



NEWS REPORT

Date: 26 November 2009
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Title: Special school classes for Roma girls
Country: Portugal

Context

Issue at stake: Education and prosecution of studies of Roma girls
Ground of discrimination: of Race/Ethnic origin
Source: Newspaper Jornal de Notícias
Field: Education

Legislative provisions: Law 115/97 of 19 September 1997 (the Basic Law on the Educational System)

Content

A special educational facility (a class outside the school) has been recently constructed in Viana do Castelo - Darque (North of Portugal), aiming the return to school of Roma girls who had abandoned school. The age of the twelve students attending lessons at this facility is between 11 to 18 years and many of them have not yet completed the 4th level of education. Many of these girls were prevented from going to school by their parents due to the presence of boys in mixed classes.

According to the director of the Agrupamento de Escolas de Darque (the Group of Schools in Darque), at the moment this is the possible solution to this problem; the director considers that now the Roma girls have the opportunity to attend classes. Also the proximity of the school to the place where they live was a major factor that has been taken into consideration for the decision. Most of the teachers are women and there is also a specialised social assistant for the students.