilar Gabarri Pérez y su familia quien ayer anunció la presentación de un recurso de apelación para evitar su desahucio dictado por una sentencia del 19 de mayo en la que se estimaba la petición hecha por el Ayuntamiento de Torrelavega. El recurso en contra de esta decisión judicial, presentado por el abogado de la familia gitana, puede significar la paralización de la ocupación de la finca por un tiempo superior a un año, según le ha informado el asesor jurídico de la Corporación, Pedro Anillo Abril, a la alcaldesa. Dicha familia se encuentra entre las que reciben indemnización municipal pero no aceptan la cuantía por considerarla baja para poder acceder a otra vivienda. Esto significaría la paralización durante, al menos, un año de la ocupación, por el Gobierno regional, de la finca del Asilo donde se construirá una residencia para discapacitados. El proyecto ya lo está redactando el estudio del arquitecto Pedro Valero por encargo del Gobierno de Cantabria.

El recurso de esta persona, que debe sustanciarse en la Audiencia Provincial, la posibilita seguir ocupando la finca, y el módulo-vivienda, hasta que se dicte sobre su recurso. No obstante puede seguirse el camino de solicitar la ejecución provisional de la sentencia de desahucio para que se produzca el alzamiento de la precatista, si es que el Juzgado acce-

Esta familia ha recibido una indemnización que considera baja para comprar otra vivienda

de a ello. Esta cuestión –según detalla en su informe el asesor municipal– no está exenta de riesgos procesales para el Ayuntamiento ya que, en algunos supuestos –tal y como detalla el letrado Anillo Abril– se deniega la ejecución provisional de sentencias cuando se originan graves perjuicios para el demandado, y el juez puede considerar que éste es el caso al tratarse del desalojo de una vivienda modular.

A pesar de la advertencia la alcaldesa informó ayer que ha ordenado que se pida la ejecución provisional de la sentencia manifestando que «ahora estamos en manos de lo que justicia decida. Si se atienden nuestros razonamientos se habrá solventado el problema pero si ocurre lo contrario sólo nos quedaría la posibilidad de levantar una pared y utilizar el resto de la finca o esperar», razonó.

## PRC: engaños y demoras

**N. B. TORRELAVEGA**

El concejal portavoz del PRC, Pedro García Carmona, considera que la alcaldesa «ha engañado» al afirmar que la finca del Asilo estaría desalojada el día 1 de junio. Lo que García Carmona considera que es, además, «un incumplimiento», lo pone en comparación con la actitud mantenida por el Gobierno de Cantabria: «La Consejería ha transferido 132.000 euros al Ayuntamiento para pagar las indemnizaciones a las familias de etnia gitana y se llevan invertidos casi 1,9 millones de euros en diversas obras en la ciudad, como se

había comprometido, para disponer de este terreno». Reconoce que un retraso en algún proyecto es asumible «pero en este caso se trata de una obra absolutamente necesaria (la construcción de una residencia para discapacitados) y hay que poner, de una vez por todas, los terrenos a disposición del Gobierno de Cantabria, concretamente de la Consejería de Obras Públicas, para que construya la residencia». El portavoz regionalista asegura, en un comunicado de prensa, que «no podemos admitir más engaños ni más demoras y por ello tenemos la obligación de exigir a los responsables municipal que se cumplan los compromisos que, libremente, se asumen porque está en juego el futuro de muchas familias».



El último núcleo de módulos, sólo uno habitado por una familia, que queda en la finca del Asilo. J.L.P



- 57. June. Salamanca. Discrimination by the government and the police.** A young Roma man who owned a bar in the capital city was visited by local police officers who, as the result of a complaint they had received, were going to take readings of the noise level. Based on the results of the readings, they gave him a complaint report. After a month and a half, they showed up again; they didn't take any readings this time, but they gave him another complaint report. In May, he receives a notice that a procedure has been initiated to fine him 300 euros and close his bar for a month. The young man goes to the city hall to ask what he should do in order to appeal, but he receives the following reply: *"There's nothing here to claim. If you make me angry, instead of a 300 euro fine, I'll give you one of 600 euros and instead of closing your business for one month, I'll close it for two. If you file and appeal, as soon as I get it, I'll tear it up."* The young man tries to explain to him that he's new at the business and didn't know exactly what opening hours were allowed, to which he received the following reply: *"Common sense is the same for non-Gypsies as it is for Gypsies."* The conversation ended when he threatened to give the young man *"a couple of slaps in the face"*. The FSG's main office offered assistance to carry out the administrative appeal, but the victims finally decided to pay the fine, close the bar temporarily and soundproof it, because they were afraid that if they went ahead with the matter that things would get worse for their business.
- 58. June. Granada. Discrimination in the access to goods and services.** The coordinator from the Granada office of the FSG and the services worker from the PAE stop in at a restaurant to organise a dinner for the families and children taking part in the Educational Action Programme being run by the Granada FSG. The manager takes excellent care of them and they arrange the day, the menu and the payment method. When the manager asks them for the name of the organisation holding the event and hears "Fundación Secretariado Gitano", her attitude changes and she starts to express racist and prejudiced opinions and attitudes. Finally, in a very demeaning voice, she says: *"Careful with the Gypsies you bring her, I'm thinking that we'd better not provide this service, I know the Gypsies really well and the problems they cause because we've also had a disco and we're sick and tired of the destruction and problems they've caused us."* Both FSG workers then explained to her that these were people they'd been working with for a long time, that she'd had those problems with certain people in particular but that she couldn't spread that attitude to the rest of the people that she didn't know. Finally, the manager agrees to provide the service. Two days before the dinner, they call from the restaurant to cancel the booking for 90 people, and so the entire activity had to be cancelled since it was impossible to schedule another dinner for so many people in such a short time. This is a case of ethnicity-based discrimination in the access to goods and services. This is not only forbidden by Directive 2000/43/EC and its law of transposition, but Article 512 of the Criminal Code classifies it as a crime, and punishes this behaviour with the sentence of a special disqualification for from practising a profession or trade, or running an industrial or commercial enterprise, for a period of one to four years.





**59. June. Madrid. Discrimination in the access to goods and services.** A young Roma woman goes with her sister and law and their children to shop at a shopping centre. In one of the shops, the woman was waiting in the queue when the shop's security guard approaches her and, in an aggressive fashion, shouts at her, making the accusation that she had caught her shoplifting. The young woman told her she was waiting to pay, but the security guard insisted that she had "caught" her and that she had everything on tape, grabbing her arm and trying to drag her to the security room. Since the woman insisted she hadn't shoplifted anything and that she wasn't going to move, the security guard grabbed the stroller of the woman's son, starting a tug of war between the two women that caused the little boy to start to cry. Seeing how risky the situation was for her son, the woman agreed to go the security room with the guard. Once inside, the guard continued to insist that she admit she'd shoplifted, that she had it all on tape; the woman responded that she hadn't shoplifted anything and that the guard should take a close look at the video. This situation went on for some 15 to 20 minutes, during which the woman and child were locked in the security room, since the guard refused to open even the door so a bit of air could enter the room. Finally, the woman's sister in law entered the shop and she was able to get them out of there. The FSG provided advice to the victim and a letter was written to the security company as a first step to filing a complaint in the future.

**60. June. Aragón. Discrimination in the media.** As the result of a news item published in a regional newspaper under the headline of *"The First International Expo of Gypsy Culture is being prepared for 2010"* a number of entries having a significantly discriminatory and racist content are uploaded to the newspaper's web page. Some example: "9. Acturiano. *Then for sure I'm going to get out of my neighbourhood, because to know them is to love them, it would be good to close all of the shopping centres during the Gypsyexpo because if they're shoplifting now and there are just 1,300 of them, I don't even want to talk about how it would be when there are thousands. I hope this is a bad joke and they leave them alone, we've got enough with their hustling, street markets with stolen goods, and guard work done by "los Soriano", etc. I don't even want to image their pavilions (Driving without a licence pavilion, pavilion for attacking tourists in the Pilar Square, neighbourhood destruction pavilion, etc.). I repeat: I hope this is a bad joke.*" "12. Pilar. *I don't consider myself racist and, although there are some exceptions, in general they are not good people, they're violent and take advantage of the government system. There are other areas in Spain that could host that Expo.*" Despite the newspaper inserting messages on several occasions reminding them that *"posting comments in violation of Spanish law or that are slanderous is not allowed, and we reserve the right to delete comments we consider to be off topic"*, the reality is that all of those slanderous and prejudice-filled comments are still there. Public space is being provided for racist expressions that project acts carried out by specific individuals on to the entire community, and that actively contribute to the generation of discriminatory practices and to the persistence of social prejudices. A letter from the FSG Department for Equal Treatment was sent to the newspaper's manager pointing out the existence of discrimination and requesting that the forum entries be removed. On 2 July, the Department confirmed that these entries had been deleted.



