

MET ZINERES REPORTS



WITH SHELTER, THE MARGINS BECOME COMMUNITY.

This report opens a door to the **collective knowledge built at Metzineres** over the years. It brings together the lived experience of womxn—women and gender-expansive people who use drugs and survive multiple forms of violence and vulnerability—and **translates it into robust, relevant, and proven intervention methodologies**. By bringing data and learning into dialogue, we explain how Intersectional Feminism, Full-Spectrum **Harm Reduction**, and the **Embedding of Peers ensure a tangible impact on health, community, and access to rights**.

Reading this document means stepping into a way of working grounded in situated evidence, technical rigor, and the ethical consistency of the principle “Nothing about us without us.” We do not merely manage situations; from the Raval, we build sustainable responses that do not fragment people’s lives—responses that are already resonating and taking root around the world.

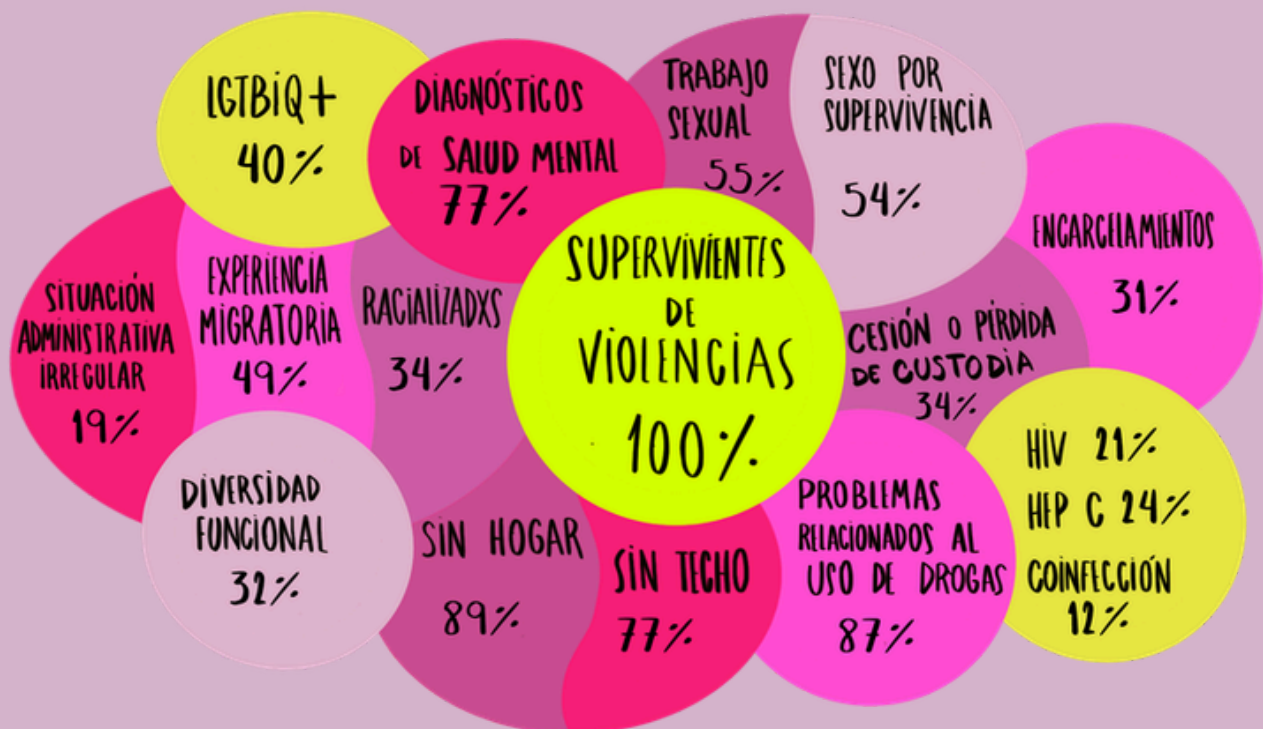


WHO WE ARE: THE METZINERES

Those of us who are part of Metzineres are residents of the Raval, womxn who face multiple barriers that exclude us from both formal and informal support networks. Far too often, **we are left outside the usual legal, social, healthcare, and violence-protection services.**

The exclusion we experience does not **stem** from a lack of need, but **from structural barriers, institutional gaps, and criminalisation that violate our fundamental rights.** Stigma and social rejection—which we often also face within our own communities and families—push us into isolation, shame, and guilt, perpetuating situations of violence and extreme exclusion.

These barriers do not operate in isolation; rather, **they reinforce one another. Homelessness, racism, anti-LGBTQIA+ hatred, irregular immigration status, and mental health** precarity create a context in which access to basic rights becomes almost unattainable. It is at this intersection of vulnerabilities that Metzineres provides intensive, sustained, and context-sensitive support to make a full life possible.



WHAT IS METZINERES?

Metzineres was founded in 2017 as an initiative emerging from XADUD (Network of Women Who Use Drugs, 2016), with the aim of creating **Shelter Environments exclusively for womxn**. Our approach—grounded in **intersectional feminism, human rights, and full-spectrum harm reduction**—is collective, flexible, and directly accessible. We build it together around each person's needs, interests, and dreams, creating a space where every womxn makes decisions, participates, and leads their own path towards wellbeing. We step in where the system falls short, opening up spaces in which communities living at the margins can exercise their knowledge and their individual and collective power.

At the institutional level, we have been part of the **Catalan Harm Reduction Network** since our beginnings. In 2020, we became the first non-profit cooperative of its kind in Catalonia and launched **SIE Raval** (Specialised Intervention Service), integrating harm reduction for the first time into the **Network of Resources for Comprehensive Care and Recovery from Gender-Based Violence**.

We currently have **7 members and a multidisciplinary team of around thirty professionals**. The direct support team—**community workers, lawyers, psychologists, nurses, educators, social integration workers, social workers, and anthropologists**—and the operations team—**responsible for finance, facilities, projects, team management, wellbeing, cleaning, maintenance, communications, and overall management**—benefit from the vital support of allies and volunteers.

With transformative passion, we turn the anger and frustration generated by what we experience and witness every day into **steadfast solidarity**, enabling us to fulfil our **social commitment**.

Since our foundation, **748** womxn have found support at Metzineres, **642** of whom remain actively connected today.

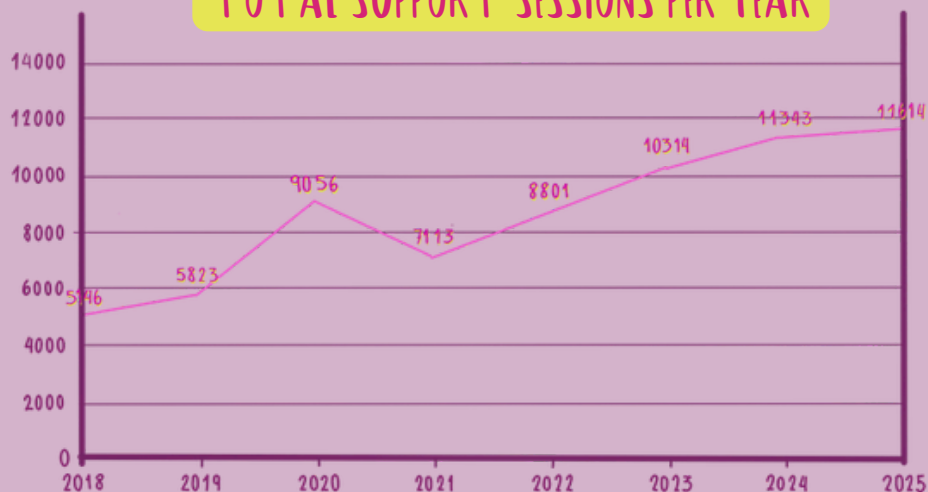
The year **2025** was marked by severe **financial instability** caused by denied grant applications and delays in payments. This situation forced us to **reduce our opening hours and close the premises on weekends and public holidays**. Despite these reduced hours and a slight decrease in the overall number of interventions, we reached a particularly significant milestone: the number of womxn receiving support increased to 395.

Meeting this growing demand is only possible thanks to the dedication of a team that quite literally gives its all. Working under sustained pressure and constant demands, the team ensures that no one is left to face things alone.

WOMXN SUPPORTED PER YEAR



TOTAL SUPPORT SESSIONS PER YEAR



OUR VALUES



Genuine creativity

because where there was once a void, together we are building rights and life.



Radical tenderness

because healing from trauma requires care, time, and affection.



Collective resilience

because no one overcomes isolation, guilt, and loneliness alone: we overcome them together.



Rogue Courage

because, in a system that offers us no answers, we find the cracks where we can create our own.



Care Activism

because when you have nothing and caring for yourself is a privilege, building a home together and creating community is not charity: it is social justice in action.



Mutual Support and Complicity

because stigma and discrimination will not convince us that we are alone; from the margins, we put collective strategies for wellbeing into practice.



Anti-prohibitionist Commitmen

because what is prohibited does not disappear: it is hidden, displaced, and made more dangerous. We do not hide; we assert who we are.



Evidence-based Transdisciplinarity

because in the face of fear, lack of understanding, and inaction, we rigorously demonstrate that what we build together is real, measurable, and cost-effective.



Transformative Passion

because we are not problems to be managed through regulations and services: we are people fighting to have our rights guaranteed and to live full lives.

