# BARCELONA, 14 - 16 NOV. 2025 UNSILENCE FOR ROW CONTROL BARCELONA, 14 - 16 NOV. 2025 CONTROL BARCELONA, 16 NOV. 2025 CO

A EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MEETING FOR PEACE,
JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM

### **PROVISIONAL**

### PROGRAM

#### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

EuroMed Rights (EMR) + International Peace Bureau (IPB) + International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) + European Civic Forum (ECF) + Transnational Institute (TNI) + Solidar + ARCI + Un Ponte Per (UPP) + Ligue des droits de l'Homme (LDH) + Western Sahara is not for sale (WSNS) + Stop ReArm Europe + transform! europe + Institut Novact de Noviolència (NOVACT)

#### WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

Ajuntament de Barcelona + Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament + Ministerio de Cultura



Authoritarianism, war, genocide, and systemic oppression in Europe and the Mediterranean thrive on silence. The complicity of indifference and the invisibilization of injustice allow impunity to grow stronger. Today, more than ever, we need a common and collective voice — a voice that breaks the silence.

In moments like this, silence is not neutrality:

## IT IS A FORM OF COMPLICITY. IT IS TIME TO THINK, CREATE, AND RESIST.



## THIRTY YEARS AGO, FROM BARCELONA, WE DREAMED TOGETHER

The Barcelona Process sought to make Europe look once again toward the Mediterranean, to build bridges and imagine shared paths.

## BUT THAT FUTURE, FULL OF POSSIBILITIES, HAS COLLIDED WITH A HARSH PRESENT

More than a thousand kilometers of walls have been raised around Europe.

The Mediterranean has become a cemetery of bodies —
people who tried to escape war and poverty.

The business of war grows alongside that of security and borders.

Land occupations expel families.

Dictatorships are becoming an acceptable option,
while genocides are broadcast live.

Complicity with barbarism has become structural.
It seems impossible to escape it.

## POR ESO, NOS CONVOCAMOS AL UNSILENCE FORUM.

A necessary and urgent meeting point for the silenced and persecuted civil society of the entire Mediterranean.

Because, despite everything, we are united by a conviction — that yes, there is still hope.

And that hope, as always, lies in an organized and mobilized citizenry.

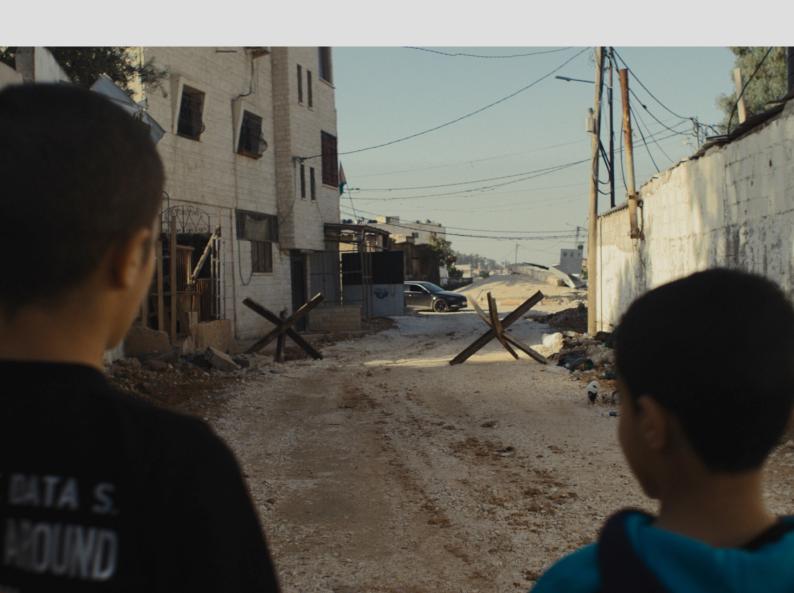
This is not an event - it is a call to action:

TO BREAK HEGEMONIES.
TO RECLAIM HOPE.
TO BREAK THE SILENCE.

**UNSILENCE Forum** is a call to reclaim voice, responsibility, and collective power in times of genocide, environmental crisis, and authoritarianism.

Bringing together diverse voices committed to justice, peace, feminism, and environmental protection, the UNSILENCE Forum aspires to amplify silenced perspectives, to challenge dominant narratives, and to question the rhetoric that promotes total militarization without debate or justification—at the expense of social welfare, environmental sustainability, and at the risk of fueling or aggravating conflicts. It also seeks to inspire coordinated actions across movements and borders. It is a space not only for resistance but for reimagining the Euro-Mediterranean as a region rooted in solidarity, dignity, peace, democracy, and mutual care.

As we UNSILENCE ourselves and each other—and as we make silence heard—we reaffirm our collective power to act. As Hannah Arendt warned, the abdication of judgment and responsibility allows the worst crimes to be carried out in plain sight. With unity and determination, the UNSILENCE Forum will raise a voice for the many.



