

JOINT DECLARATION OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

PREAMBLE

Facing an increase in speech and actions which threaten human rights, and the genuine risk that they could undermine the fundamental values and principles which sustain our democracy, harm our coexistence and endanger our peace, both nationally and internationally, we present this Declaration in the hope that it might help towards increased understanding and peace, and the emphasis of universal ethical values, and contribute towards greater justice and the common good.

We hold the firm conviction that our civic duty is to be an active and living voice in our society, committed to the construction of peaceful coexistence and social cooperation, with the aim of working together to achieve a society that desires to live together in plurality and with the greatest possible respect – and we take on this duty willingly and selflessly.

We believe in the importance of every effort made in Spain in search of a democratic, peaceful and egalitarian society, and we celebrate the diversity that comes from the intrinsic riches of our own history. Yet we are aware of the pain caused by the many lives which have been cut short by various kinds of radicalisation, so although we remain conscious of our rights, now more than ever we are conscious of our duty as citizens. 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.

Therefore, we pledge ourselves to the following Declaration and invite all our fellow citizens to join us in signing it.

WE DECLARE:

1. We accept as our own the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Treaty of the European Union 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, in a society characterised by pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality among all men and women.
2. We express our energetic condemnation of violence in whatever form, whoever carries it out and wherever it occurs, including verbal excess, insult and hurtful or offensive language which in some way contributes towards or creates suspicion, threat, harassment, discrimination or confrontation, and we offer our full support for all victims of such abuse.
3. We express our aim of behaving in a spirit of brotherhood with each other, in line with the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to develop peaceful 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 transform any structure or thought which oppresses people, whatever their beliefs, circumstances or lifestyle.
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 and more inclusive 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 institutions and groups in order 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 principles 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 and more peaceful future.

Proposers: Working Group for the Coexistence Pact

1. What is this?

A settled working group comprising willing representatives of significant institutions and groups from across civic society, that exists to agree on and implement proposals designed to strengthen our society against the process of growing radicalisation. It is open to more groups joining.

It offers a unique meeting place in Spain with the aim of drawing up joint courses of action to help strengthen our society in terms of coexistence, peace and reconciliation, and especially to prevent violent radicalisation.

Reference documents

- Joint Declaration of Peaceful Coexistence

Among the group's immediate objectives are:

- add important institutions to the group so as to strengthen our society against the phenomenon of radicalisation in its various forms
- explore preventative courses of joint action and prepare a common agenda to strengthen peaceful and inclusive coexistence in Spain

2. Participants in the working group

Arzobispado de Madrid
Colegio Oficial de Psicólogos de Madrid
Comisión Islámica de España
Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Cooperación para el Desarrollo
Consejo de Víctimas de Delitos de Odio y Discriminación
Crue Universidades Españolas
Diaconía España
Federación de Comunidades Judías de España
Federación de Entidades Religiosas Evangélicas de España
Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid
Movimiento contra la Intolerancia
Plataforma del Tercer Sector

3. Contact details:

www.pactodeconvivencia.org

Email: info@pactodeconvivencia.org