

# BUILDING THE REPUBLIC

SOLIDARITY WITH CATALONIA  
INTERNATIONAL MEETING

BARCELONA

16 & 17 DECEMBER

With   
Catalonia



International Meeting of Solidarity with Catalonia

“BUILD THE REPUBLIC. BREAK WITH THE REGIME OF 1978”

## CATALONIA NEEDS YOUR SOLIDARITY

On 1 October, while millions of Catalans were voting on our self determination, the Spanish government sent thousands of paramilitary police to brutally attack us. The violence against the people and, in contrast, the democratic firmness of the hundreds of thousands of people who peacefully defended their polling stations, illustrate this conflict perfectly.

The Catalan movement is diverse and plural. It is built on a strong foundation of associations, organisations and platforms with a strong progressive content that have promoted policies for the real equality of women and men and against sexual harassment; against evictions and energy poverty; against fracking; a tax on nuclear energy; the prohibition of bullfighting; the prohibition of rubber bullets ... (all these measures were overruled by the Spanish state). This year Catalonia held the biggest demonstration in all Europe in favour of welcoming refugees. The march in response to the terrible attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils this August was a clamour for peace, anti-racism and coexistence. Let no one dare to label this society as narrowly nationalist or backward-looking.

You can have different opinions about independence, but you have to respect the right of the Catalan people to decide our future. And despite the police violence that left 900 people injured, on 1 October we took a clear decision.

In the referendum on self determination of 1 October, more than two million people voted for an independent Catalan Republic, more than 90% of voters. The turnout was higher than that in the consultations on the current statute of autonomy and on the European constitution, and no one questioned the validity of those referendums. The turnout is even more impressive taking into account the repression. Of the 2,300 polling stations, some 400 were closed by police or administrative actions, thus affecting some 770,000 registered voters, whose right to vote was affected.

Furthermore, we can not ignore all those people (including some of the undersigned) who could not vote because the referendum was held under Spanish electoral law, which denies the vote on the grounds of origin, even to people who have resided in the country for a long time. Despite that, they have participated very actively in defending the right to decide of the Catalan people.

Over recent weeks and months, many people have been investigated, taken to court or even arrested because of their ideas; the Spanish paramilitary police have raided Catalan government buildings and media offices; they have closed around 150 web sites... The current state of emergency imposed in Catalonia brings back many memories of Franco's dictatorship. It is another sign of the democratic shortcomings

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suffered in the Spanish state, where justice has not yet been done for the people who disappeared under the dictatorship and where fascism enjoys a worrying impunity.

We know that the right to decide is supported by 83% of the population, although there is a diversity of opinions concerning independence. We are still one united people. We have worked and want to continue to work from below to maintain that unity in the face of attempts to divide us. This will be possible within the framework of a constituent process, in the patient work of debate and the construction of a society that can bring social progress for all. We could not do it under the suspension of democratic —and probably social— rights that the victory of repression would bring.

The Spanish state does not want to listen to us, just like it hasn't listened to us all these years, and for now the other states are supporting it. It is clear that without strong pressure from the citizenry they won't listen to our democratic demands either.

For that reason, world civil society must denounce the repression and support the right to decide of the people of Catalonia.

We call on different individuals and organisations to act, creating solidarity movements with the democratic rights of Catalonia and against repression. The struggle of the Catalan people shows that our strength lies in popular participation. Therefore, we encourage you to:

- create unitary spaces for mobilisation and pressure that encompass all the democratic and progressive forces that want to be “#WithCatalunya”;
- organise public events, street stalls and other activities to spread the truth about what is happening in Catalonia, and refute the distorted versions promoted by the most backward elements in the Spanish State and their allies;
- call demonstrations and rallies: according to your own local calendar; as part of planned international calls; or as an urgent response to any new escalation of the repression in Catalonia;
- give free reign to your imagination and spontaneity!... think of other forms of action and if they work, let us know so they can be publicised and generalised;
- look to send delegations to visit Catalonia to get to know and to accompany our struggle; we are considering the idea of convening an international meeting in Barcelona.



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It is necessary to understand, in every city and every country, what is at stake. If today we allow the repression of the right to decide, then other fundamental rights can be repressed tomorrow in any part of the world.

The struggle of Catalonia is part of the struggle for democracy and justice of the majority of people on the planet. So, please, build solidarity with Catalonia. For us, and also for you.

