

**BARCELONA, 14 – 16 NOV. 2025**

# **UNSILENCE FORUM**

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

**P R O G R A M**

---

**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 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.
- All events have simultaneous translation.
- Participation is free but subject to prior registration and limited capacity.

# FORUM 2025

# PROGRAM

## FROM 14 TO 16 NOV. 2025

# 14/11

**18 h.**

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*  
Room: Sala d'actes

### Artistic performance by

Palestinian poet  
**Mohammed Bitari**

Catalan poetess  
**Mireia Calafell**

### Welcome statement by

- Luca Gervasoni (Director of Novact).
- Raffaella Bolini (President of the European Civic Forum).
- Monia Ben Jemia (President of EuroMed Rights).
- Belén López Sánchez, General Secretary CCOO of Catalonia.

**18:30 h.**

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*  
Room: Sala d'actes

### Live interview:

**“Journalists as military targets: the price of documenting Israel's crimes in the genocide in Gaza”**

- Youmna El Sayed, Gazan Al Jazeera journalist exiled to Egypt, and Wael Al Dahdouh, bureau chief of Al Jazeera in Gaza, exiled to Qatar due to the ongoing genocide.

**Interviewer:** Olga Rodriguez, Spanish journalist, former correspondent in the Mashrek area, including Palestinian Occupied Territories.

**19:15 h.**

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*  
Room: Sala d'actes

### Discussion panel:

**“Democracy, peace and social justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in the era of genocide, colonialism, and authoritarianism”**

- Layla Hzaïneh, Palestinian activist and coordinator of The Hague Group and Progressive International.
- Shawan Jabarin, Al Haq's director, former vice-president of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), and Palestinian Human Rights activist.
- Raji Sourani, Gazan lawyer and director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights.
- Asria Taleb Mohamed, Western Sahara refugee and human rights defender at the Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara.
- Raouf Farrah, researcher and activist on geopolitics and human rights in North Africa and the Sahel. He explores themes of genocide, colonial violence and social justice across the continent.

**Moderator:** Lurdes Vidal, Novact board member. Expert on Mediterranean and Arab Studies, and lecturer at Blanquerna-Ramon Llull University.

**Musical performance:** “Catalan & Palestine”, with Iyad Staiti (Oud), David Salgado (guitarra flamenca), Laia Gluck (Gralla), Elisabeth Pons (piano).

## LIST OF ROOMS AND FLOORS

**Floor -1:** Room S1

**Ground floor:** Sala d'actes, Espai Assemblea

**Floor 3:** Room 31

**Floor 4:** Room 42 i 43

# 15/11

**9:30 h.**

### Registration

**10 – 12 h.**

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*  
Room: Sala d'actes

### Plenary:

**Rearmament, militarism and the plural meanings of Peace**

- Sean Conner, Executive Director of the International Peace Bureau, a Peace Nobel winner organization.
- Raffaella Bolini, peace activist, Arci vice-president and co-founder Stop Rearm Europe.
- Laëtitia Sédou (ENAAT), EU project manager at the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT).
- Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini (ICAN), Founder and Executive Director of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and globally recognised advocate in the field of women, peace and security.

**Moderator:** Antonella Di Matteo, Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau.

**12 – 14 h.**

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*

### Parallel Sessions

**UNSILENCE PALESTINE. Freedom of Expression in and around Palestine**

Room: S1

- Sami Abu Salem, Community Media Development Center (CDMC) of Gaza. Non-governmental organization that works to empower marginalized groups by amplifying their voices through media platforms.
- Aarti Narsee, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer at the European Civic Forum.
- Nadim Nashif, advocate for digital rights and General Director at 7amleh.



- Diana Alzeer, Head of Strategic Outreach and Communication with Al-Haq, and Vice President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).
- Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights.

**Moderator:** Joan Roura, editor for the International section of Catalan public TV, writer and expert in the Mashrek region.

## 12 h. - 13 h. Trade Unionism under Occupation: The Case of Palestine

Room: Espai Assemblea

*Organised by: CCOO Catalunya*

- Shaher Saed (online): veteran trade unionist in the Palestinian labour movement. Secretary General of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU).
- Aisha Hmouda (online): member of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) and of the Executive Committee of the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC).

## 13 h. - 14 h. Trade Unionism under Occupation: The Case of Western Sahara

Room: Espai Assemblea

*Organised by: CCOO Catalunya*

- Nafee Ahmed Mohamed (online), Secretary General of the Sahrawi organisation UGTSARIO.
- Mahfoudha Bamba El Faqir (online), activist in the Occupied Territories and President of the Sahrawi Committee of Arbitrarily Dismissed Civil Servants and Workers.

## Resisting occupation and war. Community strategies of civil disobedience

Room: Sala d'actes

*Organised by: ACAPS and NOVACT*

- Issam H. Younis, Palestinian refugee and General Director at Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza. Former Commissioner General of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR).
- Mahmoud Zwahre, Palestinian academic and activist at the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee, resisting settler violence in the West Bank.

- Mina Baali, Human Rights Defender from the Occupied Territories of the Western Sahara, member of Sahrawi Instance Against Moroccan Occupation (ISACOM), and victim of enforced disappearance.

- Mohamed Mayara, saharawi journalist coordinator of Equipe Media.

**Moderator:** Cristina Mas, activist at difeferent social movements and journalist at Catalan Diari Ara, specializing in the Mediterranean region.

## Disinformation, a foundation for authoritarianism

Room: Sala 31

*Organised by: NOVACT*

- Alba Tobella, Journalist and founder of Verificat, a data verification project in public discourse and social networks.
- Lama Nazeeh, Advocacy Manager at 7amleh – The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media.
- Zyna Mejri - Founder of the platform Falso Tunisia against misinformation.

