

Contribution by the Third Sector Platform of Catalonia

GLOBAL CALL FOR CONCRETE ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM

To be presented to the 78th session of the UN General Assembly

With contributions from:

VOLUNTARIES.cat

 Fundesplai

entitats
catalanes
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social 



The following is a joint contribution to the "Call for inputs for the preparation of the report of the UN Secretary-General pursuant to the UN General Assembly resolution 77/205" developed by *Taula del Tercer Sector de Catalunya* (the representing network of third sector organisations in Catalonia), its working groups on "Inclusion and Poverty" and "International Relations" and four social networks and organisations that are members of Taula. It proposes a shared narrative and analysis on how to eliminate racism based on third sector perspectives and the Catalonia case.

The Third Sector Platform of Catalonia (www.tercersector.cat) is the main third sector umbrella organization in Catalonia, providing a meeting point to 35 networks and 3.000 non-profit organisations to defend social rights.

The FCVS - Catalan Federation of Social Volunteering (www.voluntaris.cat) is the main network of social volunteering organisations in Catalonia, striving to support, promote and advance the role and recognition of social volunteering.

Fundesplai (www.fundesplai.org) is a non-profit organization aimed at promoting values-driven education, leisure activities and social inclusion and environmental projects that all seek to bring about long-term social transformation.

ECAS - Social Action Entities from Catalonia (www.acciosocial.org) brings together local non-profit organisations devoted to social inclusion projects. ECAS works to advance policies and collective initiatives to attain a more inclusive society.

The FSG - Romani People Secretariat-Foundation (www.gitanos.org) has also contributed to this call as member of ECAS and Taula's working group on inclusion and diversity. The FSG is an intercultural social non-profit organisation that provides services for the development and integral promotion of the Romani community in Catalonia, Spain and Europe.

FEPA – Foundation of Entities and Assisted Shelters (www.fepa18.org) gathers local NPOs promoting the autonomy and equality of opportunity for youngsters without family support, and offers them a platform to advocate for their rights.

ON THE ROLE OF THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

Social and third sector organisations are drivers of change; from the local level to the global one. Anti-racist action led at the local level by organised communities is key to addressing both immediate, day-to-day human rights violations as well driving forward structural transformations related to racism and discrimination. Social action driven by anti-racist activists and volunteers can expand community cohesion: fostering the interrelation between groups and individuals, preventing and addressing fear and ignorance and creating spaces to share life perspectives.

Third sector organisations promote projects in the fields of social action, educational leisure and volunteering – among many others - that advance social transformation goals. These cultivate the values of social-global justice, belonging and rootedness, self-awareness and positive assessment of one's own abilities. They foster coexistence between groups of different ages, origins and abilities, offer an incomparable space of relationship. Diverse relationships contribute to broadening points of view and our perspectives of social reality.

More information on the Catalan third sector can be found on this brochure ¹ as well as on this map of local non-profit organisations ² and their sectoral networks ³.

Concrete proposals to combat racism and discrimination led by Catalan third sector organisations and based on social innovation practices are detailed below:

¹ https://www.tercersector.cat/sites/default/files/dossier_TauladelTercerSector_angles.pdf

² <https://www.tercersector.cat/mapa>

³ <https://www.tercersector.cat/qui-som/les-nostres-entitats>

PUSHING FOR LEGAL REFORM: CHANGING THE IMMIGRATION LAW

The “*Un callejón sin salida*” (A Dead End) campaign ⁴ by FEPA was a key advocacy and communication support to the reform of the Spanish “*Ley de Extranjería*” (Immigration Law). The same FEPA network produced an assessment report on the impacts of this law’s final adoption in 2021 ⁵, which favoured the inclusion process of migrants but still finds relevant challenges in its implementation process: from regional disparities to prevalent administrative malpractices or the role of unaccompanied youngsters.



PRODUCING EVIDENCE: REFLECTING ON RACISM, MIGRATION AND INEQUALITY

The following reports have been developed by Catalan third sector networks and gather evidence and data on the state of racism and migrant inclusion in Catalonia.

