



CALL TO ACTION

ON 10 DECEMBER 2018

Civil Society Organisations organise for

“NO DAY WITHOUT US”

On 10th December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human rights was adopted

On that day, leaders of all States acknowledged that Human rights are universal and indivisible, that freedom of speech, of assembly, right to demonstrate, to migrate, to live in peace... and access to education, health care, housing, work, right to leave your country, etc. ... were rights for all.

Since then, all over the world, a wide variety of Human rights defenders, civic and social movements, associations, NGOs, philanthropists... work, advocate, provide assistance and care, or services for millions of people, making the Universal Declaration of Human Rights promise an everyday reality.

At the same time, in many countries and regions of the world, during these 70 years human rights defenders had and still have to suffer from oppression and persecution. Many of them sacrificed and still are sacrificing their freedom and lives because of their commitment.

70 years after, in the EU, Human rights defenders and civic activists are under pressure

In Europe today we are witnessing how access to rights is increasingly under stress because of austerity, preventing civic actors from fully playing their role. Current policies limit public support only to those most in need. Thus, many people are deprived from access to basic economic, social, cultural, environmental rights.

In some countries civic organisations and movements that are holding the authorities to account, disseminating information about the shortcomings of public policies or the influence of vested interests, face smear campaigns accusing them of being foreign agents and a threat to security... We are aware of worrying trends of the criminalising of solidarity and humanitarian care for asylum seekers. Organisations and activists face intimidation through legal action for

breaching business secrecy. Increasingly inventive ways of restricting civic space are implemented, by authoritarian (or so-called liberal) governments.

It is striking to see how all rights (economic, social, political and civic rights) are under stress in today's Europe.

**On 10th December 2018,
let us show how much our civic organisations and movements add value to
society!**

Every day our organisations contribute decisively, in concrete terms, to bringing more democracy, equality and solidarity for all.

We do so while confronted by shrinking space and resources, by the raising of social and inter-generational competition aimed at dividing people in terms of their access to rights, by increasing tensions against migrants, and by the divisions that are created between those experiencing poverty and insecurity in their lives.

In both our action-oriented and advocacy-oriented capacities, we contribute to keeping our societies inclusive and therefore more democratic.

When our critical role is disregarded, denied or threatened, the whole democratic space is reduced.

Our societies cannot keep the promise enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the EU treaties without a vibrant and recognised civil society, actively organised at all levels, able to act, addressing all needs.

That is the message we want to make visible way on December 10th.

Call for action on 10 December 2018:

“NO DAY WITHOUT US”

We call upon all the civic actors, organisations and movements, all citizens, that support the fight for rights and justice, equality and solidarity, liberties and democracy, that want our planet to be a better place for present and future generations, **to join us in a symbolic but visible “no day without us” all across Europe.**

In big cities or small communities, in your usual place of work or gathered in public spaces, in large or small groups, in front of institutions or talking to media, on line and off line...

By waving posters and banners, by handing out leaflets to the people we meet or assist, by taking pictures and videos and sharing them with the MEGA community.

Not stopping the work we do, but showcasing its value!

How to join?

This action day is initiated and co-coordinated by the [European Civic Forum](#). All organisations are invited to join the action day, by filling in this [form](#) which offers different levels of engagement and is open to your suggestions about how to participate on that day.

The [coordination team](#) will be in contact with you for action planning, providing visual materials and other relevant information.