

Denia, Sunday 22 October 2023

Dear counsellors,

I am studying professional piano at the conservatory in Denia. I have just started year 4. I completed years 1 & 2 in 2014-16 and restarted in 2022 after living outside of Spain for many years.

I have been bullied by teachers and staff at Denia conservatory more or less since I arrived back last October 2022. However, the bullying has been intense since April 2023. I have suffered:

- Gang stalking on social media
- Cyber bullying
- In-person bullying from teachers and staff at the conservatory
- Criminal damage to my personal property from teachers and staff at the conservatory
- Bullying in the street from people in Denia I don't know (aggressive interactions with gipsies mainly)

The reason for the bullying is because when I started year 1 of professional studies in 2014, my piano teacher, Domingo Cano, assumed I would have a romantic relationship with him. However, I was not interested in him in this way. We were platonic friends and that's all. In fact, I felt I didn't have a choice but to be his friend really, he was my piano teacher and kept pushing for more. I found him to be selfish, sexist, insulting, and rude and he annoyed and upset me. I refused him.

He was enraged. He slandered me to staff at the conservatory. He *decided* I would have a romantic relationship with another teacher there instead (!) and started arranging this. He caused me a lot of trouble. I finally had enough of his ridiculous behaviour and asked for a new teacher in January 2015, 4 months after beginning my studies.

I also did not like the way Domingo Cano and a few of the other male teachers were excessively intimate with the girls at the school. I am a child sexual abuse survivor and am extremely sensitive to this sort of grooming behaviour.

So, I was not at all surprised to find myself being bullied in year 3 and it started immediately, at a low level, but since April has been intense. And due to the social media element (Twitter) I have become something of a local celebrity in Denia as I have stood up for myself on more than one occasion and garnered some support.

I don't see why students should have to put up with this disgraceful behaviour from civil servants at a public school. All I want is to play the piano.

I have suffered a lot from this experience. Since January I lost 15kg in body weight, I suffered a lot of PTSD symptoms while going to class at the conservatory, I was unable to work due to stress and lost two jobs.

I wrote to Concha Ballester (an old friend from Denia who I noticed he was also bullying via his piano students) in June after they tried to crucify me at one of the last classes of the year. I had been completely alone and unsupported until then and no-one had heard my side of the story. I had also not been aware of how many people had been involved in stalking me. It was very shocking.

So much has happened. This is just a short sketch of a much longer story which I believe a daily newspaper would find interesting. The local townsfolk are certainly enjoying it.

Anyway, I have been standing up for myself, and it has been really good for my confidence and wellbeing, but yesterday I noticed my car has been keyed very badly. I wrote a bunch of tweets about it last night which they will have all seen, and this morning I woke up with the feeling I have simply had enough of this.

So I'm writing to you.

You may wonder why I'm not going to the police. Well, as I mentioned, I am a child sexual abuse survivor and I have been to the police in London about it a few times. It is very triggering for me so I would rather leave that until it is absolutely necessary.

Please forward this letter to the necessary people.

With the very best and kindest regards,

Yours faithfully,

Dra Katharine Murphy
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