### 61. June. National. Discrimination in the media.

Mr Alberto Míguez publishes an editorial entitled *"The Fingerprints of the Gypsies"* in an online newspaper full of stereotypes, prejudices and expressions that could be described as racist, and that project the actions carried out by particular individuals onto the entire Roma community. Among other things, he brands the Roma community as a *"blight"*, attributing them with *"there's no exception"*, *"deplorable living conditions, they don't integrate and they're behind thousands of crimes of every kind"*. Moreover, he unabashedly supports the policy carried out in Italy by Berlusconi, stating that it is needed in Spain. We believe this article to clearly discredit the entire Roma community, which he stigmatises via the aforementioned article, and which constituted a clear apology of racial hatred and xenophobia since a pejorative concept of the Roma community as a whole permeates the entire text. A letter was sent from the Department for Equal Treatment to the newspaper's manager, who responded very positively and apologised, stating that he had already made contact with the columnist to tell him that this kind of statement did not fit in with the editorial line, and offering a space in the same publication to the FSG. Nevertheless, on a negative note, it's important to point out that the article was not removed from the website and that the columnist did not write any kind of apology.

### 62. July. Ciudad Real. Discrimination in the media.


A local newspaper announced in its headlines that the policies had carried out a drug sweep in the San Martín de Porres neighbourhood in which seven people had been arrested and one kilogram of cocaine, etc. had been seized. The notice surprised the FSG team in Ciudad Real because it works in the neighbourhood on a daily basis and hadn't heard anything about such an event, so the regional director got in contact with the regional government, where they confirmed that the news item in the newspaper was not true since, although there had indeed been a drug sweep in the town, it had happened in six different areas of the city, but not in the neighbourhood mentioned. The neighbourhood residents, as well as the Ciudad Real Roma Association and the FSG team, are tired of the neighbourhood being the scapegoat for all of the local problems so, in coordination with the local office, the main office of the FSG drafts and sends a letter of protest to the newspaper's director. In the letter, we request that the news item be corrected and that, in the future, more attention be given to handling this type of news item.

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 Las huellas de los gitanos

Alberto Míguez

El Ministerio del Interior italiano acaba de autorizar a las delegaciones gubernamentales de la península para que desencadenen un plan de identificación mediante huellas dactilares de los gitanos que habitan irregularmente en el país y cuyo origen es múltiple. Y lejano.

Naturalmente la iniciativa está provocando ya cierto escándalo en los círculos democráticos europeos porque la consideran una imposición demagógica y finalmente poco eficaz.

Pero según las encuestas del propio ministerio del Interior italiano hay una inmensa mayoría de ciudadanos que ve con simpatía el proyecto porque están literalmente hartos con la presencia de asentamientos, tribus y núcleos gitanos en los alrededores de las ciudades.

Estos asentamientos se han convertido en zonas de delincuencia, tráfico de drogas, prostitución, mendicidad, robo y otros delitos.

Aunque lo digan con la boca pequeña y naturalmente no se atreven a tomar una decisión semejante, las autoridades de algunos países europeos como Francia, Bélgica, Holanda, y países nórdicos sufren esta lacra y hasta el momento no se habían atrevido a enfrentarla.

En el caso de los gitanos rumanos –los más numerosos y peligrosos y los más dispersos– todos los intentos que se han hecho en Italia y en otros países –España entre otros– terminaron con un fracaso. Lo que el Gobierno italiano pretende ahora es controlar el flujo de delincuentes y activistas ilegales de origen gitano que constituyen verdaderas mafias y cuyo control es muy difícil. La operación puede ser larga y difícil dadas las características de los asentamientos donde se cobijan los zingaros.

Es obvio que esta decisión chocará con las buenas intenciones del Consejo de Europa y otras organizaciones que todavía tienen una sutil memoria histórica y recuerdan que Hitler acabó con más un millón de zingaros.

En los momentos actuales el Gobierno italiano parece dispuesto a resolver el problema aunque tenga para Berlusconi y sus colaboradores un coste político considerable. Tal vez otros países europeos tengan en el futuro que imitar al líder italiano. A modo de ejemplo digamos que sólo en la península ibérica –España y Portugal– se calcula que hay unos 300.000 gitanos distribuidos en todas las regiones y que viven en condiciones lamentables, no se integran y promueven miles de delitos de todo tipo. Las cárceles españolas tienen un importante porcentaje de penados de origen gitano y, lo que es más preocupante, las mafias de la heroína “trabajan” las zonas periféricas de las grandes ciudades en colaboración con las mafias turcas que dirigen todo el cotarro a nivel europeo.

Para Berlusconi y sus colaboradores ha llegado la hora de ordenar la situación mediante el sistema de huellas. Puede ser un ejemplo que imitarán otros países una vez que la doble moral con que hasta ahora se han procesado este tipo de operaciones se supere.

A modo de ejemplo –y éste también aterrador– hay casi tres millones de gitanos en la zona balcánica y en su inmensa mayoría malviven en condiciones irregulares. Búlgaros, checos, rumanos, eslovacos, serbios y habitantes de estos países están materialmente hartos. El proyecto de las “huellas” puede tener éxito si es que la moralina a la que tan acostumbrada está nuestra sociedad contamine toda la operación y termine por aniquilarla. En España tendrá que establecerse próximamente un sistema de marcaje y huellas semejante. Veremos entonces si además de la extrema izquierda de servicio el resto de la población apoya o no el proyecto.



**63. July. Valladolid. Discrimination towards the FSG.** The following email (reproduced literally below) in the Castile and León FSG's general account: *"Dear Manager: I am writing you to express my disagreement with the creation of a place for Gypsy people to congregate. I don't tend to frequent that area, but the other day I had to take care of a matter in the Traffic Department, and the premises caught my attention. Not because of the premises itself, but because of the characters hanging out in the door. Whenever a girl passed by, they said obscenities to her, when you scold them they threaten you. But, what is the premises there for? To teach rude behaviour to the people in it? If so, please allow me to remind you that they learn that by themselves and they don't need anyone to teach them how. If not, I'm asking you – since that's what you're being paid for – to be more careful with these characters (to say it nicely), and control the exit. If you are charging money to teach them, then take on these scumbags' problems, also at the door of your premises. And if you don't, then change its location to outside of Valladolid, so that at least polite, university-educated people can enjoy the lovely, marvellous city that Valladolid is. By the way, when you talk about "equality", "equality" is for all. We all have to have a driving licence, pay taxes, have a right to housing...they do, also, but we have the same right. And if they don't know how to accept that, then they shouldn't live among civilised people. besides, they don't want to, so don't make them. Thank you very much and pardon the inconvenience."* The Valladolid FSG office responded, stating that it is an FSG office, explaining what is done there and reminding him of the contents of the principle of equal treatment as well as its protective mechanisms.

**64. July. Andújar (Jaén). Discrimination in the access to goods and services/discrimination towards the FSG.** A jobs counsellor from the FSG went to buy a car at the dealership of a well-known company. Among the documentation needed for financing it, he had to turn in the stub of his pay check from the FSG. When the loan company received the pay check stub, they told the worker that it wouldn't do for the loan paperwork as the "Empresa Fundación Secretariado Gitano" was blackballed because it had a history of fraud in several earlier cases. Faced with this situation, the worker also had to turn in a bank report showing that the pay check stub was authentic. This turned out to be unproductive since he finally had to provide his wife's pay check stub as well. Meanwhile, the salesmen at the dealership –with whom the worker has a good relationship– mentioned to him that, in their opinion, the loan company wouldn't accept the authenticity of the stub because it contained the work "Gypsy", and that they themselves would try to find good references based on his history as a customer. Finally –given that the loan company (even with the documentation provided) would not approve the loan– and thanks to the involvement of the salesmen who submitted a written statement regarding the worker's history as a customer and requesting that the loan be approved, it was obtained. This is a case of discrimination in which the victim is not being discriminated against due to his ethnicity *per se*, but because of the ethnicity of the community for which his company/organisation works and that, moreover, gives it its name.

