

# RA+

**STUDY OF THE RIGHT TO  
AFFECTIVE ACCOMPANIMENT**

Barcelona, January 13th, 2019



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. FOREWORD
2. PROJECT ORIGIN
3. DEFINITION OF THE RIGHT
4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION
5. PROCESS
6. COLLABORATORS
7. CONCLUSIONS
8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



## 1. FOREWORD

All people seek company. No one, with few exceptions, lives in isolation. Contact with other members of our species is common and is considered absolutely necessary and an indisputable goal. Much of our time is dedicated to maintaining and promoting social activities. People who, not voluntarily, cannot socialize correctly, or who do not know how to do so, get sick and suffer from many pathologies. Various studies prove it.

All human beings have the purpose of interacting with each other and their satisfaction generates a strong feeling of happiness and self-realization.

On the contrary, some people cannot or do not want to relate to their peers. This may be due to objective elements (maybe they are unattended or do not have the means to relate), or subjective elements (someone voluntarily finds their rest and personal fulfillment in themselves). Therefore, it should be emphasized that loneliness can be wanted or imposed, and that this very personal element leads to equidistant places.

Another noteworthy fact is that the feeling of loneliness is very personal: it is intrinsic to each person, depending on their character and need to relate. Certain people of broad recognition and social prestige feel alone. Being accompanied is not synonymous with feeling attended, just as hearing is not the same as listening.

Fact:

According to the latest survey of the INE (National Institute of Statistics of Spain), households formed by a single person reach 4.7 million people. This represents 25.4% of the total of Spanish households, although the population included in these only represents 10.2% of the total. Out of the 4,687,400 people living alone in 2017, almost two million (41.8%) were 65 or older and, of these, 1,410,000 (71.9%) were women. As for single-person households made up of people under 65, just over 1.6 million (59.9%) were men and 1,092,700 (40.1%). Regarding marital status, in the case of men, the most frequent single-person households were single (58.3% of the total). In the case of women, most single-person households were widows (47.5% of the total), followed by single women (35.1%).

Households according to their composition. 2017 year. Published: 4/12/2018

	Value	Annual variation
Total households	18,472,800	0.4
Average household size <sup>1</sup>	2.49	-0.2
Single person under 65	2,726,500	0.8
Single person 65 years or older	1,960,900	1.4
Couple without children	3,928,500	1.7
Couple with children	6,349,800	1.9
Mother or father with children	1,842,400	-6.2

The Continuous Household Survey (ECH) is an investigation that offers annual information on the basic demographic characteristics of the population, the households that they make up and the dwellings they inhabit. The information is disaggregated by autonomous communities and provinces. It focuses particularly on the population, while providing data by sex, age,

marital status, country of birth, nationality, situation in the household. For households it provides information on its size and composition and for homes on its tenure regime, useful area, rooms, year of construction and type of building.

The data presented are from single people. It does not mean that they feel alone, since sometimes accompanied people intensely have a feeling of loneliness.

It should be noted that human societies have been able to structure their public and private relations into norms. These have regulated the way of life of individuals throughout the world. At this time each person is subject to the laws and customs of the place where they live. Therefore, you must respect the current legal system at all times. There are many rules that try to determine the scope of each law and regulation.

That is why different human groups have chosen to establish themselves and organize themselves as a collective of deep shared interests with the capacity to legislate, apply and judge their own laws, acquiring the status of Sovereign State. Each State has full power over the citizens that inhabit its territory. Its inhabitants, therefore, acquire their nationality, a fact that gives them different rights and obligations that determine their way of acting.

Sovereign states have tried to organize among themselves and regulate their mutual relations in a coordinated manner, through laws, treaties and organizations. These norms are part of International Law.

Given this relational field, the need has arisen to provide each of the individuals who are part of the human species with rights. When deprived of such rights, individuals are defenseless against the aggressions they may receive from other individuals as well as organized collectives and groups, both nationally and internationally.

These rights are established in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, which this year celebrates its 70th anniversary, and its validity covers practically the entire planet and its inhabitants. They are only outside their scope of influence in those countries that have not signed or ratified the treaty, which are the exception.

We could segment the rights of the United Nations charter into two large groups:

- a) "Individual" rights: those that refer to the individual himself: life, dignified death, freedom of expression, religion, etc.
- b) "Perceptive" rights: those that refer to the treatment that the individual receives from society: work, housing, fair salary, etc.

The human being is a social being by nature. Without maintaining contact with other members of your species it is impossible to achieve and achieve happiness. Therefore, all individuals carry within themselves a "Relational Right" and, therefore, their recognition and respect is essential.

The purpose of this project is to promote universal recognition of the "*right to affective accompaniment*". It aims to promote and obtain its approval and recognition globally. It is essential to ensure that all individuals have the option and ability to relate. This relationship must also be free, bilateral, respectful and consensual.

## 2. PROJECT ORIGIN

Amics de la Gent Gran is an organization that fights against loneliness of the elderly. It is part of the International Federation Les Petites Frères des Pauvres, founded by Armand Marquiset in 1947. This organization promotes friendship to the elderly as an antidote to loneliness and abandonment. Almost 25,000 people worldwide participate and enjoy the project. Maurici Blancafort (Mau), promoter of this study, is a volunteer at Amics de la Gent Gran in Barcelona.