October 5, 2017

NOTE: This text had already been agreed when more very serious events took place; the imprisonment without bail of Jordi Cuixart and Jordi Sànchez, leaders of the two main pro independence citizens' movements and of members of the Catalan government or the application of clause 155.


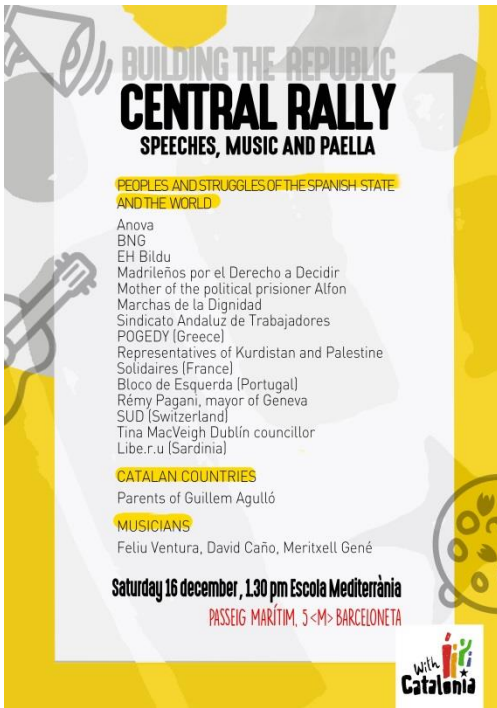
**Program of the International Meeting of Solidarity with Catalonia,**

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16 and 17 December 2017

16 December	
<p><b>12.30</b> <b>WELCOME</b></p>	<p>Meeting point for solidarity movements: corner of C/Almirall Cervera and Passeig de Borbó</p> <p>Meeting point for CDRs: corner of C/Andrea Dòria and Passeig Marítim</p> 
<p><b>13.30</b></p>	

**“BUILD THE REPUBLIC. BREAK WITH THE REGIME OF 1978”**

<p>17.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BUILD THE REPUBLIC BREAK WITH THE REGIME OF 1978</b></p> <p><b>Working Group on the struggle against fascism: Over recent weeks we have seen an alarming increase in the number of fascist assaults that have had an absolute impunity. We know that fascism has been growing in Europe in the last years; in Catalonia it had been considerably weakened. The repressive actions of the Spanish State have allowed the far-right to re-emerge on the streets in the towns and cities of Catalonia. In this session we want to talk about how we can put a stop to fascism collectively in Catalonia and in the rest of the world.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The current growth of fascism, racism and Islamophobia</b>  <b>Mavi (mother of Carlos Palomino), parents of Guillem Agulló, Mireia Suero (antifascist activist), Kadijatu Dem (activist against Islamophobia) and Eva Pous (Absolució Encausades 12 OCT, Alerta Solidària)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The united struggle against fascism and racism</b>  <b>Núria Bosch (activist in UCFR), Jorge Mancebo Navalón (Crida Contra el Racisme, País Valencià) and Hector Puente Sierra (Stand Up to Racism, England)</b></p>
	<p><b>Working Group on repression and political prisoners: Repression has been the answer given by the Spanish State to Catalan people’s wish to decide our own future. The brutality of the police on 1 October, the cancellation of autonomy using Article 155, the imprisonment of Jordi Cuixart and Jordi Sánchez and of half the Catalan Government, and the exile of the rest are the main examples. Repression as an answer to political dissidence is nothing new in the Spanish State: the conflict in the Basque Country was met by exceptional measures, while imprisonment for political reasons is still a reality within and beyond the Catalan case. The cases of the Altsasu youth, Andrés Bódalo or Alfonso Fernández Ortega are some of the cases of imprisonment for political reasons. In this session we want to talk about repression and political dissidence, and how we can face up to the Spanish state’s repression.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The situation of repression in Catalonia</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jesús Rodriguez (journalist, La Directa), Mireia Bazaga (member of CGT), Mireia Vehí (MP for CUP-CC) and Marta Bolinches (member of Irídia and Som Defensores)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Political prisoners and strategies against repression</b>  <b>Mare Alfon (Madres contra la represión), Néstor Salvador (SAT) and person to be confirmed (Òmnium Cultural)</b></p> <p><b>Participating: Arran, Desmontaje 4F, Elgio de la Insurgencia, Rescat, Reraguarda, Xarxa Anti-repressió de familiars de detingudes and a person repressed in the case of Aturem el parlament.</b></p> <p><b>Working Group on Feminism and LGTBI: The long history of the feminist and LGTBI movement in Catalonia and the impetus of feminism following the indignados movement have confirmed the importance of their proposals and ideas in building a society free of oppression and domination. The building of</b></p>