**65. August. Jerez. Anonymous discrimination and racism.** On 5 August, an anonymous letter was received; the stamp had been cancelled the day before in Seville, which is covered by Jerez's regional office. The envelope contained a press clipping that mentioned a dispute in a summer camp in Malaga, in which emphasis was placed on Gypsies being involved in the dispute. The author of the anonymous letter had highlighted the references to the Roma ethnic group with fluorescent yellow and had typewritten the following on the article's margin: *"EQUALTY AND INTEGRATION IS WHAT HITLER GAVE YOU. MARILUZ CONTINUES TO FUCK YOU IN HELL, SHITTY GYPSY FEMALE."* Given the totally racist contents of the letter, and the will to slander, injure and humiliate the Roma community, the FSG informed the authorities of it via a complaint filed with the Public Prosecutor's Office; as of the date of the drafting of this report, no response, communication or information whatsoever has been received from the Office. In order for the fight against discrimination and racism to be truly effective, we at the FSG believe it is fundamental for governmental institutions to coordinate with the NGOs working specifically on these issues, as well as to be more aware of how serious this type of act really is.

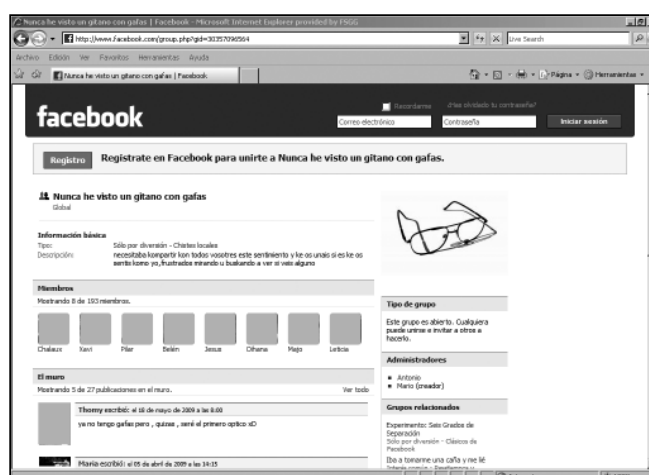


- 66. August. Lugo. Discrimination in employment.** A Roma man receives a notification from the office of the Public Employment Services to attend an interview for choosing personnel to work as a bus driver for a company. The man goes to the address as indicated on the day of the appointment; a person at the company's reception desk asks him what he wants, and the man replies that the SPE has sent him over for an interview. The person tells him that the boss is not in and that he should turn in the letter, which they then sign, writing in the "not hired" section that the candidate doesn't meet the characteristics being sought, despite not having carried out the interview nor having seen his CV. As a result of this, the man goes to the Public Employment Services to turn in the voucher for the letter, tells them what happened and the person in charge tells him that he will note down what happened. The job services worker from the regional FSG office in Lugo went to the PES office to discuss the situation and ask if they were going to take some kind of action with regard to what had happened. The department coordinator informs him that they don't take any action unless a complaint is filed in court, and confirms to us that several candidates for the job did the interview the day after the official date, since the manager was not in on that date. This is corroborated with one of the candidates who was interviewed by the company's manager. The FSG office in Lugo –with consultative services provided by the Department for Equal Treatment– sent a letter to the company in an attempt to find out their version of the events and to carry out, if possible, mediation in this situation where treatment different to that given in similar situations was given that was, as a result, discriminatory.
- 67. August. Valladolid. Discrimination by the government.** Some statements from the Mayor are published in several local newspapers regarding an area that is being underused and that the neighbours are asking to be turned into a park. In these statements, the way that some Roma speak –among other things– is mocked as described below, and they're accused of driving without a licence: *"No one can understand that a street is being used as a storehouse for rubbish, no matter how much people work at gathering scrap metal, or how much people work at the scrap metal business, or for it to be a place to have the van parked. For sure it doesn't have permission to be on the road the guy driving probably doesn't even a driving licence, but the police will take care of that, too"*. The statements are particularly serious if we consider their source, since he is the local government's highest representative in the region. We would like it to be noted that this discriminating party has another case included in the *Discrimination and the Roma Community 2008* report, also for discriminatory states during a press conference.
- 68. August. Europe (Czech Republic). Discrimination based on political party.** Several Spanish newspapers publish a news item about the National Party of the Czech Republic has announced that it is willing to provide financial support for people of Roma ethnicity to leave and go *"wherever they want"*. The exodus of the members of this community is supported by giving free airplane tickets to the Roma under the condition that they don't return to the country before 2010. This is a political party without any parliamentary representation that has also warned that *"after the 2010 parliamentary elections, this unusual agreement will not be necessary"*, without providing additional details. This news item appeared shortly after the measures against the Roma population in Italy announced by Berlusconi. It seems clear that the fact that the Italian government has not been sanctioned or suffered any political consequences has encouraged other politicians with a similar ideology to propose all kinds of discriminatory and racist measures.



- 69. September. Jerez. Discrimination in the media.** An article about a fight between two Roma families is published in two local newspapers. The fight resulted in people being injured, among whom were two members of the Civil Guard and a pregnant woman. Terminology loaded with prejudice and stereotypes such as “battle of clans” and “a real pitched battle between the two gangs” was used in both articles. Both articles also state that those involved were Roma. The information on ethnicity adds nothing to understanding the news items, and this, along with the use of specific terms for events in which Roma are involved such as “clans” or “brawl”, do nothing more than create a social image of the Roma loaded with prejudices and stereotypes, which always results in acts of discrimination.
- 70. September. Don Benito (Badajoz). Discrimination in employment.** A business owner interviews a Roma man for a construction job. During the interview, he asks him if he attends the Evangelical Church, and tells him that he’s too fat to bring down and take up iron bars. He continues making comments in which he refers to Roma with a demeaning tone. Finally, he doesn’t give the Roma man the job. This is a clear example of direct discrimination in access to employment, prohibited by Directive 2000/43/EC.
- 71. September. Andalusia. Discrimination in housing (Property Manager).** A complaint about this case of discrimination was received by email. It refers to the notification for a neighbourhood meeting in which one can read the following: *“The fence installed at the beginning of the year has worked so far, keeping dogs and Gypsies off the property, I hope we’re not trying our luck.”*

**72. September. National. Discrimination on the internet.** An email came into the FSG’s general account with a complaint about the existence of a group on the Facebook social network made up of elements making fun of the Roma community in a demeaning –and often racist– way. The group is called *“I’ve never seen a Gypsy with glasses”*, and in September it had 50 members. However, as of the date this report is being drafted, it has 207. This is a public-access group, this is, one doesn’t



have to register in the service in order to see all of the comments. Some of the comments that can be seen read as follows: *“I used to wear glasses... I got an operation for my myopia and I turned into a Gypsy!!! Let’s see if I don’t splash some turpentine in my eyes in a while...”; “Well, I’ve never seen any of those sons of bitches with any, either...”; “I had a Gypsy student, Jimenez, and he had Down Syndrome... a real case! The real deal!”* The FSG files a complaint against the group for attacking the honour of the Roma community and the right to equality, following the system established by the network itself. However, no response whatsoever is received; the group –and the comments– are still accessible.





**73. September. Castellón. Discrimination in education.** We'd like to make mention of a case appearing in an article published by a national newspaper. The headlines of the article read: *"Ghetto school. Condemned to school."* The article tells about the day-to-day reality of two schools in Castellón. The article states that the majority of the students in the first school –called "Profesor Carles Selma"– are not prepared for secondary school when they finish; they don't know how to read or write, or how to carry numbers when adding or subtracting. Of the 97 students enrolled at this school, 74 are Roma, two are Romanian, one is Lithuanian, one is Chinese, and 19 are non-Roma natives of Castellón. Of among all of these students, 25 need a therapeutic teaching programme because they have significant speech difficulties, and three are differently-abled students unable to control their sphincter muscles. None speaks English, but *"the foreign students and Roma – who are Spanish speakers – are spoken to in "Valencian" because the school is also a "linguistic immersion" school. Anthropologist Ana Giménez calls this "the cherry on the cake of absurdity".* Not far from this school is the "San Agustín" neighbourhood and school, *"another ghetto school". "It's not just the children who haven't been able or haven't wanted to escape – or whose families couldn't care less – but a bus picks up students in different parts of the city to bring them here to this magnet school. Wilfully and with malice aforethought."* These children are foreigners –most of whom have recently arrived– and so the student body comprises 55 Roma, 47 Romanians, four Moroccans, two Algerians, one Venezuelan and two non-Gypsy natives of Castellón. Several violent incidents occurring in the school are mentioned. *"...in the classroom, the family and street gang system repeats itself."* In the article, two students are asked several very basic general knowledge questions, and they don't know the answers. The testimony of one student who admits that he hasn't learned anything, that he draws a lot and gets bored, he's seven years old and doesn't know how to write his name, is included in the article. The teachers don't understand why the boys and girls in the ghetto are not distributed among other schools where the normal atmosphere will carry them along, when the concentration of so many difficulties can be broken down. Where there aren't any children condemned as these are. Mention is also made of a project for the children –"Cosmos"– which is run by a Roma association and with which the San Agustín Director is not at all in agreement. In fact, she states that the programme will not help to change the children, but instead will help the association's worker to have a job. In addition, the teachers state that they don't report the children's absences –despite the people in the project asking them to do so– because *"it's almost like setting yourself on fire": "if they report the absences and it reaches the public prosecutor in charge of cases involving minors and the authorities get involved with the family, "the one who leaves work at five o'clock is me; who do you think they're going to come after?"* The article states that the ghetto school is not a feature particular to Castellón; in a study by the University of Jaime I, they counted more than 300 scattered about our rough bullskin, despite there being a lack of data from the government. With this case and others gathered this year in the Community of Madrid, it is patently clear that school segregation is not some belonging to *"other times"* in the long-distant past, but that it continues to exist Spain, and this condemns these children to lacking the knowledge and skills that would allow them access to higher education or technical training in order to get a job in the future.

