



**Plataforma unitària contra les violències de gènere**  
Rambla de Santa Mònica, 10 1ª planta 08002 Barcelona Telf. 627398316  
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NIF: G63627418  
Número d'inscripció al Registre d'Associacions: 29709

# MEMORY UNITED PLATFORM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

## Presentation

The Unified Platform Against Gender Violence, is a non-profit organization that has worked for 10 years with the aim of bringing together from all angles those who want to end violence against women in our society. The geographical focus is throughout Catalonia, and networking with women's organizations around the State and Europe.

The Platform was legally established as an association in 2004 and works in a network with 107 organizations that have joined over the years and which have the status of partner. The legal entity of the Platform is Partnership. It consists of legal entities (participating associations) and individuals (individual members).

Number of associates: 107 individuals and 82 entities.

## Portrait of the Platform

November 20, 2002, the platform began her journey with an initial act that hundreds of people attended, at the Cultural Center of Barcelona, Casa Elizalde, with the support of the Council of Women of the City of Barcelona, Ms. Lourdes Muñoz and the Catalan Institute for Women.

The Platform evolved out of the neighborhood movement of the Sagrada Família, when the Women's Committee of the Neighborhood Association, received numerous requests for help from neighborhood women suffering abuse. The most committed women of the committee detected the lack of public and private resources, information and attention to women, and lack of knowledge of the phenomenon of gender violence among citizens and between institutions.

Social pressure on the problem began to reach the whole network of associations and required unity and the formation of a movement to end violence against women. It's not enough to have a demonstration on 25 November every year, it takes the action of a strong network every day to change the social parameters that make this violence possible.



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In order to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and on the basis of a manifesto with a list of grievances and the most urgent institutional measures needed and summarized in the slogans ZERO TOLERANCE, STOP THE AGRESSION, the Platform was established with the signing of the first 19 organizations.

From November 2002 until 2004, the platform was supported by the City of Barcelona and the Generalitat de Catalunya as such but with the fiscal document of some member associations. On September 12, 2004, The United Platform against Gender Violence was legally established, with 22 initial member institutions. The event took place in Barcelona at the Espai Francesca Bonnemaison. The first acts of public awareness (concentrations) were in different neighborhoods of Barcelona: Sagrada Família (23 February 2003), Nou Barris, (May 11, 2003); Horta-Guinardó (July 6, 2003), Gràcia ( November 23, 2003), Sants-Montjuïc (February 29, 2004), Les Corts (July 1, 2004); San Martí (10 November 2004).



Sagrada Família. Dones de Blanc, February 23, 2003



Concentration Sants –Montjuïc, February 29, 2004



Horta-Guinardó (July 6, 2003)



Concentration Les Corts District, July 1, 2004



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On November 27, 2004 was the first mass rally of the Platform presentation at a charity concert, in which several renowned artists supported the work of the Platform. The new slogan TRENQUEM EL SILENCIO (BREAK THE SILENCE), means that each and every one of us can do something to combat violence against women.

The organization of the event involved all the departments of the City Council and of the Generalitat de Catalunya, and most of the social fabric of the city and of Catalonia. 1500 people attended, including representatives of institutions and the event saw the consolidation of the Platform (with over 60 organizations) as a social movement against violence to women.



Concert poster 2004

In 2005, with the experience of the work of the first two years, we expanded our goals to strengthen the network and teamwork. We started to organize a forum where each associate could express their ideas and enrich discussions with others, while every day we reached more social areas: schools and centers of leisure and culture. For two days, 25 and 26 November, the I Forum against Gender Violence was held at the Casinet Hostafrancs in Barcelona.

Currently, and since 2005, the Forum is organized at the Francesca Bonnemaison building in Barcelona. Since 2006, the third Monday of each month in front of the City Hall in Plaza Sant Jaume, a concentration is held to pay tribute to women who are abused. Each month one of the organizations that comprise the Platform takes care of preparing the action that allows us to remember each of the women killed during the month.



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Concentration Pl Sant Jaume, February 18, 2008

In 2007 the first pilot project *Trenquem el Silenci* (Breaking the Silence) emerged from the Women's Council of San Martin who set up multidisciplinary work with other institutions, and professional services to develop a shared and coordinated project. The conclusions obtained encouraged us to continue with the project and extend it to the other districts of Barcelona and Catalonia, and all those involved in formal education and leisure centres: teachers, students and families. Since then, the project has resulted in an annual program of ambitious character.

