

1st March 2013

MANIFESTO FOR EQUALITY IN CULTURE

As citizens contributing to the public purse and as professionals of the cultural world (scientists, film makers, artists, playwrights, researchers, composers, professors, actresses, editors, critics, writers, managers, etc.)

WE DECLARE:

1-THAT IN THE CULTURAL WORLD TODAY IN SPAIN A DEEP INEQUALITY STILL REIGNS BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN.

For decades there have been as many women as men, if not more, with Bachelor degrees, especially in the Arts and Humanities. However, graduate women don't get important jobs, nor the material and symbolic rewards that they deserve for their vocational training, talent and effort.

Experience shows that when objective criteria are applied, women obtain equal or better results than men. But in the cultural world, advancement is frequently based on processes scarcely or not at all transparent, based on male inertia and corporate power. This is especially paradoxical in the scientific and artistic sectors, that should promote individual freedom and creativity without any prejudice whether gender-based or otherwise.

2-THAT AN UNEQUAL CULTURE CREATES INEQUALITY.

A scientific and artistic culture principally created by men produces content that reinforces the masculine leading role, presenting the male as the subject, and his experience as universal; while women are seen as secondary beings -accessory or absent-whose experience is less representative and deserves less interest. That content is later transmitted to education, thus perpetuating and justifying inequality. The will, repeatedly expressed by our society, to ensure equal opportunities for women and men, is ineffective when confronted with the power of this biased cultural model.

3-INEQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN SCIENCE AND ARTS -AS WELL AS IN OTHER FIELDS-CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT.

There is no true democracy without an equal power distribution. The actual situation, in which power is practically monopolized by only one of the two sexes, contradicts the point and spirit of current legislation: The Constitution of 1987, the Organic Equality Law of 2007 and European Equality Resolutions, among others.

4-FAR FROM IMPROVING WITH TIME, THE SITUATION THAT WE ARE DENOUNCING IS GETTING WORSE.

Research carried out by the associations signing here below shows barely any progress in our country

as far as cultural equality is concerned in the 35 years elapsed since the Constitution of 1978.

The Equality Law of 2007 had started to produce results, when a rapid reverse occurred, drastically reducing the budget for both culture and equality. This shows an absolute lack of political will in applying the laws related to equality. We have also noticed an ideological revival of gender-based inequality.

Therefore, **WE DEMAND:**

- 1- That the existing laws and rules of good practice (regarding access to decision-making positions, professional promotions and prizes in science and art) are complied with, so that selection is made through objective criteria, in order to respect equality of opportunity, banishing favouritism and corporate pressure.
- 2- That arts and culture offered to the public should include the work of women creators, women scientists, women managers, women critics, etc., in similar proportion to men, according to the Equality Law, especially in institutions that, being totally or partially financed by public money, are supported by female as well as male taxpayers.
- 3- That the media and educational institutions, at all levels, recognise and make visible the contribution and achievement of women artists, creators and scientists, present or past, and that they include the gender perspective, both broadly and specifically, in study plans.

Signed by:

AMIT, asociación de mujeres investigadoras y tecnólogas
(Association of women researchers and technicians)

CIMA, mujeres cineastas y de los medios audiovisuales
(Women filmmakers)

Clásicas y Modernas, asociación por la igualdad de género en la cultura
(Association for gender equality in culture)

MAV Mujeres de artes visuales (Women visual artists)