**74. September. National. Discrimination in the media.** As the result of a news item published in the online version of a national newspaper that mentions the murder of a young Senegalese man in the Roquetas neighbourhood, messages such as the following were published in the forum linked to this story: *"I suggest to the Unit Nations (sic) that we buy them a country; needed a bit of land and we send all the Gypsies there and let them have their own country. Let's see how long they last before they kill each other off. How much hypocrisy there is in this country. Five percent of the people in my town are Gypsies and 95% are non-Gypsies. And in society's problems, it's the opposite 95% Gypsies and 5% non-Gypsies. But, for Zapatero and his henchmen, to say this is politically incorrect. Foreigners get out once and for all. Let them go to their countries to steal, because most of them are criminals.*





So you think that good foreigners are going to come to Spain? Hypocrites, you are all hypocrites."; "(...) As for myself, I consider myself to be xenophobic and racist as are 90% of regular folk. The difference is that I recognise it and maybe the rest do not."; "It's the fault of the Gypsies, the mayors of Roquetas, the regional Andalusian government, the national governments of Felipe Gonzalez, Aznar and Zapatero, because in that neighbourhood it's known that they sell everything and they haven't lifted a finger in the last 20 years. They've all allowed a marginalised neighbourhood to form in short we have governments and politicians who are really –and it's never been better said– a chaotic mess. (Translator's note: The original text says, literally "A picnic with Blacks".) They're just criminals... Enough of hypocrisy immigrant and Gypsies out of Spain." Despite being comments with patently obvious racist contents, the newspaper publishes them in its forum, thus allowing everyone to read –under the "guardianship" of a "serious" newspaper, slanderous and prejudicial comments, with all the impact this has on public opinion.

- 75. October. Jerez. Discrimination in employment.** During an interview for a position as a shop clerk in a shoe store, the interviewer asks the ACCEDER client's place of residence. After she responds, he begins to ask questions such as "are you a Gypsy", "your parents are Gypsies?", "but, both of them?". The young woman feels disappointed because the interview was focused on the subject of ethnicity. Finally, they never called the young woman about whom, as a result of this kind of interview, they ended up knowing her personal information but nothing about her CV; this is a clear difference in treatment with respect to those job candidates who aren't Roma and thus, it is a clear discrimination in access to employment.
- 76. October. Jerez. Discrimination in education.** A minor child of Roma ethnicity is at her secondary school chatting with other classmates between classes. They talk about subjects related to the customs of the Roma (weddings, parties, dinners, etc.) After debating a number of ideas, her classmates end the conversation by saying that "all the Gypsies sell drugs." The girl felt extremely offended by her classmate's comment and, in order to avoid conflict, she preferred to get involved although she continued to feel hurt. It is fundamental for public school staff to be aware of these types of attitudes and comments and for them to work with the boys and girls to increase awareness and knowledge of the Roma community.
- 77. October. Palencia. Discrimination in the media.** All of the national and regional media (audio-visual and written press) in Palencia reported on a news item regarding an abusive situation in which they mention that the plaintiff is Roma, where she lives, the number of children she has with her partner and the children's ages. Sentences such as the following could be read in the article: "with the added aggravating issue that, as she is a Gypsy woman, she is more subject to a man's authority," "the woman (...) left Miranda de Ebro (...) far from her husband, who was, until that time, her daily point of reference imposed because of her race..." The direct link of ethnicity –in this case, Roma– with sexist violence "because of her race" seems to us to be especially serious. It must be made clear that no culture legitimises gender violence and that the Roma community (and, more specifically, Roma women) is heterogeneous enough that it does not need to be treated in such a generalised and static manner. What's more, there can be no doubt that sexist violence attacks all kinds of women regardless of their ethnicity, social position or educational level and thus an entire community or ethnicity cannot be linked in this manner to such undesirable behaviour. In coordination with the regional office, the Department for Equal Treatment sent letters to the newspapers that included the aforementioned statements, however no response of any kind was received from them. In addition, the case was reported to the Office for Women and to the Regional Family Service in Palencia.
- 78. October. Jerez. Racist acts.** A group of young people from the FSG's "Chavós Nebó" youth activities group were travelling with their monitors to a regional meeting. Several of the young people were seated, and they were chatting and laughing. One of them –who didn't have a seat



near the others– asked a passenger if she wouldn't mind moving her bag from a nearby seat so he could sit down. For some time, the passenger appeared to not hear him, while the boy and his friends were stunned at the indifference with which the passenger was treating him. After another try, the young man touches her shoulder and asks her once again to please move her bag from the seat so he could sit with the rest of the young people. The woman then stands up, grabs her bag and says in a loud voice: *"These Gypsies are always the same, they always have to make a big deal of everything, for God's sake!"* and she goes to another train car. The young people discuss the incident and the young man says that he feels badly and surprised, because he hadn't said anything bad or rude, and he doesn't understand her reaction. After talking it over with the boy, one of the monitors went to look for the woman to clarify the situation, but was unable to find her; it's possible she had already got off the train at an earlier stop.

- 79. October. Valladolid. Discrimination in the media.** As the result of an incident in Valladolid, three local papers each publish a story about what happened. Two of the newspapers publish the news item and cover the story by talking about the lack of security in the area, how it is run down, etc. On the other hand, the third paper publishes the following: *"According to sources close to the case, several Gypsy men went to the bar to demand money from its owner..."* Not only does it unnecessarily use the reference to the ethnicity of a particular person who presumably committed a crime but, without citing who the sources are, it implies certain conclusions that may not be true. A telephone call was made from the Valladolid office of the FSG in which a conversation was held with the author, explaining and discussing the discrimination that we believe results from identifying the Roma ethnicity with crimes. In articles following up on the news item, ethnicity is not mentioned.
- 80. October. Valladolid. Discrimination in the media.** A news item regarding an assault appears in a local newspaper. The following phrase can be read at the end of the story: *"...one day later, an altercation once again took place in the club between a Gypsy man and a waiter, although it didn't have anything to do with the assaults that took place on Thursday and Friday."* It is not necessary to specify the ethnicity of the attacker as it adds nothing to the story, and even less so in this case when it is a news item unrelated to that covered in the article.
- 81. October. Madrid. Discrimination in education.** We became aware of this case through the media. Information is given regarding the creation and start-up of a school for the children and young people living in the settlement of Cañada Real. This school would be specifically for them, which would imply not only the specific creation of a ghetto school but also the fact that no work would be done to integrate these children either socially or educationally, as it will keep them outside of the social reality of the majority, thus limiting their access to a regular education, to other resources and to a relationship with other children of a different ethnic and social origin. Investigating the case led us to the discovery of Order 5766/2008, of 12 December, from the Department of Education. This order authorises the "Spanish Red Cross Educational Centre", a private school, to teach the second level of pre-school, primary education and compulsory secondary school with the adaptations required based on the personal characteristics of the students enrolled. In addition, the Official Gazette of the Madrid Assembly no.º 390, of 4 February, includes the appearance by the Director-General of Educational Scholarships and Aid to provide information on this issue. This Gazette contains statements by the director such as the following: *"This is an exceptional measure taken for the families who are absolutely unwilling to accept the school system. It is, of course, exceptional; I hope it is also temporary;" "...they should go to school like all the rest of the kids in the region, but at the moment that is not the situation, and it is often not the situation because they don't want it to be"; "How long will those families stay there? We haven't any idea...and so we're going to adjust the response based on need.;" "Yes, they will be assessed, within the modest framework of an assessment made after three months (...); "(...) they're*



talking about: (...) improvement in personal hygiene habits, (...) improvement in understanding the language and improving verbal communication in Spanish; internalisation of work routines; increase in personal autonomy and caring for materials (...). This analysis is based on a child-by-child individual analysis." We at FSG are concerned about the creation of a specific school for the boys and girls of la Cañada, who will be separated from other children from other social, ethnic and cultural origins. We're equally concerned that this "private school" does not cover the basic educational curriculum, since there's no mention made of tests to determine their level of Spanish or other types of tests and so these boys and girls –who might have the ability to attend regular classes– may be condemned to a "subeducation". Due to the complexity of the issue, the families' situation is being analysed by the FSG on an ongoing basis before any action is taken in this case. The latest news regarding the case shows that only 39 of the 63 children enrolled finished their classes in 2008/2009, and of these only five went on to a regular school, despite the Department itself backing the project with the condition that "the experience not last more than one year".

