

ALL SAINTS' DAY

## Vives: «A collection has been started as a sign of our solidarity»

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EL PERIÒDIC



The co-prince Joan-Enric Vives in the cemetery, last Friday.

L.G.R.  
SANT JULIÀ DE LÒRIA

The episcopal co-prince and archbishop of Urgell, Joan-Enric Vives, called for solidarity with those affected by the DANA that has severely hit the Valencian Community, causing more than 150 deaths, and affecting hundreds of families. During the mass this Friday, November 1st, All Saints' Day, in Sant Julià de Lòria, Vives reiterated its support and condolences for the victims, mentioning the start of a solidarity collection promoted by Bishopric of Urgell and Càritas Andorra-

na. «An extraordinary collection has been started to show our solidarity», he said, adding that «everyone who wants to can contribute».

The archbishop expressed his deep concern for the situation in Valencia, where torrential rains have caused devastating damage to infrastructure and affected local communities. «We are all living this tragedy in great communion with the Valencian community that has suffered such great damage that grate on our nerves» stated Vives. He also added that the Bishopric and Caritas offer «our support, solidarity with the me-

ans we can», hinting at the possibility that other entities and institutions, such as the Executive, will join: «I am sure that our Government will also offer his support, his help, as the firemen do sometimes and many others, to the extent that they ask us.»

In his homily, Vives made a special mention of All Saints, a day dedicated to the celebration of the lives of the deceased. He emphasized that All Saints' Day represents the joy of remembering those who «made the crossing and reached port», referring to the saints and all people of good will. «They are all the good people we have met, often from our own families... We have people of whom we are very convinced, certain, that God cannot abandon them in any way but He has them with him», he affirmed, sharing his feeling with the community present.

### Delivery of drinking water

On the other hand, a truck loaded with 33 pallets of drinking water will be sent to the Valencian Community to help the population affected by the severe floods caused by the recent DANA. This shipment has been organized to deal with the lack of drinking water in areas with interrupted supply.

The products have been contributed by several business groups in the Principality, with the logistical support of TraldisPorta to ensure the arrival of water in the affected areas. ●

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**Vives points out that this day represents the joy of remembering people of good will**

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## LGTBI RIGHTS

# Diversand is working to promote a comprehensive LGBTBI Law in the Principality

The association proposes comprehensive regulations, focused on inclusion and the fight against discrimination

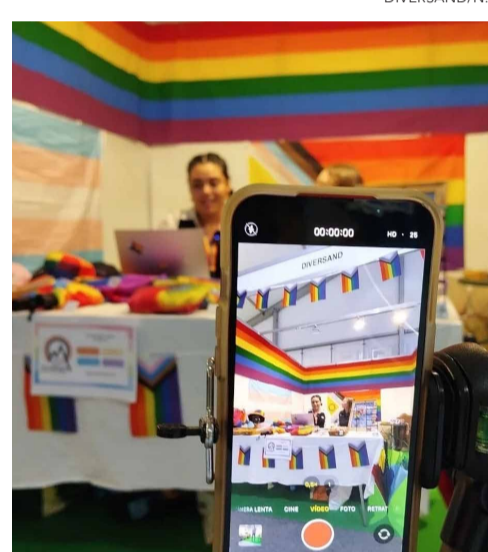
LAURA GÓMEZ RODRÍGUEZ  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Diversand Association is intensifying its efforts to create a comprehensive LGBTBI law in the Principality, with the aim of protecting the rights of people from the LGBTBI group under a legislative umbrella that covers hate speech, discrimination and social inclusion. This initiative responds to the need for a complete legal structure that not only protects the rights of the collective, but also offers information to citizens and community members. The proposal aims to address issues such as hate crime, gender equality and inclusive education to ensure a fairer and safer society for everyone.

This push for a comprehensive law is aligned with the conclusions of the recent report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), which warned about the inadequacies of the fight against racism and discrimination in Andorra. The report particularly highlights the need to improve

protection against hate speech and the lack of specific legislation to effectively address it. Although the recommendations of the ECRI report do not make explicit reference to Diversand, the association considers that ECRI's diagnosis confirms the need to act. The vice-president of Diversand, Isabella Vargas, points out that «in Andorra there is no legislation on hate speech», noting that some opinion articles with transphobic content have appeared in various media «without any filter».

Vargas explains that the ECRI report highlights that legislation against hate speech is not fully consolidated in Europe, but that «measures must be taken when the speech is homophobic, racist or discriminatory». However, ECRI also points to a lack of specific measures in gender equality and in matters that particularly affect the LGBTBI group. According to Vargas, «we have an equality law that covers some basic rights, but there is no legal framework that specifically defends LGBTBI people against hate



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speech.»

During the recent Associations Fair of Andorra la Vella, Diversand was able to interact with the community and respond to the concerns of the LGBTBI group and people interested in collaborating. Vargas emphasizes that «we were able to be in contact with people from the collective, and this is key for an association without a physical headquarters». In addition, the association added six new members over the weekend, an advance that

Vargas values very positively, as it allows the constant growth of the organization to be maintained.

The fair also served to highlight some of the main concerns of the group, such as the hormone treatment process by the CASS and the need for socialization within the community. «Socialization is an important part that affects the individual», says Vargas. Although some people who showed support have not formally joined as members, Diversand received a large number of supporters, which reinforces the goal of continuing to work with the Government to push forward this comprehensive law. With this proposal of comprehensive LGBTBI law, Diversand aims to go beyond specific actions and create global legislation that structurally addresses the problems of discrimination and hate speech. «If we go one by one, this will be a very slow process», explains Vargas, pointing out that the law would speed up the path towards a more inclusive and fair society. ●

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