

FOR THE MAINSTREAMING OF AN INTERCULTURAL VISION

Immigration is not a new phenomenon. Over the past century, Catalonia has continuously received immigrants from all over Spain, and over the last few decades it has also taken in immigrants from all over the world. Emigration positively influences population growth, the enrichment and cultural evolution of society and the economic and social progress of the country. However, when we talk about human migration it is important that we do not forget its economic, political and social causes. We must also expose the human rights violations immigrants may have experienced in their countries of origin, and any they might experience in their adoptive country.

By working towards peaceful coexistence and fighting for equal rights for all, many different sectors of society do their part to help destroy the stereotypes cast upon immigrants, to prevent the creation of ghettos and to bring an end to all of the discrimination and violence that individuals who are not part of the dominant culture might experience.

With all of this we promote interculturality, which aims to recognize our differences and not to hide them beneath the dominant culture. Interculturality seeks to develop a means of coexistence with relationships based on the principles of equality, diversity, and positive interaction, where different cultural groups are on the same footing.



At CNJC, we have been working to promote interculturality for years. The CNJC has approved two motions opposing racism so far: "We, the Catalan youth associations, reject fascism and racism" passed by the Executive Committee on November 15, 2014, and "We applaud the defeat of the far right and racism in our city councils" approved by the Executive Committee in June of 2015. The CNJC was also part of the Permanent Commission of the Taula Ciutadania i Immigració (Citizenship and Immigration Council), and in 2015 we created a specific department to address these issues. This department has worked on different initiatives, such as our participation as a network in the *Pacte Nacional per l'Immigració de Catalunya* (Catalan National Pact on Immigration), in the *Pla Integral del Poble Gitano* (Comprehensive Plan for the Romani People), and in the Unitat Contra el Feixisme i el Racisme (Unity Against Fascism and Racism) and SOS Racisme alliances. We have also worked continuously to expand our network of organizations and to incorporate those that work to promote interculturality. In addition, we feel that it is essential that we educate our youth on interculturality and we therefore offer (among other occasional educational initiatives) the Mirades Creuades I course and, since 2016, Mirades Creuades II, where we work on bringing together the issues of gender equality and interculturality.

In spite of openly declaring such intentions, the current reality of the CNJC is quite distant from the intercultural model it defends. The makeup of the CNJC is not very culturally diverse, and as a result it is somewhat difficult for us to be recognized as one of the entities defending the rights of immigrants and minority cultures.

As for the member organizations of the CNJC, they have different levels of familiarity with interculturality and as a result, they incorporate an intercultural point of view into their activities to varying degrees.



Under these circumstances, the CNJC feels it is necessary to reach an agreement with all of our member organizations on how we view interculturality. This is the first step in order to ensure that interculturality is present in all we and our member organizations do. We would also like to represent all youth organizations equally, so that we have the legitimacy and collective strength to influence different institutions, and therefore to fight institutional and structural discrimination.

As a result, the CNJC asks that our country's organizations agree to the following:

- To defend the role of youth organizations as promoters of inclusive values and equality, and as spaces for cohesion and inclusive participation.
- To work as agents of change and raise awareness in order to universalize an intercultural vision and promote it among young people.
- Encourage education and debate on interculturality; identify areas for improvement and changes needed to achieve a truly intercultural society.

At CNJC we promise to:

- Participate in parliamentary and institutional actions to promote interculturality.
- Create our own resources by working as a network with specialized organizations and the member organizations of the CNJC in order to raise awareness among young people.



- Create a stable network with different organizations so that we can build a more intercultural CNJC.
- Denounce institutional and structural racism and xenophobia.

We encourage the administration and social actors to:

- Incorporate an intercultural perspective in all of their public policies.
- Elaborate the 2017-2020 Pla de Ciutadania i de les Migracions (Plan for Citizenship and Migrations) in a participatory manner and with an intercultural perspective.
- Provide resources for social projects (especially youth projects) that promote interculturality and fight racism and xenophobia.
- Include and guarantee an intercultural perspective in the training given to professionals and agents involved in managing public policy, direct care, education, etc. to help them manage their tasks.
- Promote actions to raise awareness in favour of interculturality and to combat racist and xenophobic stereotypes with the involvement of the media.
- Strengthen networks involving organizations, entities, NGOs and public services to encourage and coordinate their work promoting interculturality.

Position paper adopted at the 39th Ordinary General Assembly CNJC

