



FOR THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY



**COMMITMENT TO REDUCING  
EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS 2015 PROPOSALS**



The General Elections of the 20th of December will be fundamental in configuring the social and economic model of the recovery phase in Spain. The economic crisis and its impact on the labour market, as well as austerity measures, have affected large sections of the population. However, the extension of poverty and exclusion cannot hide the shortcomings and weaknesses of one community, the Roma community, affected not only by material deprivation, but also by the rejection, marginalisation and discrimination that it suffers, and which affects the guarantee of the most fundamental rights.

According to the most recent data, the Roma community, made up of 750,000 people in Spain, is one of the population groups which suffers most from the increased inequality gap:



3 out of 4 Roma people are socially excluded, 54% of whom are severely excluded, a rate five times greater than the rest of society (9.5%), according to the FOESSA 2014 report.



4% of Roma families continue to live in slums and segregated environments (*Mapa sobre vivienda y comunidad gitana, [Mapping on the housing conditions and Roma in Spain]*, 2007, Ministerio de Vivienda, FSG).



63.7% of the Roma community's youth drop out of school early, compared with 21.9% of the whole Spanish population (*El alumnado gitano en Secundaria: un estudio comparado, [Roma students in Secondary Education: a comparative study]*, 2013, MECD, MSSSI, UNICEF, FSG).



37.6% of the Roma population are salaried compared with 83.6% of the total population in Spain (*Población gitana, empleo e inclusión social, [Roma population, employment and social inclusion]*, 2011, FSG).

# OUR PROPOSALS TO POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY TERM



Faced with this alarming situation of social disadvantage, there are essential specific measures which guarantee the social inclusion of Roma people. The inequalities that the Roma population suffers compared with the standards of the rest of the population are produced in the key areas for social inclusion and the full exercise of citizenship.

The priority is on education, a key tool for social change, and is our main demand. However, in addition to this, we believe that it is also essential to address the issues of housing, employment and discrimination. Therefore, we ask the political parties to make a firm commitment in the next parliamentary term to:

- 1 Reduce the educational inequality** which affects Roma children, setting the goal of reducing the current rate of early school drop out by half (from 63.7% to 32%).
- 2 Eliminate slums and residential segregation** through plans for accessing decent housing which consider social support measures.
- 3 Increase the percentage of the salaried Roma population to 50%** and guarantee the Roma youth access to the available resources for the promotion of Youth Employment (Youth Guarantee and others).
- 4 Promote equality and the fight against discrimination**, reactivating the Council for the Elimination of Racial or Ethnic Discrimination and with the approval of a Comprehensive Law for Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination.



The Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) is a non-profit, intercultural social entity which has worked for over thirty years for the comprehensive promotion of the Roma community in the whole Spanish territory and at a European level. It currently has 55 work centres in 14 Autonomous Communities.

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