

ICIP 2025 Survey

Coexistence and security in Catalonia

November 2025

Introduction

In 2007, the Parliament of Catalonia created ICIP with the mandate to “promote the culture of peace in Catalan society and internationally, and to have Catalonia play an active role as an agent of peace in the world.”

The promotion of the culture of peace is necessary not only in areas immersed in armed conflict but also in societies with more consolidated democracies, where it is increasingly complex to manage conflicts constructively.

Since 2018, in fulfilment of its institutional mandate, ICIP has conducted surveys on perceptions of coexistence in Catalonia to assess the degree of support for the culture of peace in our society. The ICIP 2025 Survey, as well as previous surveys, aims to provide information to raise public awareness of the need to promote a culture of peace and to guide political and institutional actions in this direction.

The current survey focuses on a broad range of issues that impact the culture of peace in Catalonia and globally: from the structural conflicts present in our society to the management of diversity, perceptions of local and international security, and the institutional capacity to respond to current challenges.

Objectives

- Evaluate perceptions of coexistence and social trust in Catalonia and its evolution in the last seven years.
- Capture opinions on the structural conflicts within Catalan society, particularly regarding discrimination and inequality.
- Detect the degree of ideological and emotional polarization in Catalonia.
- Assess public perceptions of various aspects of security and public policies in this field.
- Understand the population's views on international security risks and on the actions needed to ensure global peace in the current context of rearmament.
- Evaluate citizen commitment to the culture of peace and the preferred actions to advance towards a more peaceful society.

Executive summary

COEXISTENCE

- Coexistence is rated more positively in people's immediate surroundings (neighborhood or town of residence). Regarding Catalonia as a whole, the assessment of coexistence is more negative than in previous years. Nevertheless, only one-fifth of the population considers coexistence in Catalonia to be poor.
- Respondents perceive Catalan society as relatively peaceful, assigning it an average score of 6.7, equivalent to a "very good" (grade B) rating.
- Most people believe that the arrival of migrants is good for the economy and do not perceive that their own culture and way of life are at risk. However, anti-immigration sentiments have increased compared to previous ICIP surveys.
- One in three people believe that feminism harms relations between men and women, and 12% think that gender-based violence is an invention of feminism. Young men express more conservative opinions than young women.
- While there is broad support for adoption by same-sex couples, there is less support for the rights of transgender people.

Executive summary

TRUST

- Levels of interpersonal trust have fallen sharply compared to previous years, with one-third of citizens reporting high levels of distrust toward others.
- Distrust in institutions persists – none of them, from local governments to the European Union, receives a passing score.
- Most of the population (64%) believes that democracy is preferable to any other form of government, but one third are either doubtful or disagree.

POLARISATION

- The pro-independence movement, immigration, and language are seen as the most polarising issues, although the independence movement has declined in relevance compared to previous years.
- Respect is the most common emotion expressed toward people who think differently, far outweighing anger and contempt.

Executive summary

SECURITY

- The perception that security has worsened over the past year has increased at all territorial levels, especially in respondents' own towns or cities, then in their neighbourhoods, and finally in Catalonia as a whole.
- Six out of ten people believe that vandalism and drug trafficking are common in public spaces, followed by street and shop thefts, and squatting.
- Crime, economic crises, and climate change are the issues that worry citizens the most, while the relationship between Catalonia and Spain causes the least concern.
- When it comes to reducing crime, punitive measures receive more support than alternatives to imprisonment. However, most citizens oppose sacrificing freedoms in exchange for greater security.
- 18% of the population feels part of a discriminated group—double the European average—mainly due to language, place of origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

Executive summary

PEACE AND GLOBAL SECURITY

- International cooperation, international sanctions, and aid to impoverished nations are seen as the most effective measures to ensure world peace, far ahead of military interventions or increased defence spending.
- To guarantee global security, citizens also prefer allocating resources to international cooperation. Regarding defence spending, 43% would like to allocate these funds to nonviolent forces.
- Most of the population supports maintaining or reducing military spending. Nevertheless, support for military expenditure has grown considerably in recent years, particularly among young men.
- Half of the population believes that the influence of the United States and Russia poses a significant risk to global security and supports suspending commercial, sporting, and artistic ties with Russia and Israel while the invasions of Ukraine and Gaza continue.

Conclusions

POSITIVE INDICATORS

- Citizens generally perceive coexistence as good, especially in their town or neighbourhood, and view Catalan society as peaceful. A majority also supports helping vulnerable people to advance toward a peaceful society.
- Positive emotions—such as respect, empathy, and trust—toward people who think differently prevail over anger or contempt.
- Attitudes favorable to immigration and sexual freedoms are predominant.
- Society largely rejects losing freedoms in exchange for greater security, defends democracy as the preferred form of government, and supports paying taxes to sustain public services.
- To guarantee global peace and security, citizens prioritise nonviolent measures – such as international cooperation, sanctions, and aid to impoverished nations – over military interventions and increased defence spending. In fact, there is much more rejection than support for increasing military spending.
- A substantial portion of the population would allocate defence-related taxes to nonviolent civilian forces and the UN Blue Helmets.

Conclusions

WARNING SIGNS

- The overall perception of coexistence in Catalonia has deteriorated steadily since 2018, and most of the population believes that security is worse than a year ago at all territorial levels.
- The percentage of people expressing deep distrust in others has risen considerably, and institutional distrust is widespread.
- Half of citizens support harsher penalties for common crimes and the deportation of migrants who commit crimes. There is also a notable increase in the percentage of people who believe the country is worse because of immigrants.
- There is widespread pessimism about the future of younger generations: 71% think they will live worse lives.
- Although citizens prefer cooperation and mutual aid measures to ensure global peace and security, support for military spending has risen significantly compared to 2022.

Conclusions

- The young male population exhibits several concerning attitudes:
 - 60% believe feminism harms relations between men and women, and nearly 30% think gender-based violence is an invention of feminism and that inequality now disadvantages men.
 - 24% reject the idea that democracy is the preferable form of government, and 40% are doubtful or prefer not to take a stance. Young men also show less rejection of authoritarianism under a strong leader.
 - 18% believe that climate change is caused solely or mainly by natural processes, not by human activity.
 - One third believe that the Spanish government should increase military spending.