The volunteers of this organization are fully aware of the loneliness of the elderly. As a result of this extensive experience, they have observed that there is no right or law that regulates relationships between individuals. Based on a daily professional experience, they assume that to be happy it is essential to relate to the environment, and that nothing satisfies any person more than some quality time of friendship and affection, in any of its forms. That is why they conclude that people living with unwanted loneliness should be protected legislatively and socially. Additionally, they firmly believe that we all have the right to have someone to share different aspects of our lives with. The lack of this life option causes great abuse and injustice, sickness and death.

The WHO Healthy Aging Study determines that the socialization of the elderly is a fundamental and indispensable element to ensure the well-being of the elderly. It is about promoting their socialization in order to promote healthy aging around their functional and relational capacities. Thus, the provision of comprehensive care (some of it completely new) will be promoted and a coordinated response with other sectors and from various levels of government will be encouraged. Better ways of measuring and monitoring health, both physical and psychic, and the functioning of older populations will be encouraged as well.

For all the reasons stated above, the key forces are expected to act. A proposal is provided in a positive tone and starts a probably long and uncertain path towards recognition and approval. Actions are activated by sharing ideas and generating complicities in our immediate surroundings. As a result, a group of promoters that provide criteria, ideas and projects to achieve this end gradually begins to be assembled. The objective in this long and tortuous journey is to gain a progressive support and collaborators, both individually and collectively. In the end, it is about providing this movement with great strength and popularity that makes its non-recognition impossible. In this sense, we affirm that, due to the characteristics of the project itself, being properly formulated and raised, it will be very difficult to show opposition once a certain level of visibility has been reached.

This study is the “dynamic evolved study” of what is intended to be a proposal to achieve recognition of a new indispensable right, that is fully recognized and enforced worldwide.

### 3. DEFINITION OF THE RIGHT

#### Article XX

##### Right to affective accompaniment

All people have the right to be accompanied as this relationship, between equals, is affective: free, bilateral, direct, respectful and consensual.

States will foster the affective relationship between individuals. They will adopt programs, policies and actions to promote the full enjoyment of this right by promoting their self-realization, strengthening personal relationships, their bonds of friendship and emotional relationships, regardless of their status. In particular they will ensure:

- a) The right to every person to be treated with esteem, education and respect.
- b) The inalienable right of every individual to decide the degree of relationship they want.
- c) The duty not to leave anyone alone, unless the person referred to freely and specifically chooses to be alone.
- d) Individuals have all the necessary conditions to be able to relate to their environment, depending on the degree of socialization they want on a personal level, both individually and collectively, in their capacity as sender and/or receiver.
- e) Integrative educational and promotion programs will be promoted and policies will be implemented that facilitate the socialization of all individuals with the community and its participants.
- f) Non-governmental organizations that promote and foster quality support will be encouraged.

#### 4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

The Right to Affective Accompaniment (RAA+) is a universal right. It is applicable to all people regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, nationality. Certain groups may be more vulnerable and deserve special protection such as people with disabilities, the elderly, immigrants and homeless.

At the local level, in a state of law, citizens tend to participate in public management through their vote, choosing their political option. Political representatives can promote various legislative initiatives that, if they obtain a majority in their house of representation, can become a mandatory norm in their jurisdictional scope.

To promote the recognition of RAA+ at the local level, it is necessary to present, shape and publicize this right in a specific field of application. Therefore, the promoters must explain and encourage its existence and urge, as well as the damages generated by its lack of application and recognition. Consequently, they will be encouraged to include their recognition in the programs of political parties, organizations and entities, so that they can endorse the defense and recognition of this right. You can also promote legislative motions, bills or proposals for laws and even a popular legislative initiative for evaluation in the houses of representatives. In order to promote a popular legislative initiative in Spain, regulated at national and provincial level, the Spanish Constitution of 1978 foresees the popular initiative in its article 87.3 and following and in the regulatory law (Organic Law No. 3 of 1984). 500,000 accredited citizen signatures are required.

The competences in the field of social services in the Spanish State correspond to the autonomies, so these proposals should be made in the Generalitat de Catalunya to try to be promoted at the regional level.

Internationally, various international organizations promote, study and propose improvements and changes in international conventions and treaties. The United Nations Organization, based in New York, seeks to coordinate and agree global actions at the plantation level in different fields of application. The recognition of this right, if approved, would be mandatory in participating countries as long as they have been ratified by a number of the states that form it. This could lead to the approval of specific rules to give way to compliance with it. Therefore, various sectoral organizations have been created that work, in a dedicated way, in the defense of their interests: culture, ecology, disabled, infants, etc.

In order to promote RAA+ at an international level, it is necessary to seek, present and convince those participants and organizations with influence that have the objective of analyzing and proposing changes in international organizations so that they can be adopted and recognized in their respective countries.

