

'WE WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER'

DECLARATION OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

“March Declaration”

PREAMBLE

March 11th, 2004 (the date of the Madrid train bombings) will be remembered by the current and by future generations as one of the worst expressions of the absurdity of terrorism, the purpose of which was, among other things, to undermine the moral resistance of society at large. In response to this, the undersigned groups and individuals express their firm conviction that it is their civic duty to raise a voice in society, in commitment to the construction of social cooperation. They undertake to do this willingly and generously, with the hope that so much pain in history can be transformed into a project of coexistence based on pluralism and the highest mutual respect.

In honour of all those who have lost their lives, health or loved ones through violence and irrationality, who saw their personal plans and families wrecked, and of those who went before us in the search for an open, democratic and peaceful society; conscious of our rights, but now more than ever of our duty as citizens, we support the following declaration. We represent different religious and secular schools of thought but here our only aim is to achieve, as a point of reference for our country, a commitment to social and cultural harmony.

We invite all our fellow citizens to join with us in the belief that this will help towards increased understanding and peace, and the emphasis of universal ethical values, and contribute towards greater justice and the common good.

WE DECLARE:

1. We accept as our own the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Spanish Constitution which refer to the fundamental right of every human being to life, and to physical and moral security, as well as to the establishment of conditions under which the freedom and equality of the individual and of the groups of which he or she is part may truly exist, allowing the free development of personality and dignity, and solidarity among all human beings.
2. We express our energetic condemnation of violence in whatever form, whoever carries it out and wherever it occurs, including verbal excess, mutual recrimination, and hurtful or offensive language which in some way contributes towards or creates suspicion, discrimination or confrontation.
3. We declare our aim of building coexistence on the basis of civic respect, conscious that only a reconciled society can develop dialogue out of pluralism.
4. We choose to strengthen mutual trust, respect, transparency, courage and generosity in all our dealings.

5. We believe in the power of the word, and in the importance of, and need for, civic action as instruments to condemn and bring down any structure or thought which oppresses people, whatever their situation.
6. We propose more dialogue, consensus and meetings in order to strengthen the use of language of mutual respect, tolerance, consideration for the ideas of others, appreciation of life and the dignity of human beings.
7. We recognise the value of ethical demands drawn from diverse places, secular or religious, which respect the freedom of conscience, which seek to draw societies together and offer non-violent ways of constructing fairer communities.
8. We commit ourselves to developing an agreed ethical and civic code based on human values, criteria and basic attitudes which exist in the different religions and philosophies that co-exist in our society.
9. We declare that it is our will to contribute towards the resolution of conflicts in the fairest way possible, exercising self-control and the use of all our freedoms in an ethical way for the common good.
10. We commit ourselves to working together and within our respective communities to strengthen the conditions necessary for coexistence and to fulfil the basic aims of this pact, as well as to eradicate from our circles of influence all behaviour contrary to the principle herein expressed.

Being certain that we do not err in taking this step of unity within pluralism, we subscribe to this declaration and invite others to join this commitment to responsibility, coexistence and hope for a better future.

Signatories:

www.pactodeconvivencia.org