

# Proposals of the Fundación Secretariado Gitano for the 2023 REGIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS IN SPAIN



**MAY 2023**



The regional and local elections to be held on **28 May** are key to laying the foundations for a recovery phase, after various crises disproportionately affecting groups in situations of greater social vulnerability, such as the Roma community. In a context of increasing social inequalities, it is necessary to strengthen the system of social protection and social policy in order to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for all citizens.

At the **Fundación Secretariado Gitano**, we wish to contribute to the electoral process and to decision-making by making proposals in two areas.

First, we advocate **strengthening policies aimed at fighting poverty and social exclusion**, opting for measures which promote social cohesion and the basic rights of all citizens: guaranteeing a minimum income to provide protection against poverty while offering people genuine opportunities for economic activation; and giving priority to people in situations of greater vulnerability when investing in education, employment, housing and childhood services.

Second, we propose **specific measures to tackle the high incidence of poverty and the severe inequality gap** affecting the Roma community in the areas of education, employment and access to housing, among others. To these issues, we can add discrimination and antigypsyism, which affect all spheres of Roma people's lives. Measures are required to redress this situation of disadvantage, guaranteeing their equality, inclusion and participation in line with the *National Strategy for the Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma people 2021-2030*.

This can all be done by taking advantage of the investment opportunities offered by European Funds, both **NextGeneration Funds** and the new programming period of the **Cohesion Funds (ESF and ERDF) 2021-27**, whose Regulations specifically mention the Roma population as one of the social groups deserving priority attention.

## Situation of the Roma population in Spain in figures

86% of Roma people live in poverty, with 46% in extreme poverty

The rate of child poverty is 89%

66% of Roma people are aged under 30

6 out of 10 Roma children do not complete compulsory secondary education

Only 17% of the Roma population aged over 16 have completed compulsory secondary education or more

More than 9,000 Roma families still live in inadequate housing in slum settlements

The employment rate is just 30%, and 16% for women

39% of Roma people feel they have suffered discrimination



# 12 proposals to advance in terms of equality for Roma people: guaranteeing social rights, fighting discrimination and promoting recognition and participation

1



## EFFECTIVE PROTECTION AGAINST POVERTY,

guaranteeing sufficient income for families in situations of greater social vulnerability, and at the same time ensuring the activation of individuals for social and labour market inclusion.

2



## AN EMERGENCY PLAN TO COMBAT SCHOOL FAILURE,

including measures to provide guidance, support and educational reinforcement, adapted to the needs of Roma students, to ensure they complete compulsory education and go on to post-compulsory education, with special attention paid to reducing the digital gap.

3



## EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES TO PREVENT AND COMBAT SCHOOL SEGREGATION,

tackling the high concentration of Roma students in particular schools or classes.

4



## PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF ROMA CHILDREN

in the design of political measures or the assignment of resources to tackle child poverty using a holistic approach, in line with the investment priorities established for the Child Guarantee.

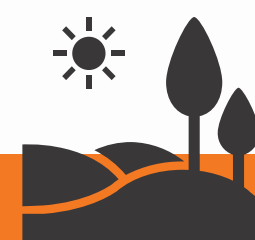
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## A PROGRAMME TO ERADICATE SLUMS

laying the groundwork for getting rid of slum settlements, combining resettlement measures with accompaniment and social support for the families throughout this process.

6



## PRIORITISE INTERVENTION AND REHABILITATION IN NEIGHBOURHOODS WITH INHABITANTS IN SITUATIONS OF EXTREME VULNERABILITY,

with investments to guarantee not just decent housing, but also economic activity, good connections and access to public resources and services.

7



## REINFORCE ACTIVE EMPLOYMENT POLICIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE AIMED AT GROUPS REQUIRING PRIORITY ATTENTION SUCH AS THE ROMA POPULATION.

These should be based on personalised pathways, adapted to the educational and employment profile of each person to facilitate their entry into the labour market, ensuring the person is equipped with digital skills, and always taking account of the gender perspective.

8



## PROTECT AND MODERNISE STREET TRADING AS A PROFITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY,

a business based on local trade which contributes to the economic development of cities and towns.

9



## ACTIVITIES AIMED AT GUARANTEEING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROMA WOMEN,

especially those in situations of greater vulnerability, promoting measures for their social, personal and professional development which can compensate for the double disadvantages and barriers they face as women and as Roma people.

10



## INCLUSIVE MEASURES TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL GAP

which affects Roma people in general, so they can take their place as citizens bearing in mind the digital skills training necessary for them to exercise their rights and enjoy equal opportunities.

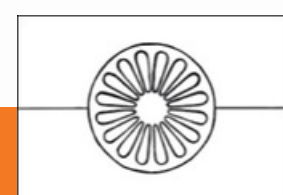
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## IMPLEMENT MEASURES AND SERVICES OF ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE FOR VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF ETHNIC OR RACIAL ORIGIN,

offering a framework for action and protection of victims, along with awareness-raising activities to combat the negative social image of the Roma community.

12



## INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY AND THE PROMOTION OF THEIR PARTICIPATION,

placing value on Roma history and culture and creating conditions which favour the full participation of Roma people in different spheres of society.

**2023**  
**REGIONAL AND LOCAL**  
**ELECTIONS IN SPAIN**

The Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) is an intercultural, non-profit organisation that has been working for forty years for the social inclusion of the Roma community and equal opportunities throughout Spain and Europe.

It currently has 73 offices in 14 regions



FOLLOW US:



© Fundación Secretariado Gitano

c/ Ahijones s/n

28018 Madrid

Tel: 91 422 09 60

[fsg@gitanos.org](mailto:fsg@gitanos.org)

[www.gitanos.org](http://www.gitanos.org)