

# IN DEFENSE OF PUBLIC SERVICES

## WE HAVE THE RIGHT

## TO HAVE

# RIGHTS

### #xLoPúblico

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION

## MADRID

## 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

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# IN DEFENSE OF PUBLIC SERVICES

## DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE RIGHTS?

### We're speaking:

- of the right to a quality universal **public health care**.
- of the right to **public education** for all, a public education which teaches liberty and critical thinking.
- of the right of **dependent people** (elderly people, kids, ill people who are alone) to be cared for so they can have a dignified quality of life.
- of the right to sufficient **public pensions** for all.
- of the right to have public services in our towns and cities, such as **public cleaning, water, energy, housing, social services, protection of the environment, infant education, public information and communication, transport, etc.**, provided and assisted by public companies which guarantee their adequacy and efficiency at all times
- of the right to **public media** (radios, mail, TV, press...) for all, media which guarantee freedom of speech and information from the viewpoint of common and general interests.
- of the right to a **basic income** for all.

Our answer is clear: everyone has the right to these rights, because they're fundamental rights of all human beings.

### Why have these Fundamental Rights been taken away from us and who's responsible for this atrocity?

The **dispossession of common goods** which used to guarantee the subsistence of the people and some degree of independence from the submission to salaried work **is at the origin of capitalism**.

What's new from the 70's on is the **dispossession of basic community services through their commodification and the privatization of public companies** that provided part of those services, which were a property of all society, in order to be turned into private businesses.

**The "Great Crisis" is an excuse that is leading to the Great Social Fraud:** The crisis-fraud which capitalism has generated since 2007 increases this dispossession in a lethal way, and we find that in 2009-2014, cuts in public spending by the Spanish state approached 78000 millions.

**These cuts are dramatic for the social majority. No common goods are free from this atrocity:** education, health, housing, unemployment benefits, care, assistance to dependent persons, culture, pensions, inversions in the public sector...

The various governments, obeying order from Brussels, directly cut public spending in the three main items which are crucial to Social Rights: **basic public services, social protection benefits and social policies.**

### **CUTS IN PUBLIC SPENDING IN THE 2009-2014 PERIOD**

<b>BUDGET ITEMS</b>	<b>Variation in millions of euros</b>
<b>Public housing</b>	<b>6979 millions</b>
<b>Education (at all three levels)</b>	<b>6138 millions</b>
<b>Health assistance</b>	<b>5564 millions</b>
<b>Policies for families and children</b>	2692 millions
<b>Cultural services</b>	2275 millions
<b>International cooperation</b>	2060 millions
<b>Basic R&amp;D investments</b>	1337 millions
<b>Industrial policies</b>	1206 millions
<b>Illness and disability</b>	1099 millions
<b>Unemployment benefits</b>	<b>7231 millions</b>
<b>Investments in transport infrastructures</b>	10789 millions
<b>Investments in economic R&amp;D</b>	1068 millions

**Health** spending: 9600 million euros, which means a decrease in the salaries of employees in the health system of 3244 million euros (less personnel and lower salaries) while funding of healthcare decreased in 2144 million euros.

**Education** spending: 7394 million euros, meaning a loss of 3705 million euros for salaried persons (less personnel and lower salaries) and a loss in funds of 2235 million euros.

**Unemployment** spending: it decreased 7231 million euros, lowering drastically the coverage rate (only 54% of unemployed persons receive some kind of benefit), as well as the quantities, which are lower every day.

**156000 jobs have been destroyed in the public sector** and there has also been a 17% decrease in spending on salaries. There has been insufficient funding and generalized precariousness of all public workers.

### **The so-called “governments of change” promised in their election programs the devolution of rights stolen from citizens:**

- **The return of those public services** that had been privatized **to the direct management of city councils:** public cleaning, water, energy, waste disposal, transportation, environment, housing, social care, etc.
- **Guarantee of Public Rights:** Health, Education, Housing, guaranteed by law for every person.
- **Revocation of article 135 of the Constitution of Spain,** an article which was introduced by an agreement between PSOE-PP-CiU-PNV in September 2011,

which guaranteed that there would always be money to pay an **illegitimate** (and in many cases illegal) **debt**.

- **Revocation of the 2010 (PSOE) and 2012 (PP) labor reforms**, which allow **free layoffs** of public personnel in all public companies and administrations.

### **Reality now:**

The **plundering of public goods** has been carried out by **diverting thousands of millions of tax euros** (which used to be dedicated to social spending) to banks and vulture funds, causing great harm to public services, which at the same time are presented as inefficient and insufficient, thus creating a perception of scarcity and pushing the social majority “into the market’s arms”.

Fiscal policy in the country, especially regarding the collection of **corporate taxes**, has meant that between 2007 and 2014 **the amount collected in this manner dropped 58%** (18173 million euros), even though in this same period **corporate profits only went down 1%**.

**17 of 35 IBEX35 companies didn’t pay a cent of corporate taxes**, even though only three of them declared losses in their 2014 accounts.

**Fiscal policies allow tax avoidance by big capital**; for example, the diversion of capitals to tax havens “increased in Spain by 2000% between 2013 and 2014, especially to Cayman Islands (1969 million euros, 64 times more than the money that went to investments in Germany). Oxfam estimates that only with the amount of money that went to Cayman Islands, between 144 and 550 million euros have eluded our country’s public budget. **“With this money all health assistance to immigrant population in Spain could be paid”**.

**Privatizations, externalization of public services**, whatever the formal-legal shape they assume, are **politically sustained by the modification of article 135 of the Constitution**, which bridles all state administrations by prohibiting indebtedness and exceeding the deficit limit that Brussels has determined for the Spanish state, as well as by the freezing of new recruitment processes in the public sector in order to fill necessary vacancies in Public Services.

**The defense of Public Services as social rights for all shows us that we have to** clearly and unequivocally support their universality, sufficiency and efficiency, as well as the participation of users and workers in their management.

**The struggle of all persons affected by these issues (millions of people), of social movements and real class unions is the only guarantee of a 180 degrees turn in public policies, of the recovery of everything that belongs to all of us.**



# **La Lucha es el Único Camino**

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