These are not merely theoretical **values**; they are **the foundation that guides every decision and every relationship**. We understand that each womxn arrives with a unique story, shaped by multiple dimensions of oppression as well as resilience. That is why we **provide support grounded in respect, autonomy, and complete trust** that each person is the expert on their own reality and is doing everything they can for their own wellbeing and that of the people they love.

HOW METZINERES WORKS

We are grounded in an **Intersectional Feminism** that places each womxn at the centre, recognising that our lives are shaped by multiple inequalities and by survival strategies that are often rendered invisible. Far too often, we are reduced to “problems,” with drugs singled out as the sole cause while the structural drivers of exclusion are ignored.

In response, we work together as experts in our own processes, creating women- and gender-expansive-only spaces that are non-punitive and free from stigma. Through flexible, sustained support, we uphold autonomy, self-determination, and a sense of belonging within the neighbourhood as the foundations of wellbeing and meaningful access to rights.

This framework is combined with a **full-spectrum Harm Reduction approach (HR)**, which goes beyond drug use to understand health as a holistic reality shaped by material, emotional, relational, and community conditions. For us, harm reduction means ensuring protective spaces, sustaining relationships without excluding anyone, building networks of mutual support, and creating the conditions for each person to make their own decisions and care for themselves and others, both individually and collectively, including in situations of complex vulnerability.

The **Embedding of Peers** is our organisational and methodological model. It places experiential knowledge and technical expertise on an equal footing. By bringing womxn into the professional team and into decision-making spaces—as community workers, workshop facilitators, peer leads, and advocacy agents—we build responses that are relevant, efficient, and transformative. In doing so, we demonstrate that when health and care policies emerge from the margins, their impact is deeper, more sustainable, and more just.



EMBEDDING OF PEERS

WHEN EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE COME TOGETHER, WE TURN DREAMS INTO REALITY.

The root of our problems is not drugs, but **the multiple forms of violence and vulnerability that shape our lives**. In response, approaches that infantilise us, divide us into separate categories, or perpetuate our exclusion are of no use to us; we need responses capable of embracing the complexity and diversity of our realities.

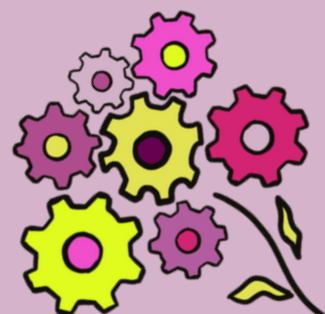
That is why we assert our knowledge and experience as a central part of any response that affects us, echoing the call: **“Nothing about us, without us.”** The **Embedding of Peers** places lived experience and technical expertise on an equal footing, bringing them into continuous dialogue through shared practice and the voices of all participants. This is how we build responsive, evolving interventions that are tailored to complex and changing realities.

WHO ARE THE COMMUNITY WORKERS?

We all take part in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Metzineres model. We are involved, to varying degrees and depending on the moment, in the practices and decisions that shape the course of our lives.

Although there are many examples of peer work, it has often been translated into limited roles, little recognition, and minimal decision-making power. From our intersectional feminist approach, this perspective is insufficient. Through the concept of community workers, we recognise a form of expertise that goes beyond the experience of survival.

That is why we strive to be a horizontal team that integrates **community workers** as an integral part of both the professional team and coordination and leadership spaces. They are **womxn** who first came in search of resources and services, while also **being key agents in the care, organisation, and representation of their communities and of Metzineres itself**. They contribute technical judgement rooted in lived experience and help ensure that interventions are more relevant, efficient, and sustainable in highly complex contexts.



Throughout 2025, we consolidated a stable, paid, and professionalised team of community workers who meet weekly. Some have university degrees, others have artistic training, while others have developed their expertise through activism and the work they have carried out at Metzineres. This translates into a wide range of responsibilities: providing support both inside and outside the premises, facilitating workshops, leading productive and artistic activities, and taking on training and representative roles at both local and international levels.

Since Metzineres was founded, 30 community workers have been part of the organisation. Throughout 2025, 19 womxn actively participated as community workers, including:

- 6 who take part in Intervention Management meetings.
- 6 who provide support inside and outside our premises at 3 Carrer de la Lluna.
- 2 who are part of the outreach team.
- 7 who facilitate workshops.
- 4 who hold artistic roles.
- 3 who take on representative roles.

Their work does not stop when we close our doors: they continue providing support on the streets and in flats where drugs are sold and used, answering calls and travelling wherever they are needed by fellow womxn, whether they know them or not. During working hours alone in 2025, they provided support on **309 occasions**, facilitated **72 workshops**, and led **11 participatory and activist initiatives**.

In addition, two of them took part in the international **VIPERS** project, attending technical meetings in Barcelona, Lisbon, and Porto, while another participated in the **First International Summit for the Rights of Sex Workers** in Pereira, Colombia.



PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS

We, the Metzineres, are diverse—very diverse. That is why the Embedding of Peers is not built solely by incorporating community workers into the team, but by creating **genuine, interconnected spaces for participation**. The aim is clear: to ensure that each person, according to their interests, abilities, and current circumstances, can participate meaningfully in the processes that shape their life.

- **XADUD – Network of Women Who Use Drugs:** An autonomous space and the origin of Metzineres, where womxn meet weekly to organise, reflect, and advocate for their rights. The demands that emerge from this space directly shape the project's direction and priorities.



- **Assembly:** A weekly space for the collective management of day-to-day matters, where proposals are discussed and the project's daily life is organised. Everyday life is also political.

- **Advisory Council:** A monthly space for shared strategic responsibility, where perspectives are exchanged, tensions are addressed, and consensus-based responses are developed to guide our work.



- **DIRD – Womxn Advancing Harm Reduction:** Talleres donde las estrategias de supervivencia se transforman en experticia colectiva y herramientas para sostener el bienestar y defender derechos en contextos de exclusión.

EnTaken together, **these mechanisms ensure better-informed decisions, more efficient interventions, and sustained long-term impact**, translating invested resources into tangible and measurable outcomes.

RESPONSES EQUAL TO THE COMPLEXITY OF OUR LIVES

Metzineres' **Embedding of Peers** has become an internationally recognised **strategy grounded in genuine horizontality**, technical rigour, and tangible impact. It is not merely about listening to different voices, but about shifting the centre of decision-making towards those who live the realities we seek to transform.

Here, **community expertise does not merely support the work: it leads it**. We do not just redistribute tasks; we redistribute power. And when lived and professional expertise come together, responses cease to be theoretical and become relevant, rooted, and transformative.

Investing in the Embedding of Peers is not symbolic; it is strategic. Because **when participation is real, so is the impact**.



MANIFESTO WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT FOR THE RIGHTS OF
SEX WORKERS

SUSTAIN WELLBEING

COMMUNITY-BASED FULL-SPECTRUM HARM REDUCTION

Harm Reduction is understood **as a practice of sustaining wellbeing in the context of complex lives**, where the risks associated with substance use are intensified by persistent structural violence. These risks cannot be separated from factors such as homelessness, economic precarity, racism, stigma, and criminalisation, nor from experiences of violence and trauma accumulated throughout the life course.

Partial responses are insufficient. That is why, at Metzineres, wellbeing is understood as a reality shaped by material, relational, and community conditions, rather than as an individual or purely healthcare-related matter. The ability to care for oneself, make decisions, and protect one's health depends to a great extent on living conditions and the relationships and support networks available, especially in contexts of high vulnerability.

CONCRETE AND ACCESSIBLE INTERVENTIONS

We meet each person where they are, providing close and accessible support in everyday life. From our premises in the Raval—and through our partnerships—we **meet basic needs and ensure access to safer drug use** through supplies, suitable spaces, and unhurried, **non-judgemental support**, as well as spaces for rest and recovery.

We also **create collective spaces to share harm reduction tools**, prevent and respond to overdoses, care for our bodies, and support one another. We also **open up spaces of trust** to talk about sexual and reproductive health, STIs, and self-care strategies.



BUILDING COMMUNITY REDUCES HARM AND CREATES SAFETY

Weaving and sustaining support networks—both formal and informal—within and around the Metzineres community **is also a form of harm reduction**. Building community, strengthening relationships, and combating isolation are part of this everyday work, especially in contexts shaped by stigma, loneliness, and social injustice.

Creating a sense of belonging, ensuring safe spaces, and sustaining relationships of trust are concrete forms of protection: they reduce risks, strengthen care, and sustain life.

SUSTAINING CONNECTION. PROVIDING SUPPORT WITHOUT EXCLUSION.

Sanctions and rigid rules do not work equally for everyone and often exclude those living the most complex lives.

We reject punitive approaches and instead focus on sustaining connection, recognising that many conflicts, tensions, or moments of overwhelm are part of life trajectories shaped by violence, loss, and prolonged survival.

We work through a flexible, context-sensitive model in which each womxn can engage with our spaces according to their own pace and needs. We sustain community agreements, **shared care**, and spaces for participation. If someone is temporarily unable to remain in a collective space, support and coordination continue: withdrawing support at times of vulnerability only increases risk and exclusion.

Rebuilding trust means respecting each womxn's own pace, while also challenging the team to reflect on its approach and earn that trust again.

