



READING OF THE MANIFESTOS

Feminists are once again calling for the decriminalization of abortion

The ADA and AFdA highlight the shortcomings of the Equality Act, including employment and family parity

One hundred people gather in Lídia Armengol square to commemorate the day

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
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Andorra celebrates a new March 8th with the usual demands. With the passage of the Equality Act, feminist organizations highlighted the missing elements in the text, including the most vindicated year after year: the decriminalization of abortion. «There is a shortcoming that will not surprise anyone, which is the whole issue of women's sexual and reproductive rights and which is completely ignored by not looking at the possibility of decriminalization of abortion,» said the spokeswoman of the Feminist Action of Andorra (AFdA), Antònia Escoda, who ruled that «as long as women do not have access to decide on their motherhood, we will not have their sexual and reproductive rights respected.» «Abortion is a real social fact in the Principality that cannot be ignored,» they pointed out in their manifesto, read by Maria José Espinosa, adding that «denying us this right is an act of institutional violence against women 21st century».

In the same vein, the president of the Andorran Women's Association, Mònica Codina, recalled that the demand to legalize abortion in Andorra has been demanded for years, and assured people that she believes it is something temporary, or what remains in a collection of sig-



COMÚ D'ANDORRA LA VELLA/TONY LARA

► Attendees at the 8M demonstration in Lídia Armengol square.



MÒNICA CODINA
PRESIDENT OF THE ADA

«We talked openly about abortion [with the Episcopal Co-Prince]. I'd like to think there might be some change»

ANTÒNIA ESCODA

SPOKESPERSON FOR FEMINIST ACTION

«As long as women do not have access to decide on their motherhood, we will not have their sexual and reproductive rights respected»

natures «are wrong, because now it's us, and then our daughters, and if not our granddaughters.» «There are recurring issues in Andorra that we hope will be resolved,» said Codina. I would like to think, and I want to be optimistic, that there may be some change in this regard. «A change that, beyond the push that feminist groups have made so far, will have to come true «with the work that politicians have to do, be-

cause now it's up to them», she said to all parliamentary groups» because «it's a state issue and I think everyone should be there».

These demonstrations were held as part of the rally to commemorate International Women's Day, which was celebrated the day before yesterday, and which brought together about a hundred people in the Lídia Armengol square, including citizens of street and representatives of the country's institutions.

Another element highlighted as a shortcoming in the legislative text on equality was that which has to do with the work and family environment of men and women, emphasizing that the law has been articulated as a recommendation and not as an obligation. «It only obliges us to have equality plans in companies with more than 50 employees, so that 75% of the business fabric is out of this obligation,» lamented Escoda, who claimed that if lawmakers «Their hands have not shaken» when it comes to making labor safety laws, «nor should they do so to demand equality».

Thus, more action was needed to reverse the wage gap or to equalize maternity and paternity leave. Instead, they celebrated that the creation of the Andorran Women's Institute had been regulated, for which they asked for enough endowment to make it an efficient body. ≡

The FEDA staff is dressed in purple to celebrate 8M

The company has written a non-sexist language guide for the past year

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Last Tuesday, FEDA joined the demands for effective equality that materialize in various actions around the world for March 8th, International Women's Day. This year, the staff recognized this day of

denunciation and commemoration of the struggle of women for their participation in society and, especially in the workplace, gathering to form a purple ribbon in the garden of the service building located next to the Hydroelectric Power Station.

As the company pointed out in a statement, the company has for years established mechanisms to promote equality and combat sexism in the workplace. The best example is the approval in 2019 of the gen-

der equality plan, which FEDA workers take into account in their day-to-day work in the company. And in this plan, they highlighted some of the actions carried out over the last year, such as the drafting of the non-sexist language guide. Through a dozen sections, the guide reviews language recommendations, especially those aimed at trying to ensure a discourse with non-discriminatory content, seeking a balance between social demands, the orga-

nizations that lead the fight against masculinity and of the different philological currents. In addition, FEDA also highlighted the creation of the ethics and equality committee, the organization of equality awareness sessions for all staff, the start of work on advice and design of the protocol against harassment and specific training of the different people responsible and the promotion of the participation of women in public events promoted or participated in by the organization. Finally, FEDA said that it integrates the gender perspective into its internal processes, with the aim of identifying and minimizing discrimination against women. ≡



► The template forms a purple bow.