**adn** Madrid

# Pellas en el Gallinero

## EL ABSENTISMO EN EL COLEGIO ALCANZA EL 40%

Cinco de los 64 niños que empezaron el curso en el colegio especial van a otro centro

**A. López/S. Marqués**  
Madrid

● Una mañana cualquiera en el Gallinero (en las proximidades de la Cañada Real Galiana) simula la hora del recreo en el patio de un colegio. Niños de todas las edades juegan ajenos a que es un día lectivo y a que el colegio que les ha encomendado la Consejería de Educación y gestiona Cruz Roja, el Henri Dunant, les espera en Aluche con las puertas abiertas.

**Comunidad.** "Estamos muy satisfechos con la evolución de este proyecto inédito"

Ángel Castiblanque, que trabaja en la zona como voluntario en la parroquia de Santo Domingo de la Calzada, va preguntando a Ardet, Bratian o Florin por qué no han ido a clase. Uno se ha dormido, otro se ha cortado al ir descalzo y otro no tenía pantalón. El curso pasado, 39 de los 63 niños escolarizados terminaron las clases. De ellos, cinco pasaron a un centro normalizado.

Esta labor catalizadora era la verdadera vocación del centro cuando fue inaugurado el año pasado. Este año se han matriculado 71 alumnos, de los que 46 acuden habitualmente.

No todos los pequeños van al Henri Dunant, porque los niños que ya estaban escolariza-



Varios niños se entretienen con colchones usados a la entrada del Gallinero. SYLVAIN CHERKAOUI



Más menores jugando en el poblado un día lectivo. s. ch.

promovió el proyecto, ese trabajo lo hace la Cruz Roja, la misma que gestiona el centro.

"Estamos enormemente satisfechos con el proyecto. Empezamos trabajando con una situación de desescolarización absoluta, con niños de ocho años que jamás habían pisado un centro educativo", explica el director general de Becas y Ayudas de la Consejería de Educación, Javier Restán. "Acabamos de derivar a otros diez niños a otros tres colegios de la zona y esperamos que otro grupo lo haga en enero".

La perspectiva de los voluntarios de la Cañada es diferente. "Cuando se presentó el proyecto lo vimos como un gueto dorado, pero es que encima está infrautilizado. Y la cifra de niños recuperados para otros centros se nos antoja baja", denuncia Castiblanque.

Sólo el 8% de los alumnos empieza este año el curso en un centro normalizado. Ése era el objetivo final de Educación, que lo presentó como un centro de transición. Fue entonces cuando el Ministerio de Educación avaló este proyecto pionero, siempre y cuando el centro estuviera vinculado a otros colegios donde mandar a los niños y "la experiencia no se alargue más de un año".

Un año después, los voluntarios de la parroquia pedirán a través de PSOE e IU un balance de la Consejería de Educación, Lucía Figar, en la Asamblea de Madrid.

dos en centros de Villa de Vallecas siguen acudiendo allí. Pero la falta de asistencia es un problema que en el colegio de Aluche roza el 40%.

"La cuestión empieza en la parada de autobús", sostiene Castiblanque, "aparte de ser una vía de servicio por la que pasan camiones continuamente, los educadores sociales deberían venir aquí y hacer un seguimiento de la asistencia, motivándoles a ellos y a sus familias para que vayan a clase". Según la Comunidad, que



- 82. October. Valladolid. Discrimination in the media.** A local newspaper publishes a news item in which the following can be read: *"...that is suffering ongoing threats, intimidation and theft by a group of Gypsy neighbour women..."*. The fact that they are Gypsy women is not relevant to the story; it is our position that the reference to ethnicity is discrimination, since it is not done in the case of the majority of the society and, moreover, there is no objective justification for it since it adds no information to the story nor does it make it easier to understand.
- 83. October. Castellar (Jaén). Discrimination/Racism.** On 25 October, a conflict occurred between young Roma and non-Roma men during an outdoors drinking party in the locality as the result of the alleged theft of some marijuana plants. Subsequent to this, an undetermined number of young men showed up in the Castellar Town Council and demanded that the mayor evict the Roma. Word of the conflict spreads among the locals and the next day a whole series of uprising and altercations against the Roma families take place, demanding that these families leave town. The young man who allegedly committed the theft and his family decide to leave Castellar due to fear of reprisals. However, the rest of the families who were attacked were not involved. According to information in the press, hundreds of Castellar residents took to the streets to claim and demand justice. According to a national newspaper, a couple of days after the first incidents, only two families remained in the town, when up to just two days earlier there were 93 locals who were Roma. Some of the families said that it was the mayor himself who advised them to leave town until things calmed down. By 28 October, the situation was unbearable: nine members of a Roma family were shut up and terrorised in a half-ruined house in a marginalised neighbourhood, guarded by a couple of Civil Guards, and the other family were also locked inside their home without any signs of life. According to declarations by the police published by the media, several families have returned, but 70 of the 93 Roma residents officially living in the town have not come back. Faced with this situation, the governmental representative stated that it was nothing more than *"a short-term break in peaceful coexistence"*, and –according to the press insisted that *"there's never been a situation of xenophobia and racism"* in Castellar and that *"no one has been thrown"* out of town. The representative continued to insist that *"They didn't leave their houses permanently. They left as the result of mutual agreement with the Town Council so that things could calm down. They're going to come back whenever they want"*, *"it is true that it was suggested to one or another that they disappear for a while."* That same day (the 28<sup>th</sup>), a meeting is held between the deputy governmental representative, the mayor and representatives from several area organisations in which a peaceful demonstration is announced for 1 November. According to several witnesses, in this demonstration –despite being "peaceful"– violent incidents took place and racist comments against the Roma community were heard. In response to this situation, several organisations working with and for the Roma community –among them the FSG– decided to create a platform for analysing what had happened and for finding the most appropriate solutions. Finally, several months after the incidents, it was discovered that the judge had rejected and closed the complaints made by the Roma people involved in the altercations. Nevertheless, the plaintiffs' attorney is going to initiate the appropriate procedures in an attempt to continue with the legal processes.
- 84. October. Aranda de Duero (Burgos). Racism.** An intercultural mediation worker from the FSG –a young, 27-year-old Roma man– accompanied (as he had been doing for the last eight years) a group of 12 Roma children to the school bus. Since the local church has a protective fence at its entrance, he waits with the children there so that they are away from the road. While they were waiting, a man dressed as a priest approached them and said to him: *"You're the worst one, you're the oldest and you bring the kids with the ball in here, get out, you are all rubbish!"*. The mediator tried to reason with him and told him that, being a man of God, he couldn't understand why he was treating them like that, and the man responded: *"Be thankful that I'm dressed like this (pointing to his priest's robes), because if I weren't, I'd bust your face"*, repeating it several times. A police car passed by and the mediator asked them to stop. After listening to both of them, they asked the group to leave until the issue was clarified, despite the fact that the police thought that





they were in the right. The man left saying in a demeaning manner that it wasn't worth talking to them about. In coordination with the regional office, the Department for Equal Treatment (and in an attempt to prevent any subsequent problems for the mediator) filed a complaint regarding what had happened with the public prosecutor. However, as it was classified as a misdemeanour, it was closed. Furthermore, a letter was written to the archbishop to inform him of what had taken place

