

NOTICE FROM BARCELONA'S MUNICIPAL LGTBI COUNCIL ON THE DISAPPROVAL OF LGTBI ORGANISATIONS IN REGARD TO THE CHOICE OF THE WRITER NAJAT EL HACHMI AS OPENING SPEAKER FOR LA MERCÈ 2023.

The LGBTI Municipal Council wishes to express its disapproval of the choice of Ms. Najat El Hachmi as the opening speaker at the City of Barcelona's upcoming La Mercè festivities. Apart from Najat El Hachmi's recognised merits, her public declarations against transgender women and trans people in general distance her from the recognition of the human rights of trans people and the LGBTIQ+ community. This has created enormous disapproval amongst the LGBTI community in general and especially among the organisations that work directly with these groups, which only achieved recognition of their rights a few months ago.

Barcelona has always been a welcoming place for any group of people, whatever their origin, orientation, identity or beliefs. At this Council, we have listened to the complaints of our member organisations concerning this year's choice, and we believe that, as a Council, it is important to support the protests that various organisations have already made public and to add our voice to this grievance by making it public. Together, we have created integrating places where all identities feel welcome and valued. Let's ensure that Barcelona continues to be a leading city in equality and diversity and in ensuring the rights of everyone.

For this reason, we ask the City Council to publish recommendations so that the future designation of opening speakers abides by the criteria of interculturality, gender perspective, the representation of diversity and the selection of profiles that have a history of defending human rights and fighting against discrimination.