

Carmen,^{THE} Zero.8

OF YOUNG ROMA MEN AND WOMEN
WHO GRADUATE
FROM UNIVERSITY.



THE Zero.8

THE CRUDE REALITY OF EDUCATION

Only 0.8 % of Roma students graduate
from university.

Why does this happen? The educational trajectory of many Roma boys and girls is conditioned by their late entry into nursery school, the curricular gap and repetition of years, leading to a school failure rate of 62.8 %, compared to 4 % for the student body as a whole. Between the ages of 15 and 16, the majority drop out of school, without a compulsory secondary education qualification.

The lack of educated Roma leaders, school segregation, the lack of expectations, and a system that fails them, results in that approximately only 0.8 % of Roma households have a member with a university degree, compared to 26 % of the population as a whole. A fact that should shame us as a country.



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FEW ROMA LEADERS

Carmen Jiménez is one of the few young Roma with a university degree. She, a graduate in Early Childhood Education from the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, becomes the protagonist of the campaign, representing that 0.8 %. With her speech she gives a voice to many other Roma.



Part of this awareness-raising campaign has as its target audience the public authorities, both national and regional, responsible for ensuring that Roma students complete their compulsory studies and continue their education. In this way, the campaign has different communication channels with to reach both public authorities and the general population

WHAT ARE WE ASKING THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES TO DO?

From Fundación Secretariado Gitano we demand from the educational authorities, among other measures:

- A specific Plan for Guidance and Educational Reinforcement at state level to reverse the situation of educational failure and abandonment of the Roma students.
- Address the school segregation that affects 1 out of every 3 Roma girls and boys.
- Measures to guarantee the free incorporation of Roma children in the first stages of infant education.
- Develop options for the return to formal education.

Fundación Secretariado Gitano: What are we doing?

Since 2023, when we published the devastating data from the study *La situación educativa del alumnado gitano en España*, from the Fundación Secretariado Gitano has been carrying out different political advocacy and social awareness-raising actions. The campaign *Not back to school*, launched in 2024, and *The zero.8*, in 2025, are part of this strategy with the main focus on public authorities.

Education has been one of the priority areas of the Fundación Secretariado Gitano for decades, with intense work with students, educational centres and families. Every year more than 1,800 boys and girls participate in our orientation programme and educational reinforcement *Promociona*, which is achieving that every year there are more and more Roma boys and girls with the compulsory secondary education qualification.

Our objective? That the number of Roma girls and boys with higher education multiplies in the next decade.

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