- 85. October. National. Discrimination in the media.** An online magazine publishes an article under the following headline: *"A group of Gypsies cause Javier Bardem problems during the filming of "Biutiful"*. The following expressions are included in the text: *"(...) to do this, they hired a legion of human beings of this Gypsy ethnicity as "extras"; "(...) the tribe of cousins and godfathers present rebelled"; "(...) the gang of Gypsy boys made an agreement with the movie's producer and they managed to earn an euro or two and get a sandwich to eat"; "Shouldn't they have thrown them out and found a different group that would be in need and more grateful? It must be the Gypsies in Barcelona!"*. The article cites the magazine *Cuore* as its source. However, upon checking the magazine's web page, the way the news item is reported is entirely different. Once again, this is a case of direct discrimination by the media, which play a fundamental role in conveying prejudices and negative stereotypes about the Roma community.
- 86. November. Jerez (Cádiz). Discrimination in education.** A minor child of Roma ethnicity witnesses a fight between two girls at the secondary school's exit. She and another friend try to mediate, but they soon realise that it is impossible because the two girls are extremely aggressive. At that time, several teachers appear to see what is going on. One of the teachers scolded the girl and her friend, shouting their names in the middle of the confusion, and the two went back into the school. Once inside, a group of teachers began to blame them for what had happened and, even though they tried to explain what had happened, no one paid any attention. Then the girl's father came by to pick her up and, since he saw that she was very upset, he asked her what had happened. The teacher who had called them in was the first to answer, doing so as follows: *"All you Gypsies are alike, you take advantage of the weakest ones to have fun and hurt them, you are rude and ill-mannered"*. The girl's father –who didn't want to take part in that conversation– asked if his daughter had been involved in the situation, and the teacher assured him that she had. The girl and her friend, however, assured the father that they hadn't. Given the situation, the father simply told the teachers that neither his daughter nor her friend ever acted violently like that and they didn't hurt anyone and, what's more, they're terrified of fights. He also told them that the way in which they were being accused didn't seem normal, as it seemed to him that the girls were overwhelmed by these accusations, and that they were being treated disrespectfully. The incident was left there, since the father didn't want to take it any further as he was afraid someone would retaliate against the girls. The girls are convinced that there is a clear predisposition against the Roma in that school, that they are judged based on prejudices and stereotypes and that the violent behaviour of some students are identified as the habits of a culture.
- 87. November. Burgos. Discrimination in the media.** A 17-year-old Roma man was involved in a fight that resulted in the death of another man, who was 19 years old. The newspapers reported the news without mentioning the people who had been arrested as a result of the incident. Nevertheless, the next day, the front page of a local newspaper publishes the initials, the nickname and the ethnicity of one of those arrested as a result of the incident, who also happens to be a minor; no information of any kind is given about the second arrestee. After this information is published, comments with all kinds of racist and discriminatory statements about the Roma community appear in the online edition. Given that the newspaper is the same one involved in an earlier case, in coordination with the FSG's regional office, a joint letter was sent from the Department for Equal Treatment indicating the existence of discrimination in the way the news is handled, as well as the need to protect information related to minors, since in this case everyone had identified him. No response whatsoever was received from the newspaper in question.



- 88. November. Granada. Discrimination in employment.** A woman who was a client of the AC-CEDER Jobs Programme called a local business in response to an advert for a shop clerk job opening. The person answering the call asked her to come in personally and they arranged an appointment. When she arrived, they gave her a short interview and then began to fill in a form. When they saw her surnames, they asked her directly if she was a Gypsy/non-Gypsy mix. She said that she was, and then they stopped filling in the (uncompleted) form, and told her that they would give her a call. This is a clear example of direct discrimination in access to employment since as soon as they found out what her ethnicity was, they stopped treating her as they treated everyone else –who were indeed allowed to finish filling out the entire form– and, of course, she didn't get the job.
- 89. November. Valladolid. Discrimination in the media.** A local newspaper publishes an editorial written and signed by a Roma woman, who denounces the job discrimination her son suffers on a daily basis. The reason we included the case is the positive fact that it is a Roma woman who puts the complaint into writing. She is the one who makes the complaint public, when it is usually not those who are involved (or who are closely related to those who are involved) who talk publicly about discriminatory acts.
- 90. November. Granada. Discrimination in the media.** As a result of a news item in the online edition of a local newspaper about clashes taking place in Fuente Vaqueros, a large number of comments about the story filled with racist content appear. The following –among others– can be seen: *"Then the Gypsies want us to not be racist, when they're the ones who are guilty of being racist because of their thieving, drugs and fights. Who hasn't had an altercation with some Gypsies? When they even kill each other. They should work and earn their bread like the rest of us, and they should stop stealing... The only degree most of them study for is the "degree in theft".* (YO. 13/11/08. 10.55.05); *"A Hitler should show up who would get rid of FOREVER this Neanderthal race called Gypsies... Yes, I am racist against Gypsies, they disgust me and I don't want them in my life and in my society. Wherever they are, is where the shit always is. No matter how many subsidies we pay, they always get the benefits and what for? So they can live in the middle of shit, stealing, threatening us and saying we're racists, and with their souped up BMW or Mercedes paid for by us non-Gypsy workers. Come on already, let them eat shit!!!!"* (Just another native of Granada. 12/11/08. 11:26:35); *"I'm also just another native of Granada... what a clear and convincing way of describing things. Take good notice, whatever politicians happen to be in power at the moment, we non-Gypsies are going to fight back soon and there's more of us than there are of them. Officially stated and warned. RUN GYPSIES, WE'RE COMING FOR YOU!!!!"* (Common Sense. 12/11/08. 11:26:35); *"For Just another native of Granada: calling the Gypsies "Neanderthals" is a serious insult to the poor Neanderthals who were, apparently, nice, peaceful folk. That's probably why they died out."* (Eugenia Martínez. 12/11/08. 20.33.57). Despite the fact that the forum should be monitored by its administrators –who shouldn't allow comments having racist contents to be published as they are against the law– there are numerous comments in this vein accessible to the entire public.
- 91. November. Peñafiel (Valladolid). Discrimination in the media.** A news item regarding the arrest of a young man from Peñafiel (Valladolid) whom they relate with numerous crimes appears in a local newspaper, followed by: *"It appears that the young man is a member of a Gypsy family who had a complaint filed against them for theft and aggression two weeks ago..."* and further down they relate these thefts with the sense of unease and short-fused environment present in Peñafiel, where the locals have signed a statement against crime. We at the FSG understand that it was not necessary to identify the ethnicity of the offending minor; it adds nothing to understanding the story, and it was even less necessary to link an entire Roma family with the crime problems in the city.





- 92. November. National. Discrimination in the media.** During the night of 14 to 15 November, RTVE (the state television channel) broadcast a programme entitled “The Now Commando: The Law of the Gypsies.” To publicise the programme, RTVE’s web page presents it as a programme in which “the situation of the Gypsy community living in Spain is analysed”. Phrases such as: “Non-gypsies live in houses and Gypsies live in caves”, “There’s an atypical Gypsy in this community; in fact, he’d be atypical in any community. It’s a Gypsy with 30 children and four wives”, reflected a totally stereotypical and disrespectful image of the Spanish Roma community. The apparent “normality” that the report seemed to want to show was nothing more than a sequence of prejudices and associated ideas that lacked any in-depth knowledge of and any comparison with the reality lived by Roma men and women in Spain. In reality, the contents of “The Law of the Gypsies” showed –beginning with the title itself– situations that were obviously exceptions to the reality lived by the majority of the Roma community in Spain, offering completely stereotypical and rigidly conceived contents, at times using phrases and data that were out of context, or in answers incited by the reporters themselves. To broadcast a report such as the one mentioned during prime time is clearly an act of discrimination, prohibited by Council Directive 2000/43/EC, of 29 June 2000, regarding the application of the principle of equal treatment to all people regardless of their racial or ethnic origin. The issue of the Roma community’s social image is especially relevant, since maintaining certain prejudices and negative stereotypes in the public opinion leads to serious consequences for their access to the most basic of citizen’s rights, such as jobs, education, housing and health care, etc. What this means is that one of the causes of the discrimination still suffered by many Roma men and women is motivated by the distorted images that society has of them, and this is frequently the result of an interpretation of reality shown by the media. A letter of protest was sent by the FSG to the Viewers’ Ombudsman at RTVE, informing him of all of this. It was answered in the following way: “I comprehend your discontent resulting from the fact that only one aspect of the rich makeup the Gypsy community has been addressed. I am sorry. I am sure that there will be opportunities – as there have been and are on TVE – to give special attention to the aspects that lead to the Gypsies’ integration into society, or to denounce circumstances that cause them to be marginalised.” That’s the sum total of the involvement by the Viewers’ Ombudsman, who seems to be unaware of the serious damage that this kind of report causes.
- 93. November. Granada. Discrimination in employment.** A young woman –client of the ACCEDER Programme– stops in a local supermarket to drop off her CV. When she found out that she was a Roma and “from the Poblado” (one of the neighbourhoods where a large number of Roma live), they stopped treating her politely. A few minutes later, one of her friends (with the same job experience) come in to also drop off her CV. She was politely taken care of and they told her that they would let her know if she were chosen for the job. Finally, the job was given to her friend. This is a clear example of direct discrimination in access to employment, since there was an obvious change of attitude towards the young woman when they found out that she was Roma.
- 94. November. Seville. Discrimination in the media.** A closing ceremony was held for the students when “Customer Service” course finished, and this was covered by a national newspaper. The news item was published in its online edition the next day and prejudice-filled and even racist comments about the story began to be published. The following expressions –among others– could be read: “How few Gypsies I know work... Let’s see, NONE, well, only the Gypsies who sell things in the street market...”; “I’d put them on a desert island, let’s see who’d they’d LIVE OFF LIKE PARASITES...”; “hahaha, a Bachelor’s degree in Customer Service. You’ll see how long it is before they start stealing...”; “Long live the LERELES!!! And soap and water so they wash a bit”. Once again, we find that there is a lack of control in the forum of a national newspaper that allows comments about their stories to include all kinds of discriminatory and racist comments.



