

MANIFESTO, oct 27 , 2022

It has been 30 years since the homeless people's Campaign began. 30 years of pursuing a dream: that no one is homeless.

No, it is not easy to lead a full life. In order to live a life of solidarity, dignity and equality, you have to be able to have some sustainable way of earning a livelihood. You have to feel part of a collectivity, of a community that embraces and protects you. You must be aware that you have the same rights as everyone else; know that a roof over your head is not an impossible goal, nor a shelter where danger and helplessness lurk. A roof should be a home: a space of individual freedom where no one bothers us; where we achieve peace. A home is the refuge where we dream, laugh, cry, cook, read, clean ourselves and where we keep our memories. In a home we are ourselves. Free. Together with our family and people around us.

Sometimes there are too many barriers in life. All it takes is a stroke of bad luck, a loss, a misfortune, a setback, an illness, a wrong decision, or a low point in life, so human, for us, the homeless, to find ourselves displaced, excluded, unprotected, out of coverage.

To be homeless is to risk your life out in the open. To live without affection. Seeing time go by without opportunities to get ahead. As if you were not human... But everyone has the same rights, regardless of nationality, sex, place of residence, colour, language, religion or any other condition. And all authorities have the obligation and responsibility to promote and guarantee people's human rights. Without discrimination of any kind.

No person should be left to their own misfortune. Sleeping rough is a failure of the entire society. We all need something from each other. A net to protect us and prevent us from falling off the cliff into which this life can become for the most vulnerable. Because we still have so much to offer. Intelligence to value, determination to work, feelings to share and the best will to collaborate and help in community.

Is society aware of homelessness? Is it necessary to improve the current socio-economic model? Collapsed asylum systems, shortage of public housing and social services, endless waiting lists in shelters, bureaucratic labyrinths to get an appointment at the Social Security or any other administrative office... Does nobody hear our desperate cry? We want everyone to know our reality. School textbooks should include several pages to raise awareness of this dramatic situation in which many excluded people live. Because we are among you, we walk beside you, sometimes we sit around the corner, in your own street, under the arcades. No. We cannot settle for a situation of daily injustice. No. We must not resign ourselves, nor look the other way when so many people are left without social protection, without food. Without clothing, a decent job or a minimum guaranteed health.

We want to stop being invisible. We want no one to turn their back on us or reject us. Because there are more and more of us who are homeless. People who are falling by the wayside of social normality, of the right to housing, to decent employment. The time to change the statistics has come, because at least 700,000 of us are sleeping on the

streets or in temporary shelters in the European Union, which represents an increase of a 70% in the last 10 years. Men, women, young people, immigrants, people with mental and physical health problems, individuals who have just served a court sentence, women victims of gender-based violence, evicted families... We are all part of the same risk of vulnerability. Without a home, we are condemned to live with invisible chains.

Let us build a fairer world. More humane. More universal. A world that highlights the senselessness of homelessness. A world where empathy prevails, where we are embraced, or accompanied by others. Where we can build new family and social ties. Without rejection. Without hatred. With hope. Only in this way will we be able to create an immense network of inclusion, solidarity, protection, encounter and celebration.

That society does not allow us to be left out of coverage at any time.

NO ONE HOMELESS!