Since its inception, the activity of the Platform and its repercussions, have continued to increase year after year. It has become the reference social group when addressing issues of gender violence. Proof of this, are the numerous media appearances each year. During 2011, 4 articles published in newspapers (both paper and digital), 6 interventions on the radio and two television appearances (1 national and 1 regional). As shown, attach the article "The Sexist Model does not Disappear in Youth" published in the *Journal de Catalunya* on November 25, 2011.

## Programmes and projects

Currently, we have a total of 7 programs and 2 projects:

1. *Break the Silence in schools and leisure centers, and the families of Catalonia.* Program of GBV prevention through the education of the three main groups: students, teachers and families. We use the network formed by organizations of the Platform, offer prevention activities included in our catalog, and encourage their implementation. In 2011, 2000 people benefited directly from the project activities, and about 6000 indirectly.

2. *Forum against gender violence.* The 1st Forum was held in 2005, and grew out of the need to create a space for reflection, participation and learning to contribute to the prevention of gender violence. It is a





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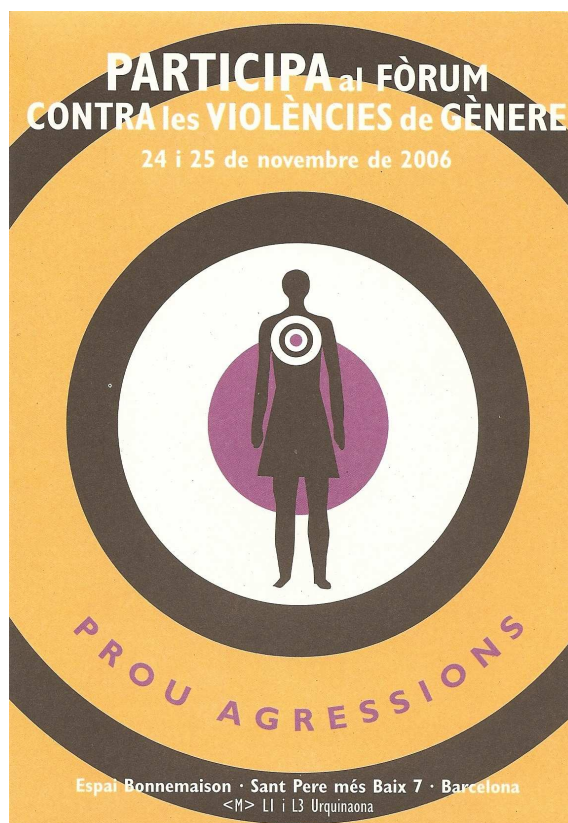
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place to break the silence through the active participation of everyone present. It is aimed at young people and teenagers, mothers, fathers and other family members, health, education and media professionals, the association network of Catalonia and the general public, from the standpoint of legality and security. This forum is the development of workshops, lectures, video-forums, participatory theater, round tables, seminars and conferences through which it is intended that the attendants reflect on gender violence and draw lessons to help prevent it in their social and emotional relationships. In 2012, the XIII Forum will be held on 15, 16 and 17 November in Espai Francesca Bonnemaison, Barcelona. The latest edition was a great success, with 1,700 participants, including 800 boys and girls who did a total of 29 simultaneous prevention activities. 25,000 copies of the program were published, which were distributed in full.

History Forum posters:





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European Forum against gender violence. Given the need to network with other organizations at the European level and to broaden the impact of actions and share experiences, since 2008, the Forum was extended to three days, dedicating one to the European level, which aims to:

- Compare the realities in the different European nations of violence against women.
  - Analyze trans-cultural beliefs and stereotypes that support violence against women, with a historical and cultural vision.
  - Make visible transnational social demonstrations concerning gender violence.
  - Share the prevention understandings between different European actors.
  - Share experiences and information on resources and best practices, success stories, trips, strengths and weaknesses of the various activities, programs and projects presented at the European Forum.
  - Evidence of gender violence in armed conflicts.
  - Strengthen the networking in the areas of the Spanish State and the European Community.
- During the various editions of the European Forum, several public figures and many experts in their specific fields within the issue of gender violence have collaborated.