- 95. November. National. Discrimination in the media/internet.** An internet page that is trying to be a funny version of Wikipedia has an article in the section on “Urban Tribes” dedicated to Roma men and women in which the following expressions can be read: *“God, why are you cursing us with this horrible plague? Do you hate us so? – The Non-gypsy people’s voice,” “Dark-skinned characters with the same social power as the SS under the Third Reich – only equipped for a guerrilla street war – and characterised by always being accompanied by at least two more Gypsies, which makes them a “gang”, and ready to stand up to any two Civil Guards.”; “All the Gypsies are cousins with each other – according to their religion – and if you hurt one (even in self-defence, which is 99% of the time), you’ll find that all of their cousins are ready to attack you with any tool they’ve stolen (usually with broomsticks and knives, although what’s in style now is to steal a gun from the cops). They come from the region of Egypt, that’s where their name – Gypsies – comes from”; “They are easily distinguished from the rest of the city’s inhabitants due to their dark face (and dirtiness), their oh-so-classic stink of shit, their set of jewels, necklaces, earrings, and the rest of there junk made of gold or tin, and there special way of speaking (language: Ogrish). Also, because they haven’t gone to school (Example: M.A. from the A Team)”*. The entire article continues in this vein. The FSG made contact with the page’s webmaster and asked him to remove the page or, at least, the defamatory, discriminatory and racist contents on it. The webmaster responded by apologising and clarified that it was a collaborative page (thus excusing his lack of control) and stated that they had determined that, as it involved indirect insults, there was a violation in the conditions of use and thus, the article would be rewritten and corrected. Lastly, they stated that none of the webmasters had taken part in writing the article, and they expressed their condemnation of racism and xenophobia, saying that they would work hard to prevent this type of incident in the future. After this response, the FSG confirmed that there was a “correction” of the article in question; however, it didn’t seem enough to us and, currently, we continue to work to have all of the contents removed. The latest step has been to file a complaint regarding this case with the Public Prosecutor’s Office.
- 96. November. Navarre. Discrimination in employment.** A young Roma woman had arranged for a job interview at 12:00 and the person in charge of Targeted Sheltered Employment Programme at the Pamplona FSG went with her. They arrived early, and the person she had the appointment with wasn’t in. The person replacing her mentioned that she had gone out to shop, she wouldn’t be back until quite late and that she would do the interviews in the afternoon. The FSG services worker and the young woman return at noon, and the woman who was supposed to do the interview had returned. The young woman approached her and when the woman saw her, the only thing she said is that if they needed her, they’d give her a call. She didn’t ask a single question about her CV, her training or job experience. Nothing at all. This is a case of ethnicity-based direct discrimination to employment, prohibited by Directive 2000/43/EC and its law of transposition, as she wasn’t refused the job because she didn’t fulfil the training or experience requirements (requirements they didn’t even ask about) but rather merely because she belonged to the Roma community.
- 97. November. Granada. Discrimination in the access to goods and services.** A young Roma woman –a client of the FSG Granada’s programmes– with physical characteristics that are very similar to those that the majority of society consider “very ethnic”, goes to a disco with her brothers. When the doorman sees them, he tells them that can’t go in without a pass. Right away, another group of people (who didn’t have “ethnic features”) arrived, and the first group saw how they went in without any kind of pass. This is an example of direct discrimination towards the Roma community in accessing goods and services, based only on deducing their ethnicity from their physical appearance. This type of discrimination when trying to get into bars and pubs is frequently suffered by young people and thus, it has a dual discriminatory factor: ethnicity and age.



- 98. November. National. Discrimination in the media.** A free newspaper providing access to the blogs of several collaborators publishes a column entitled *"A Gypsy, President in the Moncloa"* in one of these blogs. As a result of this column, a forum for comments is set up where more than 300 entries are published, many of which have a racist slant. Among others, we can see: *"Furthermore, there will never be any Gypsies in power, because their idiosyncrasy is to work at picking up scrap metal or committing crimes. The honest ones work at picking fruit and singing and dancing, so neither here nor anywhere will a Gypsy be in power or be a neurosurgeon. (...)"* This was said by Jan on 5/11/08 at 10:01 AM; *"(... ) One thing for sure, if he puts his goat in the Moncloa, or doesn't take a bath for three months, or his family sells drugs or don't go to school, or run people over like Farruquito, well, then it would be really fucked up. If he respects OUR lifestyle (...)."* This was said by CANUTO on 5/11/08 at 8:53 AM; *"NEVER OR, AT LEAST DON'T LET ME SEE IT"*. This was said by Jorvade on 5/11/2008. These examples of discrimination and racism are not from the newspaper itself, but rather from "anonymous" comments; it is, however, the obligation and the responsibility of the newspaper to comply with the laws currently in effect and to make those trying to post entries in this type of forum comply with them as well. In this case, the majority of the comments are of a racist nature and to keep their publication accessible to the public is an act of discrimination that achieves nothing more than maintaining and allowing to proliferate all kinds of prejudices, which will lead to discriminatory attitudes.
- 99. November. Granada. Discrimination in employment.** A Roma man looking for work left his CV with several companies he was interested in and to which he could contribute his experience. When he got a well-known cleaning company, the employee met him told him that they didn't hire people from the area where the client lived (the northern area of the city, where the majority of the Roma population lives), without saying anything more. This is a case of direct discrimination in access to employment, as all residents living in an area where most of the inhabitants are Roma are systematically denied work.
- 100. November. Pravia. Discrimination in the media.** On Saturday 8 November, health care workers at the Pravia Health Centre went to the home of an elderly woman who was feeling ill after they received a call from one of her family members. The health care staff send her to the aforementioned Health Centre, and she is accompanied by family members. While waiting for news, a considerable number of people approach the medical facility, and the Civil Guard shows up due to the nervous tension growing between other family members and the medical staff. The elderly lady is transferred to a hospital in Avilés where she finally dies. As a result of this situation, a number of news items with a negative slant towards the town's Roma community appear in the newspapers. The stories start off by saying that the woman was a Gypsy and that she was *"the matriarch of a Gypsy clan"* who lives in a marginalised neighbourhood, when the woman actually lived in the town centre. The other newspaper says she came from a shanty town, when there is no such shanty town in Pravia. It's also stated that Pravia is tired of this family who make peaceful coexistence very difficult, and that the authorities have been asked to find them another place to live. It is also published that –e ambulance driver was hurt with a cane (which was unconfirmed, as the newspaper itself stated), thus giving an even more violent aspect to the situation. Among the expression used by the journalists, we would like to point out the following: *"risk of being lynched"; "an environment of extreme tension and serious threats to the workers"; "a marginalised neighbourhood in La Fontana"; "it ended without any physical violence taking place"; "matriarch of a clan involved in different violent episodes"; "Although everyone wants to let bygones be bygones. But it's not smart to let ourselves be fooled. For some time now in Pravia, there's been a feeling of being in a boiler about to explode. The relationship of a group of Gypsies in the town is difficult for the rest of the locals to swallow (...)"*. It is clear that the poor handling by the press of the case in question and in which, through the use of words such as "matriarch" or "clans", prejudices towards and stereotypes regarding the Roma community are reinforced and push the Roma community beyond the pale of that of the majority community. The mention of certain "unconfirmed" violent acts of which Roma people are accused is even graver still, and this does nothing but strengthen the prejudiced idea of directly linking Roma ethnicity to crime.