# BARCELONA, NOVEMBER 2025: A PIVOTAL MINISTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

In November 2025, the **UNSILENCE Forum** will convene in Barcelona at a critical time marked by profound geopolitical and historical significance. The ongoing war and genocide in Gaza have exposed the collapse of international law and the fragility of a narrative that confuses a ceasefire with genuine peace. Occupation, apartheid, and impunity persist, while militarism and authoritarianism advance across the region.

This November marks the 50th anniversary of Morocco's occupation of Western Sahara—a territory whose unresolved status continues to symbolize the failure of the international system to uphold self-determination and international law. It also marks the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognizes the essential role of women in peacebuilding and the defense of human rights.

Finally, November coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process—an initiative launched to promote peace and cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean region. Reflecting on its legacy, it is

clear that, despite its initial promises, the region has instead witnessed increased militarized security, border externalization, and a shrinking space for civil society—a trend likely to be reinforced by the upcoming Pact for the Mediterranean, expected in October 2025.

Amid these developments, the alarming rise of farright populist authoritarianism across Europe, the West, and beyond threatens the very foundations of democracy. These movements, driven by antidemocratic ideologies, are advancing agendas that erode human rights, incite xenophobia, and normalize exclusionary politics.

Against this backdrop of historical reckoning and contemporary urgency, the **UNSILENCE Forum** seeks to provide a platform for civil society organizations, activists, and thinkers to engage in critical dialogue, share experiences, and develop strategies for collective action to confront the interconnected threats of genocide, militarization, authoritarianism, and systemic injustice.

## OBJECTIVES OF

The UNSILENCE Forum 2025 brings together voices from across the Mediterranean to build shared strategies for justice and peace around four core objectives:

- Foster collective reflection on the current rise of authoritarianism, the erosion of democratic values, and the global rollback of human rights—civil, political, economic, social, cultural, digital, environmental, and gender-based rights.
- 2. Create spaces for dialogue and exchange among activists, organizations, and professionals from the Euro-Mediterranean region to share experiences, build alliances and common actions, and amplify alternative narratives rooted in peace, justice, and dignity.

- 3. Stimulate collective imagination to envision viable alternatives to militarism, extractivism, and border regimes—through artistic, political, and social tools that inspire hope and action.
- 4. Reframe dominant narratives by challenging fear-based, securitarian, and militaristic discourses, and by promoting new imaginaries grounded in solidarity, care, interdependence, and the commons—placing ecological, feminist, and decolonial perspectives at the center of how we understand power, resistance, and our radical needs.

# THE UNSILENCE

#### **Logistical Information:**

- The central venue of the UNSILENCE Forum will be the headquarters of Comisiones Obreras in Barcelona (Via Laietana 16), with some sessions and activities held in nearby cultural and social spaces.
- Main roundtables will offer interpretation services in English, Arabic, Spanish, and Catalan. Parallel sessions and workshops will be conducted in English.
  - Participation is free but subject to prior registration and limited capacity.

## FORUM 2025



## **14/11 15/11**

#### 18 h.

CCOO Barcelona headquarters

#### Poetry recital

Palestinian poet **Mohammed Bitari** 

Catalan poet Mireia Calafell

#### **Opening Speech**

With the International Organising Committee and the participation of Belén López Sánchez, General Secretary of CCOO of Catalonia.

#### 18:30 h.

CCOO Barcelona headquarters

Conference: Journalists in the crosshairs: the price of documenting Israel's crimes in the genocide in Gaza

· Youmna El Sayed (Al Jazeera), Wael Al Dahdouh (Al Jazeera)

#### Roundtable: Democracy, peace and social justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region in times of genocide, colonialism and authoritarianism

- · Lurdes Vidal, professor of Mediterranean, Arab and Islamic Studies at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) and at Blanquerna-URL. Member of the Board of Directors of the NGO NOVACT.
- · Layla Hzaineh, Palestinian activist and coordinator of The Hague Group and Progressive International.
- · Shawan Jabarin, director of Al-Haq, former vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Palestinian human rights activist.
- · Asria Taleb Mohamed, Sahrawi refugee and human rights defender at the Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara.
- · Raouf Farrah, senior analyst at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

(GI-TOC), specialised in migration and criminal economies in North Africa and the Sahel. Activist in the Algerian Hirak movement.

#### 10 - 12 h.

#### Plenary session:

#### Rearmament, militarism and the multiple meanings of peace

CCOO Barcelona headquarters

- · Sean Conner, executive director of the International Peace Bureau (IPB), Nobel Peace Prize in 1910.
- · Raffaella Bolini, peace activist, member of ARCI's national committee (Italy) and of the Stop Rearm Europe campaign. Co-president of the European Civic Forum (ECF).
- · Laëtitia Sédou, project manager at the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT).
- · Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, founder and executive director of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), and global reference on women, peace and security.
- · Moderator: Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau.

