



CONGRESS OF VILLEURBANNE
CONTRIBUTION OF THE SECTION OF GRENOBLE
(ISÈRE)

**Socialists, let us be at the rendezvous
of equality for the working class
neighborhoods!**

Our country is currently facing an unprecedented combination of crises. In addition to the health crisis that we are going through, with its procession of human tragedies and tragic deaths, we are unfortunately facing an economic and social crisis that is hitting our most fragile citizens hard. It is even more marked and even harder in the so-called "popular" neighborhoods, These are the people who are "underprivileged", "in difficulty", those that some people call "the suburbs".

It is not permissible in the Republic to fail to achieve equality for those who need it most. As socialists, we cannot be satisfied with this situation, which, on the contrary, must call us collectively to the leap.

A social and economic relegation...

In France, working-class neighborhoods were built during the industrial development of the 30 Glorious Years and were marked by the construction of large social housing complexes, with the laudable initial objective of providing "dignified housing at an affordable cost" for everyone. Several decades later, on the contrary, today they symbolize the concentration of economic and social difficulties, as well as the phenomena of ghettoization and even exclusion. Poorly built or poorly maintained despite successive "urban policy" plans, they have become veritable islands of poverty, sheltering a population with very diverse living conditions (workers, employees, the unemployed, young people, retirees, immigrants, etc.) but united in its social fragility and its feeling of isolation, abandonment and segregation.

If we take the example of Grenoble, it is clear that these neighborhoods have the highest concentration of low-rent housing (68 to 100% of the built heritage) and a high proportion of single-parent families (15 to 20%), incomes that are often very modest or even non-existent (with a poverty rate of over 40%), linked to an exploding unemployment rate (over 30 or even 40%, and even more so among young people) and a very high level of job insecurity/instability for those who are lucky enough to have a job.

Beyond these sociological data alone, these neighborhoods are also characterized by a dense urban planning, closed in on itself and marked by a high rate of energy precariousness, too many situations of failure or school dropout, greater difficulties of professional integration than elsewhere, a tendency to withdraw into oneself or into oneself, a risk of social disaffiliation, the resurgence of identity problems, the temptation of communitarianism and the development of certain forms of violence, going hand in hand with that of an underground economy linked to drug trafficking.

... which is becoming more and more political

When the social elevator no longer works, the inhabitants of these neighborhoods are tempted to detach themselves from a society that seems to have abandoned them. Unfortunately, the cruel realities they are confronted with on a daily basis lead them to lose faith in the ability of politicians to respond to their aspirations, however legitimate they may be, to make concrete changes in their daily lives. They then take massive and dramatic refuge in abstention.

We all had the painful experience last spring: the municipal elections were marked by a record abstention. Nationally, 55.3% in the first round, and even 58.4% in the second round, the abstention rate was even higher in the so-called "quartiers". The number of "popular" jobs, which all too often approaches or exceeds 70%. As socialists, we

We cannot be satisfied with this state of affairs, and especially with its worsening over time, election after election.

The Socialist Party and the Popular Districts: a special role and responsibility

Interpellations of the GAMs in the mid-60s, Dubedout Report and establishment of the "In the early 1980s, the creation of the Interministerial Delegation to the City and the National Council of Cities in 1988, the creation of a Ministry of the City in 1990, the LOV law in 1991 and the SRU law in 2000, local public policies to open up the city and promote social diversity, etc. For decades, the Socialists have been trying to improve the situation in working-class neighborhoods.

And yet, some like the politician - and former socialist elected representative - Rémi Lefebvre accuse our political family of not asking itself the question of its relationship to the popular categories and neighborhoods.

"only intermittently, a few months before each election, when he rediscovers electoral sociology and constructs an electoral strategy, believing that the electorate in the suburbs is captive, mechanically turning to the socialist candidate in reaction to the ultra-right wing of his opponents".

It is up to us, comrades, to show and demonstrate that, on the contrary, we have a continuous vision and aspiration towards these neighborhoods and their populations, in order to recreate the conditions for true territorial cohesion that will allow us to "make a city together". To do this, we must be able to carry out a whole range of public policies in a proactive and organized manner.

Investing primarily in the education and emancipation of young people

The youth of working-class neighborhoods is an opportunity: we must invest heavily in their future. We must support young people, from daycare to their first stable job, by giving them the means to become independent and emancipated, while valuing their commitments and initiatives.

Our proposals :

- *to ensure a local public early childhood service that is accessible to the greatest number of children, bringing together all the players concerned within a network coordinated by the municipalities,*
- *recreate the conditions for real gender diversity in schools and colleges by profoundly revising the school map (with, for example, multi-college sectors), and even the geographical location of colleges, when necessary,*
- *accompany the dynamics of class duplication,*
- *to intensify educational support for children by strengthening coordination between public institutions and popular education associations, in close contact with families,*
- *support underprivileged students and schools, by reviewing the mechanisms for allocating resources to schools, by giving priority to allocating resources where they are needed via the increase in the schools' social funds, and by obligatorily including a social component in all school projects,*
- *to allow equal access to a quality and free extracurricular offer in all neighborhoods, in collaboration with associations and actors of popular education,*
- *Strengthen and generalize artistic, cultural and scientific practice in the school environment, at the heart of educational programs,*
- *strengthen the public service of guidance and integration so that everyone finds a professional outlet,*
- *to put culture back at the heart of mixing systems by materializing a new relationship between artists and the population, between art and society, via a broader definition of the "cultural diversity".*

culture (artistic, scientific, technical, popular...) and by making partnerships between actors the rule,

- *strengthen the support of young people in their cultural, civic, sports or leisure projects, through increased support for popular education structures*

Strengthening local public services

In order to take concrete and lasting action on the daily lives of the inhabitants, confidence in public action must be restored. We therefore reject the logic of a segregated neighborhood from which public services would withdraw, starting with those responsible for ensuring security. On the contrary, local public services must be at the heart of the solutions that allow us to support everyone in an appropriate manner, with dignity and humanity. It is the foundation of a system that aims to combat social withdrawal and social isolation, while offering a reminder to those who need it on a one-off or long-term basis.