- **INSOCAT Report by ECAS: Social indicators in Catalonia regarding migrations and vulnerability** ⁶ – the report highlights the higher risk for migrants to experience social exclusion (54% of migrants) as well as the existing limitations of social protection measures to address poverty.
- **Catalunya Social Report by the Third Sector Platform: “Paper” frontiers and administrative irregularity among migrants** ⁷ – the report addresses the impacts of administrative barriers to migrants’ full inclusion through qualitative and quantitative analysis, providing proposals to enhance social protection and reform migratory law putting people and rights at the centre.
- **Catalunya Social Report by the Third Sector Platform: On barriers to political participation and their impact on democracy and cohesion** ⁸ – the report takes on the causes and consequences of the political exclusion of different groups from democratic procedures, votes and participatory bodies.
- **FEPA Report on the situation of unaccompanied youngsters in their process of emancipation** ⁹ – a comprehensive tool to improve existing policies and social action to foster the inclusion of unaccompanied youngsters, based on the access and analytical capacity of local NPOs and their networks.

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4iuWtKVgRo>

⁵ https://www.fepa18.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Avance_INFORME_EL-IMPACTO-DE-LA-REFORMA-DEL-REGLAMENTO-TRAS-LA-ENTRADA-EN-VIGOR-DEL-REAL-DECRETO-9032021_Marzo-de-2022_Equipo-juridico-FEPA.pdf

⁶ https://acciosocial.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/INSOCAT11_Migracions_2020_ECAS.pdf

⁷ https://www.tercersector.cat/sites/default/files/2021-04/dossier_catalunya_social_fronteres_de_paper_taula_3r_sector_abril_2021.pdf

⁸ https://www.tercersector.cat/sites/default/files/2021-06/2021-06-29_t3s_dossier_catalunya_social_participacio_politica.pdf

⁹ https://www.fepa18.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Encuesta_FEPA_2021_CAST-vi.pdf

SOCIAL BONDING: INTERWEAVING GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN SOCIETY



In order to foster the social inclusion of migrants in host societies and address structural racism, the Catalan Federation of Social Volunteering carries out the “Vol.In project” fostering **Inclusive volunteering** ¹⁰. The project promotes volunteering in the field of migrant and refugee support through the coordination of local activities and volunteering groups. New synergies are established between local neighbours and the newly arrived through spaces and opportunities for socialization, skills development, acquiring practical knowledge and expanding relational networks.

PROPOSALS TO COMBAT ANTI-ROMANI DISCRIMINATION

The Romani People Secretariat-Foundation (*Fundación Secretariado Gitano*) has offered assistance to victims of anti-Romani discrimination, trained key stakeholders of law enforcement and promoted Romani empowerment since 2002. The Secretariat-Foundation



publishes yearly reports on “Discrimination and Romani People” gathering evidence on the Catalan and Spanish case ¹¹. At present, the Secretariat-Foundation’s work on anti-Romani discrimination focuses on three main programs:

- ❖ The coordination of an **Assistance and Orientation Service for Victims of Racial or Ethnic Discrimination** ¹² including 8 NGOs and coordinating a network of territorial antennas, intervention protocols and victim support services in partnership with the national ministry in charge of equality.
- ❖ The **Calí Program for the Equality of Romani Women** ¹³ launched in 2016 within the framework of the Operative Program of the European Social Fund and focused on promoting the labour insertion of Romani women.
- ❖ A **strategic litigation program** that institutes legal actions in emblematic cases of anti-Romani discrimination before all types of national judicial

¹⁰ <https://voluntaris.cat/projectes/vol-in/>

¹¹ https://www.gitanos.org/centro_documentacion/herramientas/cajas/discriminacion.html.es

¹² https://www.gitanos.org/que-hacemos/areas/igualdad/servicio_asistencia.html

¹³ https://www.gitanos.org/que-hacemos/areas/inclusion_social/cali.html

bodies and the European Court of Human Rights itself, with the aim of developing a reparatory jurisprudence on discrimination and hate crimes.

PUBLIC AGENDA: PUSHING FOR INTERCULTURAL APPROACHES IN POLICY



Third sector organisations have developed a key advocacy role when it comes to defending social rights and revamping public policies to bring them about. The ECAS network (Social Action Entities from Catalonia) coordinates a group on interculturality that has channelled **comprehensive proposals** ¹⁴ to different regional administrations on how to advance **public policies for interculturality**. A clearer understanding of interculturality in

practice was established, as well as a specific agenda for transforming policies, including: the establishment of a regional action plan; the creation of dedicated institutions and training programs; and a set of assessment, mainstreaming and methodological tools to ensure an effective implementation of these policies.

