



EL ALCALDE DE
Zaragoza
JORGE AZCÓN NAVARRO

Zaragoza, on 16th September 2020

ZARAGOZA'S PLEDGE TO THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

Commitment to principle 19: Housing and assistance for the homeless

Homelessness is one of the most extreme ways in which poverty is shown in our cities and it establishes one of the concept categories of severe housing exclusion.

The Zaragoza City Council has among its priorities to give an answer to the different social needs of its population. In line with **Principle 19 of the European Pillar of Social Rights** (*Housing and assistance for the homeless*), **the commitment and work of the City Council is delivered through the "Social Affairs Department"** and in concrete, from the **"Specialised Social Services Unit"**.

In the field of housing and homelessness, the main line of intervention delivered from the "Specialised Social Services Unit" at the Zaragoza City Council takes on the following services:

From one hand, **the "Municipal Homelessness Programme"**, where the work is centralized at the municipal shelter and managed by the temporary accommodation unit.

On the other hand, the **"Slums and non-adequate Housing Programme"**, referring to the ones living on temporary structures and slums, and non-adequate housing. In order to give a response to this problem, the city council counts with the **"Programme for social help for non-adequate housing and elimination of slums"** (ASSI), managed by the temporary accommodation unit in cooperation with the Federico Ozanam Foundation (*a local foundation for social inclusion*).

We should also highlight that the Zaragoza City Council has launched **two official documents** that help to give a coordinated and integral response to these social needs:

- 1) *The municipal strategy for the social inclusion of people in risk of exclusion. Slums eradication (2014-2020).*
- 2) *The integral Plan for homeless people in the city of Zaragoza, 2018.*



EL ALCALDE DE
Zaragoza
JORGE AZCÓN NAVARRO

Commitment to principle 18: Long-term care

Regarding **Principle 18 (Long-term care)**, the City Council through the “**Elderly Municipal Office**”, depending on the Community Social Services Department provides a wide array of services to the elderly citizens of Zaragoza. This specialised office was launched in 2009. His commitment includes the *design, coordination, the carrying out and assesment* of projects and services towards active ageing and dependency prevention. Moreover the Office is in charged of the coordination and management of the network of elderly-gathering municipal centres (*a total amount of 31, distributed between urban and rural districts*).

This network has among others the **following goals**: to promote the spare time of the elderly citizens providing activities and services meeting their needs. These venues become a place to socialize, and a place to foster their active citizen’s participation at municipal level. They can as well find legal guidance, sexual guidance, a full calendar of activities including workshops, sports, cultural visits, day-trips, etc...More than 66.000 elderly citizens are members of this network, representing 45% of the citizens of Zaragoza who are beyond 65 years old.

On the other hand, the city of Zaragoza is an active member of the **world health organization global network for age-friendly cities and communities** , and linked to its commitment a **municipal programme for active ageing** is developed through the network of centres.

We should also highlight the **cross-generational programmes with children and young people**, and the **health district programmes** implemented from the city council whith a very positive impact and results.

In addition to the array of services mentioned above, we should also highlight the care services provided at home where we find the following: Home help service, home teleassistance and home food daily service.

Jorge Azcón Navarro
Mayor of Zaragoza