Providing support without exclusion is part of our anti-prohibitionist commitment. We address conflict by **strengthening relationships, shared responsibility, and repair**. On streets where there are no real alternatives, neither private security nor exclusion can guarantee our safety. Presence, mutual commitment, and improved wellbeing can.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY AND NETWORKED WORK

Sustaining wellbeing in the context of complex lives requires genuine and dynamic interdisciplinarity, capable of adapting to life changes, periods of greater vulnerability, and each womxn's survival strategies. **Working in networks with other social actors, services, and collectives** is not **based** on a logic of referral, but **on building coordinated responses that sustain life projects over time**:

- Improves the effectiveness of interventions.
- Reduces avoidable risks.
- Expands the possibilities of living with greater safety, autonomy, and dignity.

This is not only a technical decision, but a commitment to sustaining lives and processes.



SHELTER ENVIRONMENTS

WHEN THE SYSTEM FRAGMENTS,
WE SUSTAIN

Intervention at Metzineres is **cross-cutting** and is not limited to a single space.

We support womxn wherever they need us: on the streets, in healthcare settings, through social services, in emergency situations, during legal proceedings, and in community spaces and collective advocacy initiatives. We reach people and places that are often left outside both institutional systems and social movements themselves. We do so with **rigour and technical expertise**, while remaining firmly rooted in everyday life. Where there was once distance or absence, we build **safety and trust**.

We seek to **reduce barriers and prevent revictimisation** by providing **support that respects** different paces and realities. Because violence, psychological distress, material precarity, social exclusion, and criminalisation do not occur in isolation: either the response is comprehensive, or it is ineffective.

Although our premises at 3 Carrer de la Lluna are our home, Shelter Environments are also a way of working: creating conditions of safety, trust, and belonging so that support processes do not come to a halt when life becomes unstable.

Shelter is not only a place to enter, but what makes it possible to keep going. Ensuring it means sustaining life when everything becomes destabilised.



LLUNA 3 SPACE. A HOME IN THE HEART OF THE RAVAL

Lluna 3 is our space, where we meet basic needs that are too often denied: hot meals, beds to rest in, showers, laundry facilities, lockers, clothing, access to computers and the internet, and supported drug use. But it is much more than that...

It is a **space for creativity and the collective production of knowledge**, where workshops and activities contribute to Metzineres' productive environment and our activism. It is the home from which we build neighbourhood ties and community, and where much of our psychosocial, legal, and healthcare support is coordinated by a multidisciplinary team made up of community workers and professionals from the social, psychosocial, legal, and health fields.



A SMALL SPACE, AN ENORMOUS DEMAND

We began 2025 opening from Monday to Saturday, from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm—except on Tuesdays, when XADUD takes place from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and we open from 6:00 pm onwards—including public holidays. From May onwards, the increase in support needs, denied grant applications, delays in payments, and the impossibility of covering staff absences forced us to reduce our opening hours. We are currently closed on weekends and only open on public holidays in December, dates that are especially sensitive for many of us and that we want to share together.

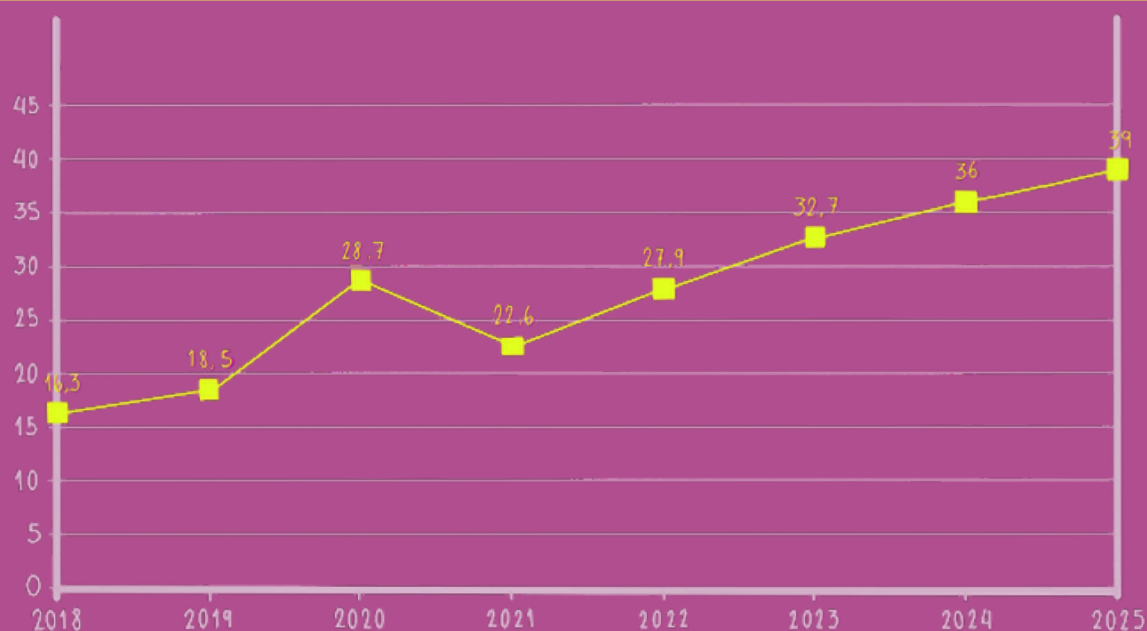
All of this takes place in a ground-floor premises of just over 100 m², through which as many as 68 different womxn have passed in a single day. Throughout 2025, a total of 395 womxn came through Lluna 3, 85 of them new companions.

In terms of meeting basic needs, this year we recorded:

- **9,652 accesses to food.**
- **9,572 mutual support interactions.**
- **1,680 showers.**
- **1,720 daytime rest sessions.**
- **1,127 uses of self-care spaces.**
- **1,400 uses of laundry facilities.**
- **1,227 accesses to the clothing exchange.**

These figures do not simply reflect use: they reflect sustained need and how vital it is to have a roof over one's head during the day as well.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAILY SUPPORT INTERACTIONS





A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO SUPPORT LIFE, NOT FRAGMENT IT

From Lluna 3 Space, we **coordinate a comprehensive**, womxn-led approach that **connects social, healthcare, psychological, community, and legal support**. We do so through **trust-based relationships**, sustained presence, and recognition of the survival strategies developed by womxn themselves.

We understand psychological distress and trauma as consequences of structural, institutional, community, and interpersonal violence that shape people's life trajectories. This perspective allows us to move away from reductionist or pathologising approaches and to always situate people within the realities of their lives.

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

We recognise that many womxn are excluded from psychiatric and psychological care networks, which are often shaped by individualising and pathologising approaches, as well as by fragmentation between mental health, gender-based violence, and substance use services. When homelessness and other complex life circumstances are added to this, exclusion is highly likely to become chronic.

At Metzineres, we prioritise **care centred on what sustains wellbeing**: safe spaces, autonomy, and informed choice, with responses rooted in the realities of people's lives. During 2025, we carried out:

- 185 individual support processes, including support during crises and episodes of acute psychosis, with flexible care provided on the street, in everyday settings, or remotely.
- 288 group support sessions, creating spaces to share tools, critically reflect on experiences, and develop strategies to improve wellbeing.

When connection is sustained, individual and collective spaces become places of validation, meaning-making, and reduction of unwanted loneliness.

Among the main changes identified:

- **Reduced self-stigma** and a greater understanding of trauma as a survival strategy.
- **Improved emotional regulation** and greater ability to identify needs and boundaries.
- **Better management of crises**, with less frequent recourse to coercive interventions or involuntary hospitalisation.
- **Improved access and continuity of care** for people who have been excluded from, or are not connected to, conventional services.

Here, **caring for mental health** is not about correcting behaviour: it is about not breaking the connection when **life becomes overwhelming**.

HEALTH AND HARM REDUCTION. ACCESS, SUSTAIN, AND CHOOSE

Our **healthcare team**—two nurses and a harm reduction lead—**provides basic care, sexual and reproductive health promotion, harm reduction and supported drug use**, as well as support with treatment adherence and access to other care networks.

During 2025:

- 390 healthcare support interventions, including emergency care, primary care, and mental health services.
- 285 healthcare support interventions for sex workers and womxn engaged in survival sex.
- 44 womxn received follow-up support for HIV treatment adherence.
- 36 preventive screenings carried out on-site.
- 6,900 condoms and self-care supplies distributed.

SUPPORTED DRUG USE: WHEN CONNECTION SAVES LIVES

During **2025**, **more than 9,000 supported drug use interventions** were recorded, providing access to sterile supplies and safe spaces. In addition, **55 substance analyses were carried out thanks to our partnership with Energy Control**.

The **consumption room**—for injecting or snorting—**and the patio**—for smoking—are **key spaces**. Paradoxically, it is often here that drug use stops being the central focus: after long hours spent sustaining the strategies needed to obtain substances, many womxn find their first real opportunity to pause, relax, and make space for listening and care.

Support is not provided by the healthcare team alone. Lawyers, psychologists, community workers, and social educators also take part, **all trained in safer drug use, risk identification, and overdose response**. This cross-cutting approach strengthens trust and makes it possible to identify forms of distress that would be far less likely to emerge in fragmented services.

Although 16 overdoses were recorded outside our premises in 2025—mainly involving GHB/GBL, cocaine, psychotropic medications, and combinations of substances—none occurred within Metzineres' spaces. This is no coincidence: it is the result of connection, trust, and the possibility of preparing and adjusting doses without rushing or fearing punishment.