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Forum VII against gender violence. From left to right: Carme Catalan Piñol (Network of Gifts per la Salut), Cristina del Valle (Platform of Women Artists Against Gender Violence), Montserrat Vilà Planas (united platform against violències to generate them), Vera Baboun (teacher English literature at the University of Bethlehem, Palestine), Marta Mas (Catalan Platform suport to Lobby Europeu of Gifts), Maria Teresa Perez-Caballero Molina (Demeter Association (Malaga), member of the COMPI), Eulalia Romero (Xarxa Vinculant) , Alicia Gil (Cooperacció). Edition 2011.



VI Forum against gender violence, 2010. From left to right: Ana Bella (President of the Anne Bella de Sevilla), Rafaela Pastor (Andalusian Platform support EWL), Dr. Miguel Lorente Acosta (Government Delegate for Gender Violence, Ministry of Equality ), Montserrat Vilà Planas (President of the united platform against violències to generate them)





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VI Forum against gender violence. From left to right: Carmen Romero López, MEP in the European Parliament, Montserrat Vilà Planas (President of the united platform against violències to generate them)

3. Contest for the eradication of violence against women. It arose as an idea to develop a tool for reflection during the preparation, dissemination and deepening of the subject of the Forum. The 2012 edition will be the seventh. The participants reflect on the phenomenon of gender violence through literature, art and music, as there are three categories: free-form, literary and musical format. In each of the formats, there are three age categories: 12 to 15 years, 16 to 19 and over 20. Each year more than 300 pieces of artwork are displayed in the Women's Cultural Centre Francesca Bonnemaison during November. The awards ceremony is held during the Forum, presided by representatives of the institutions collaborating in the organization of the event.



Cristina del Valle performing a song with the chorus of IES The Palau



Awards ceremony. Coral IES The Palau and audience



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Awards ceremony. Authorities, from left to right: Ms. Marta Vergonyós Cabratosa, President of Centre of Culture Francesca Bonemaison Dones, Ms. Gatell Montserrat Pérez, president of the Catalan Women's Institute, Ms. Mireia Garriga Solsona, Assistant Deputy Equality and Citizenship Area Individual Care of the Province of Barcelona, Ms. Francina Vila Valls, Councillor for Women and Rights Civil Barcelona City Council, Ms. Ivonne Griley Martinez, Director General for Language Policy of the Department of Culture of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Ms Montserrat Vilà Planas, President of the united platform against gender violence.

4. Concentrations as a tribute to women who are abused. In order to bring the struggle to public view, these concentrations do homage to women who are abused. This event is organized by member associations in each neighborhood, and in the preparation, a social network sensitized against violence is established. During the event, through information panels, the local people can become aware of violence against women, how it can be detected, what we can do or existing resources, both public and private. The women who are murdered because they are women are often invisible or represented by figures and shallow notes in the media. Also, the third Monday of each month in front of the City Hall in the Plaza Sant Jaume of Barcelona the Platform pays homage to these women in a centralized event. Each month one of the member organizations of the Platform takes care of preparing the act that allows us to remember each of the women killed during the month. The project aims to eradicate gender violence through public awareness and visibility of social issues, and to consolidate and expand the social network of citizens sensitized against gender violence.

5. Web Prou Agressions! (Stop the Aggression! web). The platform is referred to in Catalonia in their specific domain of work within the transformation of gender relations. Our website, aims to create a virtual space appropriate to our actual size and influence, and to challenge and fight against gender violence also through the Internet. This is one of the most powerful tools of modern communication, we want to strengthen and adapt to the web. 2.0. In addition to the web, the Platform has Youtube channel, profiles on social networks Facebook, Twitter and Picasa Web Album.

6. Dones de Blanc (Women in White) is a group of 30 women who work with body language to send messages of awareness against violence, promoting culture among the general population and among youth in particular. In 2005 the group was formalized, with the goal to enjoy a space for reflection, and then



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create choreography that represents different local neighborhoods and Barcelona. So far, there are five choreographies created: Dones en llibertat (Women in Liberty), Dret a decidir (The Right to Decide), Lluny de qui soc (Far from being who I am), Obrint camins (Opening Roads), La Solitud de les Dones d'aquí i d'allà (The loneliness of Women Here and There). During 2012, they performed at a total of 9 protest actions at different neighborhood festivals, acting in the Faculty of History at the University of Barcelona, Inauguration of the Cultural Association Torre dels Ocells-Bernet Gallery, November 25 rally against gender violence, Vigil for assassinated women in front of City Hall in the Plaza Sant Jaume de Barcelona, closing the Forum VII against gender violence.



