

# Som el que CULTIVEM

**(Som el que cultivem)**

**What's the point of Utopia?**

**Cannabis associations are now that bit closer.**

*"Utopia is on the horizon. I get two steps forward, it takes two steps back. I go ten steps, then the horizon moves ten steps away. I'll never get there, no matter how far I go. So what's the point of Utopia? The point is this: to keep on going"* Eduardo Galeano

**Today we have reason to celebrate, since the Parliament of Catalonia has passed a law finally providing a legal framework for the more than 400 Cannabis Associations currently existing in Spain. This framework at last focuses on safeguarding the rights of individual users rather than criminalising them.**

This law is all down to the collaboration between various different groups ranging from civil society, the cannabis movement, risk prevention and reduction bodies, the department of Health, and the Catalan regional government as a whole. We've all proven how, in a cross-cutting way, we can overcome the historic error of prohibition, and are proud of our politicians who've taken a bold step towards a consistent political position, eschewing prohibitionist dogmas.

The Catalan Law on Cannabis Associations was born out of a need to comprehensively and inclusively regulate cannabis associations, to be achieved by regulating cannabis cultivation for personal use, transportation and distribution, and organisational operations.

We would like this law to open up a debate that educates people, so that Catalan society is well-informed, and can once again take pride in drawing up pioneering innovative drug policies.

However, our journey doesn't end here, and now there's no stopping us. While the focus in Catalonia may have now shifted, we still need to make every effort to find alternatives to help us grow and mature as a society. From now on, we need to get involved and work together to make these new possibilities available to everyone. We're now asking our politicians to carry on working towards this, to take our proposal to the Government and once again, to show courage so that our society can be free in every sense of the word.

What we now have is a law decisively rejecting prohibition, which after 70 years have more than proven itself not only a strategic error, but one that damages society.

We would like to mark this day by congratulating all those brave people who, despite all the hurdles the system put in place, went against the tide and even faced criminal charges just for exercising this freedom responsibly. We all have reason to celebrate; from the growers, those who did their part in association projects, those defending people's rights to have any medicine they might need, to everyone involved in promoting cannabis cultivation, as well as the groups and companies in the sector. We would also like to thank the work of anti-prohibition groups such as risk reduction bodies, organisations joining our cause from other sectors, as well as trade unions and political parties. This sea change has been achieved through a social pact whereby all opinions and voices were able to have their say. Catalonia has now managed to accomplish this feat, heralding a turning point in the history of cannabis.

This is the beginning of the end for cannabis prohibition. We can see this happening in legislation the world over, and the Catalan Parliament has joined this paradigm shift with a law that's already an international benchmark as a regulatory model. The close cooperation we've nurtured have been highly empowering, and we'll use this to forge ahead with our utopias as our final goal.

We have now made our decision!