Article 55 of the United Nations Charter states that:

With the purpose of creating the conditions of stability and well-being necessary for peaceful and friendly relations between nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and for the self-determination of peoples, the Organization shall promote:

- a. higher standards of living, permanent work for all, and conditions of progress and economic and social development;
- b. the solution of international problems of an economic, social and health nature, and other related problems; and international cooperation in the cultural and educational order; and
- c. universal respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and the effectiveness of such rights and freedoms.

The procedure for introducing reforms is stipulated in chapter XVII of the letter, and is established as follows:

#### CHAPTER XVIII: REFORMS

##### Article 108

Reforms to this Charter will enter into force for all Members of the United Nations when they have been adopted by the vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified, in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures, by the two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all permanent members of the Security Council.

##### Article 109

1. A General Conference of the Members of the United Nations may be held for the purpose of revising this Charter, on the date and place determined by the vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and by the vote of any nine members of the Security Council. Each Member of the United Nations will have one vote in the Conference.
2. Any modification of this Charter recommended by the vote of two thirds of the Conference shall enter into force upon ratification in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures, by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all permanent members of the Security Council.
3. If such Conference has not been held before the tenth annual meeting of the General Assembly after the entry into force of this Charter, the proposal to convene such Conference shall be placed on the agenda of said General Assembly meeting, and the Conference shall be held if this is decided by the majority of the members of the General Assembly and any seven members of the Security Council.

To request the change a Member State must proceed to propose to the United Nations the incorporation of the Right to Affective Accompaniment to the Charter. The Government is urged to carry out a study to propose the incorporation of this right into the UN Charter.

One option is to present a Motion to the legislative chambers asking the State to carry out the constitution of working groups to prepare the proposal. This issue refers to the field of social services so that in the State of Spain it would be appropriate to carry it out by the autonomous governments, specifically in Catalonia, to the Generalitat. What falls to the State (foreign affairs) is to propose it to the United Nations. This report includes a draft Motion on the Right to Affective Accompaniment to the Spanish Senate by the parliamentary group Junts per Catalunya.

The main objective in this project is to achieve full recognition of the RAA+ in the Charter of the United Nations. This does not exempt that their recognition and promotion can be promoted in a coordinated manner in different areas of local application.

## 5. PROCESS

First: First of all, this right and its development project must be correctly embodied. That is why a “mother document” and a rapporteur are needed to put on paper a first drawing of the project. This document is the second sketch and has been called Study of the Right to Affective Accompaniment. Each improved version has received a successive number depending on the version. Its purpose is to open the debate to and contrast various points of view and opinions that allow it to evolve. This phase should trigger an further developed and specific proposal.

Second: Create a promoting group that organizes, structures and accompanies the definition, implementation and promotion of RAA+. Individuals, organizations and groups can participate and subscribe to it. Organizational processes must be established that help to strengthen the initiative and expand its capacity to boost, maximizing its efficiency.

Third: Analysis and development of initiatives and policies that can guarantee the process of formation and awareness of the RAA+. It will be covered both individually and collectively, for both local and universal implementation of the RAA+.

Fourth: Presentation and defense of the proposal at all levels, whether local, provincial, state or international. In each case, a strategy, objectives will be determined and the degree of success will be assessed, taking advantage of synergies and knowledge.

Fifth: Over time, a structural support team that coordinates and manages the project may be necessary, organizing democratic and effective decision-making.

Sixth: Presentation and defense of a proposal for recognition of RAA+ as a fundamental right at the Headquarters of the United Nations Organization.

## 6. COLLABORATIONS

At this very incipient moment, the group of collaborators is very limited to specific people in the social, political and educational field. Various non-governmental organizations and a political party have already shown some interest in this project, although for the moment they prefer to remain anonymous. It is worth highlighting the immense difficulties of promoting a project of this nature, since it is very difficult to convey such a complex idea and with such a lack of bibliographic references and, therefore, full of concerns. On a personal level, the inability to dream and leave the comfort zone of many friends, colleagues and positions, especially in people closely linked to the field of attention to people, is surprising. Surprising their disregard for an initiative that seeks to create a better world or, simply, their inability to attend our suggestions and calls, which are in heavy need for their advice.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Human relationships are free, necessary and spontaneous. Some individuals cannot access them. Therefore, it is necessary that they be promoted among particularly vulnerable groups and/or in especially adverse situations.

Unwanted loneliness is the final consequence of a person's lack of capacity and socialization. Accompaniment allows interacting with other individuals of the same species, but does not solve the problem. Achieving a certain degree of affectivity, provided it is free, bilateral, direct, respectful and consensual, leads to a high degree of personal fulfillment.

In a situation of constant violation of this right there is no social or legal protection. Therefore, it is essential to recognize at all levels the Inalienable Right to Affective Accompaniment (RAA+). With this we provide a tool, absolutely indispensable, to protect and develop at all levels the degree of interaction between human beings, based on fair and equitable criteria, shared by all humanity.

Let's make a better world!

Smile and Participate

*"If the right to freedom of expression, which is so intrinsic,  
is already hard to achieve sometimes in modern countries,  
just imagine the difficulty of achieving the right to love"*

*M. Enric*

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Several people have given their ideas and time in the development of this project. For now we will refrain from citing them, but you all know that I love you and carry you in my soul.

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