

**STATEMENT FROM THE ROMA PARTICIPATION GROUP
OF THE FUNDACIÓN SECRETARIADO GITANO**

International Roma Day - April 8, 2023

Bronze and Dream

On behalf of the Roma Participation Group of the Fundación Secretariado Gitano, on this 8 April, 2023, we want to express our desire for recognition of the Roma People.

On special days like this, we feel more strongly the pride of belonging to a People that has known how to transform the long-suffering *duquelas* into art, art with a broken voice, *quejío* and love for our culture. And our memory always, on this day, to the victims who throughout history could not live this pride freely.

Today we celebrate the unity of our People, remembering our history, our language and our ancestors, raising our voices together to point out the situations of injustice and inequality that continue to affect us. Because we have to continue fighting so that discrimination and racism do not limit our rights and our dignity as full-fledged citizens.

The Roma People are a fundamental part of Spanish culture. Without it, gastronomy, music, dance, language, painting would not be understood in the same way... Professions such as blacksmithing, the sale of antiques or the treatment of cattle have the imprint of the Roma People. And what to say about our joy of living; we have taught and passed on our Roma philosophy of life to our neighbors.

On days like this, we take to the streets with our eyes set on the future of our People. We want to make our history known and be part of cultural stories, so that Roma children feel an important part of this intercultural society.

“Bronze and dream”, the verse of Lorca, is the title of the image that accompanies us this year to celebrate the International Roma Day. The hug between two young people as a symbol of the pride we feel. Pride in sharing a scale of values in which solidarity, family, respect or honesty, among others, have a very marked meaning for the majority of Roma people and its transmission to future generations.

The Roma are a part of society, diverse and not exclusive, because we want to continue being *bronze and dream* to live our *Romipen*, our *Roma-ness*, with our heads raised and our voices firm.

For all this, we want to celebrate with you our day to jointly build a more just and inclusive world.

We cannot find better words to define what we feel on this day than the ones that Tío Pedro Peña leaves us in the song “Orobroy”, for the music of his son Dorantes:

*"When I hear the old voice of my blood
That sings and cries after past centuries of horror
I feel God that perfumes my soul
And in the world I am sowing roses, instead of pain"*

Happy International Roma Day!

Sastipen thaj mestipen - Health and Freedom

Opre Roma! – Up Roma People!

#8April #InternationalRomaDay