



## CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE DREAM

The Roma women we want to dream because, as one of us stated “when we speak of a dream, in the moment that you think that you can achieve it, then it becomes a reality”.

In addition, when we have spaces for us such as this, sharing our dreams makes us be more conscious of what we want, and also makes us stronger and freer.

The dream of all Roma women gathered in the congress began with the dream of two girls; it was something small but immensely large at the same time: study.

One of the women who expressed her dream has explained us that she is involved in the international Roma movement for more than 20 years, and when she began it she dreamed of having a space as the one that we have experienced during the congress. She felt like dreams can be realized; we were there and had achieved her dream, and those of many Roma women in the world.

In the dream we spoke a lot about equity of differences, for example, that our daughters have the same opportunities and the same treatment as the other girls, without fear to say

“I’m Roma” or as another woman said “that being Roma woman means adding, does not mean less”

We also emphasised the importance of being us the ones who decide about all that affects our lives and those of our families.

Many dreams aroused in relation to education. Because being Roma does not mean not being able to study but the opposite. Many want to be teachers, even teachers of Roma studies and that there would be many Roma women in the university. Others want to see their grandsons and granddaughters with the education they could not have. And we all agreed that also mothers and grandmothers can study. Like a woman said, “my dream is that in the next congress I come with a folder and I will be able to read to you what I will have written down”.

There also emerged dreams that went from big actions that can be achieved with all of us being together, to changes that we would like to see in our immediate environment, such as:

- Organizing European protests of Roma women against racism, because all of us suffer it in all countries.
- That I can see how the mind of our people changes in our neighbourhoods.

We have also seen dreams that are already realities, like what we are living here these days. One of us said: “seeing all these “gitanica”/“Roma”, being in this conference, is

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amazing and, above all, thinking the good that this is for the future of the Roma people”.

### **CONCLUSIONS ON EDUCATION**

It has been shown that there are successful actions that improve education, among those, the participation of families in the schools in everything that affects the education of our sons and daughters: entering the classrooms to help, participating in after school time activities and activities of school support, or participating actively in associations for parents. It has been also shown that participating in activities of family education, learning ourselves from literacy to informatics or literary gatherings, we are more present in schools and we become a model for our children to continue studying.

It is important that schools have spaces where we can make decisions together with teachers in regard to what our children need.

We must work with young Roma women so that they continue studying and get into post compulsory secondary education. We highlight the Meetings of Roma Women to promote that everyday more will be more girls that continue their studies.

Despite some of us have quite from school, never is too late to return to education and training. Also, as a Roma woman said, “when you study you are more Roma, because then you can defend your culture”.

For that to happen, we also want policies of affirmative action, as other countries already have, for example, universities reserving places for Roma women.

Finally, we would like to have the opportunity of knowing the Romano language, so that our culture does not get lost and Roma women from all around the world can communicate. It is a dream that all children could learn the Romano in schools.

### **CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT**

The Roma women we have always worked, but now we need to access to different jobs than the ones we have always developed and according to the requirements of today's labour market.

Education and training means more inclusion in the labour market. It is very important to get closer to the associations that are offering training to get a job. We have seen tones of examples of women that have followed courses and now are already working, from women who work as educators to women that have been able to create a fashion company or a cooperative of ecological agriculture.

Promoting the creation of companies and cooperatives led by Roma women.

In some types of training, support to Roma women needs to be done at all levels and also enable different methodologies to make sure that no woman is left out the training.

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If a Roma woman can not read and write she can also participate, it is not necessary have gone to school to get education, it is necessary to observe different types of training with in order to incorporate women into the labour market.

It is important as well to promote policies of accreditation of the prior experience (APEL policies) that other countries already have. This way is possible to acknowledge with a certificate of the abilities that we have from our practices, abilities that we have acquired on our own, like through looking after the children in our families, selling in street markets or working in an association. These certificates would allow us to accede to better jobs as well as to university studies. In the countries where these policies have been implemented they have shown to promote the labour inclusion of the Roma people.

Roma women have many abilities and experiences that are very valuable for today's labour market. From attending people, knowing how to "be" and how to sell, the caring and respect for the elderly and children... We have to benefit from and use all these qualities that we have to achieve the aim of inclusion in the labour market.

Finally, we also want to dream jobs for our daughters, denouncing cases of discrimination, and acknowledging that we Roma women are already doing so.

### **CONCLUSIONS ABOUT FEMINISM**

This congress is evidence that Roma women besides their difficulties can make their voices heard. Roma women gathered in this congress have opted for dialogic feminism in which all women can introduce their voices. Roma feminism means solidarity. Roma feminism consolidates itself as an inclusive movement where all of us have a place. It is a feminism that seeks equality from their own identity, equality of differences.

We Roma women have had our space and we have had the opportunity to speak as we never have done before. A congress organized by ourselves and for us: this has been our space, we have done it.

Being a Roma woman is not a barrier. We are here because we are women that want to change things. If we think that we can live differently we can change. Our culture is alive, is changing. We don't have to accept the pressure to have to choose among two identities of being Roma and being women. We can build a new identity. Roma women can do different things. Our problems are common and we have the responsibility to overcome them. This is a fight of all of us and for all of us.

Now we know where we are going to organise the next congress of Roma women:  
¡Granada!

In addition we have a new dream: that **October 8th will be the International Day of Roma Women.**

We women have our future in our hands.