

CITIZENS FREE & EQUAL

A manifesto for Spaniards

Spain reaches a crucial moment.

The secessionist movement in Catalonia attempts to undermine peaceful coexistence among fellow Spaniards and to destroy their most valuable asset: their status as free and equal citizens. Nationalism places national identity before citizenship, fictitious rights of a territory before essential human rights, selfishness before solidarity. Nationalism despises any form of social or political diversity, and by attempting to set internal boundaries, it forces an overwhelmingly large number of citizens, being regarded as foreigners in their own country, to be pushed aside.

Catalan secessionism aligns with the anti-EU populists and promotes the defeat of Spain's democracy. Avoiding this defeat is a responsibility for all and the primary role of any political party.

So far, the secessionist defiance has not received the response it deserves. Spain is today a state that remains on the defensive, where both political tactics and resignation prevail within the country's ruling class. There is no genuine political debate on the deeply reactionary roots of nationalism or the impact of its project on freedom, equality and security for the citizens. On the contrary, there are plenty of opaque dealings to extend new privileges to nationalists at the expense of Spain's sovereign people.

In these circumstances, we, the undersigned, as citizens fully committed to the constitutional principles of freedom and equality, believe that it is essential to raise a public debate so that all Spaniards become aware and involved. We accept responsibility and take action.

We call on our national government to fully enforce the laws and to clearly state the consequences of breaking them. No infringement should go unpunished and no ruling should be disobeyed.

We urge the political parties embracing the principles of freedom, equality, justice and solidarity to live up to their commitment. PP, PSOE, UPyD, Ciudadanos and any other organization willing to preserve the basis of our democratic coexistence should:

1. Defend Spain's Constitution as a mandate for citizenship and coexistence, without renouncing any cyclical reform that may help turn Spain into a more inclusive and democratic nation.
2. Reject any negotiation process that leads to the restriction of the sovereignty of citizens or the exercise of their rights, on the pretext of avoiding any dispute arising out of Catalan secessionism.

3. Reach a formal and concise public agreement with a cross-cutting commitment to concerted action against secessionism, ensuring that any decision involving an amendment to the legal bases of the Constitution is submitted to a national referendum.

Finally, we address all the Spanish people.

We ask them to make an organized effort to challenge the intellectual legitimacy of nationalism and mobilize with us in defence of the community of those born free and equal who brought the fairest and most prosperous times in the history of Spain.

Madrid, 15 July 2014