- 101. November. Granada. Discrimination in employment.** One of the FSG's job prospectors was trying to mediate a problem between a client of the ACCEDER Jobs Programme and a collaborating company when the head of this company's Human Resources Department says the following: *"Today, I've recalled a phrase an old boss of mine used to say, and now I can see that he was right: The plague enters on the heels of charity!"*. In view of the seriousness of these words, the prospector told her that he wasn't going to tolerate that type of comment, and she replied that he'd misinterpreted it, and tried to justify her words. The conversation ended with the prospector suggesting that the two of them have a meeting with the regional FSG manager.
- 102. November. Linares (Jaén). Discrimination in employment.** The job prospecting services of the FSG in Linares calls on a cleaning company to make contact again and to introduce the new job prospector. The company's administrative assistant attending to the prospector tells her that she can get in contact with the company manager if she wants to, but that he's already told her that he's not going to consider any CVs dropped off at the company by Gypsies or immigrants. He claims that he's had problems with two Gypsies who used to work for the company and he doesn't want any more Gypsies. As a result of this attitude, an appointment is requested with the company manager with the aim of building awareness in the company. This is an example of direct discrimination in access to employment, motivated by the prejudices against and stereotypes about the Roma community as a whole, and to which the bad experience with two people has been attributed.
- 103. December. Zaragoza. Racism.** The discrimination assessment agent was taking part as a speaker at a congress addressing the topic of gender equality and, at a given moment and speaking of the Romanian community, she let it be understood that there was a difference between Romanian citizens and Romanian Roma. A colleague from the ACCEDER Programme asked her if Romanian Roma were not considered citizens, and the speaker tried to correct herself, but the moderator cut off the debate due to a lack of time and closed the congress. While she was leaving, she approached our colleague and try to explain herself, although she didn't make things better when she mentioned a campaign in Spain by the Romanian government to "clean up" the image of the Romanians after an incident with a Roma from that country. Since there were other Roma present at the congress, an explanation was requested from the organisers, the video of the speech was reviewed and it could be seen that the comment was an unintentional slip of the tongue. We got in contact with the social worker, who voluntarily came to the FSG office to meet with the regional director of the Aragón FSG, to whom she apologised and explained her work with immigrant women in her locality. She offered to work with us on any case where she could be useful.
- 104. December. Murcia. Discrimination in the access to goods and services.** Two young Roma and an FSG worker along with a friend went to a café in a local hotel. They sat down separately, with the young people at one table and the FSG services worker and her friend at the other. The waiter approached the young people first and began speaking with them, and they then got up and started to leave. The FSG worker went over to find out what was going on: it seemed that the waiter had told them that they would have to leave because only hotel guests were served in the café. Nevertheless, this was completely untrue, given that the FSG worker and her friend were not staying at the hotel, and they were correctly served and it wasn't the first time: the workers often went to that hotel to have coffee in the café without staying at the hotel and no one ever said anything about it. This is a clear example of direct, concealed discrimination in the access to goods and services since they're not told they're being thrown out because they're Roma, but nevertheless it can be gathered from what happened, since the only difference between the young people and the worker and her friend, who were served. This is against the provisions in Directive 2000/43/EC, in its law of transposition and in the Criminal Code, which classifies the denial of access to a service or benefit due to ethnicity as a crime against fundamental rights.



- 105. December. Madrid. Discrimination in education.** A nationally-distributed newspaper published an article with the following headline: *“Classification according to the primary school year six test. Two ghetto schools with few teachers. “On Thursday, when there’s the street market, they take the kids”*. The article pointed out that the two schools with the worst results on the primary school year six test are the República de Colombia School in the Pan Benito neighbourhood and the Manuel Núñez de Arenas School in El Pozo. The article mentions that both schools –besides being state schools– are ghetto schools. It also included statements from head teacher at one of the schools and those of a technical teacher at the other. The declarations of the first teacher are as follows: if there’s a non-Gypsy child in the classrooms, I don’t have any recollection of it. *“Education establishes the number of support teachers according to particular student ratios. But here, the ratios are no good; 10 or 15 of these kids are like 40 in a school that is, let’s say, “normal”*. *“The parents don’t come in when we ask them two; only once in a while and to make a scene”*. *“What’s more, when Thursday comes, they work at the street market and they take the kids with them.”* About the school she works in, the second teacher says that sixty to seventy percent of the student body is Gypsy. The problem is not the students’ ethnic origin, but rather their socio-economic situation. A situation which, in general, –and according to staff at both schools– entails an extremely high level of absenteeism, a complete lack of motivation from the family for the students to study, lack of stimuli and of social behaviour guidelines. *“They enrol them because they have to, but they actually don’t want them to come to school.”* In this case, the medium is not the main discriminatory agent, despite the article’s headline encouraging the creation of stereotypes and prejudices and thus, indeed, it is discriminating. The main discriminatory parties are the two school workers who make statements that generalising individual activities throughout the entire Roma community present in the schools, and whose phrases are loaded with prejudices and stereotypes.
- 106. December. Linares (Jaén). Discrimination in the access to goods and services/discrimination towards the FSG.** A Roma man, the father of the job prospector at the local FSG, goes to an official dealership to buy a car. They ask him for a number of documents so they can give him a loan. Among others, he submits a pay check from the FSG and the person processing the loan asks him what kind of company it is that it should have “Gypsy” on the pay check. The man explains that it is an organisation operating with government and European funding, and that it has been working for many years but, despite his explanation, he is asked for the company’s telephone numbers to see if he can be trusted and to assess whether to give the loan. This is a case of direct ethnicity-based discrimination in the access to goods and services against the staff of an ONG working for the rights of Roma people that, in addition, has the word “Gypsy” (“Gitano”) in its name. It is clear that it is precisely this that raises the “suspicions” in the person processing the loan, who extends all of his prejudices and negative stereotypes towards the Roma community and also towards the members of this ONG –whether or not they belong to this ethnic minority– and by doing so, he commits an act of discrimination.
- 107. December. Linares (Jaén). Racism.** A non-Roma couple stopped in at the Linares FSG office to ask for information about the services it provides. The Orientation Department tells them about the ACCEDER Programme and the resources available at other organisations. They’re told that it was a service mainly aimed at the Roma community and the woman began to make disrespectful faces; the man comments that we all have got rights, but also shown signs of rejection towards the service and, therefore, a discriminatory attitude towards the Roma community.





- 108. December. Valladolid. Discrimination in the media.** In the local edition of a national newspaper, a news item is published about a shoot out and police sweep that are related to drug dealing in the Barrio España neighbourhood. At the end of the story, another news item is published that tells how a TV camera operator from a regional station was attacked while he was filming in that neighbourhood when a group of Roma young people began to speak at him angrily, someone put his hand on the lens and jogged it; the camera operator took the hand off and an adult male came over and attacked him. There's no mention in the main article that the participants were Roma, but because it is mentioned in the second item, it shows that the rest were as well. Mentioning their ethnicity is not necessary in order to understand the story and all it does is to convey and establish prejudices and negative stereotypes towards the Roma community as a whole.
- 109. December. Valladolid. Discrimination in the media.** In the local edition of a national newspaper, a news item is published about a shoot out and police sweep that are related to drug dealing. A dozen police agents armed with submachine guns spent an hour pulling over cars, *"Things are rather tight today"*, commented three Gypsy men, *"It's better to stay put"...* Although it is Roma who make that comment, it is a comment made by citizens in their position as neighbourhood residents affected by what was going on. To state that the comment is said by Roma is a subtle way to show in the story that this is all taking place among the Roma.
- 110. December. Santiago de Compostela (A Coruña). Discrimination in housing.** A young Roma woman also responsible for a teen and a former FSG worker at the Santiago de Compostela office, goes to make final arrangements to rent a flat through the public flat rental service. She visits the flat and decides to rent it. At that time, the owner starts to say: *"Look, how many like you are you going to put in here?"*; *"Are you going to do like in the hospitals, when you all go, even grandpa...?"* Finally, after more comments in the same vein, the owner of the property says she's not willing to rent the flat to people like her and that she would rather take it out off of the service listing and risk being fined. The young woman knows her rights, and meets with the City Councillor in charge of Social Welfare and, at the Councillor's request, is preparing a file with all of the information. Moreover, the Galician Social Housing Institute has contacted the FSG to find out the reasons given to the young woman for not renting the flat to her. This is a typical case of direct ethnicity-based discrimination in access to housing in which the flat owner refuses to rent it for this reason only, even risking a possible fine from the government, as she is aware that she is committing an act of discrimination that the public housing service cannot permit.