

After the tragedy of 17 August #anemdeblau: peace, solidarity and coexistence in diversity

We go onto the streets of Barcelona this Saturday, 26 August 2017 to express our rejection of the attack claimed by Daesh and to show our support for the victims and their families. We do so following the events of 17 August in Barcelona and Cambrils, with 15 dead and more than a hundred wounded. We do so to give thanks for the solidarity shown in the response by people who have reacted from the beginning, working for our coexistence in diversity. But we also remember and bear in mind the other victims who suffer the same violence every day, which just this month has affected many other countries besides Catalonia. We especially remember Syria, where half a million people have died at the hands of governmental and non-governmental actors, both local and international. Victims who do not appear in headlines, victims who are forgotten. Many do not die but are trapped at our frontiers. As organisations, platforms and social movements we want to make it clear that these are just as much ours as the victims of Barcelona and Cambrils. We do not draw any difference.

We go onto the street as we have done many other times. We remember the calls of "No to the war" — against the criminal invasion of Iraq led by Aznar, Bush and Blair — which filled the streets of Barcelona in 2003. Let us also remember so many other protests against military interventions elsewhere, for peace and for the welcoming of refugees and migrants, such as that of 18 February. So we will return to the streets, to point out once more the causes and those responsible.

We protest to denounce the hypocrisy of political leaders and representatives, the Spanish government and the monarchy. Those who, with their policies, promote wars and foster armed conflicts, by selling arms to countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar, as well as imposing repressive anti-terrorist policies that only worsen the spiral of violence. Those who breach their commitment to give asylum, as the EU Member States do. Also those that promote hatred, racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia, with the worrying collaboration of much of the media. Those who stop and search our neighbours on the street because of their skin color and imprison them at the Centres for the Internment of Foreigners (CIEs). Those who evict our neighbours or who violently repress people's mobilisations. We protest to say "No Pasarán" to the groups that threaten to take us back to a terrible past, and against those who allow fascism to act with impunity. It's time to repeat the call of "your policies, our dead".

We protest because it is a chance to put us to the task of rethinking the model of coexistence and society that we are building. We are concerned about the consequences in the medium and long term. There have already been signs of hatred, racism and xenophobia, and the Muslim community has been criminalised. It is not a question of "them and us", but of all of us together.

For all these reasons, we demand that the response to Thursday's barbarity is not more repressive "security": more vigilance, more frontiers, more police, more arms, more violence. Barcelona and Catalonia must be an example of a different response: based on peace, human rights, solidarity, social cohesion and global justice. It is in this sense that civil society is on the street today. Our diversity makes us richer and stronger. And today, more than ever, we must reaffirm our commitment to an open, welcoming society that will not allow any ideology of hatred to take hold in Catalonia.

And we also demand a clear and decisive response by our leaders: comply with the agreements and treaties on arms trade that you have signed; respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; break your agreements with opaque and authoritarian governments; stop military interventions; now

more than ever open the borders to welcome the people that flee from tragedies like that of Catalonia, people who are now trapped at our borders; demand that companies comply with respect for human rights in other countries, terminating any contracts signed if necessary. The best strategy for preventing violence is the work of civil society.

From organised society, from below, we commit ourselves to working for peace, human rights, diversity and global justice. We go out into the street because, in the face of racism and Islamophobia, in the face of any violation of human rights, we are committed to coexistence. For that reason we protest on Saturday and we will go dressed in blue, #anemdeblau.

#anemdeblau

"Your policies, our dead"

"Peace, solidarity and coexistence in diversity"