



Educar en Família

Coordinadora Catalana pel
Reconeixement i la Regulació
del Homeschooling



Manifesto IFED 2014

Barcelona, September 14, 2014

FIDE – Freedom in Education Day

Education outside formal schools, a conscious and growing alternative, that is still neglected by the government.

In Catalonia there are hundreds of families who, consciously and in harmony with their lives philosophy, have chosen for alternative ways to schooling in public or subsidized schools, to attend to the educational needs of their children. In some cases, they do that through parenting groups or free schools, that have the involvement of the families as their most important element, and which seek to create spaces for interaction and profiles of education that formal schools normally do not provide. In others, such as the families in the Catalan Coordinator for Recognition and Regulation of homeschooling, the families themselves assume the complete education of their children, combining activities and family environment with other associations in their neighbourhood and meetings with other homeschooling families.

The number of families in Catalonia choosing for this educational option is increasing year after year. Both in Catalonia and the rest of Spain, the Catalan Coordinator, together with other similar associations, have contacted various educational authorities and all parliamentary groups presenting proposals for a legal framework that recognizes our educational option, avoiding having to live with the threat to receive complaints and ensuring the rights of our children to grow up without social stigma and to be able to access to post-compulsory studies in equal conditions.

Both educational and social welfare administrations of the government, political parties and coalitions represented in the Catalan Parliament and the Spanish Courts know about our situation and know exactly what our educational choice is and that it is not comparable to the so-called truancy. It is in their hands, based on the current educational law (both the LEC as LOCE) and on higher legal references (both the Statute and the Constitution) to break this absurd confluence between compulsory education and compulsory schooling.

The willingness to serve the community, the desire to accommodate new perspectives in the field of education and the duty to do justice in a broader sense, should be priority in the actions of Policymakers and educators. Unfortunately, the fact that homeschooling is a minority and the fear (completely unfounded) that our "bad example" will question the essence of the existing system have hampered any chance of progress up to date.

September 15th is the day that, at European level, different individuals and groups go out on the streets to insist on freedom in education. Most countries, both European and worldwide, have laws that recognize the rights of families to choose the educational option that suits them and have found formulas so that this is not at the expense of children's rights or the ability of governments to watch over them. It is, therefore, a matter of political will, that fills many pages and speeches lately, but which, unfortunately, is very difficult to find in real examples. However, if there is something that families who educate their children outside the school system have learned, that is to be patient, to be consistent and to not step backwards when we are convinced that we are acting in conscience. We are convinced that we are no threat and that someday they will end up listening to us. In the benefit of an increasing number of children and families for a more just and open society, we hope that moment will come soon.



The 55 art. from the 12/2009 law (LEC) recognizes compulsory non-attending education (homeschooling)

Right to decide? And homeschooling?

The illustration shows a family of five people (a man, a woman, and three children) standing behind a large yellow banner. The banner contains the following text: 'IFED INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM IN EDUCATION DAY' in large, colorful, bold letters. Below this, it says 'Sunday, September 14, 2014.', 'Ciutadella park, BCN (opposite the Ludoteca)', and 'From 12 p.m.'. At the bottom of the banner, it says 'Meeting of families, open to anyone who may be searching for information' and provides the website 'http://www.educarenfamilia.org/' in blue text.

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From 12 p.m.
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For further information:

info@educarenfamilia.org

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<http://jipli.free.fr/>