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the new Republic will most certainly need feminist strategies to put caring work at the centre, i.e., people and our vulnerabilities. Furthermore, this working group is even more important given the context of a Spanish judicial system full of sexist prejudices, which even now remains incapable of offering justice in the face of gender violence, and which is now applying the concept of hate crimes — established to protect vulnerable excluded minorities such as trans people — to punish political ideas. In this working group we want to talk about the main feminist contributions to think through a new society and we also want to debate how to confront the hetero-patriarchal offensive being pushed by some sectors of the State in complicity with some conservative sectors of civil society.

**Republic: feminism and LGTBI**

**Maria Palomares (DonesXdones), Carme Riu Pascual (Dones No Estàndards), Roser Ros Riu (Dones ANC), Betlem Cañizar Bel (feminist activist in CDR Rubí) and Eugeni Rodríguez (FAGC)**

**Participating: Calala Fondo de Mujeres, Ca la Dona, DonesXDones, Feministes per la Independència and Women in Black**

**Working Group on Labour and Social Rights: The economic crisis in Southern Europe has meant a series of cuts in social services and a series of labour reforms that have greatly impoverished our living conditions. The construction of a new Republic forces us to think on how we can create societies where equality in social and labour rights may become a reality. Within the context of the Catalan conflict, several companies, such as CaixaBank, Gas Natural, Abertis, Banc de Sabadell, Catalana de Occidente, Applus, and many others have transferred their headquarters out of Catalonia. The Spanish state has made threats, arguing that instability harms these companies’ economic activities and those of Catalonia in general. The long Catalan history of alternative trade unionism, of cooperatives, experiences in the municipalisation of public services, alternatives such as public banks must allow us to think about whether it is possible to build a Republic based on a social and cooperative economy that may put into question the need for these huge companies to continue to exist.**

**Republic and workers’ rights  
Natxo Parra (Col.lectiu Ronda)**

**Republic and a social economy with solidarity  
Ivan Miró (cooperative activist, Ciutat Invisible) and Alfons Pérez (OdG),**

**Republic and social rights  
Eva Fernández (ex president FAVB)**

**Rights of migrants: Republic for all  
Sílvia Granato and Solange Gilbert (IACTA).**

**Participating: CIG, Confederación Intersindical, COBAS, CUT Aragon, CUT Galiza, LAB, Intersindical Valenciana, IAC, Marchas de la Dignidad, POGEDY Grècia, Riders x Derechos, SAT, Sodepau, Solidaires France, SUD Switzerland, STEI-Intersindical Illes Balears and Papers per tothom.**

