

# Raising the voice of artists for a more just and welcoming society

Throughout history, artists have contributed their vision, talent and expertise to creating diverse, inclusive attitudes in our societies. Alarmed by today's increasing influence of fear and xenophobia, European arts organizations launched art27 to raise voices through the arts for social inclusion, for the protection of the vulnerable and for honouring our culturally diverse societies. Whilst we remain committed to tackling inequality and social injustice within Europe, the causes of forced migration: war, climate change and extreme poverty are global, and a global response is needed.

We are a growing network of artists of all backgrounds, arts educators and arts organizations, who share these beliefs: The interdependence of all humans and our shared destiny on the planet require us to protect each other and the earth.

The function of art is to illuminate our individual and collective experiences of life. The diversity of artistic and cultural heritage worldwide owes its richness to the movement and meeting of peoples and cultures over the centuries. The freedoms, mutual respect, and collaborative processes central to artistic endeavours require artists and the artistic community to seek and ensure these attributes for all.

The human right to culture, as protected by Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is only accessible when all fundamental human rights are honoured. These include the right to equality (Article 1), the right to life, liberty and personal security (Article 3), the right to free movement (Article 13) and the right to asylum and protection from persecution (Article 14).

We call on all artists – including aspiring and non-professional artists – and their organizations, associations, and schools to join us in solidarity with refugees and other vulnerable people, and to support tolerance, openness, inclusion, and the fundamental rights of every person as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We stand in solidarity with refugee artists and dedicate our efforts – on the stage, in the gallery, in arts education, in the classroom, and in our wider communities – to further the social inclusion of newcomers and other vulnerable people in our diverse societies.

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**Sign our Manifesto today and join this growing community!**

[www.art27.art](http://www.art27.art)