

BARCELONA, 14 – 16 NOV. 2025

UNSILENCE FORUM

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

PROVISIONAL

PROGRAM

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.
- 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

PROGRAM

FROM
14 TO
16 NOV.
2025

14/11

18 h.

*Comissions Obreres
headquarters*

Artistic performance by

Palestinian poet
Mohammed Bitari

Catalan poetess
Mireia Calafell

Welcome statement by

International Committee of
the Unsilence Forum and the
participation of Belén López
Sánchez, General Secretary
of CCOO of Catalonia.

18:30 h.

*Comissions Obreres
headquarters*

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.

19:15 h.

*Comissions Obreres
headquarters*

Discussion panel:

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

· Layla Hzaineh, 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.

· Asria Taleb Mohamed,
Western Sahara refugee and
human rights defender at the
Norwegian Support Committee
for Western Sahara

· Raouf Farrah, senior analyst
at the Global Initiative against
Transnational Organized
Crime, focusing on migration
and criminal economies in
North Africa and the Sahel.
Persecuted activist of the
Algerian Hirak Movement

Moderator: Lurdes Vidal,
NOVACT board member.
Lecturer on Mediterranean,
Arab and Islamic Studies at the
Institut Barcelona d’Estudis
Internacionals (IBEI) and at
Blanquerna-Ramon Llull
University. Former Director of
the Arab and Islamic World
Department at IEMed.

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

15/11

9:30 h.

Registration

10 – 12 h.

*Comissions Obreres
headquarters*

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: Centre Delàs
d’Estudis per la Pau.

12 – 14 h.

Parallel events

*Comissions Obreres
headquarters*

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

Organised by: EuroMed Rights

· 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

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

**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)

- 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
- Victoria Demchko, Ukrainian activist on a civil resistance project against occupation

Disinformation, a foundation for authoritarianism

Organised by: NOVACT

- Alba Tobella, Journalist and founder of Verificat, a data verification project in public discourse and social networks
- Inès Abdel Razek, Executive Director of the Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy (PIPD) and its digital platform Rabet, an independent Palestinian organization focusing on international mobilization and digital campaigning for Justice,
- 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

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
- Hogar Hassan, security responsible at Un Ponte Per ETS in North and Eastern Syria. His work focuses on building everyday peace, reducing fear, creating comfortable environments, preventing harm, and giving communities a voice.

16 – 17.30 h.

Paral·lel events

Session: 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Diverse women's voices and experiences in the face of militarisation and co-optation

Organised by: ICAN

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

- 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 Bethlehem, and member of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network
- Maria Villellas, President of the Spanish chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- Amel Arbaoui, President of the Joussour Citizenship Association of Tunisia.

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

Organised by: Stop Rarm Europe and associated organisations

Comissions Obreres headquarters

The right to boycott and civil disobedience for Palestine

Organised by: Novact and BNC

Comissions Obreres headquarters

- Fiona Ben Chekroun, Europe Coordinator for the Palestinian BDS (Boycot, Divestment, Sanctions) National Committee

Boycott National Committee (BNC)

- Coal·lició Prou Complicitat amb Israel
- Global Sumud Flotilla

16/11

10 – 12 h.

Roundtable:

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

Location to be confirmed

- 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

12 – 14 h.

Closing Ceremony

Location to be confirmed

12 h.

EuroMediterranean joint declaration by the International Committee

12:20 h.

Panel:

Arts and culture against genocide and occupation

- Bill Shipsey, Human Rights activist, artist event promoter, and founder of Art for Human Rights, the Amnesty International's global artist engagement programme
- Kettil Myrstrand, manager at PullUp and promoter of the @nomusicforgenocide campaign, which promotes the cultural boycott of Israel, and which already includes 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.

Closing Speech

With the International Organising Committee and the participation of Cristina Faciabén Lacorte, Federal Secretary for International Affairs and Cooperation of CCOO.

UNSILENCE

actxpalestine.com/unsilenceforum

FORUM

ACT X

NOVACT
Noviolència
Nonviolence
التعاقد



Agència Catalana
de Cooperació
al Desenvolupament



Ajuntament de
Barcelona



MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA