

MANIFEST
“Now more than ever, with forgotten people”
#círculosdesilencioencasa
(Circles of Silence at Home)

The situation of “State of alarm” decreed by the Spanish government in the face of the coronavirus epidemic has led to a massive lockdown of the population in homes, summarized in the hashtag *#QuédateEnCasa* (Stay at home). It has also led to a very serious economic crisis, with the opening of ERTes (Temporary labor force adjustment) in countless companies and the loss of employment for many hundreds of thousands of people. Meanwhile, infections are increasing and victims of the virus continue to multiply. Together with all of this, the pain and concern of families grows.

In these circumstances, we cannot stop raising our voices for migrants, who embody, in spite of themselves, the victims of always, also now. They have found their chances of surviving in often precarious jobs that require wandering the streets; they have taken on many of the care jobs in Spanish homes; they also face a high percentage of agricultural tasks in often very difficult conditions; they -especially women- are victims of trafficking and are forced into prostitution; Lastly, they are often imprisoned in the CIEs for committing no more crime than fleeing from wars, hunger, poverty ...

They are also not a few migrants, along with many other impoverished and marginalized, the first who cannot meet the government's requirement to seclude themselves in their homes because they live on the street or in makeshift camps next to the large farms where they work or in brothels. or in prisons or in the CIEs, or in tiny flats that they share because they cannot afford anything better, like many other people who are victims of poverty and exclusion... In short, we are talking about a part of the population, neighbors and neighbors who They cannot meet the government requirement because they have no home, because they do not have something to call home.

These days we have received with hope the news that some CIEs (in Aluche, Barcelona, Valencia ...) are “evicting” to avoid contagion from their inmates. But we are not naive: the measure is due to the claims of the human rights organizations, to the protests of the inmates and to the concern that there is a massive contagion that puts - even more so - in evidence the overcrowded conditions in which (The inmates live badly, and above all it is due to the impossibility of expelling them due to the closing of borders. In any case, the Ombudsman has asked the Government, in addition to the claim of numerous organizations and groups, the release of all immigrants from the Centers of Internment for Foreigners (CIE) of Spain. The question immediately arises as to whether the people confined there will receive options to receive themselves in decent conditions under a roof. At the moment, the government releases those who have a stable residence; for those who lack it, he says he is looking for humanitarian alternatives ... that we hope will arrive as soon as possible.

Recently, Leilani Farha, United Nations Special Rapporteur, was very clear when referring to the situation of many families and people without decent housing: “I urge states to take extraordinary measures to guarantee the right to housing so that everyone can protect yourself against the pandemic. ” And he added emphatically: “Housing has become the first line of defense against coronavirus. Having a home, now more than ever, is a life and death situation.” You cannot speak more clearly.

For all these reasons, we join many people, organizations and human rights groups and demand:

- Stop repatriations and any other measure of a judicial or administrative order that puts at risk people who, above all, must be guaranteed the necessary health protection measures. Let us also remember that the maintenance of these policies only contributes to curtailing the consultation of migrants without papers in the nearby health centers.
- Close the CIEs and offer decent housing alternatives to people who do not have stable housing; In addition, adequate health and safety conditions must be guaranteed in all shelters and accommodation for people without fixed residence who are there temporarily, while they are not offered a more suitable alternative.
- Combat and denounce xenophobic claims that seek to stigmatize migrants, especially when they come from organizations and media with evident media power.
- Explicit commitments by the political and media powers to promote positively argued information on the contributions made by the migrant and refugee population to our society, to the economic fabric through consumption and payment of taxes, to the promotion of care, to jobs in agriculture and construction, to the recovery and regeneration of the increasingly aging social fabric ...

These days, as if we were waking up to a new reality, we are more aware than ever of what is important in life: freedom of movement, to move wherever you want (flights from Spain have been restricted in many countries); the pleasure of enjoying a walk, aimlessly, just for the sake of it; the joy of meeting friends, neighbors, people around us; the wonder of the caress, the kiss, the hug; the value of care work and those who produce our food, many of them in the hands of migrants and precarious people ...

Hope arises... This crisis has revealed our fragility, our vulnerability. Perhaps now that our security has fallen, perhaps now that the welfare state is faltering, we can free ourselves from the fears that led to closing all borders to migrants and refugees. Perhaps we can now, finally, open our eyes and arms to those who come from the south looking for a better world and can help us build it.

We could end this manifesto demanding a change in immigration policies on behalf of the victims, because we have tacitly assumed that language game that leads us to distinguish between us and them, the others, those from outside. But we don't want to fall for that game. So, we are going to do it in our own name, in the name of a good part of Spanish and European society, which wants another world possible, necessary and increasingly urgent. On behalf of many people, organizations and groups; in the name of a tainted and mocked dignity; in the name of infinite shame; In name, too, because they are our fruit, our victims, who populate the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea.

A poet once wrote: "A purer day will come than the others [...]. A new glow will envelop things." A day will come purer than the others, a day in which solidarity is the daily bread of every day, a day in which there are no longer CIEs, refugees, without papers, foreigners, homeless, mistreated, exploited, and none forgotten, no one ...

That day can be today.

CírculosDeSilencioEnCasa