



Petitions to the public institutions on behalf of the 300 students who took part in the project 'Strengthening Rights!'

La Conreria, Tiana (Barcelona) 4th April 2018

We, as students in the following schools: Joan Pelegrí in Barcelona, Sant Jaume-Les Heures in Lleida, Lloret de Mar School in Lloret de Mar, Pius Font i Quer in Manresa and Pia School, and Montsacapa, both in Olot, have been working on the causes of the current "refugee crisis" during the school year 2017-18.

To complete our project we are making some petitions to the different administrations that represent us in order to improve the situation of refugees and prevent anybody, from ever fleeing their home.

Thus, we ask politicians:

- . To take the issue of refugees seriously and give it the importance that it deserves.
- . To help in the development of poor countries with training programs and ideas, so that they can develop economically and therefore cease being dependant on rich countries.
- . To help improve healthcare worldwide to prevent avoidable deaths.
- . To invest in education for children and young people (in compliance with article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) because we are convinced that education is the most powerful tool to transform and change the world for the better.
- .To foster respect, help and collaboration among all countries.
- .To work seriously on building up the pillars of peace to eradicate conflicts and thus, prevent people from being forced to flee their homes and lose their families, their dignity and even their lives.

We also require:

- .To stop weapon manufacturing. To pass laws to abolish them or, at least, to reduce their production so as to prevent one of the causes of wars and that people flee their homes. It would also be necessary to transform the weapon industry into other types of industry that could offer jobs to refugees.
- .To forbid arms sales to countries in conflict and to toughen the sentences for those arms dealers who do not abide by these measures. It would also be necessary to be more vigilant so as to detect and prevent the illegal transfer of weapons to countries in conflict.
- .The money invested in weapons can be invested in helping refugees.
- .To improve the life conditions in refugee camps and to speed the legal procedures of those who need to be in the camps before they find their new home.



We require the European Union (EU):

. To commit itself to manage the current refugee crisis with respect. We claim the EU to make the effort to think and apply the necessary policies that will enable those who are fleeing their home countries to find a new home in Europe in dignifying conditions.

. To commit itself to set up an abiding protocol by all member states on reception of refugees, as stated in article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The Right to Seek a Safe Place to Live. *"Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."*

. To grant the refugees who have been taken in, a place to live and the necessary means to cover their needs. All impediments that do not allow them to move freely should be removed, as well as granting them the necessary permits to enter Europe legally. We want to point out that the refugees are human beings like us and they have the right to enjoy the same opportunities as we do.

. To support the NGOs, particularly those that work to help the refugees.

. Not to hamper the entry at European harbours of the ships of those NGOs that have rescued refugees in the Mediterranean and to allow those NGOs to keep on doing their job without being threatened with prison sentences.

We require the Catalan institutions:

. To open our doors, our borders, so that Catalonia becomes a land of refuge. We want to take in refugees in our homes, in our schools in our cities.

The Generalitat of Catalonia and the local councils are essential to guarantee the respect of the human rights in the process of taking in refugees, not only of those who have already arrived but also of those who have not made it here yet. The Catalan administrations have competence in healthcare, education, housing and social welfare, and the policies applied in these fields are keys to the assistance and integration of asylum seekers. The Catalan institutions have the chance to dignify the life of refugees and immigrants in their hands.

We remind the Spanish government:

In 2015, it committed itself to take in 17,000 refugees in two years. Despite the dire conditions refugees find themselves in; this commitment has not been accomplished. We require the Spanish government to safeguard the accomplishment of such commitment as well as implementing the necessary policies to manage the arrival of refugees and immigrants in a respectful and dignified way.

We dare to ask all governments and institutions to put politics and the economy at the service of the people.

We would like to think that all together, everyone within their field of responsibility, we can make a better society, better for each one of us, where human rights, education, healthcare, food, housing and PEACE become the way of living for all the people.

We are willing to it, what about you?