

The Fundación Secretariado Gitano



The *Fundación Secretariado Gitano* is a non-profit inter-cultural social organisation which provides services for the development of the Roma community throughout the whole of the Spanish State and on the European level as well. It commenced its work in the 60's and was constituted as a Foundation in the year 2001.

MISSION

The mission of the FSG is the integral 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 setting the stage for Foundation initiatives are:

Interculturality. Support and defend a plural society fostering neighbourly relations, mutual recognition and relationships among people of different cultures.

Solidarity. Reduce socio-economic inequalities and compensate for disadvantages.

Dignity and justice. Defend human and fundamental rights and lend support to personal development. Improve the public image of the Roma people, promote their citizenship and encourage their participation and social responsibility.

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



Openness. Collaborate with different entities, join forces and promote networking. Collaborate 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, 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 two lines of action specifically give rise to:

- › work for the **advancement and full incorporation** of the Roma people in the Spanish society;
- › **improvement of the public image** of the Roma people and dissemination of their cultural values throughout the 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 a view to 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 influence policies affecting the Roma community in these countries.



Board of trustees

The Foundation is run by a Board of Trustees which is the governing, representative and administrative body. It is comprised of 16 people: eight are of Roma background, three from the public administrations at the different territorial levels and the remaining five are from other important fields: the University, the media, Church and the Banking community.

It also has an Honorary President and a Secretary with no executive powers.

The Board's role is to define the FSG's action priorities, to make sure that the aims are properly met, to manage resources and approve the budgets and accounts of each fiscal period.

During the year 2005 the Board met two times in plenary session and the Permanent Commission, comprised of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and Managing Director, met on a monthly basis.



D. PEDRO PUENTE FERNÁNDEZ



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