

PRESS RELEASE

Understanding the causes of the violence which seriously affects a very large number of social neighbourhoods would not for a moment reduce or excuse the sometimes criminal acts, one of the main effects of which is to harm the population of these areas/neighbourhoods.

The Federation Nationale des Francas stresses that it is the duty of a republican state to guarantee safety and public order by means of prevention or, if needs be, of suppression.

However, it considers that the total restoration of public order would not justify the extension of a state of emergency. To maintain it would be similar to the idea of a civil war situation. It would also show the Government's inability to propose resolutions for the deep-rooted crisis.

With the objective of uniting, respecting and recognising individuals, the Government's action must aim:

- to fight unemployment especially among the young, a large number of whom live in poverty,
- to fight all forms of discrimination, sometimes racist, which notably affects young French people of immigrant origin, particularly in relation to access to employment and housing,
- to expand the educational and cultural action programmes which participate in the training of individuals, their emancipation and the exercising of their citizenship.

La Fédération nationale des Francas and the whole of its network is active daily in educational, social and cultural matters for those people with the most difficulties and, in the same vein, it is actively fighting against all forms of discrimination, segregation and exclusion. Their action is constrained by the reduction of means suffered in 2005 and the cuts envisaged by the new reductions announced for 2006.

Therefore, the Francas again call on the Government to reconsider all its social policies within the sectors of social housing and the people concerned. They are always available to add their contributions to a policy which continues to be resolutely progressive.

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Le Bureau National des Francas