**Moderator:** Bernat Aragó, project officer at Novact in the promotion of capacity building of human rights defenders.

## Expanding civic space and civil rights in Iraq and Syria

Room: 42

*Organised by: Un Ponte Per ETS and Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI)*

- Hussain Deyab, Iraqi activist and photographer, contributor to the MASAHA coalition, an open, permanent working group formed within the Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI) to counter the shrinking civic space in Iraq.
- Sahar Salam Abdullah, feminist activist, consultant at Women for Democracy project in Iraq.
- Daoud Daoud, Syrian activist and CEO at Salam for hope foundation, that fosters lasting positive change across Syria's Northeast and beyond.

# 16 – 17.30 h.

## Parallel Sessions

### What the women say: The past, present, and future of Resolution 1325 on its 25th anniversary

*Ca la Dona, Carrer de Ripoll, 25, Ciutat Vella, 08002 Barcelona*

*Organised by: ICAN*

*Event only for women and sexual and gender dissidents*

- Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, Founder and Executive Director of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and globally recognised advocate in the field of women, peace and security.
- Lucy Talgieh, leading figure at the Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center, deputy Mayor of Betlehem, and member of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network.
- Maria Villellas, President of the Spanish Chapter of WILPF and co-director of the School for Peace Culture.
- Amel Arbaoui. President of the Jousour Citizenship Association of Tunisia.

**Moderator:** Maria Peix activist at DonesXDones.

### How to set an unstoppable wave of opposition to rearmament and reinforce the Stop Rearm Europe campaign (Working session)

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*

Room: S31

*Organised by: Stop Rearm Europe and associated organisations*

### The right to boycott and civil disobedience for Palestine

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*

Room: Espai Assemblea

*Organised by: Novact and BNC*

- Fiona Ben Chekroun, Europe Coordinator for the Palestinian BDS (Boycot, Divestment, Sanctions) National Committee.
- José Nivoi (online), CALP (Collettivo Autonomo Lavoratori Portuali - Autonomous Dockworkers Collective) in Genoa and member of the Global Sumud Flotilla.
- Fidaa Alzaanin, European Legal Support Center, which defends and empowers

Palestine advocates across Europe and Britain.

- Cap port pel genocidi País Valencià, denounce and civil disobedience against the maritime transport of weapons and military equipment to Israel.

**Moderator:** Cèlia Carbonell, Coalició Prou Complicitat amb Israel.

### Generation Z against authoritarianism in Morocco

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*

Room: S1

- Khadija Ryadi: Secretary General of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights, that is currently documenting the repression and supporting the detainees.
- Aziz Rhali: historical Moroccan activist for human rights, member of the Mouvement populaire pour la santé and of the Global Sumud Flotilla.

**Moderator:** Alaaddine Azzouzi, journalist specializing in inequalities and human rights, and son of the Moroccan diaspora.

### Screening of the Documentary: “The Phoenix of Gaza”

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*

Room: Sala d'actes

*Organised by: CCOO Catalunya*

- With the presence of Yousef Alhelou, Palestinian-British filmmaker and director of the documentary.

# 16/11

---

## 10 – 12 h.

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*  
Room: Sala d'actes

### Roundtable:

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

- Defending democracy and civic space in the EuroMediterranean region amid the global rise of authoritarianism.
- Jan Robert Suesser, activist at the French Human Rights League and a Vice President of the European Civic Forum.
- Martina Pignatti Morano, Executive Director of Un Ponte Per (UPP), active in the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) and the Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI).
- Monia Ben Jemia, EuroMed Rights president, Law professor and Tunisian women's rights activist.
- Abdulaziz Ramadan, Kurdish refugee in Germany, persecuted by the Al Assad regime and founder of the NGO DOZ.
- Mahjoub Maleha, head of the external relations committee of the Saharawi Human Rights Defenders Collective (CODESA), victim of the Pegasus spyware.

**Moderator:** Anaïs Franquesa, lawyer and director of the Iridia Centre for Human Rights.

---

## 12 – 14 h.

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*  
Room: Sala d'actes

### Closing Ceremony

---

## 12 h.

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*  
Room: Sala d'actes

#### **EuroMediterranean joint declaration by the International Committee**

---

## 12:20 h.

*Comissions Obreres headquarters*  
Room: Sala d'actes

### Panel:

#### **Arts and culture against genocide and occupation**

- Bill Shipsey, Human Rights activist, artist event promoter, and founder of Art for Human Rights.
- Kettil Myrstrand and Tiger Hagino, @Nomusicforgenocide campaign, which promotes the cultural boycott of Israel, with more than a thousand artists and record labels, such as Bjork and Lorde.
- Palestinian Performing Arts Network, federation of thirteen Palestinian institutions specialized in different forms of performing arts, such as Circus, Dance, Music and Theatre.

**Moderator:** Aina Pociello Mas, CEO at Allau Management agency.

### Closing Speech

- Mikael Leyi, Secretary General of SOLIDAR, Mahfud Bechri, Sahrawi activist at Western Sahara is Not For Sale and Cristina Faciabén, International Affairs and Cooperation of CCOO.

# PROGRAM

## FROM 14 TO 16 NOV. 2025

# UNSILENCE

[actxpalestine.com/unsilenceforum](http://actxpalestine.com/unsilenceforum)

# FORUM

**ACT X**

**NovACT**  
Noviolència  
Nonviolence  
اللاعنف



Agència Catalana  
de Cooperació  
al Desenvolupament



Ajuntament de  
Barcelona



MINISTERIO  
DE CULTURA