Performance Blanc Gifts of the closure of V forum against gender violence

7. Art exhibitions against gender violence. Since 2009, it was thought necessary to extend the range of groups to which to get the message to combat gender violence. Among them, we found that it was a good way of involving artists in the collective awareness. Therefore, we created an exhibition project, which today has become an annual program of the Platform. In 2009, a diverse group of eight artists (sculptors, painters, illustrators, photographers), created the exhibition "Trenquem el Silenci" that was displayed in two different places.

In 2010, the group of illustrators Les Golfes II • lustració, joined the platform to run the artistic part of the annual program of exhibitions. In 2010, the exhibition *Si les Parets Parlessin* (If These Walls Could Talk) was exhibited in four different places of Catalonia, and in 2011 *La Violencia Oculta* (Hidden Violence), was held exclusively for exhibit during the Seventh Forum on Violence against Women.



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Poster exhibition 2009



Poster exhibition 2010



Picture exhibition 2011

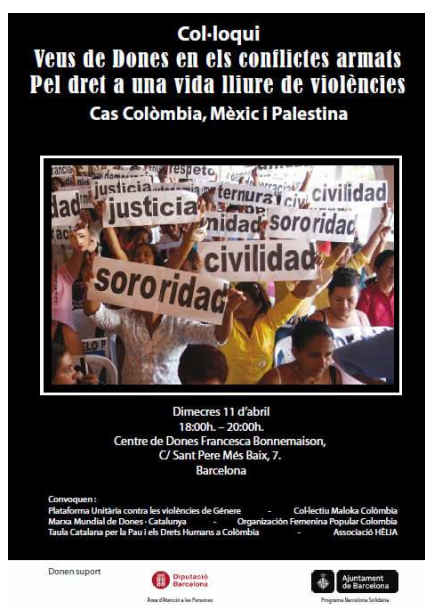
**8. International cooperation.** In 2011 the Platform helped develop the project "Empowerment of women victims of armed conflict, concerning the Victims Law, Land Restitution Act and recovery processes of historical memory in the Magdalena Medio region" of the Popular Women's Organization of Colombia, which was responsible for the project dissemination and public awareness. A talk "Voices of Women in Armed Conflict with the Right to a Life Free of Violence", was organized on April 11, 2012. The project met the goal of empowering women victims of armed conflict in four municipalities in the region in order to reach greater capacity for social and political impact around the Victims and Land Restitution





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Act, and greater ability for leadership in the development process of the reconstruction of historical memory. This is to ensure their visibility, recognition and dignity as victims. Developed by Helia Association, in partnership with the Collective Maloka, the World March of Women in Catalonia and the United Platform against Gender Violence. Held in Colombia by the OFP.



9. Agents network against violence towards women. New to the Forum VII against gender violence, through the project "Breaking myths, we are equal" led by the Association Helia and the European network WAVE, there was a discussion meeting with a group of 8 boys and girls from Vienna, and a group of eight boys and girls of Barcelona. They studied the situation of violence against women in their countries, and for a week exchanged information in Barcelona. More boys and girls from other institutes of Catalonia were invited to exchange information at the meeting. These young people attended the meeting voluntarily and actively participated in the debate. About 60 boys and girls from different institutes, interested in setting up a project to create agents of equality in schools resulted from this meeting. They want to learn how to relate to their peers on the subject of GBV.

This project will materialize in 2012 as a pilot project for the creation of a network of active agents against violence against women in different Secondary Schools (hereinafter IES) of the city of Barcelona. In each IES a minimum of 4 students (one per course), members of student associations, develop the role of active agents against violence towards women.



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Meeting youth debate between Austria and Barcelona, the project  
"Breaking myths, we are equal", during the VIII Forum against gender violence, 2011

## Operation of the entity

**Internal Organization:** Assembly, Board, Commissions and / or Working Groups. All of the member associations have a voice in the meetings of the General Assembly, where the decisions are by consensus.