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INVASION OF UKRAINE

The convoy with material and money has already left Andorra for Poland

The six vehicles, with 18 volunteers, carry basic necessities and 54,000 euros for refugees

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In one go, non-stop to rest, just to refuel and to eat, but not to sleep, today from 05.00 the convoy of six vehicles and 18 volunteers of the Andorran Red Cross is expected to leave and firefighters with the equipment they received these days to take to the Polish city of Przemysl, located a few kilometers from the Ukrainian border. «Everyone is driving, so we will be changing drivers to try to cover the 2,500 kilometers that separate us in about 30 hours,» said yesterday the director of the entity, Jordi Fernández. They will be accompanied by four vans and two trucks loaded with water pallets, food, 51,000 syringes, baby clothes and items, two washing machines, five stoves, cleaning supplies, blankets and sleeping bags. «Every time we've been able to talk to people in Ukraine, we've been told that we don't wear adult clothing, only underwear, and children's clothing,» Fernández said. On this first trip there will be four firefighters,

The Red Cross does not currently plan to accommodate people, as this would require a law that does not yet exist

a non-commissioned officer and a corps officer. «About 2,500 kilometers that, at the speed of a truck, we expect to cover in about 30 hours one way and 30 more on the way back. Depending on the time it takes to unload all the material we carry, we plan to return on Sunday,» said Òscar Llovet, chief of staff of the Andorran Fire Brigade.

The Andorran Red Cross opened a bank account a few days ago and called for solidarity to receive income to help cover the expenses of the convoy, travel and also to be able to contribute with a donation that would go to the International Red Cross, who is working in the field. Fernández celebrated that, th-



► One of the trucks that left Andorra this morning for the border between Ukraine and Poland.



JORDI FERNÁNDEZ

DIR. OF THE ANDORRAN RED CROSS

«All [volunteers] are driving, so we're going to change drivers to try to cover the 2,500 miles in 30 hours»

IRINA PALYUSHOK

PROMOTER OF DONATIONS

«Many people are calling me willing to take in refugees and there are a lot of people at the border who want to be welcomed»

rough donations from companies and individuals, they have raised more than 54,000 euros. «It is the result of everyone's solidarity and reflects the way the country is,» Fernández said excitedly. To the figure collected, we must add the 20,000 euros that will be transferred by the General Council and the 7,000 euros with which the municipalities will contribute.

An action, to bring material to

be distributed in the conflict zone, promoted by Irina Palyushok, a Ukrainian resident in the country, who hopes that the solidarity initiative «even if it only serves to help a few people is at least the grain of sand that we put from here». Palyushok said that through the Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Andorra, Antoni Zorzano, they have received about six or seven applications from families who have applied for a residence permit to stay in the country. From the Red Cross they clarified that in this first trip it is not planned to pick up anyone to receive him in the Principality. «We are not ready for the bus, nor are we taking it on this first trip. The mission of this convoy is not to carry people. I understand that a law should be developed to bring people to the country, and I know that this is on the table, but it is not up to us,» said Fernández, referring to the legislative process that provides a legal basis to the state to regulate the right of asylum. «As a Ukrainian, I would like to see as many people as possible. A lot of people are calling me to take in refugees, and there are a lot of people on the Ukrainian border who want to be welcomed, so the sooner you can get out of the way, it will be better» Palyushok added. On the other hand, the Interurban Cooperative and Andbus, two of the country's public passenger transport companies, have offered, through a donation, a bus to the Andorran Red Cross. «We have to thank them and insist that we are not a transportation company, but we will use them for humanitarian reasons,» Fernández said. In fact, the organization is working to coordinate two more trips to the country in conflict, the first will be this coming morning, the second will be on the 16th and the third on the 23rd of March. Therefore, the collection points remain open and receptive: the Energy Club in Escaldes-Engordany, as well as the Marsupi store, the Dau nurseries in Andorra la Vella and Baldufa of Ordino, Vallnord, Caldea, the City Center supermarkets and Bon Dia, in addition to the Red Cross warehouse, according to the ANA. ≡

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