

**Location of operation:** Melilla

**Time of implementation:** 1.07.2024 - 31.03.2025

**Objective:** enhance the social inclusion of individuals in transit at the Southern Border and of natural families in Melilla through the exercise of their rights and through social and political advocacy.

**Activities:**

- **A1:** Emphasizing the mandatory application of equal rights and anti-racism in migration policy management before local, state, and European institutions and organisations. Solidary Wheels conducted 06 targeted meetings with actors such as the Melilla Immigration Office, educators from protection centers, and the Government Delegation's gender violence unit. Monthly participation in the Protection Roundtable allowed for consistent coordination with other local stakeholders. Solidary Wheels played a central role in advocacy networks led by Irídia and Novact, contributing to shadow reports submitted to ECRI and the Universal Periodic Review, and co-authoring a joint report on "bureaucratic repression" at Spain's southern border, issuing collective statements, notably "A un lado y a otro de la valla" (September 2024), denouncing collective expulsions and externalized border practices.
- **A2:** Raising awareness among civil society to demand the application of the principles of equal rights and anti-racism in migration policies. The communications team ensured consistent weekly content across social media, using field-based storytelling and explanatory formats to clarify legal procedures, highlight systemic discrimination, and amplify migrant voices. This work was reinforced through media engagement, press outreach, and support to broader advocacy efforts, including the "Regularización Ya!" campaign.
- **A3:** Documenting and evidencing human rights violations in Melilla to report them. A comprehensive documentation system combining field monitoring, team coordination, and structured data management strengthened evidence-based advocacy, directly informing public statements, litigation, and reporting, including on access restrictions and pushbacks. Migrant participation—especially through women's focus groups—was central to the analysis and led to concrete advocacy outputs, notably the co-produced report "*El precio de los derechos: Excepcionalidad y burorepresión*", later translated into Arabic to ensure accessibility.
- **A4:** Contributing to the recognition of individuals' entitlement to rights in border areas. Solidary Wheels' legal team delivered comprehensive legal support in Melilla, assisting 37 long-term cases and 41 ad hoc interventions, while prioritising undocumented women, asylum seekers, and formerly protected youth through direct legal action, mediation, and strategic litigation. Legal empowerment was strengthened through 11 workshops and trainings, the hiring of an interpreter, the co-development of three legal information tools with migrant women, and a landmark lawsuit that led to the first public disclosure of internal CETI regulations.

**Achievements:**

- **Active participation:** Held legal workshops for migrants promoting equal rights and anti-racism in migration policies.
- **Advocacy and inclusion:** Solidary Wheels published "The Price of Rights: Exceptionalism and Bureaucratic Repression", exposing administrative repression against migrants. Moreover 6 formal complaints were filled with the Spanish Ombudsman
- **Empowerment and leadership:** Supported migrants with rights education and legal assistance on residence, nationality, and appeals processes

**Challenges**

Institutional opacity remains a significant challenge. The reluctance of public authorities to engage in transparent dialogue, provide information, or respond to rights violations has reduced the

effectiveness of political advocacy efforts. However, partnerships with other organisations and participation in national and international networks have proven essential. These collaborations allowed for joint case monitoring, report creation, and coordinated pressure on public agencies. Moving forward, developing stronger collective tools to combat institutional secrecy—such as documentation, watchdog strategies, and joint litigation—will be crucial.