



Positive actions in the scope of the fight against discrimination



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1. Local Police in Fuenlabrada – Madrid

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For many years, the Fuenlabrada Police Department have been working against discrimination in the different areas where it can be found. Law enforcement has the obligation to work so that the society it serves is not an exclusive society and to bring to justice the behaviours that exclude people for reasons related to their culture, ethnicity, religion, gender, etc.

For several years now, we've been working with the Fundación Secretariado Gitano in the fight against discrimination against the Roma community and to improve the understanding of this culture among the members of the Fuenlabrada Police Department.

The work we have done over the years is bearing fruit and the Fuenlabrada Police Department works daily in the fight against discrimination towards the Roma community and towards any other minority, from awareness-building among officers to our daily work in favour of peaceful coexistence and equal opportunities.

The male and female offices in Fuenlabrada have been conducting workshops on Roma culture in order to obtain precise information on the customs of the Roma and to eliminate certain stereotypes used by society as a whole about this community.

We also work in favour of members of minorities and women joining the Fuenlabrada police force. This positive activity consists in preparing the section on theoretical knowledge as well as the physical part of the exam for joining the Fuenlabrada Police Department, completely free of charge. This training is provided by members of the Fuenlabrada Police Department.

This year, we are working with the Fundación in drafting an action protocol for police officers concerning the fight against discriminatory treatment, so that when an officer intervenes in the street due to some kind of conflict, he or she will bear in mind the possibility of the aggravating factor of discriminatory treatment.

Another job that we Fuenlabrada police officers do is fighting against discrimination in police identity checks, watching for possible abuses while identifying minorities. Thus, every time the Fuenlabrada Police Department checks identities in the street for reasons linked to public safety, we fill out a form with the information obtained from the person, the reason for the identification and what the results were. The officer carrying out the check is obligated to provide a copy to the person identified. This copy contains the aforementioned information as well as the rights of the person identified, and mentions the possibility of addressing a complaint about the police activity in writing, by telephone or internet.

All of these activities are making the Fuenlabrada Police stand out in their fight against discrimination. An important part of this achievement is the collaboration with the Fundación Secretariado Gitano, and this will continue in the future with new expectations, also working to achieve full integration of the Roma community in Fuenlabrada and Spanish society.