#### 12 - 14 h.

#### Parallel session: **UNSILENCE PALESTINE.** Freedom of expression inside and outside **Palestine**

#### CCOO Barcelona headquarters Organised by: EuroMed Rights

- · Community Media Development Center (CDMC). NGO in the Gaza Strip working to empower marginalised groups by amplifying their voices in the media sphere
- · Adalah. The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel.
- · Nadim Nashif, digital rights defender and director-general of the organisation 7amleh.

- · Nadim Nashif, defensor de derechos digitales y director general de la organización 7amleh.
- · Diana Alzeer, head of strategic outreach and communications at Al-Haq and vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

#### 12 - 14 h.

#### Parallel session: Resisting occupation and war. Community strategies of civil disobedience

#### CCOO Barcelona headquarters Organised by: ACAPS and **NOVACT**

- · Issam H. Younis, Palestinian refugee and director-general of the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza. Former commissioner-general of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR).
- · Mina Baali, human rights defender from the Occupied Territories of Western Sahara, member of the Sahrawi Instance against the Moroccan Occupation (ISACOM) and victim of enforced disappearance.
- · Victoria Demchko, Ukrainian activist against Russian occupation.

#### 12 - 14 h.

#### Parallel session: Disinformation: a fundamental basis of authoritarianism

#### CCOO Barcelona headquarters Organised by: NOVACT

- · Inès Abdel Razek. Executive director of the Palestinian Institute for Public Diplomacy (PIPD) and its digital platform Rabet, focused on international mobilisation and digital campaigning for justice, freedom and equality.
- · Zyna Mejri. Founder of the anti-disinformation platform Falso.

**16/11** 

· Bernat Aragó. NOVACT project officer on supporting human rights defenders.

#### 12 - 14 h.

Parallel session: The rollback of civic space and the precarious situation of civil rights in Iraq and Syria

CCOO Barcelona headquarters Organised by: Un Ponte Per ETS (UPP) and Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI)

- · Hussain Deyab, Iraqi activist and photographer, collaborator with the MASAHA coalition, an open and permanent working group within the Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI) to counter the shrinking civic space in Iraq.
- · Inas Jabbar Neamah, women's rights activist and founder of the 188 Alliance, an Iraqi coalition of representatives from the women's movement, mothers, civil society organisations and political forces.
- · Hogar Hassan, security officer at Un Ponte Per ETS (UPP) in northern and eastern Syria.

#### 16 – 17.30 h.

Session: 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Diverse women's voices and experiences in the face of militarisation and co-optation

Ca la Dona (c/ Ripoll, 25, Ciutat Vella, Barcelona) Organised by: International

Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

- · Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini. Founder and executive director of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and a globally recognised advocate on women, peace and security.
- · Lucy Talgieh, leading figure at the Palestinian Wi'am Center for Conflict Transformation, deputy mayor of Bethlehem and member

of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network.

- · Maria Villellas, president of the Spanish section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).
- · Amel Arbaoui. President of the Joussour Citizens' Association of Tunisia.

#### 16 - 17.30

Working space: How to generate an unstoppable wave of opposition to rearmament and sthe Stop Rearm Europe campaign

CCOO Barcelona headquarters Organised by: Stop Rearm Europe and associated organisations

#### 16 - 17<sub>-</sub>30 h<sub>-</sub>

Parallel session: The right to boycott and to civil disobedience in support of **Palestine** 

CCOO Barcelona headquarters

- · Fiona Ben Chekroun, Europe coordinator of the Palestinian National Committee for BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions).
- · Diana Alzeer, head of strategic outreach and communications at Al-Haq and vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).
- · Representatives of CALP, an autonomous collective of Italian dockworkers known for blocking shipments of Israeli weapons.
- · Coalition Stop Complicity with Israel.

#### 10 - 12 h

**Roundtable: Defending** democracy and civic space in the Euro-Mediterranean region in the face of the global rise of authoritarianism

CCOO Barcelona headquarters

- · Jan Robert Suesser, activist with the French League for Human Rights and vicepresident of the European Civic Forum.
- · Monia Ben Jemia, president of EuroMed Rights, law professor and Tunisian women's rights activist.
- · Abdulaziz Ramadan, Kurdish refugee in Germany, repressed by the Al Assad regime and founder of the NGO DOZ.

#### 12 - 14 h.

#### Closing session

Location: to be confirmed

Joint declaration on the situation in the Mediterranean by the International Committee

#### Panel: Arts and culture against genocide and occupation

- · Bill Shipsey, activist and founder of Art for Human Rights (Amnesty International's global artists programme)
- · Palestinian Performing Arts Network, a federation of thirteen Palestinian performing arts institutions (circus, dance, music, theatre).

#### **Closing Speech**

With the International Organising Committee and the participation of Cristina Faciaben Lacorte, Federal Secretary for International Affairs and Cooperation of CCOO.



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ACT X







