

# el Periòdic News

INTERVIEW

## Jelena Pia-Comella

EXPERT OF THE UN COMMITTEE FOR  
THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION  
AGAINST WOMEN

«As a member of  
CEDAW, I can fight  
against sexual and  
sexist violence»

LAURA GÓMEZ RODRÍGUEZ  
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

Last Friday, June 7th, the Andorran Jelena Pià was elected as an expert of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of the UN. Today, from the PERIODIC, we talk to her so that she can tell us what her priorities will be during her term, among which are the support and advice of the member states of this Committee in the fight against discrimination against women.

—What is the 'background' that has led you to become a member of the Committee?

— All my life I have been informed of what feminist literature is. I have always been concerned about how to balance this coexistence between men and women. In addition, I was very indignant that there was a social construction and a sexist hierarchy, although I always repeat that I come from a very privileged environment. I am an economist and

I have always been very interested in economic empowerment, the leadership role of women in economic and political life. I interviewed for this job in New York, but my professional life has always revolved around the development of equality regulations such as the Rome Statute, resolution 1325 of the year 2000, as well as important negotiations and treaties on equality. Thus, I have experience in the application of international law to accompany and strengthen the capacity of NGOs and the media. Interest in gender equality is in my DNA. When I was in Civil Society, I was very interested in deepening my knowledge about gender justice, to combat sexual and gender-based crimes related to conflict, and to deepen my knowledge about the link between human rights violations and atrocities massive

—If you had to create an imaginary framework, what would be the main discriminatory situations to reverse?



—As a member of CEDAW and with my experience, I can fight against sexual and sexist violence, which is a flagrant discrimination against women's rights. And it can be done by remembering the legal framework and the recommendation of CEDAW-35. This is where I think I

would like to be able to make a little more of a difference. Work must be done on how to better equip the states to fight this specific discrimination. With another group, we will work on writing recommendations to fight against stereotypes. By acting in these areas, we will already



SFGA



make great progress in the fight against gender-based discrimination.

**—What goals has CEDAW set for itself this year?**

—I personally want to ask if it is appropriate to include general recommendation 30 as an acti-

on, which is the link between international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the situation of women in conflict and post-conflict. We also want to discuss how to strengthen the leadership role of women, artificial intelligence and discrimination against women, etc. On the other hand, the accompaniment I can do, according to my knowledge, is to help be a rapporteur or to be part of the tasks of small countries that need to present their reports.

**—Defining these tasks in a less technical way, your task is to make a tailor-made suit in terms of gender policies for small states?**

— Yes, but with a difference: we don't make the policies. What we do is review a country's report according to the observations made in the previous document. Talk at a legislative level, if they are up to date with what we asked them to do. From there, we look at whether training should be done, some discriminatory practices changed, legislation or if some discriminatory laws should be removed.

**—What are the main situations of discrimination seen in Andorra?**

—I am not an expert and I will never be a rapporteur for Andorra, especially because I have not been involved in the day-to-day politics for a long time. I think a lot has been done to promote women's leadership in political life. Progress has also been made in the fight against domestic violence, with the safe houses that are now in place. I know that the Government is also working to continue promoting gender equality in all professional spheres. I believe that what can be done in Andorra is to see where there are opportunities to really alleviate discrimination.



«What can be done in Andorra is to see where there are opportunities to really alleviate discrimination»

«Unfortunately, whatever country or continent it is, we are going backwards with gender equality»

**— How are these inequalities experienced in other states?**

—I think that, unfortunately, whichever country or continent it is, we are going backwards with gender equality. The Covid pandemic showed us this, how we are regressing with flagrant cases of domestic violence. Not long ago, there was the annual Security Council debate on conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and everyone was talking about the same thing: forms of sexual and gender-based violence are used as a weapon of war. In addition, there is a rhetoric that calls into question the progress of all these years. In resolution 1325 of the year 2000, it was already said very clearly that gender inequality and violations of women's rights are a threat to peace and security, and now we are questioning that. And not only in matters of gender equality, but also in human rights. This legal framework is not perfect, we know that, there were very few women at the table in the 1940s and half of the countries were still colonized, but it is the only framework we have and we must respect it.

**— It could also be because the speech oscillates between: «Either you are inside this frame, rigid and corseted, or you are completely outside».**

—I think that this intermediate point of not saying that we are completely out of the frame, criticizing or supporting inequality, but we are also not inside denouncing absolutely everything that is not our priority, has not been found. There is a growing gap between the international level and the national level, and I saw that in the 10 years I was in Civil Society. You can't be impertinent; you have to recognize that in other continents they have a legal and regulatory framework and fairly progressive customs. There is this lack of appropriation of these international standards because it goes with a lot of arrogance. With the issues of gender equality, what has been observed all these years is that you have to go to the grassroots, but I think there is a return to this narrative in which we have to prioritize sustainable development and not human rights.

