



Presentation



The Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) is a non-profit inter-cultural social organisation which provides services for the development of the Roma community throughout all of Spain and on the European level as well. Its mission is the integral advancement of the Roma community while fostering respect for its cultural identity seeking to assure that Roma have access to rights, services and social resources on an equal footing with all other citizens.

Specifically, the FSG's intervention strategy in matters of equal treatment and combating discrimination is based on three main pillars:

- Training and awareness raising of the public administrations, social organisations, the Roma community and other key players in the fight on discrimination.
- Promotion of social policy which supports the advancement of equal treatment by monitoring anti-discrimination legislation and its practical enforcement.
- Provision of advisory services and accompaniment of victims of discrimination for reason of ethnic origin in proceedings in defence of their rights.

For the implementation of this latter function (assistance to victims), the FSG avails itself of different tools for the identification and collection of cases as well as its own intervention strategy based on dialogue and envisaging the stages of communication, mediation, conciliation and, in some cases, legal action.

The annual report *Discrimination and the Roma Community* is the direct fruit of this gathering of cases and support of victims. Its main objective is to show, with verifiable data, the everyday existence of ethnic discrimination and also to highlight the fact that social entities and public authorities must be more actively involved in the advancement of equal treatment among ethnic minorities.

In this respect, the report *Discrimination and the Roma Community* is drafted annually with the intention of becoming an information tool to shed light on a series of objective facts and reliable indicators taken from practical experiences of how discrimination is perpetrated against the Roma community and this is especially important in light of the serious lack of statistical data and research in this area.



The report begins by analysing the situation of the Roma community in 2005 in terms of equal treatment law and policies. It goes on to present a summary of the main characteristics of the 137 cases documented during the year, seven of which are the focus of a more in-depth study with a view to better illustrating how discriminatory dynamics work, their possible consequences and the role played by the Fundación Secretariado Gitano when it is made aware that charges have been filed.

Following the case analysis, the report takes a look at six novel initiatives, in the public and civil society domains, that in 2005 made a significant contribution to combating discrimination against the Roma community. The report then offers a series of general conclusions and recommendations.