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Support the General Strike AGAINST THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY MEASURES

Against social cuts and labour reform. For the restoration of social dialogue. The undersigned, who are all members of organised civil society, pledge their support to the general strike on 29th September.

The Spanish's Government's response to the economic crisis and labour reform, in line with the dictates of international institutions serving the interests of capital and large corporations, is a symptom of a wider crisis that is cultural, ecological and political in nature, whilst simultaneously repudiating governments' authority and regulatory capacity and seeking to subject daily life to the codes of rampant consumption, individualism, inequality and the renunciation of solidarity.

Far from serving to create more jobs, the reforms that they wish to impose on us will rather increase short-term contracts, make it easier and cheaper to sack people, reinforce the power of employers to unilaterally impose working conditions, weaken collective bargaining and further exacerbate job insecurity. They also represent a setback for the welfare state, paving the way for public services to be cut back and privatised. What's more, these measures heighten the risk of social exclusion for sectors of our society and, as organisations with a commitment to this society, we wish to ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable people, whoever they are, are not forgotten.

These measures may give the impression that governments can neither represent their citizens nor defend their interests, so reliant are they on the iron laws of the financial markets. But this is not true. Governments can and have an obligation to defend us from the onslaught of speculators, and we refuse to accept as a foregone conclusion the deterioration of our working, training and living conditions, a deterioration which also spells increased social and gender inequality, since it would entail a renunciation of citizenship and politics, of everything that gives democracy its true meaning.

As such, the strike on 29th September concerns each and every one of us, from social organisations to trade unions:

- It is an appeal to all citizens willing to oppose a Europe ruled by traders, with no room for politics or the role of the State in the redistribution of wealth.
- It is a wake-up call for all those people who are unwilling to sit back and watch whilst civic values, social and labour rights are cut back, the public services (health, education, etc.) are privatised, and the environment is degraded. It is about taking a stand against speculators and their accomplices.
- It is about speaking out against those who would capitalise on our silence in order to make us foot the bill for the crisis, sow insecurity far and wide, and justify the gross misuse of resources and their dirty business and speculation.

Now is the time for Spanish and European citizens to stand up and be counted and to make clear their opposition to the origins of the crisis and the way it has subsequently been dealt with. It is vital we remember that the Europe of the people must be built on social foundations, not economic ones, and that the values of equal opportunities for all and solidarity must be promoted. It is to these people that democratically elected governments ought to be held accountable, not the International Monetary Fund.

For this reason, the strike on 29th September represents an urgently needed expression of democracy at the service of all people. And that is why we, as civic groups, citizens and workers of our country, pledge our support for and commitment to the trade union movement in their call for a general strike on 29th September.