When healthcare stops feeling like a threat, it becomes a right that can be exercised again.

When connection is real, harm reduction is too.



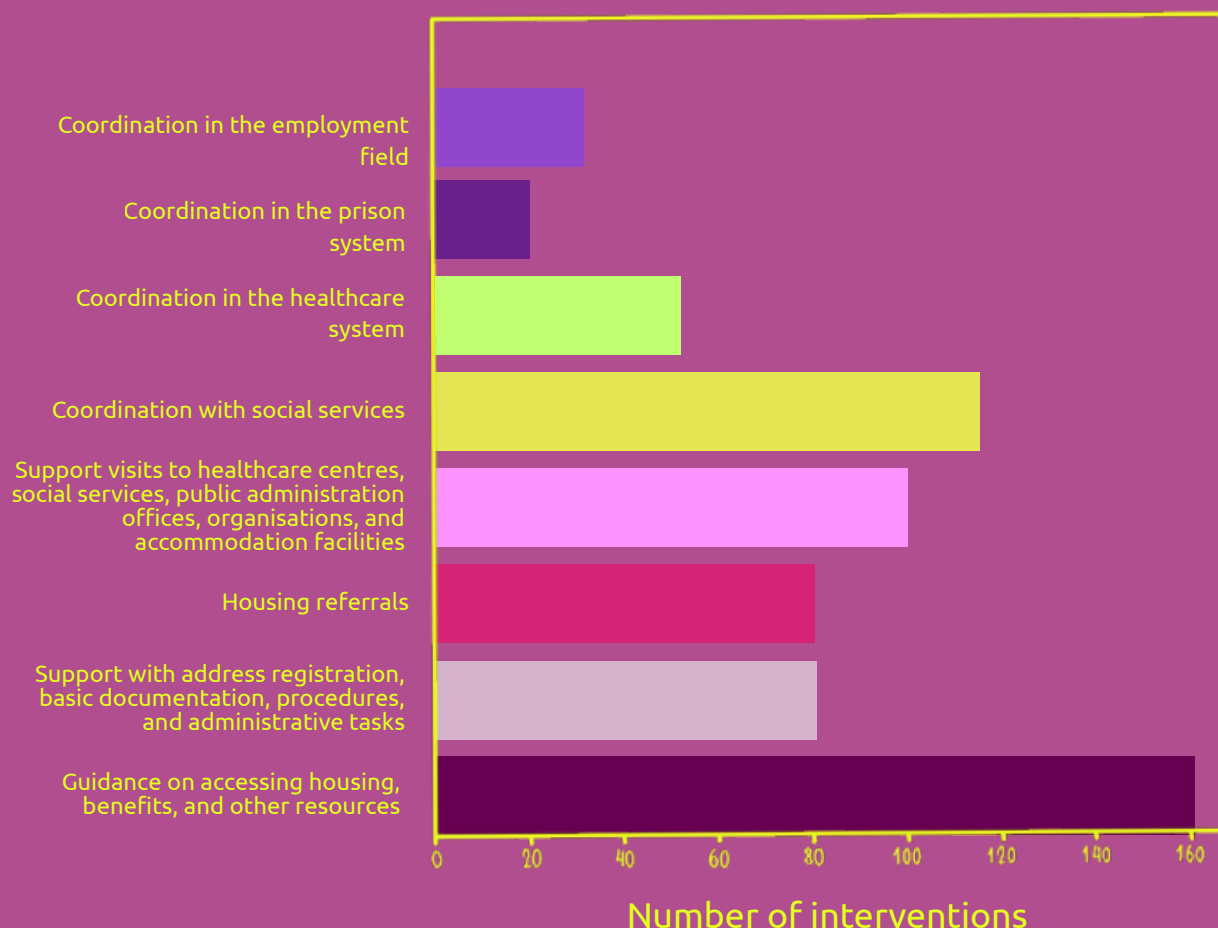
SOCIAL SUPPORT TO ENABLE REAL ACCESS TO RIGHTS

Standardised care systems require a level of administrative, emotional, and material stability that many womxn cannot sustain without support. This gap between how the system is designed and the realities people live makes social support an essential bridge between formal rights and the real possibility of exercising them.

During 2025, our **social worker carried out 642 interventions**, focused mainly on guidance and support to access benefits, housing, and other resources, as well as assistance with administrative procedures and document management, which accounted for the majority of the requests recorded.

These actions show the extent to which requirements such as proof of address registration, prior appointments, digital procedures, and supporting documentation often function as mechanisms of structural exclusion. This is compounded by the need for sustained coordination with social services, housing, healthcare, and other support systems, which is essential to prevent people from being excluded from services, processes from being interrupted, and situations of vulnerability from becoming chronic.

INTERVENTIONS BY TYPE | METZINERIS 2025



This support cannot be sustained in isolation. That is why Metzineres actively participates in coordination spaces, sectoral networks, and local referral pathways that make it possible to share information, identify gaps in the system, and develop responses that are better adapted to complex realities.

Throughout 2025, we maintained ongoing coordination with services that support womxn at Metzineres, such as Àmbit Prevenció and ABD, and worked continuously with the Federació Catalana de Drogodependències, XAPSL and, at the national level, the Red de Género y Adicciones.

At the local level, we participate in spaces such as the Consell de Dones, the Consell Municipal de Benestar Social, the Circuit de Violències Masclistes de Ciutat Vella, the Taula de Salut Mental de Ciutat Vella, and the Comissió de Drets i Aporofòbia, as well as in specific working groups such as the Circuit Assistencial per a persones usuàries de metamfetamines.

This **networked approach is key to reducing institutional barriers and improving real access to resources**. Even so, stigma associated with drug use, homelessness, mental health, or gender identity continues to operate as a filter of exclusion, particularly in housing and healthcare settings. In this context, in-person and sustained support is often what enables many womxn to remain connected to resources that, on paper, are supposed to protect them.

Providing support is not simply about facilitating procedures: it is about dismantling mechanisms of structural exclusion.



OUTREACH TEAM

Metzineres' **outreach team ensures** that **support** is not limited to those who are able to reach our premises or who meet the implicit requirements of conventional services. It is a key part of our model for reducing inequalities in access, sustaining life processes, and preventing situations of risk in contexts of severe exclusion.

The team—made up of the community outreach lead and a community worker—goes **wherever womxn are**: places where they sleep, use drugs, work, meet, and socialise. This sustained presence makes it possible to build trust, identify real needs, and provide support tailored to each person's pace, wishes, and living circumstances.

Activities include providing information and connecting womxn with Metzineres and other resources, distributing self-care and harm reduction supplies, accompanying them to social, healthcare, or legal services, and identifying needs, risks, and situations of violence at an early stage.

During 2025, the team carried out 45 outreach visits across different areas. Beyond the Raval, the team reached Parc Joan Miró, Poble-sec, Montjuïc, and Arc de Triomf. Routes and schedules were defined based on two key sources: the places where womxn connected to Metzineres spend the night, and the locations that womxn themselves identify as meeting points for other womxn experiencing homelessness.

This way of working allows us to adapt to the changing realities of public space and ensure continuity, avoiding one-off interventions with no sustained impact.

During outreach visits, sandwiches and self-care supplies were distributed, including:

- 70 smoking kits.
- 85 injecting kits.
- 45 naloxone kits.
- 150 hygiene and intimate care items (condoms, lubricant, sanitary pads, and tampons).

In total, 146 support interventions were carried out, reaching both 35 womxn already connected to Metzineres and 15 people who were not yet familiar with the project. This direct outreach helps us understand why many womxn are unable to access services, reduce risks associated with drug use and homelessness, and ensure that no womxn is excluded from the care system simply because there is no accessible point of entry.

If they cannot come to us, we go to them.

When we do, support stops being the exception and becomes a right that can truly be exercised.



COMMUNITY WORK. COMMUNITY AS AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF SAFETY

Shelter Environments do not end at the door of our premises: they extend into the neighbourhood. At Metzineres, we understand **community work as a daily commitment** to being present, responsible, and engaged neighbours within the social reality around us. Building community is neither easy nor immediate; it requires time, conflict, listening, and consistency. But it is precisely here that a form of safety is built—one that does not exclude, but sustains.

Our work in the **neighbourhood is grounded in building local relationships, challenging stigma**, and promoting coexistence as an alternative to control, surveillance, and criminalisation. When we support silenced communities, we seek to make them visible, amplify their voices, and challenge the narratives that frame them as a problem. This mutual recognition is essential to creating shared spaces where diversity is not seen as a threat, but as a source of strength.

Being neighbours on Carrer de la Lluna means caring for relationships every day. When our premises are closed, it is our neighbours who look out for the womxn of Metzineres and keep us informed about what is happening on the street. They are key allies during neighbourhood events: they mobilise the local community and help us solve unexpected technical issues. They are also often the ones who bring us meals and snacks. We also count on the support of the local traders' network, always attentive to the details and to collective wellbeing. These gestures sustain much more than a space: they sustain community.

Building these relationships is an ongoing process, not always comfortable or free from tension. That is why, in 2025, we created the Comissió de Veïnes del carrer Lluna and organised three neighbourhood meetings to listen to concerns and find solutions together. We also take part in Jardí Ambulant, facilitated by MACBA, alongside CAP Raval Nord and Casal dels Infants Raval. Together, we care for the community garden and share paellas, workshops, and celebrations.

