



Mission, values and aims



The *Fundación Secretariado Gitano* is a non-profit inter-cultural social organisation which provides services for the development of the Roma community throughout all of Spain and at European level as well.

It commenced work in the 60's and was constituted as *Asociación* in 1982 and became a *Foundation* in the year 2001.

MISSION

The mission of the FSG is the holistic advancement of the Roma community based on respect for cultural identity.

The purpose of this mission is to support access of Roma persons to rights, services and social resources on an equal footing with all other citizens. To accomplish this, a wide range of actions are carried out focused on improving the living standard of Roma people and encouraging recognition, support and development of the cultural identity of the Roma community.

VALUES

The FSG advocates an intercultural society in which Roma persons freely and fully exercise their citizenship and contribute to the enrichment of a universal culture. Therefore, the values underlying Foundation initiatives are:

Interculturality. Support and defence of a plural society fostering co-existence, mutual recognition and relationships among people of different cultures.

Solidarity. Reduction of socio-economic inequalities and compensation for disadvantages.

Dignity and justice. Defence of human and fundamental rights and support for personal development; improvement of the public image of the Roma people, citizenship promotion and creation of an atmosphere favouring full rights for the Roma community throughout society.

Capacity-building and participation. Involvement of Roma men and women in their own advancement and easier access to the means to do so. Promotion of the development of the group itself both from a cultural perspective as well as through focus on identity and collective advancement. Also promotion of participation in the development of the areas in which they live alongside the rest of the population.

Openness. Collaboration with different entities and the promotion of networking. Collaboration with persons, associations, NGOs, platforms and public and private organisations that work for the advancement of the Roma community.



AIMS

The work carried out by the FSG focuses on the integrated advancement of the Roma community in all of its dimensions including aspects such as cultural advancement, support for identity and the fostering of participation, with a special accent on compensating for the situation of its most disadvantaged members. In carrying out this mission it develops two types of actions:

- › Direct services lent to the Roma community with a view to promoting and improving living standards.
- › Actions aimed at fostering more pro-active policies focusing on the Roma community.

These lines of action specifically give rise to:

- › Work for the **advancement and full incorporation** of the Roma people in Spanish society;
- › **Improvement of the public image** of the Roma people and dissemination of their cultural values throughout society;
- › **Development of advancement programmes** in the fields of education, health, youth, employment, women as well as in those other fields which contribute to improving the living standards of the Roma community;
- › **Offering of information services**, training, counselling and advisory support to associations, administrations and all other entities interested in Roma issues;
- › **Development of awareness-raising measures** and general campaigns with the goal of taking aim at the structural causes of inequality;
- › **Defence and support of the interests of the Roma people** both on the national and international levels, exerting an influence on all decisions taken at the political level that could affect the Roma community. This is especially important in an Enlarged Europe where there is a need for increased collaboration with new European Union members and candidates and efforts need to be made to take part in the formulation of policies affecting the Roma community in these countries.

