

MALLORCA IS NOT FOR SALE

Denied a roof over our heads, we are denied a future

Good afternoon, everybody,

Today, Saturday 25 May 2024, all of us here know the reality of access to housing, and we know the desperate situation we are suffering throughout Mallorca and the rest of the Sister Islands. Because this movement, this longing, this demand, this just and desperate struggle, was born in Sencelles, but it could have been born in Sant Antoni de Portmany, in Ciutadella, in Sant Josep de sa Talaia or in the neighbourhood of Pere Garau, right here in Palma. A fraternal embrace to each and every one of the people in any of the 4 islands who today are threatened with losing their homes.

We are also here today because the impact of this video has been such that it has prompted us to call this demonstration. We have succeeded in giving voice to a collective grief that has been silenced until now.

Too many times, our politicians have hidden behind big economic figures to deny the evidence.

Because the impressive truth is that Mallorca sells and rents, but we can't afford it! This drama hits us all, affecting entire families, young people who cannot emancipate themselves and older people who see how their children have to leave the island.

The right to decent housing on our islands is not being guaranteed, with devastating consequences for social cohesion and people's well-being. Access to a home cannot be a luxury reserved for a privileged few. The reality for islanders is that we cannot live here, on our own land.

We find it unbearable to see how Mallorca and the Islands are being transformed into a luxury *resort*, where only those with money can buy or rent. We are threatened by a social and cultural change that uproots us, that robs us of our identity and our future. Mallorca, for decades, has become a land of welcome for humble people from all over the world who have come to seek a dignified life that unfortunately they did not have in their places of origin.

Now, we are threatened by the arrival of large economic and speculative interests that want to wipe out everything we are. Because it is this logic that we must fight against. The logic that turns a house, the safest place for any person, into the weapon of a predatory wealth that wipes out everything it finds in front of it. Be it a culture, nature, or the home of the humble.

We must look for new formulas to achieve a productive model that is more respectful of the environment and of the people who live on this island. We now feel that we have no place and that we are being left without a future. Housing prices have risen to unattainable limits for most residents. Our islands are becoming an inhospitable place for those of us who live there all year round.

This land must be a place where our children can grow up in safety and dignity, a place that is friendly to its residents and where tourism is controlled so that it does not condition our whole lives. Being able to have access to decent housing is the first step towards being rooted and developing fully, to feel part of this land that we love. That is why we ask:

- Declare a **housing emergency** in the islands in order to take urgent measures in favour of the **right to housing**.
- Recognise that islands are a **tense area** for **rent regulation**.
- A **moratorium on tourist rentals**.

- Replace **tourist rentals with social rentals**.
- Dedicate the **banks' houses** to social renting, as compensation for the bailout that has not yet been paid back.
- Provide guarantees to tenants and lessees, and aid for rehabilitation, to guarantee decent living conditions in **empty houses** so that they can be used for social renting.
- Allow the adaptation to climate change of **undeveloped housing**, but limit their profits by dedicating them only to rent or social sale. In this way, families who have lived there for decades would be able to compensate socially.
- To seek accommodation for **evicted persons without a residential alternative**, due to the impossibility of paying the rent, as is already provided for in some regional laws and as required by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Implement the **Universal Basic Income**, which everyone would receive, with a return proportional to the income of each person, allowing **wealth to be redistributed** so that no one is left unprotected, at a ridiculous cost for the administration.
- Create an **urban planning moratorium on rustic land**, as was done in Menorca. Because, if not, Mallorca could triple its population.
- **Limit the purchase of homes to** persons who have not been resident for at least 5 years.
- **Limit house purchases** to large holders.

These demands are essential to ensure that the islands remain a living, diverse and welcoming place. Together, we can build a future where everyone has a place in our home. We must fight for our homes, for our families, and for our dignity.

Finally, we would like to remind you once again that today this small group of people who make up the Banc del Temps de Sencelles know that we are not alone. Today there are people here who a few weeks ago were in the Plaza Mayor to say no more persecution of our own language.

Today we also see people who, many years ago, also called that phrase that still resonates in our hearts "Who loves Majorca, does not destroy it".

Today, we see some green t-shirts that more than 10 years ago taught a lesson to an arrogant and elusive government by defending public schooling in Catalan.

And, today, we also see so many other just struggles that are worth defending. Like that of the Kellys or that of the Democratic Memory and so many others.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for each and every one of these lessons. Today, the Banc del Temps de Sencelles would not be here if it were not for all of you.

Because nothing ends today!

It all starts today!

Because Mallorca is not for sale!