Through formal and informal networks, participation in community spaces, cultural activities, and collective celebrations, Metzineres puts down roots in the Raval as an active neighbour.

This community fabric has made it possible to:

- Reduce conflict through mutual understanding.
- Build shared responsibility for caring for common spaces.
- Create spaces for dialogue between realities that rarely meet.
- Sustain collective processes of care beyond formal support.



This community work also takes shape through events that strengthen coexistence and make the womxn of Metzineres visible as part of the neighbourhood:

- **Sou Llabor** (16 February): we walk through the Raval with poetry and songs to honour the womxn of Metzineres who have died. An act of remembrance, grief, and shared love.
- **Book Fair** on Rambla del Raval (23 April): we take part with the theme Love and Drugs, addressing stigma and its impact on emotional relationships.
- **Barri cuida Barri** (17 May): a community paella outside our premises, cooked by womxn, with a bar, street market, and musical bingo with neighbours from the block.
- **Festa Major** (11 July): we celebrate the neighbourhood festival on Carrer de la Lluna with Metzineres artists, neighbours, allies, and guests.
- **Raval(s) Festival** (7 November): we fill Carrer de la Lluna with life-size photographs to make ourselves visible as neighbours; the route ends at L'Arravalera with an art exhibition and the launch of the Raval Putiruta.

We are neighbours in the Raval and, in order to strengthen community life and challenge stigma and discrimination, **we work in partnership with local organisations, collectives, and social movements across the neighbourhood**, in institutional, neighbourhood, and community spaces alike. This networked approach is essential to sustaining collective responses to the structural violence that affects the area.

At Metzineres, **activism is part of defending our rights and of feminist resistance to abuses of power**. On international awareness days, we bring these realities to the forefront and turn individual pain into collective protest: with banners, feathers, garlands, and glitter, but also with political and community-based analysis.

We take part in and help organise mobilisations such as **8M, Support Don't Punish** (26 June), the **International Overdose Awareness Day** (31 August), and **25N**, as well as the **16 Days of Activism**, which in 2025 focused on homelessness through an intersectional lens. We work in networks with organisations, collectives, and social movements across the neighbourhood because we understand that safety is not created through control or exclusion, but by nurturing a sense of belonging, recognition, and coexistence.

Safety cannot be outsourced: it is built through belonging.

And **building community**, however difficult, **is one of the most powerful forms of harm reduction**.



Metzineres reporters | Support. Don't Punish



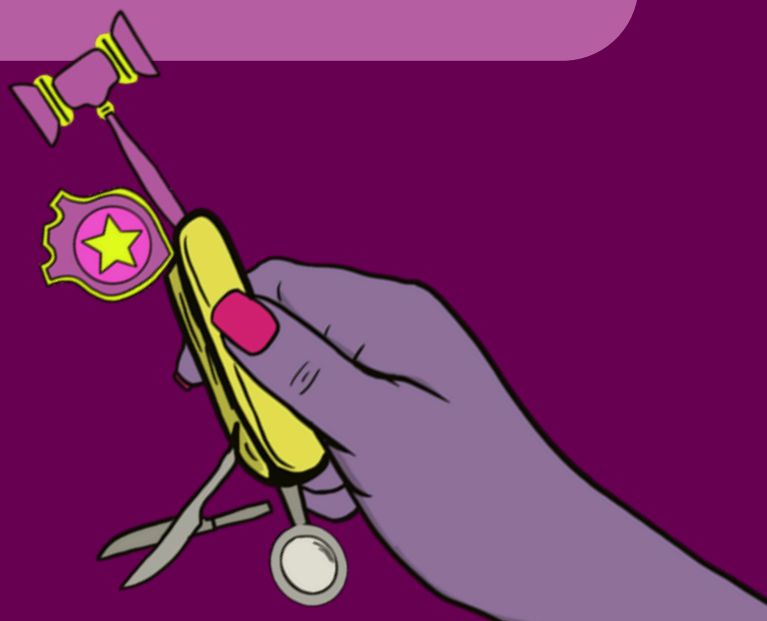
SPACE FOR RIGHTS

WHEN ADVOCACY IS ALSO SHELTER

At Lluna 3, we receive court notifications, activate responses, and sustain legal processes that often arrive when everything is already at breaking point. Our **lawyer** colleagues **advise and support womxn throughout judicial and administrative proceedings**: they act as a bridge with court-appointed lawyers and, when legal aid is not available, they provide legal representation directly. They also provide support in prison and at the time of release.

Thanks to the **multidisciplinary reports** produced by Metzineres, we have secured reductions in sentences and fines and, in many cases, the substitution of penalties with alternative measures that can be carried out at Metzineres. In this way, **the Space for Rights responds to criminalisation, rights violations, and institutional violence**, as well as to administrative and judicial processes that often operate as yet another mechanism of control and exclusion.

The Space for Rights **provides legal guidance and representation** in administrative and criminal proceedings. Legal support is essential to counter discriminatory processes and ensure that womxn have the **information, support, and decision-making power they need to effectively exercise their rights**.



WHEN THE SYSTEM PUNISHES INSTEAD OF PROTECTING

Womxn and gender-expansive people who use drugs and survive multiple forms of violence and vulnerability often find themselves trapped in overlapping systems of punishment rather than systems of protection.

They are disproportionately **affected** by:

- The **war on drugs**.
- The **criminalisation of poverty**, drug use, and survival strategies.
- **Arbitrary policing** and racial profiling.
- **The prosecution of non-violent offences linked to survival**.
- **Exclusion from the justice system** that should protect them.
- Everyday **violence and systemic barriers to accessing services**.

Even restorative justice, when applied without taking womxn's life trajectories into account, can end up reproducing the same punitive logics it is intended to avoid.

The Space for Rights **brings legal support to where traditional systems fail to reach**: without excessive bureaucracy, moral judgement, or stigma:

- **Lawyers go wherever womxn are**, adapting to their schedules, pace, and realities.
- **Shared strategies** are developed with the rest of the multidisciplinary team to ensure holistic and continuous support before, during, and after legal proceedings.
- **Alternative measures** and compliance conditions are **negotiated** in line with each womxn's interests, capacities, and needs.
- **Trust is built through proximity and consistency**: legal defence begins with relationships, not paperwork.
- **Interdisciplinary collaboration** brings together lawyers, social workers, psychologists, and peers with similar lived experiences.

At the same time, the Space for Rights **generates collective knowledge and advocates for public policy change**, promoting a model of community justice that breaks the cycle of criminalisation and guarantees rights from a feminist, intersectional, and **full-spectrum harm reduction perspective**.

When legal defence is **feminist, holistic, and rooted in care**, it becomes a pathway to reducing criminalisation and incarceration. And when incarceration is unavoidable, continuous support **softens its walls**, sustaining care, continuity, and connection throughout confinement.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION. WHEN COMMUNITY JUSTICE BECOMES A PUBLIC STANDARD



The Metzineres model has been officially recognised at the local level as a key initiative in addressing gender-based violence and ensuring access to rights.

In 2024, the **Entorno de Derechos Casa Marianne** project received the **Observatori Català de la Justícia en Violència Masclista (OCJVM) Award** for the **best initiative led by a private organisation**.

The jury particularly highlighted:

- the project's capacity to **reduce the criminalisation** of womxn and gender-diverse people who use drugs,
- the guarantee of **effective access to rights** in contexts of severe vulnerability,
- and the development of **non-punitive responses** within the justice system.

This recognition, granted by a body linked to the **Government of Catalonia**, validates that a community-based project led by those directly affected **can transform institutional pathways in justice and gender-based violence**, contributing fairer, more efficient, and more sustainable responses.

RESULTS

Since its inception, the **Space for Rights** has carried out **2,814 legal interventions, involving 255 womxn**. During 2025, we worked with **178 womxn across 1,487** legal interventions, including:

- **641 legal advice sessions** (440 in person and 201 by phone).
- **322 coordination actions** (168 with court-appointed lawyers; 107 with other organisations and services, including 29 with the Alternative Penal Measures Unit of the Department of Justice and 18 with the Alternative Measures to Sanctions Unit of Barcelona City Council).
- **320 support interventions** (including 79 in-person court accompaniments, 23 accompaniments when filing complaints, and 85 related to updates on legal proceedings).
- **26 cases of legal representation** in court.
- **67 prison visits**.

