

## INCLUSION POLICIES AS A GUARANTEE FOR THE AFFIRMATION OF RIGHTS

4. Social exclusion manifests itself everywhere; in the rundown historic centres and peripheries of big cities, particularly in urban extensions and the proliferation of shanty towns and *favelas*; in the irregular conditions of many immigrants; in the unequal and discriminatory treatment towards women, people different sexual orientations or minority ethno-cultural groups; in the absence of equal opportunity policies for the large number of young people at risk; in the insufficient care and assistance for children and the elderly; in the inadequate public spaces and services for disabled people; and in the absence of access to public transport, especially for those people in disadvantaged social or economic situations.

5. As a result, from a design and management criteria standpoint, **inclusion policies must ensure universal access to basic services and safeguard citizens' rights**; they must also be directed towards a transformation in the social reality according to the values dictated by equality, solidarity, and respect for differences; and, finally, they must be committed to the future of the world, promoting sustainable development and contributing to the fight against climate change.

6. **Inclusion policies are designed to satisfy both material needs for a dignified life and those related to social connections.** Social diversity and the right to differences have to be placed alongside the promotion of egalitarian relationships that reduce economic, social and cultural inequalities. In particular, social inclusion policies should ensure the reduction of poverty and generate employment and income; they should promote health, personal independence, attend to the needy, and support families; they should ensure an independent and dignified life for people with disabilities; they should combine the time spent on paid work, care giving and child rearing and free time; they should protect young children and the elderly who are vulnerable; they should democratize access to culture, information and ongoing training; and, finally, they should push for democracy and for critical, participative and responsible citizenship.

7. Exclusion is also reflected in the spatial segregation of the population and in the privatisation of the public sector. Because of this, **inclusion policies should aim to have an integrated urban policy that is respectful of social diversity** and avoids the creation of segmented concentrations of people in the population, whether it be for reasons of ethno-cultural origins or social ones. It is necessary to fight spatial segregation through actions such as: rebuilding districts in an integrated way; providing the most disadvantaged urban areas with quality public spaces and installations; promoting diverse uses of the land; encouraging social mixing in housing choices with the aim of seeing people from different backgrounds and socio-economic situations living in the same districts; removing architectural barriers that can

isolate certain areas; and, finally, taking the gender variable into account in the urban make-up.

8. In relation to this matter, special mention has to be made of metropolitan areas given that they make up the decisive urban, social and economic constants in the current conditions of globalization. Because of this, **it is necessary to coordinate policies and services between local bodies of the same metropolitan area where there is the greatest scarcity of policies** being carried through. From a metropolitan standpoint, both taking care of the people (in terms of health, education, social services, housing and the quality of employment) and improving their mobility have to be the priority. Furthermore, as long as there are economic enclaves throughout the world, it will be necessary to plan and develop infrastructures that connect cities with the world.

9. **Local governments should do what they can to anticipate social problems.** On the one hand, this implies approaching the combination of factors that create risk of exclusion from a structural perspective and, on the other hand, supporting local action based on a preliminary diagnosis of needs. To this end, instruments that can measure the impact of policies in the form of social observatories should be created. Furthermore, political and financial sustainability has to be a fundamental criteria in the design of inclusion policies as well as the ongoing training of all those involved in their implementation. Finally, these policies need to be developed through integrated city programmes orientated towards the inclusion of at-risk groups.

10. Due to the different political powers between various governmental levels (local, metropolitan, regional, national and international), **a multi-level coordination that ensures a satisfactory fit between local inclusion policies and central government policies is needed.**

11. This is especially relevant as long as the essential mechanisms of inclusion, such as employment, housing or public transport policies, among others, are generally not available at a local level. Therefore, we need to demand participation from the state in key areas of social inclusion, and also a greater decentralisation of resources so that local governments can sustain such policies. To a large extent, the effectiveness of social inclusion policies depends on the degree to which skills and existing resources are decentralised.