PORTUGAL TRANSFORMING A SCHOOL THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS

On July 11, 2008, Portuguese television broadcast shocking video footage of a shootout between rival gangs from Romani and African communities in Apelação, a town on the outskirts of Lisbon.

The head teacher of the school, Félix Bolaños, decided to implement a new vision to help the school and the school environment change. He involved local authorities and volunteers, partnered with a community-based organization called Mais Cidadanis (More Citizenship) to support the school, and transformed the school into a model of good practice, where students took greater responsibility, antisocial behavior decreased, and learning outcomes improved. As a result, the school emerged from making the improvements everyone wanted.

THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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