At the procedural level, **30 appeals, 33 multidisciplinary reports, and 46 other legal submissions** were filed, including **21 requests for Community Service (TBC)**, as well as **2 complaints submitted to the Barcelona Ombuds Office (Sindicatura de Greuges de Barcelona)**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE (TBC) AND ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

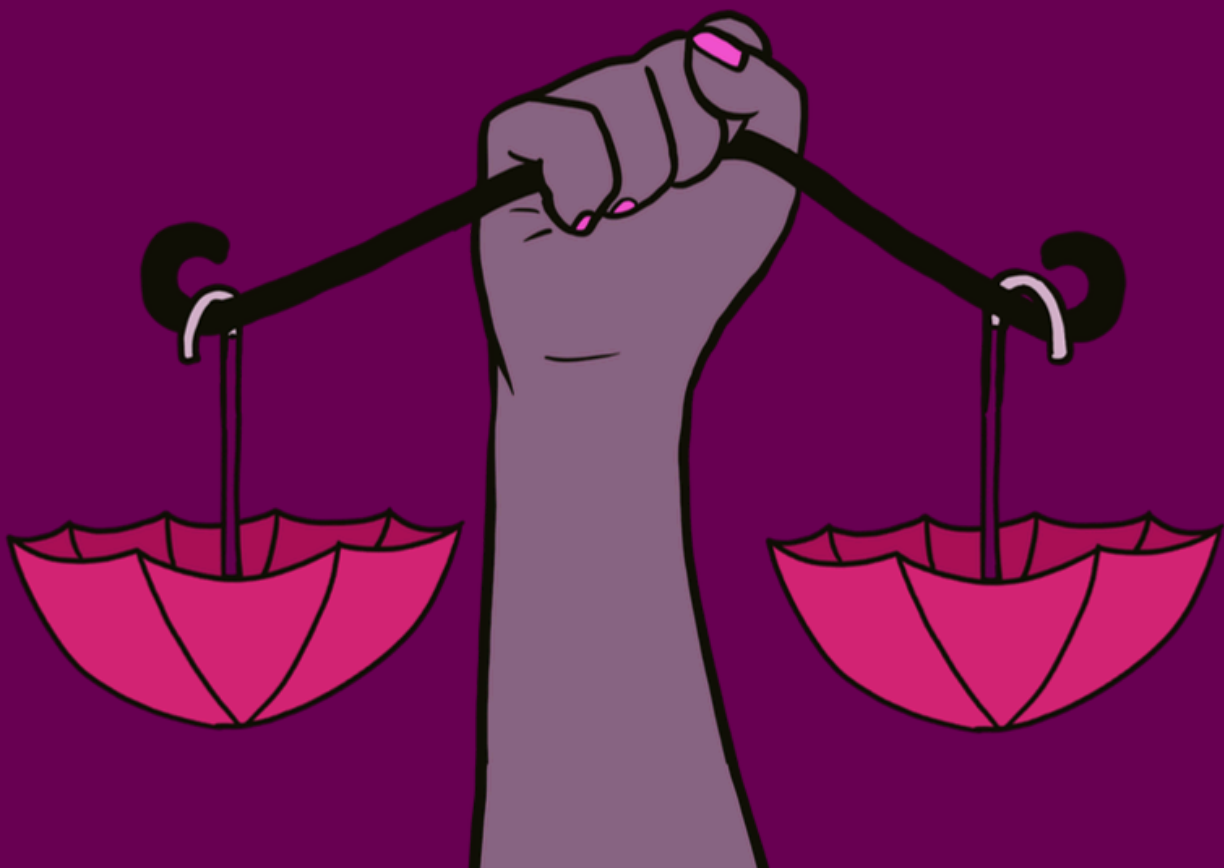
Since the launch of the Space for Rights, **60 Community Service (TBC)** procedures have been requested, **involving 21 womxn**:

- 40 approved (18 completed successfully; 12 currently underway with good follow-up; 10 pending commencement).
- 15 awaiting judicial resolution.
- 5 denied.
- Only 3 womxn were unable to complete the Community Service (TBC) agreed at Metzineres because they were imprisoned for other offences.

In addition, **24 Alternative Measures to Sanctions (MAS)** have been requested, involving **6 different womxn**.

Investing in the Space for Rights means investing in real guarantees of justice. Every resource allocated to this initiative translates into less criminalisation, more sustainable alternative measures, continuity in people's lives, and effective access to rights for womxn who are often excluded by the criminal justice system.

This is not a welfare expense; it is a strategic decision: **when legal defence is community-based and rooted in care, its social impact is deeper, more efficient, and more sustainable over time.**



ART AND CREATIVITY

TO SUSTAIN AUTONOMY, BODY, AND VOICE

Workshops and community spaces play a central role. They are not complementary activities, but **core mechanisms through which connection, trust, and sustained participation are built**. These environments of safety and belonging enable many womxn to begin or resume processes that, without this relational foundation, would otherwise be interrupted.

At Metzineres, **we promote artistic, productive, and self-care initiatives in which each person contributes their knowledge** through collective creations and actions. Led by the participants themselves and remunerated by the organisation, these initiatives foster practical learning, strengthen group cohesion, and have become a key tool for wellbeing, autonomy, community participation, and alliance-building.

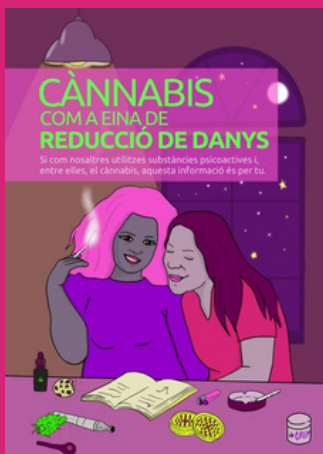
Each month, we organise a programme combining social, cultural, and activist outings with weekly sessions led by participants or collaborators—**Costura Guerrilla, Monologueando, Metzitunning, feminist self-defence, and radio**, among others—which strengthen social participation and community advocacy. A particular highlight is the Friday Pa'ella, where friends, partners, project allies, and neighbourhood residents organise themselves to source ingredients, cook together, and share recipes, knowledge, and time. Here, our relationship with food, the land, and one another also becomes a form of harm reduction and a way of rebuilding connections.

In this way, we create the conditions for people to be present again, to act, and to make decisions collectively. When this happens, access to rights stops being an obstacle course and becomes a real possibility.





CreActions MTZ emerged as a natural extension of our intervention, research, and advocacy methodology: collective processes of knowledge production rooted in womxn's lived experience, rigorously systematised and returned to the community through accessible, creative, and politically situated formats.



The **methodology is circular and consistent** with the Metzineres model. We conduct research from within, drawing on womxn's knowledge and practices; systematise this knowledge; contrast it with the perspectives of leading academic and professional experts; and return it to participants in formats that are accessible, engaging, and rigorous. The process is completed collectively: the womxn themselves validate the final content.

The **visual dimension is central** to Metzineres and L'Arravalera. Our

Our illustrator brings our work to life through a visual language rooted in shared experience, listening, and collective creation. Her drawings do not merely represent the Metzineres: they are us.

Directly inspired by the womxn of the project, the illustrations create a distinctive, complex, and stigma-free visual language in which we recognise ourselves and our peers. These illustrations are created with women, with womxn, and from womxn, generating imaginaries that reveal strength, vulnerability, humour, and contradiction without simplifying or softening reality. This visual perspective becomes a powerful political tool for challenging dominant narratives and making ourselves visible with dignity.



From this process have emerged:

- **Technical materials** that translate complexity into practical tools for community and institutional settings.
- **Graphic and textile pieces**, along with other MTZ products, which have circulated widely in local and international contexts related to drug policy, intersectional feminism, and harm reduction. They are tools for identifying, making visible, reframing, and dismantling the stigma faced by womxn who use drugs, while also serving as a source of collective pride.

For years, these CreActions existed without a permanent space of their own, travelling between conferences, gatherings, congresses, and community spaces. In 2025, this journey reached a key milestone: the creations found a home.

L'ARRAVALERA. CULTURE AS A TOOL FOR ADVOCACY AND CARE



Located at **20 Carrer de la Lluna**, in 2025 we opened **L'Arravalera** as the physical space that hosts, activates, and gives continuity to CreActions MTZ. A space for **social, cultural, and activist gathering**, from which we develop creative processes, conversations, training sessions, and neighbourhood routes, placing culture at the centre as a tool for social transformation, political advocacy, and community building.

L'Arravalera was created as a **productive and advocacy project aimed at addressing the stigma** surrounding marginalised populations and bringing Metzineres' model of intervention beyond spaces of direct support. It is also a place for collective reflection with neighbours and the wider community on strategies for coexistence and safety that offer alternatives to pathologising, punitive, and criminalising approaches

- **We challenge stigma** by placing the knowledge and experiences of womxn and people living at the margins at the centre.
- **We create spaces for learning and exchange** on intersectional feminism, drug policy, human rights, and full-spectrum harm reduction.
- **We research, recover, and reclaim the historical memory of the Raval** from perspectives that have historically been rendered invisible.
- **We give visibility to local and international** initiatives with which we share values and struggles.
- **We welcome allies, strengthen partnerships, and generate collective thinking.**
- **We invite people to discover the neighbourhood through our eyes**, challenging stigmatising narratives and opening up new imaginaries.



CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

During 2025, L'Arravalera began consolidating its role as a permanent cultural and community hub in the Raval. This first year laid the foundations **for a space of its own, recognised and connected to the local area**, which will gain full momentum in 2026 with an ongoing programme of **exhibitions, gatherings, training sessions, and collective processes**.

The aim is for L'Arravalera to become a **vibrant meeting point for neighbourhood residents and allies from around the world**, from artistic, community, academic, and activist backgrounds, fostering cross-cutting, situated dialogues rooted in the Raval while remaining open to the world. This development has a direct impact on:

- The **production of situated critical thought**, built from lived experience and the local context.
- The **transfer of knowledge from the margins** into cultural, academic, and institutional spaces.
- The **building of local and international relationships and alliances** based on shared values.
- **Cultural and political advocacy grounded in rights**, challenging stigmatising narratives and proposing alternative imaginaries.