The Assembly meets at least three times a year, and it approves the renovation of office, the annual accounts, the annual budget and decides the general lines of evolution of the programs and projects of the organization

The Board meets monthly and consists of President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Committees or Working Groups (hereafter GT) meet more often as required for each program. Each GT is led by a coordinator, and composed of the delegates of the organizations and volunteers. There is a GT for each program or project, working on contents, methodology, logistics, etc. consistent with program objectives.

Member organizations provide a delegate as a link with the platform while working on some of the GT for each program or project.

Our strategic goal to network with all the member organizations makes it fundamental to keep a close relationship and partnership in the day to day work. The fact of being part of such a large network, both in the number of associations that make up the platform, as in the specialization of each enriches both parties in the development of programs. The Platform nourishes the member organizations with the content agreed on from many different areas of society, and this unified scenario forms a social movement against violence to women, essential for successful eradication.



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Communication with member organizations is done primarily through physical participation in the meetings of the GT and the subsequent delivery of reports, supplied by the secretary. In addition, we work on line, via e-mail ([prouviolencia@pangea.org](mailto:prouviolencia@pangea.org)), mobile phone (627 398 316) or on our website ([www.violenciadegenere.org](http://www.violenciadegenere.org)).

All the member organizations, through their delegates, volunteers and other associates, receive the minutes of meetings and activities of the Platform, by email or phone.

### **Resources:**

1. Structural resources: the headquarters of the platform, located in the Rambla de Santa Monica 10, Barcelona, consists of an office and a meeting room, occupying about 60m2 with a cost of 2,600 € a year, and has access to meeting rooms and reception rooms shared with other groups. In this office the bulk of daily activity is developed, being the workplace of the two employees, and that of the volunteers when required. It is also where the Board and the GT meet. In the case of the Assembly, it is held at the Francesca Bonnemaison building, as a landmark and women's cultural center of Barcelona and where the annual Forum is organized. Four work places are set up in the office, with computer equipment, Internet access and fixed and mobile phone. The Platform has enough structure to develop the projects that are being carried out today. However, the desire to grow, means working time is invested in the search for resources, both financial and otherwise.
2. Human resources: the platform is currently employing a staff of two.
  - Project Coordinator, hired indefinitely, since July 2008, full-time dedicated to all programs of the organization.
  - Program Coordinator of BREAK THE SILENCE, part-time, to be maintained as long as the financing permits. This person was hired in September 2010 through an Employment Plan, funded by the Department of Labour of the Generalitat de Catalunya, on a temporary contract of 6 months duration. She was in a state of long-term unemployment, and without receiving any benefits since one year earlier.

The volunteer staff consists of 82 people, with different backgrounds, from all age groups and both sexes.

The platform promotes the internal participation of volunteers, providing access to all activities, the assembly and working groups.



# Suggestions for improvement in the management of the Platform

The Unified Platform against Gender Violence has a complex organization, due to its internal organization. Despite being an association the motor behind operation has always been the member organizations. That is why, for years, how to evolve is being discussed. Given the complicated socio-economic situation in our setting, it is more necessary than ever to network with institutions, the social fabric, and individuals who work every day to eradicate gender violence in society.

Therefore, the aim of the platform is to improve their internal organization and take measures to improve the quality of its management. Therefore, several areas that are detailed below have been improved, in order to work towards the Declaration of Public Utility.

## **1. Volunteering**

- A total of 82 people are volunteering for the Platform.
- Taking advantage of the celebration of the European Year of Volunteering 2011, the Platform decided to draft a voluntary plan, with the aim of strengthening its relationship with the volunteers.
- The Platform, participated in a working group with other entities, during the II European Volunteer Congress, held in Barcelona on 9, 10 and 11 November, which was very enriching.
- The plan began to be implemented in late 2011, with a great result. A total of 9 new volunteers joined because of the campaign.
- Broadly speaking, we have established protocols in various areas of the relationship with volunteers: first meeting, hosting, training, fidelity and exit. In addition, all staff has been structured on the basis of their profile and the tasks they are most comfortable working with.
- The participation of volunteers in the Platform, is essential for daily functioning. These volunteers work on different tasks that are assigned within the various programs, participation is open to all meetings of the organization, including assemblies. They have access to all calls for meetings, minutes and activities that are organized from the Platform. Also, specific training for volunteers is organized, and they are invited to participate in other training.
- The volunteer plan was even drafted with the collaboration of two volunteers. Since the inception of the plan, a direct communication channel to volunteering through the c / e voluntariat@violenciadegenere.org has been established.
- To end the year, a video to thank the work of the volunteers was prepared. It was presented at the closing ceremony of the VII Forum against gender violence, on November 19 in Barcelona Espai Francesca Bonnemaison.





