

## RIGHT TO LIVE

### **A society that does not defend life from its origin till its natural end is an ill-society**

In the 5th General Assambly celebrated by the members of "Clam per la Dignitat" (Claim for Dignity) on last December as it was explained on last issue of this bulletin, we decided to become a member of the platform "Derecho a vivir", Right to live, (<http://derechoavivir.org/>). The topic of abortion becomes again topical in the Spanish society due to the new approved draft bill by the Spanish Cabinet of "Ley de Interrupción Voluntaria del Embarazo y Salud Sexual y Reproductiva" (Law to the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy and Sexual Health and Reproduction) which considers the free abortion till the 14th week and until the 22nd week in case of risk to the life or health of the woman or serious anomalies of the fetus. Around 120,000 abortions happens per year in Spain. With this law, the number would be the double.

The topic of abortion and the topic of the right to life are something that involve everybody. Politicians should beware of the right of integral promotion of life, people and common good. When in our western society so many things play down, it is very easy to lose the fundamental vocation of politicians. And it is very easy to delegate decisions to them that involve our conscience. It seems our fundamental values like life become another consumer goods as part of political field, as if truth and the good of human beings as a matter of political consensus.

In our daily experiences, we know and we live together with teenagers who had a non-

## editorial

desired pregnancy and they decided to have the baby. We know the problems that this decision mean, but we also realized that with help, they led stronger and more responsible. Obviously, we do not have the right to judge the conscience of each one, but it is also true that we want to use our freedom to define our position in favour of life as human beings and as an organization, without considering our religious point of view. We really believe that a society that does not protect life from its origin since its natural end is an ill society, however the economic and technological development this society has.

With few resources but plenty of excitement and energy, the platform "Derecho a vivir" (Right to live) has mobilized a lot of sectors of Spanish society, becoming the visible face of anonymous people who want to defend the right to live. In this context, our modest contribution wants to support this "red tide" (all the material, the buses that travel around Spain and its web page has the red colour as identity) and again we admit that the civil society can and must have an active presence in the society.

In this issue we have the second and last article by Francesc Torralba about solidarity. We also present an article by teacher Silke Kamradt and teacher Markus Braunmiller of the German Secondary school "Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium" about the school-twinning between this secondary school and the school "La Mansion" in Peru also with our collaboration.

The Council

## GLOBALIZATION WITH A HUMAN FACE

**Solidarity, so, far from being an ethical imperative, is the verification of interdependence**

One must say that today, there is a greater sense of international solidarity that offers, in particular, a unique opportunity to contribute to the globalization of solidarity. This solidarity sense serves as an encounter point for States and for civil society, and is a convergence point for the diverse interests and necessities.

People without resources cannot demonstrate this solidarity plentifully, but this feeling appears whenever there are world-wide catastrophes. As said in the "Declaration toward a Global Ethic" by the Parliament of the World's Religion of the year 1993, we are interdependent and we consider human-kind our family, we are connected to one another.

The myth of self-sufficiency is not human because a self-sufficient being is that who is able to manage by himself and who does not have any need from anything foreign to still be able to survive in the being. In order to survive, human beings need to consume elements external to their own nature. We depend on it, we depend on others. Solidarity, so, far from being an ethical imperative, is the verification of interdependence, of the deep and underground interaction that exists between all the entities that form the world.

The phenomenon of media and market globalization allows us to notice such interdependence clearly. When we found out about the precarious situation in which so many human beings live, we experience the need to establish bridges and to transfer helps.

## thoughts

The cooperation between international organizations and non-governmental organizations helps to guarantee that the interests of the states (as legitimate as these are) and of the diverse groups that exist inside them are not invoked or defended in detriment of the interests or the rights of other peoples, specially of those least prosperous. The worldwide emergence of the voluntary work is one sign that this cooperation strengthens.

Therefore, a staging of this mechanism of solidarity is needed opposite to the individualistic egoisms that frequently promote a globalization excessively dominated by the economic interests in order to contemplate in its real dimension the unfairness of an asymmetric globalization. It is necessary to humanize globalization. While the integration of the markets of goods, services and capitals progresses that of labor markets, for example, does not do it.

Joseph Stiglitz, a good connoisseur of the process of globalization, establishes, in the colophon of one of his last books, a kind of final judgment that includes a call to rich countries and to international organizations in order that they achieve an ethical and unavoidable duty.

