

## **Basque Men's Charter against Violence towards Women and for Women's Equality**

The men signing this charter are aware that we live in a society where pronounced inequality exists in the relations and power sharing between men and women and where the female is placed in a position of less importance than the male. As a consequence of this, we men have certain privileges: we enjoy more leisure time, we fill most of the public space and the political and economic power arena and we benefit from the housework and the care functions carried out mainly by women. However, this type of social organisation also affects us negatively and we are unsatisfied with the traditional male chauvinist role model which has been in place as a social benchmark in the construction of our identity and which conditions the integral development of our personality.

We believe that it is only fair that this situation change, because it is a woman's right and because it beneficial for society as a whole, given that as a result of the change men also stand to gain.

For this reason, with the desire to overcome the damage caused by sex discrimination, we assume the personal and collective commitment to participate in the construction of an egalitarian society, where women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities and where the contribution and needs of one and other are valued alike. Therefore, **we pledge:**

- To share the rightful demands of women against sex discrimination and support their fight against all types of sex discrimination, and notably, to show our upfront rejection of male-chauvinist violence, to make active public condemnation of such discriminatory behaviour and not to consent to it in our midst.
- To rethink from our different perspectives, experiences and attitudes, the values and everyday behaviour upheld by this unequal society and encourage and accompany other men on this path of personal and social change.
- To evaluate our own care and that of others, instead of encouraging hazardous attitudes which go against personal health and safety.
- To assume responsibility for domestic tasks and the care of others, not only as part of our responsibility, but for our growth as individuals and in particular in making use of taking time off work, leave of absence, and reductions in the working day to care for others.
- To move towards broad-based sexuality without myths, without comparisons or impositions, based on enjoyment and shared pleasure, and to oppose all behaviour which violates sexuality being exercised freely, including freedom of choice and sexual orientation.
- To aim to freely build our personal identity, untouched by roles and stereotypes, as well as to fully develop our affective and emotional life.
- To banish the use and legitimisation of violence as a way to solve problems and to look for peaceful ways to address and resolve problematic situations in which we find ourselves.

Our pledge as Basque men is a firm commitment to equality. It is our need and desire to build a society made up of individuals who are freer, more autonomous, fairer and happier.