

BARCELONA, 14 – 16 NOV. 2025

UNSILENCE

FORUM

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

PROVISIONAL

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)

PROGRAM

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 MOMENT

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 far-right populist authoritarianism across Europe, the West, and beyond threatens the very foundations of democracy. These movements, driven by anti-democratic 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:

1. 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

- 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 Jousour Citizens' Association of Tunisia.

16 – 17.30

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

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

16 – 17.30 h.

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 vice-president 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 Faciabén Lacorte, Federal Secretary for International Affairs and Cooperation of CCOO.

PROGRAM

FROM 14 TO 16 NOV. 2025

UNSILENCE

actxpalestine.com/unsilenceforum

FORUM

ACT X

NovACT
Noviolència
Nonviolence
اللاعنف



Agència Catalana
de Cooperació
al Desenvolupament



Ajuntament de
Barcelona



MINISTERIO
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