



“Together we can achieve everything”

“Hello cousin, I have been told that when you finish ESO (highschool) you would like to continue studying. I was very happy to hear that, because I am always happy to hear that some “gitanica” (“Roma girl”) wants to continue her education in order to have more opportunities in the future. I would like to encourage and support you in your decision.

I introduce myself, I am Roma and I am 25 years old. I currently work as a teacher at the University of Girona, I also teach English to a group of “gitanicos” and “gitanicas” (Roma men and women) over 25 years old who are preparing to pass an exam that allows them to enter university and I also work in a magazine that publishes articles in English. As you can imagine I am very happy to have gotten this far, I would never have imagined that I would be doing all this and I know that it has been possible thanks to the fact that one day I decided to continue studying. For me the decision to go to university was a very difficult one. In my house there are 4 siblings and none of them have gone to university, in fact no one in my family had ever been to university. My dad worked in the scrap metal industry and I was worried that we wouldn't be able to pay for my studies. Also my dad is a pastor and I have always gone to worship, now I am in the choir, and I was afraid that university would take me away from God and my family. I was very afraid of going to university, I thought I wouldn't pass and that I would be distanced from the things that are important to me as a Roma. Despite all these fears, with the support of my family I decided to try and I went to study law at university because I didn't want to regret all my life not having tried. I had to start taking the bus and the metro alone, there were days when I didn't have time to get to the cult and days when I had to stay at home studying. But every exam I passed was a source of pride for myself, for my family and for God. At university I made very good friends and learned a lot, it was a very beautiful stage of my life and the best thing is that I didn't have to give up anything; today I'm still as much or even more of a Roma than when I started. The truth is that my time at uni flew by because I enjoyed it so much. The day of my graduation I had to ask for more tickets so that all my siblings, my brothers and sisters, my brothers-in-law, my nephews and nieces could come... Imagine it, my friends took only their parents and I went with my whole house. My family was very proud, my older sister when I received my law degree shouted “honour to all Roma!” hahahaha and they threw confetti at me and my nephews and nieces carried a banner, it was like a petition hahahaha it was very nice. After my law degree I did a master's degree and now I'm doing a doctoral thesis on the cult and Roma women.

Through the association, I help many other Roma women to continue studying and not feel afraid to do so. Because if I and other Roma women have achieved it, you can also achieve it.

We have a great responsibility to our people and if we want things to change and for Roma to live better, we have to study so that we can better defend our rights and show that we can do it too!

This is my story, I hope it will encourage you to continue studying because it will mean a better future for you and your family and I would like to meet you. Now you know that we support you and that if you need help you can count on us.

I am glad that I have studied because that has made it possible, among other things, that today I am encouraging you to do so. A hug and God bless you!”