

GZ.I Galiza International



The last few years have been difficult with the arrival of COVID-19 seriously restricting political activity in the usual way for the BNG, used to taking to the streets and engaging directly with our people. But we could not let a pandemic stand in the way of the ongoing need to further the Galizan people's need for social emancipation and national liberation and we found new, creative ways to continue with our political work. As such, the last few years have been intense both at the domestic and international levels, participating actively in demonstrations organised by the CIG trade union and the Galizan language platform and many other grassroots organisations. We have strengthened our ties with our sister parties in the Basque Country and the Catalan Countries. We now have a newly-sworn in MEP to defend our interests in Brussels. High-ranking members of the BNG attended key events around the world, from Chile, Brazil and

Colombia to the Sahara and Kurdistan. With the onset of the war in Ukraine, the BNG issued a statement reiterating its historical antiimperialist stance in favour of a peaceful, negotiated solution to conflicts, a position defended by our MP in the Spanish Parliament. For the BNG, it is essential to strive to build a network of international solidarity and mutual support, sharing and pooling our experiences with those of our sisters organisations in Europe and around the globe. To contribute to spreading information about our activity, this international newsletter provides information about all of these events and activities and more.

Together with the Galiza Sempre Foundation and its youth wing, Galiza Nova, the BNG has jointly edited an introduction to Galizan nationalism available for download in several languages [here](#).



Ana Pontón's closing address to the 17th National Assembly

National Assembly: Winning a New Galiza

On 7 November 2021, the BNG held its 17th National Assembly in the city of A Coruña attended by thousands of members who debated the motions which mark out the direction for the organisation's national and political activity for the period ahead and directly elected half of the new National Council (the rest being elected in the different area assemblies) and re-elected Ana Pontón as National Spokesperson, who stated that the BNG is stronger and more united than ever, standing it in good stead for the challenges which lie ahead, including occupying the Presidency of the Galizan Government in the elections set for 2024. The National Assembly approved the creation of a Working Group on International Relations and was attended by a large group of distinguished international delegates from around the world, including and the Basque Country (EH Bildu, Eusko Alkartasuna and Basque Nationalist

Party), Catalonia (Communists of Catalonia, CUP, Poble Lliure, Junts per Catalunya and ERC) and Castile (Castilian Left) and The Canary Isles (Ahora Canarias), as well as representatives from Brazil (PT and PCdoB), Honduras (Partido Libre), the Rif (Hirak Rif Movement), Kurdistan (HDP), Sahara (Polisario Front), Scotland (SNP), Portugal (Left Bloc and Portuguese Communist Party), Palestine (PFLP) and Wales (Plaid Cymru) and greetings from Paraguay (Frente Guasú), together with the Consul General for Cuba in Galiza, representatives of the Venezuelan Ambassador to the Spanish State and the Consul in Galiza and the Bolivian Consul in Barcelona.

The full text of the final document is available for download in Galizan [here](#).



The Pro-Sovereignty Forum in Santiago de Compostela

The Galiza Sempre Foundation hosts the 3rd Pro-Sovereignty School

The Pro-Sovereignty Forum, made up of over 20 political, trade union and cultural organisations from across the Spanish State committed to left-wing sovereignty organised the 3rd Pro-Sovereignty School in collaboration with the Coppieters Foundation, jointly hosted in Santiago de Compostela by the Galiza Sempre, Moncho Reboiras and Terra e Tempo foundations. Over several days timed to coincide with Galizan National Day celebrations, the wide range of participants engaged in intense debate and analysis aimed at reinforcing democratic values, social justice, peace and respect for the collective rights of our peoples. The different round tables and workgroups addressed issues such as energy sovereignty, the resolution of political conflicts, the processes of digitalisation and the economic situation in Europe and around the world, including talks by guest speakers from Palestine and the Sahara.

Click [here](#) for the homepage of the Fòrum Sobiranista.

The 'Dialogues from the Periphery' Talks

Over the lockdown period, the Galizan Sempre Foundation think-tank attached to the BNG geared to analysis and training pushed on with its dynamic series of talks entitled *Dialogues from the Periphery*, providing the Galizan people with the possibility to engage with leading figures from around the globe, including world leaders, political, trade-union representatives, community leaders and grassroots cultural agents, including the renowned Argentinian intellectual, Atilio Borón, the Spokesperson for the Portuguese Left Bloc, Catarina Martins, the President of Sinn Féin, Mary Lou McDonald, and the former President of Bolivia, Evo Morales.



Dialogues from the Periphery with con Evo Morales



Ana Pontón at the BNG's 40th Anniversary celebrations

40 Years at the Service of Galiza

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the BNG, founded on 25-26 September 1982 in the city of A Coruña. To commemorate this important date, the BNG organised a national event at the original founding venue addressed by the National Spokesperson, Ana Pontón, and several historical militants. The different localities then took up the baton, with 25 events around the country paying homage to the steadfast commitment made by so many dedicated militants to the country and to the BNG since it was first founded. The Galiza Sempre Foundation also played its part by editing a book entitled *40 Years at the Service of Galiza: The BNG (1982-2022)*, illustrated with over 400 images, many of them seen for the first time, making it a reference document of great political, historical and graphic value. The Foundation also produced the documentary September '82 recounting the beginnings of nationalist unity, covering the process leading up to the BNG founding Assembly and the debates that took place during the day of the Assembly itself.

Click here for [video](#) and [photos](#).