## **2. Database.**

- In late 2010 we created a database to record all contacts accumulated by the Platform since its inception. The creation of the database was made possible with the help of two volunteers, working in conjunction with the Platform staff.
- During 2011 we worked on updating all these contacts and organizing them. On an ongoing basis, maintenance is performed and contact details updated.

## **3. Accounting**

- One of the objectives for 2011 was to improve the accounting control of the Platform.
- An accounting program was obtained and Platform workers received specific training to use it properly.

# Participation in the network against gender violence

**How are networks made?** From the beginning, the Platform has believed in the joining of effort as a methodology to achieve the goal of eradicating gender violence. Therefore, we are involved in:

- Collaboration in drafting, monitoring and deployment of Law 5/2008, of April 24, the right of women to eradicate gender violence, through the representative of the Platform in the National Council of Women of Catalunya.
- Participation in the Commission of March 8, which is responsible for preparing the celebrations to mark International Women's Day.
- Participation in the Committee of November 25, which is responsible for preparing for the International Day Against Violence Against Women.
- Participation in the Campaign for Abortion Right.
- Platform Participation in the Council of Women of Ciutat Vella (Barcelona)
- Participation in the Women's Council of Eixample (Barcelona)
- Participation in the Women's Council of Horta-Guinardó (Barcelona)
- Participation in the Women's Council of Barcelona
- Participation in Ravaldona, the Bureau of Women's Raval entities.
- Participation in the National Skills Consell de Catalunya (CNDC) (National Council of Women of Catalonia). The Coordinator of the Platform, is the 2nd Vice President of the Council, and also coordinator of the working group on violence against women, corresponding to the axis 6.
- Participation of Seguretat Consell de Catalunya (Catalonia Security Council).



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- Since 2011, the platform has become part of the European network WAVE-Network, located in Austria, which works to eradicate gender-based violence and to treat women who suffer from it..
- Collaboration in the project: "Empowerment of women victims of the armed conflict in reference to the Victims Law, the Restitution of Land Law and processes of recuperation of historical memory in the Magdalena Medio", with the Popular Feminine Organization of Colombia, Maloka Colective of Barcelona and the World March of Women.
- Citizen Agreement for a Barcelona Free of Violence (Acord ciutadà per una Barcelona lliure de violència vers les dones)

**Collaboration with institutions.**

From the beginning the Platform had as an objective, and this is reflected in the Manifesto, collaborate with the Spanish as well as the Catalan institutions to improve public policy about violence against women.

In 2002 precisely because of the lack of funds for attending to women victims of violence, we began to intervene in the Women's Councils in the city and in the Autonomous region, to work together to advance policies against this disgrace.

We contribute to public policy by sharing our experience in attending and supporting the women who want to get out of this trap. Once the constitutional law 1/2004 of 28 Dec., for measures of complete protection against gender violence was passed by Parliament, we decided to monitor its application. We have taken part in various conferences and:

- Appearance at the sub-commission to study the performance of the integral law of measures against gender violence, 23 June, 2009
- At the autonomous region level we participated in the elaboration of amendments to the "Llei del dret de las dones a l'eradicació de la violència masclista", Law 5/2008, of 24 April, about the right of women to eradicate gender based Violence. We coordinated the work group of the Women's Council of Catalonia and our president was the spokesperson of the group.

In this sense we have also been asked to appear twice before the Parliament of Catalonia:

- Appearance before the commission on equality of the Parliament of Catalonia, on measures to fight against gender based violence, 23 October, 2007 and 18 April, 2012

We are present and collaborate actively in the Women's Councils, in Catalonia, the city of Barcelona and municipal districts.

As experts on the subject, we participate in events, conferences, workshops and cinema forums, always with the objective of preventing and creating awareness for the eradication of violence.



**Plataforma unitària contra les violències de gènere**

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NIF: G63627418

Número d'inscripció al Registre d'Associacions: 29709

With the support of:



**Generalitat  
de Catalunya**



**Diputació  
Barcelona**



**Ajuntament de  
Barcelona**

Barcelona, 13 July, 2012