Our proposals :

- *The Grenoble example of the "Maisons des Habitants" (Houses for Inhabitants), which cover each of the city's six sectors, could be improved (by making them single reception points allowing access to rights by grouping together all the public and social services, but also places for social life and the fight against isolation) and experimented in other French cities,*
- *Promote better access to health care, through Health Centers located in the neighborhoods, especially in the context of COVID that we know,*
- *experimenting the implementation of a social shield by creating, as we proposed during the last municipal campaign, a Local Basic Income for those who are below the poverty line, depriving them in the long term of access to an essential good or service (water, electricity, food, transport, health, digital...), paid by the municipality in monetary form or in kind, after having disseminated broad information on access to rights, in collaboration with social and private donors, as well as social and institutional organizations,*
- *to recreate a link and re-establish a climate of trust between the inhabitants and the police (municipal and national),*
- *act within the framework of collaboration between the national police and the municipal police (and more generally between all the actors concerned) around the triptych "Prevention / Deterrence / Sanction",*
- *to set up a national proximity police trained and present in the field on a daily basis, day and night, to reinforce the municipal police around its missions of public tranquility, prevention and mediation,*
- *to set up video surveillance of public space, with an associated ethics committee, with a view to security but also to real-time management of public space with an urban supervision center,*
- *Assign experienced and seasoned police officers (municipal and national) to these areas through wage subsidies,*
- *strengthen the presence of prevention and social link professionals,*
- *generalize the use of pedestrian cameras for police officers, both municipal and national.*

Refusing the existence of segregated or even "abandoned territories of the Republic".

All too often, the inhabitants of neighborhoods feel abandoned by the Republic, for lack of an adequate response to their concrete problems in terms of housing, public space, mobility, employment, access to basic necessities, etc., while working-class neighborhoods are likely to benefit little from the effects of the stimulus plan presented by the government,

We need to intensify our efforts on these issues are essential conditions for living together.

Our proposals :

- *encourage a mix of housing and socio-economic activities, or even create them when they do not exist,*
- *To massively replenish ANRU's endowment funds by directing funds towards energy and environmental improvements throughout the habitat,*
- *work towards a de-densification, or even a form of residentialization, by opening up neighborhoods to the rest of the city, through demolitions preceded by the necessary re-housing of families while respecting their rights (which implies the construction of social housing in all municipalities, applying the ALUR law),*
- *diversify the supply of social housing in the territory, in terms of location, number and size to allow a real mix and avoid phenomena that add misery to misery, and diversify the status of housing by promoting social home ownership,*
- *Systematically support housing renovation operations by taking strong action to upgrade public spaces and taking strong initiatives on cleanliness and urban beautification,*
- *to accompany the installation and long-term maintenance of local shops and traditional SME/VSE companies,*
- *during the crisis period, to set up incentives for companies, except SMEs/VSEs, to convert part of the dividends into job creation for young people, particularly from working-class neighborhoods.*
- *open up these often peripheral neighborhoods with through transportation networks,*
- *Generalize the "Zero Long-Term Unemployment" schemes in working-class neighborhoods,*
- *find ways and means to fight against all forms of discrimination, but also against radicalization by promoting the republican principles and values of secularism.*

Empowering citizens to act to restore confidence

The high levels of abstention mentioned above, as well as the lack of interest in many citizen participation mechanisms, demonstrate, if proof were needed, the very strong distance taken by the inhabitants of working-class neighborhoods from public action and, more generally, from democratic issues. The key to the success of public policies in neighborhoods, whatever they may be, lies in our collective capacity to invent new forms of regular and nourished exchanges between elected officials, citizens and local actors, with a strong participatory evaluation dimension throughout the processes implemented.

Our proposals :

- *Strengthen reception and integration measures for new arrivals in the neighborhood to promote social cohesion,*
- *encourage all initiatives that contribute to dialogue between residents and local institutions, between groups that co-exist without ever meeting, in order to reduce isolation, withdrawal, misunderstandings and sometimes even rejection,*
- *re-establish mutual respect between residents and public authorities, especially local elected officials, through consultation and co-construction of public policies,*
- *support and enhance the value of the very rich associative commitment in these neighborhoods, by increasingly encouraging their initiatives open to all, open to gender and origin mixes*
- *to really democratize and open more widely the access to the devices of citizen participation, today deserted by the inhabitants of the districts, if not by some of them. These "participation professionals" are already highly integrated into the associative and parapublic networks,*
- *Experimenting with annual local referendums that allow residents to take up a subject that they deem not dealt with by their elected municipal officials.*

In recent years, city policy has ensured that local situations do not become explosive. We need to review our approach to these issues in order to create the conditions for true territorial cohesion. Popular districts must become fully-fledged neighborhoods in the heart of the cities that house them. This requires means that are as exceptional as they are innovative, with reinvented urban planning, but also powerful policies and mechanisms to promote economic and commercial development, educational success, emancipation, access to public services, peace and quiet, social diversity, cultural, associative and sports activities, citizen empowerment, secularism, living together, etc.

With 80% of the population in France now urban, these issues are central political stakes. It cannot be subdivided into autonomous silos: it requires a shared and largely coordinated reflection. It obviously requires local experimentation, because there can be no single remedy in the face of the extreme diversity of situations encountered.

As you can see, the task is immense, but success - for us socialists - is imperative!

The socialist members of the Grenoble section