"The developed world – he says - needs to do its part to reform the international institutions that govern globalization. We set up these institutions and we need to fix them. If we are to address the legitimate concerns of those who have expressed a discontent with globalization, if we are to make globalization work for the billions of people for whom it has not, if we are to make globalization with a human face to succeed, then our voices must be raised."

Francesc Torralba i Roselló

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## A SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP - A DREAM COMES TRUE FOR THE RBG

**We would like to have a longterm partnership with room to exchange thoughts and ideas and not only organizing fundraisers**

### **RBG – what does it mean?**

RBG stands for "Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium". The RBG is a German high school in Langenau. About 1000 students from Langenau itself and its greater area attend the school. Each Monday to Friday they arrive on foot, on bike, by bus or by train. There are about 70 teachers working at the school.

Like every other school the RBG has a student council. They organize i.e. sports meetings and multiple workshops and leisure time activities in order to loosen up and improve the school's daily routine.

### **Why do we want to take part in a school partnership?**

For a long time we have been thinking about taking part in a school partnership. We would like to have a longterm partnership with room to exchange thoughts and ideas and not only organizing fundraisers. We would like to support a school where students are not as well-off as we are.

At one of the student council meetings, still having this idea in mind, we decided to get going and initiate a school partnership.

### **Our goals and expectations**

- to support our partner school and its students with school supplies
- to support the students' alimentation (i.e. by supporting the school canteen)
- constant and regular correspondence by mail (cultural exchange)
- to raise our school's awareness of poverty in this world

## experiences

- to write reports on our partner school on a regular basis for our student magazine

### **Activities in detail**

#### **- What have we done so far?**

We provided some information about Peru and the school partnership and put it up in our school for students and teachers to read. Additionally we printed flyers with information about the school partnership and our partner school.

#### **- What are planning to do?**

We organized a charity run to raise money which will provide the financial foundation for our school partnership.

Also some projects and workshops focussing on topics like alimentation, Peru, poverty and environment will take place at the school.

Finally the proceeds of the charity run as well as the conclusions of the projects and workshops will be announced at a school celebration.

### **Slogan**

We created a slogan for our school partnership: "fLoH – für ein Leben ohne Hunger" (supporting life without hunger and starvation; "Floh" is also the German word for flea)

The student council  
and Markus Braunmiller and Silke Kamradt  
(teachers assigned as supervising tutors)



# news

## NEWS OF "CLAM PER LA DIGNITAT" – SPAIN

- The small help that we have requested last January for the project of „La Mansión“ in Arequipa (Peru) to the AMB (Àrea Metropolitana of Barcelona) has been denied.

- We are trying to organize, like every year, the Dinner of the Hunger. We can not still specify the day and the hour.

- We keep receiving electronic mail of organizations and people, the majority of Latin America, who ask us for material help to finance its projects or else ask us to collaborate with our ONG. At present the only thing that we can offer them is to continue in contact through our bulletin. It means that our bulletin is read by people and organizations that we do not know, who we also invite to take part in this bulletin. If you have some writing that can be of interest for all of us, please, send it to us. Thank you very much.

- On Friday 28 of August at 6 pm we have a meeting of members and friends of Clam per la Dignitat in the Parish Center of Sarrià.

- We need voluntary translators (Catalan/Spanish; Catalan or Spanish/English).

- Who is interested to participate in the voluntary service of Sostre in Barcelona contact Javi Laguno (xavierlaguno at gmail.com) or contact the secretary.

## NEWS OF "CLAIM FOR DIGNITY e.V." - GERMANY

On 4th of April the meeting of the members of Claim for Dignity took place in Filderstadt. Apart from a changing in the statute there was information about the situation of the different projects and a discussion about future objectives and lines of development. The new executive committee consists of Stephanie, Edi and Michael.

With the help of the BDKJ and thanks to the work of Edi, Stephanie, Michael and Maria we could receive two volunteer places for the Peru project, which are financed by the Weltwärts program of the German Government. We have now the possibility to act locally, with the help of persons willing to make experiences in Peru.

The Cooperation with the High School Langenau intensifies itself. The preparation for the project days, which have the school in Arequipa to the topic, is in full progress. A journey to Peru in the autumn is definitely scheduled.

The High School Bretten received planning documents for its green roof project for Arequipa. We are very curious about the results.

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