



Homeless people day manifesto. Madrid, 26 oct. 2023

This year, 2023, homeless people are still OUT OF COVERAGE. One more year, we ask the Administrations and Public Powers to guarantee the rights of all people with a real commitment to them. We ask that the **human right to housing** be a political priority, for which public institutions and services should tirelessly advocate.

When there is no housing, there is no **right to water**, to personal **hygiene**, to **safety**, to **feeding**, to the **use of technologies**, to **have a guidance for the procedures**. Neither to **physical and mental health**. That's the domino effect.

It violates the **right to register**, necessary to access the rights system. When there is no housing, not only do people eat poorly, but they stop buying groceries to cook, they lose more and more autonomy and the situation becomes even more chronic. We do not want that dependence; we want to lead a normal life, so we can work. We ask for job opportunities that allow us stability. We ask that bureaucracy be streamlined, that we are guided and informed about the procedures in an affordable and organized way. For people on the streets, every day counts; Every day, our situation, if it does not improve, becomes more serious. We don't want one more night on the street.

We want more humane treatment from the administration, that we are not discriminated against based on age, origin, being dependent, being sick, being refugees or seeking asylum in this country. We want to be informed, to be guided, and not to have all the options closed to us in this fight to live safely.

Public space has to be truly PUBLIC; a meeting place and not structures of hate and rejection of the community, which make our lives even more difficult. Individual benches, wires and ramps eject without solution. Where is dignity?

We ask society to broaden their perspective and put itself in the place of people who live in a different situation. Beyond difficult circumstances, people have a past and deserve a dignified future. We ask for respect and good treatment: no more theft, violence, situations of abuse and looks of rejection. We ask police authorities to be aware of providing more protection to the citizens, regardless of the country they come from, and to do their job of bringing more safety to the streets of Madrid and throughout Spain. We want safety. Especially for all the women who are on the street. There are women who end up on the streets fleeing sexist violence. Many of us suffer this violence while on the street and we have to share spaces and resources with our aggressors, and this becomes another barrier to asking for help.

We want safe spaces, free of violence against women. For this reason, this year we make special mention of the Violet Point provided by the entities on this day, with the aim of informing and raising awareness, but above all of listening, accompanying and advising in a specialized way, and offering protection, to any of us who feel vulnerable or victim of a sexist action. We denounce the double invisibility that homeless women suffer, and we denounce the violence that we suffer every day on the streets.

We want a society that prioritizes the human right to housing and that is truly committed. Thanks to new technologies and globalization we are more connected than ever virtually, but we forget the real connections, those one to one, the connections with your neighborhood, with your neighbors, with your relatives, with the people we see. on the streets....

People who are or have been homeless are normal people like you, but with a series of much greater and more complex difficulties, which are what have led us to this situation. Therefore, we are here to request the attention of citizens; your attention. We do not want to stop being part of the community, sharing the social network, of affection, of care, of participation. I would like you to look at me when you pass me on the streets. We want to be acknowledged, to be called by our name, and to know that no two people are the same. My situation, experiences and problems are my own. But I can't carry them alone. I can't do it alone.

From here, as well, we want to tell the people who are now homeless that they have to dare to fight, that they should know that they are not invisible. We know that no one is on the streets on their own free will. We want to tell you that we do share our network. You're not alone! You are not alone!