

Intervention

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Roma children amid school discrimination

One of the many problems that Roma children have is not attending school. But what is the real reason why these Roma children do not go to school?

To answer this question, several factors must be considered:

- discriminated children who go home crying,
- parents of "cagge" (non-Roma) children who do not want "gypsies" in class with their children,
- schools that refuse enrollment due to bureaucratic problems
- The non-training of teachers towards another culture (the Roma one)
- Racial media campaign that makes the terms "Roma" and "gypsy" take on a derogatory meaning.
- ghetto schools or "lacio drom" classes
- Roma girls aged 13/14 get married early.

With regard to school dropout, it must be said that in the current situation of persecution, it progressively worsens we have to record much more worrying data, but above all a condition of segregation, humiliation and torment that affects all Roma children and young people in scholastic institutions. "In schools, Roma children suffer a lot of racism, they are always the last of the class and often the last of the school... they draw, while the other children learn to read and write. In the classroom, Roma children find themselves representing negativity for others. In adolescence they understand what it means to live isolated and excluded!

The problems faced by Roma in the school environment are largely a consequence of the educational policies pursued for some time which have led to the assimilation and segregation of Roma children in school based on the pretext of their "socio-cultural handicap".

This situation of exclusion and marginalization is obviously getting worse, thanks to racist campaigns, it spreads prejudices and distrust, instigating people to racism and discrimination. Often resulting in cases of violence and assaults.

Early school leaving was made even more alarming, between 2020 and 2021, by the "Corona Virus" health emergency, the use of distance learning (Dad). In addition to computers and tablets, to carry out the Dad you need electricity, connections to the Web, technical skills from adults. Many Roma children have not returned to school after the covid 19 emergency.

Teachers should have the necessary knowledge and skills to interact with Roma children.

Unfortunately, they rarely have them, this is accompanied by a "stereotypical perception of Roma as a cultural entity", so much so that 77.4% of teachers give a negative judgment on the influence determined by the presence of those pupils in the classroom.

Yet, schooling is certainly the key to the future emancipation and inclusion of the new Roma and Sinti generations".

We need to intervene so that Roma children can and must enjoy the right to education which is continually denied especially in Italy where there is a return to the ghetto schools "Lacio drom"

I therefore ask everyone present to join forces to ensure that Roma children are also educated so that they can claim a dignified place in the majority society and in Europe