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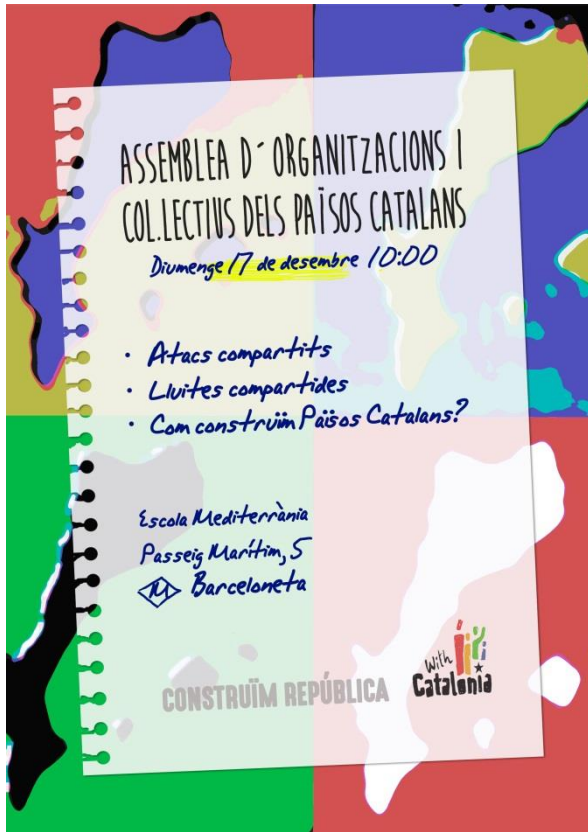
	<p><b>Working Group on Education: The education community in Catalonia, the Balearic and Pitiuses Islands and Valencia are suffering unjustifiable acts of repression by the Spanish state. The campaign of criminalisation of the teachers who have been accused of indoctrinating their pupils, and the ongoing attack on the model of linguistic immersion are putting at risk a Catalan educational model committed to equal opportunity and to the democratic values of solidarity, peace, equality and a critical spirit. To this attack by the Spanish State we must add the insufficient funding of the public Catalan school system as a result of cuts and neo-liberal policies. In this session we want to discuss how to confront this attack that the educational community of Catalonia and the Catalan countries are suffering and we want to talk about what educational model is needed today to build just and equal societies.</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of workshop. Welcome. Introduction</b>  <b>Catalan education; a target of 155. In the context of deepening the LOMCE and the LEC and the cuts in public education.</b>  <b>Denunciations for "segregation", "incitement to hatred" and "indoctrination": the offensive to break coexistence in schools and introduce fear:</b>  <b>Liquidating Catalan schools, with what objectives?:</b>  <b>Liquidating linguistic immersion?</b>  <b>Towards a unified history of Spain?</b>  <b>Indoctrination versus educating in a critical spirit?</b></p> <p><b>The attack on Catalan schools: 155 in education: what are its aims?</b>  <b>Has it come to stay?</b>  <b>Speakers:</b>  <b>Teachers from denounced schools in Sant Andreu de la Barca. Anna Morelló and Ramon Font (USTEC)</b>  <b>Institutional indoctrination: PRODERAI, EFEC, Religion, etc. Pedro Mercadé (CGT) Maria Payeras of SEPC and members of Moviments de Renovació Pedagògica</b></p> <p><b>Schools as a space for social cohesion and popular organisation</b>  <b>Speakers:</b>  <b>Experiences of self-organization on 1 October: parents association of the Escola Mediterrània and from the Centre de Formació de persones d'Adultes Freire Assembla grega. Meeting areas of educational community. Lucía Rivas</b>  <b>Student movement: faculty assemblies and university CDRs. Marina Morante</b>  <b>The experience of the strike against TIL in the Balearic Islands. Manel Domènech</b>  <b>Escola Arrels Catalunya Nord. Elena Gual</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions: building solidarity with Catalan schools</b>  <b>Proposals and elaboration of manifesto with proposals of solidarity</b></p>
	<p><b>Working group on Media: The Catalan public media have suffered unjustifiable attacks in the context of repression by the Spanish state. They have been constantly accused of manipulation and lack of neutrality. When Article 155 was applied by the Spanish Government with the support of some opposition parties, they included the possibility of direct control of TV3, Catalunya Ràdio and ACN. They were considering a direct unprecedented attack on freedom of expression and information in a democracy. It is not the first time that the Spanish state has intervened or even shut down media. In this session we want to talk about the attacks suffered by Catalan media and we want to discuss how to improve the articulation and coordination of the different media so as to confront the offensive against them.</b></p> <p><b>Catalan media— and its workers —</b>  <b>and the building of the Republic</b></p>



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	<p><b>Laia Altarriba (La Jornada), Gemma Garcia (La Directa), Laura Aznar (Crític), Metromuster, Cristina Mas (works committee, Ara), Roc Martínez (TV3 works committee) and Albert Nogué (Radio Arrels)</b></p> <p><b>Alternative media in the Spanish State: breaking the hegemony of the regime of 1978?</b></p> <p><b>Rebeca Romero (Sermos Galiza), Beñat Zaldúa (Gara) and Ter García (El Salto)</b></p>
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<p>10:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOW DO WE ORGANIZE SOLIDARITY WITH CATALONIA?</b></p> <p><b>Working group on international solidarity:</b> In this group we aim to involve people from all over Europe, the Mediterranean and the world so as to be able to organise and coordinate solidarity with Catalonia. At the same time, we want to make it possible for these networks of coordination to deal with conflicts in other places in the future, as and when the need for solidarity appears.</p> <p><b>Working group on peoples within the Spanish state:</b> In this group we aim to involve peoples and nations within the Spanish state so as to be able to organise and coordinate solidarity with Catalonia. At the same time, we want to make it possible for these networks of coordination to be ongoing so that they may help confront anti-democratic actions that may be undertaken by the Spanish state at any given moment anywhere.</p>
<p>10.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ASSEMBLY OF GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS OF THE CATALAN COUNTRIES</b></p> <div data-bbox="571 1048 1161 1877" data-label="Image">  </div>
<p>12.30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOOD-BYE</b></p>