**—Is there any pattern that repeats itself in these states where inequality is most worrying?**

—When inequality is flagrant, it is the number one ingredient in armed conflicts. There is an index made by the Georgetown Center for Women, Peace and Security, in which it is said that the countries most likely to settle conflicts violently are the countries where there is no gender equality. Obviously, we are talking about very specific contexts, but in countries where there are violent armed conflicts, the basis is this violation of human rights and the lack of gender equality. It is like the hole through which absolutely everything escapes. ●



## GUETTA AFFAIR

# Torres affirms that the multifunctional will still take time to arrive in Andorra

The minister speaks out on the matter and confirms that the French DJ has indeed collected his money

ALEX MONTERO  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The multifunctional will still take time to arrive in Andorra. Or at least that seems to be the case according to the statements issued by the Minister of Tourism, Jordi Torres, in relation to the possibility that a space of this nature can host an event as crowded as David Guetta's concert that was to be held this past Sunday and which was eventually canceled by the thunderstorm warning. «The multifunctional, obviously, is essential equipment for our territory, but right now we have other problems on the table that are much more important when it comes to allocating public resources», underlined Torres, referring to the current housing problem that is going through the country.

In addition, the holder of the Tourism portfolio indicated that, precisely because of the budget item currently dedicated to affordable housing, the rest of the government's investments have certainly been reduced: «The budget does not support everything and in the end we had to prioritize, prioritizing the issue of housing», he mentioned.

On the other hand, and questioned by the Government's decision to cancel the event, Torres continued in line with Tuesday's statements by Betim Budzaku, director of Andorra Tourism, and postponed the reflection meeting in September: «Looking ahead to September, already with a cooler head, we'll see how it can be redefined.» Even so, the minister regretted the course of the affair, making special mention of the fact that they were the first interested in it not being cancelled, an «inevitable» situation due to



The Minister of Tourism, Jordi Torres, last Tuesday during the press conference to present the 4th edition of the Andorra Epic Pyrénées.

**JORDI TORRES**  
MINISTER OF TOURISM

«We have other problems on the table that are much more important when it comes to allocating public resources»

«Looking ahead to September, already with a cooler head, we will see how the event can be redefined»

the weather forecasts of lightning and storms with a yellow warning, and a Civil Protection report in which people's safety was put at risk. «There was no other option but to cancel,» he added, even though the concert was scheduled to be held between 10:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., with an approximate duration of an hour and a half, and the first lightning and thunder they were not seen until 00.15 hours. Torres continued his speech by apologizing to all the attendees who could not enjoy the French DJ's concert, whose number would rise beyond 10,000. «Practically, 80% of the tickets sold were from outsiders», he pointed out, assuming the fact that it could be a disappointment for all of them. Even so, the minister wanted to emphasize again that «we could not afford to deve-

ANA/E.M.



lop an event with forecasts that were totally unfavorable for people's safety».

**DAVID GUETTA COLLECTED HIS CASH//** The question was inevitable and Torres had no choice but to confirm what was already a reality: David Guetta collected his cash for his performance at Andorra Mountain Music, although this one did not end up being given. However, the head of Tourism stressed that the amount of this has come from Live Nation and not from the Government: «We were sponsors, the main organizer was Live Nation and we had a contract with them», emphasizing that

## The minister points out that if they had opened the doors, the insurance company would not have paid the costs of the concert

the company «has satisfied Guetta's price».

The minister also made it clear that the contracted insurance company will cover all expenses, as the doors to the venue were not opened at any time. «That's why they tried to hurry until the last moment. If the doors had been opened, there would have been no insurance coverage,» he explained. In this way, and as it seems a priori, the non-celebration of Guetta's concert will not entail any extra expenditure for the Government, which will have to see if it allocates this money to another event of this nature or to another type of investment. ●

# Attendees at Guetta's non-concert claim to be «disappointed»

The confirmation of the news came to them through public address and not by any authority

A.M.  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Complaints from attendees about the cancellation of Guetta's concert have arrived soon. More than 10,000 people waited for days for the date with the French DJ, only to find that the event was canceled due to the forecast of storms, just a few hours before the celebration. Of the total audience expected, 82% were from outside Andorra's borders, coming from 22 different countries.

One of these attendees was Lisa, who together with a friend came from a Catalan city to enjoy what would be the most crowded event in the history of Andorra. «Clearly, we are very disappointed», said the aforementioned, who, upon arriving in the area where Guetta's concert was supposed to be held, was suddenly met with the news: «Doors opened at 5.00 p.m. and we arrived around 6:00 p.m., but we were very surprised that, being closer and closer, nothing was heard and everyone was going in the opposite direction»,



Moment from a concert by Andorra Mountain Music held in 2021.

she added in statements to EL PERIÒDIC.

It was at that moment when they were told that the date with the French DJ had been canceled due to the risk of an electrical storm, a concept that Lisa placed in quotation marks as she did not believe it was really the case. In addition, regarding the refund of the tickets, he pointed out that they did not give them much more information, beyond «that we were attentive to social networks».

Judit, one of the 'few' attendees who came from Andorra, spoke in a similar vein. «It seemed strange to us that they didn't open the doors, there were people who had been queuing in the sun for almost two hours, it was very hot and no one communicated anything», she explained, emphasizing that, according to what they had unofficially con-

firmed to her, there were people who, around 3:00 p.m., already knew that the concert would not be held.

It was around 5:25 p.m. when they were announced over the public address system that there would be no concert due to the high risk of an electrical storm: «Many people thought it was a joke and went to the authorities to ask information, but they continued to say nothing», she said. From there, she decided to leave the enclosure seeing that it was a firm decision, but the surprise came when she found that «going down towards the center, the Police were not there or a car passed announcing that finally the concert was not held». In addition, they also met around 6.30 pm with many people who continued to walk towards El Tarter, who were not aware of the decision taken. ●

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

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