PREVENTING HATE SPEECH IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND DISCOURSES

The Third Sector Platform of Catalonia seeks to influence political debates and electoral campaigns at a local, Catalan and European level. It produces manifestos and policy proposals ¹⁵ based on the expertise of member networks that political parties can support in order to advance social rights. These include specific calls for candidates to avoid hate speech and the criminalization of migrant groups and minorities for electoral purposes.



In a similar vein, the FEPA network developed a practical report ¹⁶ targeting journalists and seeking to improve the media coverage of news related to unaccompanied minors and youngers in their process of emancipation. The report provides a compelling framework and practical tools to avoid misinformation and prevent practices among media outlets that could end up inducing racism at a social level.

¹⁴ <https://acciosocial.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ECAS-Aportacions-al-Pacte-Nacional-per-a-la-Interculturalitat.pdf>

¹⁵

https://www.tercersector.cat/es/node/56?field_tematica_target_id=All&field_documents_tipus_target_id=716&field_documents_data_value=&title

¹⁶ https://www.fepa18.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Recomendaciones-Medios_FEPA.pdf

EVOLVING VALUES: PROMOTING TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION AND LEISURE



Many third sector organisations focus on promoting values and awareness raising activities as a way to drive forward social transformation goals. Fundesplai is currently implementing two projects tapping on the role of leisure education to eliminate racism. Nusos ¹⁷ promotes the “Global Citizenship” notion through human rights education and a learning curricula including formal and non-formal learning activities. Encoratja’t ¹⁸

promotes gender equality within a society free from discrimination through tales, games and challenges addressed to schools and youth groups.

INTERNAL CHANGE: MAINSTREAMING HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN ORGANISATIONS

Social volunteering organisations are committed to fostering accessibility and inclusiveness through the creation of new tools and resources supporting both management roles and volunteering teams within organisations and grassroots initiatives. The Catalan Federation of Social Volunteering created a **Guide to mainstream accessibility and inclusiveness within organisations**¹⁹ that seeks to help organisation tackle discrimination and promote affirmative action through a series of internal change and training proposals.



YOUNGER GENERATIONS: OFFERING EMPOWERMENT PATHWAYS

The **Mirall project** ²⁰ by Fundesplai promotes equality of opportunity and the empowerment of young migrants in situations of vulnerability in order to become educational references in schools and leisure centres. The project offers them training opportunities to become leisure counsellors, including internship opportunities in school canteens, extracurricular activities and leisure centres, thus becoming a positive reference for other children, families and the educational community.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES AMONG POLICE OFFICERS

The Third Sector Platform of Catalonia and the Catalan Federation of Social Volunteering signed an MoU with the Home Ministry to promote volunteering among students in the Catalan police academy ²¹. This initiative sought to offer

¹⁷ <https://fundesplai.org/nusos/>

¹⁸ <https://fundesplai.org/encoratjat/>

¹⁹ https://voluntaris.cat/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Guia_Com-fer-accessible-el-teu-pla-de-voluntariat.pdf

²⁰ <https://fundesplai.org/accio-social-i-joves/projecte-mirall-2/>

²¹ https://www.tercersector.cat/sites/default/files/2022-04/2022-04-19_ndp_interior_signa_un_conveni_amb_la_taula_del_tercer_sector_i_la_federacio_catalana_de_voluntariat_social_per_impulsar_voluntariat_de_lalumnat_del_curs_de_formacio_basica_per_a_policies_.pdf

students with basic training on how to best address and relate to social exclusion scenarios they will have to face in their future work, preventing discrimination and advancing towards a more democratic and quality oriented police service.

ON TERRITORIAL ACTION: LATEST ADVANCES IN CATALONIA

Catalonia has recently been at the forefront of existing policy innovation trends to advance social rights and equality and tackle racism under a feminist perspective.

