

## DECLARATION

As directors and members of the Linguapax Advisory Board, an international nongovernmental organisation that promotes the protection of linguistic diversity, and aware of the judgement passed by the Constitutional Court of the Spanish State which declared as unconstitutional article 6.1 of the Statute of Catalonia, which recognised Catalan as Catalonia's own language and ensured its preferential use in Public Administration bodies and teaching, we declare that:

1. Weakening the legal status of the Catalan language is an error. If Catalan is not considered Catalonia's own language, its use will continue to give way to the Spanish language, which benefits from hundreds of legal regulations.
2. The Spanish State could be considered an example of protecting linguistic diversity, but, instead, is becoming part of the group of States that maintain a hierarchy between languages and accept linguistic substitution processes that favour the languages which are most protected.
3. Catalan society was going through a process, in a peaceful way, to recover its language that was persecuted during the years of dictatorship. Catalan society is a victim of an artificially provoked attack which will make difficult linguistic coexistence that until now had been an international example of best practice.

As a result, we declare our wish for this error to be solved with deep respect to the democratic will of the people of Catalonia.

*Barcelona, 29 June 2010*

## DECLARACIÓ

Els directius i membres del Consell Assessor de Linguapax, organització no governamental internacional que promou la protecció de la diversitat lingüística, coneixedors de la sentència del Tribunal Constitucional de l'Estat espanyol, que ha declarat inconstitucional l'article 6.1 de l'Estatut de Catalunya que reconeixia el català com a llengua pròpia de Catalunya i assegurava el seu caràcter preferent a l'administració pública i a l'ensenyament, manifestem que

1. És un error afeblir l'estat legal de la llengua catalana. Sense la consideració de llengua pròpia el seu ús continuarà retrocedint a favor de la llengua castellana, beneficiada ja per centenars de disposicions jurídiques.
2. L'Estat espanyol, que podia considerar-se un exemple de protecció de la diversitat lingüística, passa a formar part del grup d'estats que mantenen una jerarquia entre les llengües i accepten els processos de substitució lingüística a favor de les llengües més protegides.
3. La societat catalana, que vivia de manera no conflictiva el seu procés de recuperació de la llengua perseguida durant els anys de dictadura, és víctima d'una agressió provocada artificialment i que dificultarà una convivència lingüística que fins ara era una referència exemplar a nivell internacional.

En conseqüència, manifestem el nostre desig que aquest error es pugui solucionar amb un aprofundiment del respecte a la voluntat democràtica del poble de Catalunya.

*Barcelona, 29 de juny de 2010*



### Messages supporting the declaration:

Allow me to express my deep disappointment (nay, even dismay!) that the Madrid government has declared article 6.1 of the STATUTE OF CATALONIA to be unconstitutional. The autonomy previously granted to Catalonia, via this statute, to recognize Catalan as its own language (*lengua propia*) was a precious jewel in the eyes of the modern civilized world and a great asset to Spain's reputation within the international bodies devoted to peace and understanding between peoples large and small. In several previously published volumes, I have lauded Spain for trying to genuinely divest itself from the monocultural and monolingual vestiges of Franco fascism. I am now poised to do so again in my about to be completed manuscript on "Cultural Autonomy". These and countless other books are read and studied by today's university students who are tomorrow's opinion leaders and their positive image of Spain is a precious bank-account of good will for Spain, which should not be trivialized and lost. The only way to avoid that eventuality is to rescind the current unconstitutional ruling in connection with 6.1 of the Statute of Catalonia. Do not cause Spain to slip back into the dark ages from which it has so belatedly finally emerged

*Joshua A. Fishman*

Joshua A. Fishman, Ph.D.,

Presser Emeritus, Yeshiva University  
General Editor, International Journal of the Sociology of Language.

I give the declaration my full support.

*Vigdís*

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir  
UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Languages  
Former President of the Republic of Iceland

I fully support this declaration. It is difficult to overestimate how important is the successful Catalan language revitalization experience for other minority ethnic groups serving as an encouraging example for them, for instance for the Kalmyk linguistic community to which I belong.

*Bosya Kornusova*

Bosya Kornusova  
Director of Linguapax Eurasia  
Associate Professor, Kalmyk University  
Elista - Kalmykia



Bien entendu, vous pouvez joindre mon nom à celui de nos autres collègues qui soutiennent la protestation d'UNESCOCAT concernant les restrictions jacobines opposées à l'usage du catalan. Toute atteinte à la diversité linguistique est une atteinte aux droits de l'être humain et il n'est pas possible de se taire dans ce cas là.

*Joseph POTH.*

Joseph Poth  
Former director of UNESCO Division of Languages  
Consultant indépendant  
France

Please count on me!

*JA*

José Antonio Flores Farfán  
Head of Delegation  
Linguapax América Latina  
Professor of Linguistics, CIESAS  
México D.F.

I am happy to support this declaration.