L'Arravalera thus acts as a bridge between culture, community, and rights, extending Metzineres' impact beyond direct support and helping to transform the narratives and imaginaries that sustain exclusion.

Championing L'Arravalera means championing culture as an infrastructure of care: a space that gives continuity to years of collective production, generates critical thought, community cohesion, and lasting alliances, and demonstrates that when **culture emerges from the margins and takes root in the local context**, it not only transforms narratives, but also **creates real conditions for coexistence, safety, and social justice**.



L'ARRAVALERA

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

At Metzineres, **monitoring, evaluation, and research** are not an added layer or an external requirement, but a cross-cutting **practice of care, accountability, and coherence**. They are an integral part of our model and are embedded across all Shelter Environments.

We understand evaluation not as an end in itself or **as a form of control, but as a tool for sustaining processes, improving interventions, and strengthening accountability** without breaking relationships. For us, evaluation means listening to what is happening, identifying what works and what does not, and collectively readjusting with the people involved at the centre.



RESEARCH ROOTED IN REAL LIFE

Our research model is based on a clear principle: data should not cause more harm than the realities it seeks to make visible. That is why we develop a situated, **non-intrusive methodology informed** by practice, moving away from extractive or pathologising frameworks.

This approach involves:

- **No prerequisites** or mandatory interviews.
- Absolute **respect** for each person's pace and life circumstances.
- Ongoing and revocable **consent**.
- **Recognition of biographies** as forms of knowledge, not as objects of analysis.

Research is not activated only at specific moments: **it is part of everyday life, relationships, support**, and collective decision-making.

METZINET: A KEY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE EVALUATION SYSTEM

Metzinet is our **database, designed around technological sovereignty and open-source principles**. It enables us to continuously, securely, anonymously, and ethically collect, systematise, and analyse information, while safeguarding the privacy and autonomy of womxn.

Through Metzinet:

- **We generate our own indicators**, tailored to complex realities.
- We rigorously **document rights violations**.
- **We produce evidence of cost-effectiveness** grounded in real-world practice.
- We **feed into ongoing evaluation processes** and continuous improvement.

Indicators are neither fixed nor closed: they are reviewed, discussed, and adapted according to the context, participants' voices, and the impact observed.



EVALUATING TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS

Monitoring and evaluation allow us to:

- **Assess the availability**, coverage, quality, and relevance of interventions.
- **Identify gaps in the system** and institutional barriers.
- **Prioritise resources** where they are most needed and can have the greatest impact.
- Rapidly **adapt actions to changing contexts**.

This capacity for continuous adaptation is key to **ensuring efficiency without oversimplification**, and to making sure that the resources invested translate into real, measurable, and sustained impact over time.

KNOWLEDGE THAT DRIVES CHANGE

The knowledge generated does not remain confined to internal reports. It informs:

- **Political and institutional advocacy**.
- The **defence of rights**.
- **Training for other professionals and services**.
- The **recognition of good practices** at both local and international levels.

In this way, Metzineres contributes to transforming not only individual lives, but also **intervention frameworks, public policies, and collective imaginaries**.

WHEN EVALUATION IS ALSO SHELTER

Monitoring, evaluation, and research ensure that what we do is not based on intuitive narratives or external perspectives disconnected from the local context. **They bring quality, transparency, and sustainability to our work**. This means committing to a model that produces rigorous evidence without reproducing harm, makes informed decisions, and demonstrates—with data and with lives—that putting people at the centre is not less efficient: it is smarter.



RECOGNITION, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND ADVOCACY



WHEN A LOCAL PROJECT SUSTAINS GLOBAL CHANGE

Metzineres was born in the Raval as a community-based project led by womxn who use drugs and survive multiple forms of violence, without structural resources or initial institutional support. Its journey towards becoming a recognised practice at local, national, and international levels is not the result of an external positioning strategy, but of the **coherence of the model**, the **tangible impact of its interventions**, and its ability to **turn lived experience into transferable knowledge**.

What is built from the margins does not remain confined to the local level. When grounded in rigour, systematisation, and community feedback, it can influence **discourses, professional practices, and public policies**, while protecting the knowledge produced and ensuring its continuity and circulation, including internationally.

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE AND DISSEMINATION

Although Metzineres is a local initiative deeply rooted in its territory, it has been documented and cited as an international good practice in publications and key reference documents on drug policy, harm reduction, and human rights, consolidating its evolution from a community-based experience into a transferable model with global impact.



This recognition places Metzineres on the global map of leading practices in gender-responsive drug policy and validates that a community-based project, rooted in everyday practice, can generate **relevant evidence to inform public decision-making**.

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

This journey is not built alone. Metzineres is an active member of key national, European, and international networks, where knowledge produced from the margins becomes a shared tool for political advocacy.

We are part of networks of people who use drugs such as the **International Network of People who Use Drugs** (INPUD), the **European Network of People Who Use Drugs** (EuroNPUD), the **Red de Feministas Antiprohibicionistas en el Ámbito de las Drogas** (REMA), and the **Xarxa Catalana de Persones que Utilitzen Drogues** (CATNPUD), helping to place the voices of those directly affected at the centre of global debates on drug policy. We also participate in policy advocacy networks such as the **International Drug Policy Consortium** (IDPC), contributing to regulatory frameworks, policy recommendations, and legislative processes.

This work is also connected to networks of womxn at both local and international levels —**Women and Harm Reduction International Network** (WHRIN), **International Network of Women Who Use Drugs** (INWUD), the **Red de Mujeres Antiprohibicionista** (REMA), and the **International Network of Formerly Incarcerated Women** (INFIW)— bringing a feminist, intersectional, and anti-prohibitionist perspective into decision-making spaces.

Through these alliances, the knowledge generated at Metzineres does not remain isolated: it circulates, is critically examined, and multiplies, feeding collective processes that transform public policies, professional practices, and rights-based frameworks across different territories.

Advocacy in this sense is not about representation: it is about **co-producing change**. And working through networks ensures that what emerges from the margins reaches the heart of decision-making.



INTERNATIONAL POLICY ADVOCACY

Metzineres' participation in international decision-making and debate spaces further reinforces this recognition. Between 2024 and 2025, Metzineres actively participated in forums such as:

- **European Conference on Drug-Related Violence** (ISSUP, Brussels).
- **European Harm Reduction Conference** (Warsaw).
- **Harm Reduction International Conference 2025** (Bogotá), where Metzineres challenged the dominant paradigm and placed full-spectrum harm reduction and community at the centre of the debate.
- **Sessions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs** (CND) and the **Commission on the Status of Women** (CSW).
- International conferences on social exclusion, human rights, feminist economics, migration, and mental health.

At the institutional level, Metzineres is a member of the European Union's **Civil Society Forum on Drugs**, the **Consell de Dones de Catalunya**, and the **Consell Municipal de Benestar Social de Barcelona**, and has actively collaborated with the **European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction** (EMCDDA), now the **European Union Drugs Agency** (EUDA), contributing situated evidence and community expertise to the analysis and development of European policies.

In these spaces, Metzineres is not merely a guest: **it participates as a political actor with its own evidence base**, contributing analyses and proposals rooted in everyday practice.

ACTIVISM AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Metzineres' community action is not limited to individual or collective support within the project's spaces. The **lived experiences, rights violations, and resistance strategies of womxn are also translated into activism** and public advocacy, particularly through international campaigns and days of action. We avoid symbolic participation: taking to the streets is a natural extension of our everyday work, a way of politicising the realities that shape our lives and challenging the narratives that criminalise, stigmatise, or render us invisible.

Participation in these events makes it possible to connect the situated experience of the Raval with global movements for human rights, health, feminism, and anti-prohibitionism, strengthening the sense of belonging, collective agency, and political legitimacy of the womxn who are part of Metzineres.

Among the most notable actions:



8 de marzo

Día Internacional de Lucha Feminista

JUNTXS en las CALLES

Enfrentamos moralismos y
punitivismos, con feminismo
antiprohibicionista, solidaridad
y apoyo mutuo.

7M 18:00 h.
Manifestación nocturna
Carrer de la Lluna 3

8M 17:30 h.
Carrer de la Lluna 3



SUPORT. NO CASTIG

26 de juny



25N- SENSELLARISME ÉS VIOLÈNCIA



TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY: WHEN SITUATED KNOWLEDGE BECOMES PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

We transfer knowledge so that what works at the margins does not remain confined there, but instead transforms professional practices, institutional protocols, and frameworks for action. Our training is not rooted in abstraction, but **in experiential knowledge** rigorously informed by technical expertise.

Metzineres has delivered training courses, workshops, and specialised sessions for professionals in healthcare, social services, the legal sector, academia, feminist organisations, and public administrations. At the same time, our international consultancy work has helped inspire the creation and adaptation of similar services in different territories, demonstrating that models built from the margins can become transferable references across diverse contexts.

These actions strengthen the project's sustainability and recognise the value of the knowledge produced by those directly affected. For Metzineres, **training and consultancy are also ways of protecting lives**: they reduce future institutional violence, prevent exclusion from services, and improve effective access to rights. Training thus becomes an expanded Shelter Environment, offering protection beyond the immediate territory.

