

# Declaration of the rights of participants

## **PREAMBLE**

Education, the right of adults, must serve as an instrument of emancipation that makes it possible to overcome social inequalities and power relations. Education is based on the recognition and dialogue between the diverse cultural forms and lifestyles that coexist in the same community.

The elaboration and approval of this declaration corresponds to the adult participants in training processes who do not have a university degree nor are paid as Adult Education professionals, that is to say, to people with a great cultural richness where the voices of which have been silenced by the literate society.

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## **ARTICLE 1**

It is the right of the participants that States officially recognize and support all education provided in public adult education institutions and non-governmental, non-profit organizations. Demanding from the governments a greater consideration of the same in the general budgets of the states in the field of education from the different areas. The education and training of adults should never be considered as an expense by public administrations, but as an investment that will bring in the short, medium and long term important economic and social benefits.

## **ARTICLE 2**

The groups susceptible to social exclusion must be considered a priority in all training and social participation actions. Adult Education must respond to the needs of the community, as well as to people with specific needs, groups in the process of social integration and those who suffer problems of labor insertion.

## **ARTICLE 3**

All people have the right throughout their lives to participate free of charge in training processes and to have access to an offer of face-to-face education, in which different schedules are contemplated in the morning, afternoon and evening, aimed at the acquisition of qualifications in force in the whole of the educational system of each country. To this end, the different public administrations will have to provide institutions, communities and individuals with the necessary human, material and economic resources.

## **ARTICLE 4**

It is the right of the participants to take part in Adult Education policies, as well as in conferences, congresses and forums in which aspects related to Adult Education and social and cultural participation in general are dealt with.

## ARTICLE 5

The participants have the right to take part in local development projects, collaborating with institutions, associations and community groups to improve the quality of life of the social environment.

## ARTICLE 6

Adult Education has to be adequate to the interests, motivations, and needs of the participants. The programs, methodologies and human and material resources must be specific to adult education. Adult education and training require adequate premises without architectural barriers.

## ARTICLE 7

The definition of the training offer, the design of the educational programs and their evaluation must be elaborated on the basis of an equal dialogue between all the participants. The information on the educational offer must be disseminated using all available communication channels in order to be accessible to everyone.

## ARTICLE 8

All participants have the right to be part of the internal management bodies of the centers, projects and educational experiences they are part of. This means that management must be open and democratic, and that participants have a voice and a vote.

## ARTICLE 9

It is a right of all the participants to receive an integral and permanent formation that allows them to adapt to the constant changes of society: transformations in the world of work, access to new technologies, creative occupation of free time, formation for labor orientation....

## ARTICLE 10

Adult education has to promote self-esteem, communication, tolerance, respect for diversity and social change based on the development of a critical spirit.

## ARTICLE 11

All cultures shall be treated equally. Adult education shall gather the histories and experiences of all cultures in the community on the basis of intercultural dialogue.

## ARTICLE 12

Participants have the right to have their abilities, knowledge and skills acquired throughout their lives through experience recognized and valued. It is the duty of the public administrations, together with the participants, to seek formulas that recognize and accredit their abilities.

## ARTICLE 13

All adults must receive information about their rights in education.

*"We, the participants in adult education processes, want rights that allow us to have an education adapted to our needs and interests, and defined through consensus."*

### **Declaration agreed in Zaragoza, July 3, 1999, by:**

- Participants of the **Asociación Ágora de la Escuela de Personas Adultas la Verneda - San Martín**
- Participants of the **Asociación de Mujeres Hiedra de la Escuela de Personas Adultas La Verneda - St. Martí**
- Participants of the **Asociación de la Escuela La Pegaso**
- Participants of the **Asociación de Alumnas/as Jaume Tuset de Ripollet**
- Participants of the **Asociación de Mujeres en Forma de Torre Llobeta**
- Participants of the **Asociación Cultura Viva Santboiana**
- Participants of the **Asociación Cultural Gandalf**
- Participants of the **Asociación CODEF**
- Participants of the **Asociación de Adultos de Menorca**
- Participants of the **Asociación Cultural escuela Equipo**
- Participants of the **Círculo de Cultura Popular Rondilla**
- Participants of the **FECEAV**
- Participants of the **Escuela de personas Adultas de Galdakao**
- Participants of the **Asociación de Mujeres Lorquianas de Fuentevaqueros**
- Participants of the **Asociación de Antiguos Alumnos de Educación de Personas Adultas, Artes y Oficios, de Vigo.**

