

Statement of Women for the Republic in relation to the Supreme Court verdict

No court verdict has ever been able to limit the yearning for freedom of a nation or a social movement that has peacefully risen up to demand the recognition of its rights. Neither will it do so now. *Dones per la República* (Women for the Republic), a cross-sectional and pluralistic space of the independence movement, does not grant legitimacy to a verdict that, by condemning social and political leaders, seeks to condemn all of us. By violating their rights of freedom of expression, of assembly, of demonstration, and of active suffrage, the rights of all citizens have been infringed upon, not only in Catalonia but also in the rest of Spain. Conducting a parliamentary debate, enabling citizens to exercise their inalienable right to decide their future through the ballot box or taking demands to the streets are not crimes.

This verdict certifies not only the absolute bankruptcy of the rule of law in Spain but also demonstrates the latter's inability to offer any solution other than indiscriminate political repression. We will not give up nor will we leave them alone. Their freedom is ours and our freedom is theirs. As Emma Goldman, an anarchist and feminist freethinker said, "We have only as much liberty as we have the intelligence to want and the courage to take".

This verdict and those that will come – against politicians, social leaders, political party leaders, activists, academics and citizens – constitute a general move against a legitimate political option. Consequently, we will fight them inside and outside the borders of the Spanish State by appealing to the following two international agreements: the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (the right to civil disobedience and peaceful resistance against oppression) and the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the right to self-determination of all peoples).

Stating our unconditional and absolute solidarity towards all the unjustly repressed persons, we vindicate today the female political prisoners and exiles, as we have done throughout the last two years, especially the Speaker of the Parliament of Catalonia, Carme Forcadell and the regional minister, Dolors Bassa along with the regional minister Meritxell Borràs, the Members of Parliament Marta Rovira and Anna Gabriel, and the regional ministers Meritxell Serret and Clara Ponsatí. We also vindicate all other women accused and awaiting trial. This is because we stand up against the social, political and media inertia of patriarchal societies that make them invisible, that make us all invisible. Because, as women, and especially as feminists, we are heirs to a history that has taught us that rights are not granted, but earned. And because, in the new republic we want to build, the freedom of women must be inextricably linked to the freedom of Catalonia as a whole, as Carme, Dolors, Meritxell, Marta, Anna, Meritxell and Clara continue to vindicate from within prison and exile.

No Woman Forgotten.

14 October 2019

Dones per la República

Associació Afectats 1 d'Octubre. Augusta 1 d'Octubre. CDR Galvany. Comissió de la Dignitat. CUP. Demòcrates de Catalunya. Dones Assemblea Nacional Catalana. Dones No Estàndards. Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya. Feministes per la Independència. Intersindical-CSC. Junts per Catalunya. Òmnium Cultural. PDeCat. Poble Lliure. Socialisme per Catalunya. Súmate. TeatRe amb R. USTEC