*Bernard Comrie*

Dr. Bernard Comrie  
Linguapax Advisory Board Member  
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology  
Leipzig, Germany

My full support to this declaration.

*Anvita Abbi*

Professor Anvita Abbi  
Chairperson, Center for Linguistics School of Language, Literature and Culture  
Studies  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi 110067, India

I support the declaration 100%.  
In solidarity

*Neville Alexander*

Neville Alexander  
Linguapax Advisory Board Member  
Director of the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa  
(PRAESA)  
University of Cape Town, South Africa



I wholeheartedly support this declaration

*Jane*

Dr Jane Freeland  
Linguapax Advisory Board Member  
Visiting Research Fellow, University of Southampton  
Southampton, United Kingdom

J'appuie cette Déclaration, et vous prie d'ajouter mon nom à ses signataires.

*Ignace Sanwidi*

Ignace Sanwidi  
Linguapax Advisory Board Member  
Consultant en Education et Culture de la Paix  
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Yes. I personally endorse this declaration, in protest at the Spanish constitutional court's withdrawal of Catalan's status.

*Nicholas Ostler*

Nicholas Ostler  
Chairman  
Foundation for Endangered Languages

Please add my name to the list AND please let me know how others can do likewise. I have students interested in supporting this.

V yednosty syla  
(Strength comes from being united)!

*Olenka*

Olenka Bilash  
Linguapax Advisory Board Member  
Professor, Second Language Education  
University of Alberta  
Canada



I wish to join in my colleagues with my own voice of support to the declaration.

*Fernand*

Dr Fernand de Varennes  
2004 Linguapax Laureate  
Convenor, Michael D. Kirby Annual Human Rights Forum  
Associate Professor- School of Law  
Murdoch University

I DO support the declaration.

*Tasaku Tsunoda*

Tasaku Tsunoda  
Professor  
Department of Asian and Pacific Linguistics  
Tokyo University

I also support the declaration.

*Luis Enrique Lopez*

Luis Enrique López-Hurtado  
Linguapax Advisory Board Member  
Director PACE  
GTZ, Ciudad de Guatemala

Please add my name to those of other members of the Advisory Board supporting the Linguapax UNESCOCAT declaration.

*François*

Prof. François Grin  
ETI, Université de Genève

Definitely put me down,

*Davyth Hicks*

Davyth Hicks  
EUROLANG, Belgium

I fully support the declaration

*Bjorn Jernudd*



I fully endorse the Appeal, and extend my unreserved support to the LINGUAPAX Declaration

Warm greetings,

*Lachman*

Lachman M. Khubchandani  
Western Regional Language Centre, Pune, India



## Signatures

### Linguapax Network

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**Miquel Àngel Essomba**, president of Linguapax, Barcelona

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- **Neville Alexander**, member of the Linguapax Advisory Board, director of PRAESA (Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa), University of CapeTown, South Africa
- **Josep Anton**, Linguapax Board, Barcelona
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- **Maria Espadalé**, Linguapax Board, Barcelona
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- **Frances Fister-Stoga**, Linguapax Asia, Japan



- **José Antonio Flores Farfán**, Linguapax Latin America, Mexico
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- **Bjorn Jernudd**, independent consultant, member of the Linguapax Advisory Board, Sweden
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- **Luis Enrique López Hurtado**, member of the Linguapax Advisory Board, GTZ, Guatemala
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- **Enric Masllorens**, Linguapax Board, Barcelona
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- **Sonja Novak-Lukanovic**, Linguapax Europe, Slovenia
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- **Joseph Poth**, member of the Linguapax Advisory Board, former director of the UNESCO Division of Languages
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- **Tasaku Tsunoda**, member of the Linguapax Advisory Board, University of Tokyo, Japan
- **Fernand de Varennes**, member of the Linguapax Advisory Board, University of Murdoch, Australia

#### Furthermore:

- **Emília Anglada Arboix**, Faculty of Filology, Universitat de Barcelona.
- **Luba Bilash**, Edmonton, Canada.
- **Denise Boyer**, Professeur émérite de langue et culture catalanes, Université Paris-Sorbonne, Paris, France
- **Rosa Castelltort Panadés**, coordinator of Foreign Languages, “Serveis Territorials a la Catalunya Central”, Catalonia
- **Xavier Caus i Cortell**, teacher of Catalan, member of the “Societat Catalana de Sociolingüística”, Catalonia
- **Ana Coll**, Consorci d'Educació de Barcelona
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- **Andrij Hornjatkevych**, associated professor (retired), Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- **David Hycks**, EuroLang, Belgium
- **M. Carme Junyent**, director of the Grup d'Estudi de Llengües Amenaçades (GELA), Universitat de Barcelona, Catalonia
- **Jon Landaburu**, anthropologist and linguist, Basque Country/Colombia



- **Nicholas Ostler**, chairman of the Foundation for Endangered Languages, United Kingdom
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