This environment ensures that:

- **Knowledge produced from the margins** is protected, legitimised, and transferred.
- **Practices that work inform public policies.**
- A **local project** without structural funding **can generate global impact.**
- **Social innovation** is not appropriated without giving back to the community.

Metzineres is committed to **structural impact**: ensuring that what sustains lives is not lost, but instead transforms systems, narratives, and practices. It demonstrates that when the margins have voice, rigour, and continuity, innovation ceases to be exceptional and becomes a public standard.



FUNDING AND WHY WE USE IT

Throughout 2025, **Metzineres sustained an intense, continuous, and highly complex level of activity**, with **interventions** including **support, community presence**, networked work, everyday care, rights advocacy, and policy influence. This level of activity required an economic structure capable of sustaining teams, spaces, and processes in contexts of severe vulnerability.

The income recognised for accounting purposes during 2025 amounted to **€1.398.620**, while total expenditure reached **€1.378,699**, **resulting in a positive balance of €19.923,51**.

This result must be understood in context. On the one hand, it reflects the application of the accrual accounting principle, whereby projects implemented during 2025 are recognised as income for that year even though a significant portion of the funds had not yet been received within the financial year. At year-end, several amounts remained outstanding or were still undergoing the justification process, creating cash-flow pressures despite the balanced accounting result.

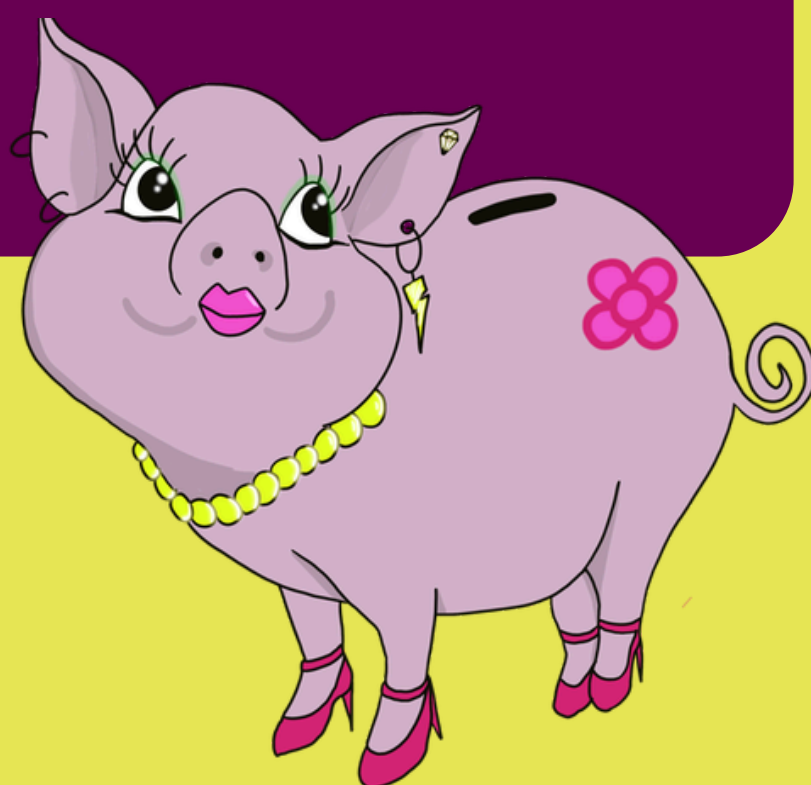
On the other hand, the result also reflects the adjustment and cost-containment measures adopted during the year in response to the shortfall in income anticipated at the beginning of the year, including reduced opening hours at the premises, tighter control of certain operating expenses, and proportional adjustments to personnel costs. These decisions made it possible to avoid a negative result, but they had a direct impact on operational capacity and on the material conditions under which the work was carried out.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STRUCTURE

In terms of the income structure, Metzineres' **funding** has been **predominantly public (89%)**, coming from grants and contracts with public administrations. **Private funding**—grants from organisations and donations—has accounted for approximately 9%, while **self-generated income** continues to represent a small share, around 2%. This structure has been key to sustaining the project, but it also reveals a high dependence on public funding, making the organisation particularly vulnerable to changes in grant policies, payment delays, and increasing competition within the social sector.

Personnel costs account for approximately 69% of total expenditure, reflecting the labour-intensive nature of Metzineres' work and the central role of relationships, presence, and sustained support. The remaining expenditure is distributed across supplies, external professional services, and other operating costs necessary to ensure the project's functioning and the quality of its interventions.

This structure shows that resources are primarily allocated to sustaining teams, care, and community presence, rather than to oversized infrastructure or non-essential expenditure.



CASH FLOW, ADAPTATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

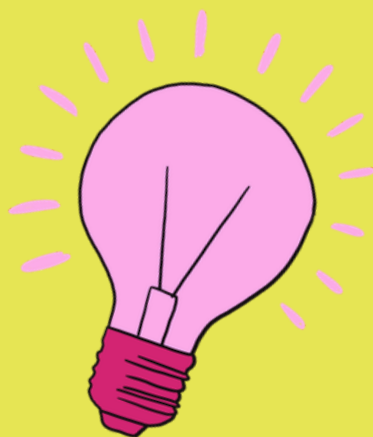
Sustaining the project throughout 2025 was made possible not only by management decisions, but also **by the team's collective response to a context of economic uncertainty**. Staff members created a solidarity resistance fund to partially compensate colleagues whose working hours had been reduced, providing a concrete mechanism for internal **redistribution and mutual care** that is fully aligned with the project's values.

This year has also highlighted the importance of the network of alliances surrounding Metzineres. **Individuals, collectives, and partner organisations have provided occasional financial support**, as well as time, volunteer work, and technical assistance during a particularly challenging period. This relational capital is one of the project's greatest assets and an essential foundation for its economic and social resilience.

Despite the positive accounting result, 2025 was marked by significant cash-flow pressures, caused by the gap between the implementation of activities and the actual receipt of income. This situation made it necessary to occasionally resort to repayable financing instruments and to begin a process of reviewing and restructuring financial obligations.

In parallel, **adjustment measures have been implemented with the aim of protecting the core of the project**, prioritising the continuity of support and minimising the impact on womxn and the communities connected to Metzineres.

The experience of 2025 reinforces a **key lesson**: sustaining **high-intensity, complex community-based projects requires more stable** funding models that are diversified and aligned with the real timelines of the work, without penalising continuity or shifting financial pressure onto teams and participants.



WHAT WE HAVE SUSTAINED, WHAT WE WANT TO MAKE POSSIBLE, AND THE FUTURE WE ARE BUILDING

This report is not a conclusion. **It is a living snapshot of a project that has grown** because it was needed, because it has worked, and because it has been able to sustain what so often falls outside institutional frameworks.

2025 was a year of **impact, recognition, and advocacy**, but also of structural pressures. Metzineres continued to deliver a comprehensive, community-based, and innovative approach in a context marked by growing precarity in the third sector, increasing inequalities, and mounting pressure from speculation and gentrification in the Raval. Despite material difficulties, cash-flow imbalances, and economic uncertainty, the project did not stop. It resisted, adapted, and continued to care.

This year has made especially visible a reality that runs through the entire project: **sustaining life in contexts of high vulnerability requires continuity, presence, and time, but also financial stability.** 2025 highlighted the limitations of a model heavily dependent on public funding, payment delays, and the lack of funding frameworks aligned with the real pace of community-based intervention. Even so, Metzineres prioritised protecting the core of the project, sustaining teams, relationships, and support processes, even when this required sacrifices, adjustments, and difficult decisions.

The Metzineres model works. The data, institutional and international recognition, and the alliances we have built all **demonstrate this**—and, above all, so do **the lives that have not been broken**. The challenge is no longer to prove that it is possible, but to ensure that what works has continuity, stability, and the capacity to scale.

Looking ahead, **we have clear dreams**. Concrete, realistic, and shared dreams:

- **Reopen on public holidays and weekends**, because life does not stop outside working hours.
- **Be able to sustain our spaces when they are needed most**, including when the system shuts down.
- **One day, have a space of our own**, rooted in the neighbourhood and protected from speculative pressures.
- **Have enough space for everything we already do**—and for everything we have not yet been able to do—open, accessible, and safe for everyone.
- **Imagine a Metzineres open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**, without having to leave the Raval or become uprooted from the community we have helped care for.

These are not abstract aspirations. They are the material conditions needed to make harm reduction, the defence of rights, and community building real and sustainable. They are the expression of a project that has demonstrated its impact and now needs more stable, diversified funding frameworks aligned with the rhythms of real life, so that it is not constrained by the sector's structural precarity.



2026 marks the beginning of a new chapter with the release of the **documentary about Metzineres**, a film that tells our story from within: the voices of womxn, the relationships, the conflicts, the humour, the hardship, and the strength involved in sustaining life at the margins. It will be an **invitation to see things differently** and to recognise that there are other ways—fairer, more efficient, and more humane—**of shaping social policy through intersectional feminism.**

We invite you to stay tuned for the premiere. And, above all, we invite you to become part of Metzineres.

Supporting Metzineres is not an act of charity: it is a **commitment to making a shared future possible.**

It means investing in **care, community, and social justice.**

It means **trusting the knowledge** of those directly affected.

It means understanding that **sustaining lives at the margins also helps build the centre.**

Metzineres will continue doing what it knows how to do: **sustaining processes and relationships, not just managing situations.**



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