The passing of Law 19/2020 on Equality and Non-discrimination by the Catalan Parliament was a breakthrough achievement for social rights activists²². The law provided a new and comprehensive framework to guarantee the indivisibility, interdependence and universality of all human rights of all residents in Catalonia. The law paid specific attention to recognizing the inclusion of all groups at particular risk of discrimination and inequality of opportunity, putting forward their rights with regards to public policy and interaction with public administration. The law focused on mainstreaming non-discrimination within public administration and all public administrations operating within the Catalan territory. The Law called to establish new institutions, policies and bodies to implement non-discrimination.

A few months after the establishment of Law 19/2020, the Catalan Government created a new Ministry fully devoted to "Equality and Feminisms"²³, adopted by Decree 249/2021²⁴. The Department integrated pre-existing administrative bodies and areas of public administration (from social rights and gender equality promotion to social protection or engagement with migrant communities and minorities) that would now form a specific unit and bring forward a strategic agenda on equality and rights. This reflected a long-term commitment of Catalan society towards rights, as many aligned policies and institutions could be found at a regional and local level.

Following-up on this trend of institutional development, consolidation and innovation, the Catalan government created an Equality and Non-discrimination Office²⁵ with the twofold mandate to coordinate policy implementation and localize the equality agenda in day-to-day life. The Office works together with different areas

²² <https://portaljuridic.gencat.cat/ca/document-del-pjur/?documentId=890227>

²³ <https://igualtat.gencat.cat/ca/inici>

²⁴ <https://portaljuridic.gencat.cat/ca/document-del-pjur/?documentId=904426>

²⁵ http://sac.gencat.cat/sacgencat/AppJava/organisme_fitxa.jsp?codi=21711

of the Catalan government and other public administrations in the region to mainstream rights; supports victims of discrimination; offer mediation services; designs new public policies and coordinates strategies with the local network of NGOs, third sector organisations, human rights defenders and anti-racist activists.

OUR DECALOGUE IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL CALL

Inspired by the UN Secretary-General initiative to launch a “Global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism”, and expressing solidarity with the work of human rights defenders and organisations tackling racism and discrimination across the world, Catalan third sector organisations commit to the following values and action proposals and call to mainstream them among governments and society:

1. **EXPOSE** and publicly denounce racism as a gross human rights violation, sustained over alterophobia in its various manifestations and increasing anti-migration and racist political proposals and policies worldwide.
2. **HIGHLIGHT** the existing interlinkages between racism and system human rights deprivation in day-to-day life, particularly social, economic and cultural rights, which find their roots in persistent socio-economic inequalities.
3. **COMMITT** to advance a new generation of rights-based policies to combat racism, including affirmative action on the right to decent work, housing and minimum income, while tapping on the role of community participation and social organization and innovation to strengthen social cohesion.
4. **COMMIT** to a human rights based global governance of migration, recognizing the universal right to migrate and offering safe pathways to exercise it while providing sufficient resources to local actors – from governments to non-profit organisations – to foster inclusion and cohesion from the bottom-up.
5. **PROTECT** the rights and foster equality of opportunity for unaccompanied minors and youngsters without family support and in the process of emancipation, through affirmative action, legal reform and awareness raising, while proposing concrete pathways for them to attain an independent life.

6. **RECOGNIZE anti-Romani discrimination as a specific form of racism** in different national and local legislations, developing reparation systems based on the historical background of discrimination against the Romani people and putting forward measures to address daily discrimination and inequality.
7. **RAISE AWARENESS** on the essence of equality of opportunity and democratic and human rights values against racist and exclusionary discourses, tapping on the role of civic engagement, social volunteering, leisure education and other third sector initiatives on the ground to advance this vision.
8. **HIGHLIGHT the role of non-profit organisations on the ground as a first line stakeholders to tackle racism**, build inclusion and combat fractures tearing society apart. They also contribute to improve social protection policies through social innovation practices and access to needs on the ground.
9. **RECOGNIZE the central role of education to combat racism**, including both formal education and non-formal / leisure education to acquire new values, a deeper collective responsibility towards other people and all life systems in our planet and to provide new opportunities to build diverse social relations.
10. **STRIVE to promote the notion of local-global citizenship as a threefold approach to inclusion**: to promote concrete access to human rights; to build more inclusive communities based on the concept of "living in a place together"; and to foster solidarity between groups and territories.