A Year of Social Mobilisations

The BNG and its youth wing, Galiza Nova, also actively took part in a wide range of demonstrations and other activities organised by the Galizan trade union (CIG), e.g. International Workers' Day (1 May) and the demonstrations around the country against the crisis and poverty and in defence of fair wages and pensions (21 November 2022) as well the *Queremos Galego* platform in defence of the Galizan language, especially the Galizan Language Day demonstration (17 May), the platform in defence of public healthcare *SOS Sanidade Pública*, the demonstrations organised by the Galizan feminist movement to mark International Women's Day (8 March) and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), and demonstrations in favour of LGBT rights, amongst others. The BNG also organised two national demonstrations in the capital, Santiago de Compostela, against the cost-of living crisis in order to raise public awareness of our alternatives, first on 3 April and again 18 December 2022 under the banner *It's not a price crisis: it's a scam!*.



Ana Pontón in front of a packed Quintana Square on Galizan National Day

Galizan National Day

Winning the Future. A new Galiza on the Move

This was the first time that the BNG had been able to hold its demonstration in normal conditions following the full lifting of the COVID restrictions. On the eve of National Day, the BNG's youth wing, Galiza Nova, culminated a month of intense work around the country with a political tribute to the great figures of Galizan nationalism, Rosalía de Castro and Daniel Castelao.

And on 25 July, thousands of people once again took to the streets of the capital, Santiago de Compostela responding to the call to Winning the Future. A new Galiza on the Move, culminating in a packed rally in the main Quintana Square where the General Secretary of Galiza Nova, Marta Gómez, and the National Spokesperson of the BNG, Ana Pontón, outlined the BNG's alternative to the current crisis. Her pledge that in the forthcoming elections Galizan would have a nationalist woman President were met with raucous applause as the square resounded with cries of "Free Galiza! Power to the People!". Together with the delegations present at the National Assembly, the demonstration was also attended by delegates from the Basque Country (Alternatiba and Sortu), Chile (Communist Party of Chile), Majorca (Més per Mallorca), Menorca (Més per Menorca), Occitania (Partit Occitan) and Valencia (Més Compromís), as well as the European Free Alliance (EFA) and CIEMEN, with messages of solidarity from Sinn Féin in Ireland, Quebec (Parti Québécois) and Venezuela (PSU).

A massively successful Festigal starts up again after the pandemic

This year also marked the return of the long-awaited Festigal jointly organised by Galiza Nova and the Galiza Sempre Foundation. More people than ever flocked to this year's 20th anniversary of this key

cultural event showcasing contemporary Galizan music and creative talent, with stands, book signings and presentations and talks designed to raise political awareness, including panels on The Far Right and Democracy with the political analyst Idoia Arreaza Aguilera, María Ángeles Díez Rodríguez, professor of Sociology at the Complutense University of Madrid and member of the Anti-imperialist Internationalist Front (FAI) and Joana Mortágua, Portuguese Member of Parliament for the Left Bloc (BE) moderated by Xosé Lois Rivera, head of international relations for the Galizan Trade union CIG, and Towards a Europe of the Peoples with Néstor Rego, MP for the BNG, Sara Bailac Ardanuy, Senator for the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC), Mertxe Aizpurua, MP for EH Bildu, Amadeu Mezquida Ortega member of Més-Compromís and the General Secretary of the Tirant lo Blanc Valencian Cultural Association and Miquel Ros-sellò for Més per Mallorca moderated by the BNG's spokesperson in Brussels, Ana Miranda.

Click here for [video](#) and [photos](#)



Round table 'Towards a Europe of the Peoples'



Ana Pontón with the Basque President, Iñigo Urkullu



Ana Pontón with the Catalan President, Pere Aragonés

Basque Country

The BNG has continued to work to cement its ties with its sister nations, the Basque Country and Catalonia, in order to strengthen resistance against ongoing moves towards recentralisation, with a joint proposal tabled in the Spanish Parliament in July 2022 by the BNG, EH Bildu and ERC calling upon the Government to fully recognise the plurinational character of the State. Other key contacts with our sister organisations in Catalonia and the Basque country include the following:

Meeting with the Basque President, Iñigo Urkullu

In March 2022, the National Spokesperson for the BNG, Ana Pontón, held official talks with the Lehendakari (Basque President), Iñigo Urkullu, stating that: "The Basque Country demonstrates just how vital self-government is for moving forwards, trusting in our own strengths and potential, without bowing the political centralism of Madrid". She was accompanied on the visit, which included an in-depth discussion of the Basque financing system, by the Galizian MP, Olalla Rodil, and Rubén Cela, head of International Relations. In April, the BNG joined other delegations and thousands of demonstrators in the huge Aberri Eguna ('Basque National Day') demonstration organised by EH Bildu in Iruñea (Pamplona) after two years absence due to the pandemic, demanding a Basque Republic. Peace, Sovereignty and Democracy.

Participation in the PNV's Party Day

On 25 September, the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV-EAJ) was able to hold its annual Alderdi Eguna ('Party Day') following the pandemic with thousands of members and sympathisers flocking to the open-air site in Foronda near Gasteiz to celebrate its Party Day in a convivial setting with food and music. This year's chosen slogan was Goazen! (Let's Go!) and the main political rally was addressed by the President of the Basque Government, Iñigo Urkullu, and the President of the National Council of the Party, Andoni Ortuzar, who analysed the political social and political situation, indicating the goals that lie ahead for the new political year marked by this event. Once again, the BNG responded to the invitation by the PNV, a party with which we have a long-standing friendly relationship, represented by Montse Prado, a member of the National Executive and an MP in the Galizian Parliament.

Catalonia

The BNG upholds every peoples' right to freely and democratically express the way they wish to govern themselves in application of the internationally recognised right to self-determination. As such, we have continued to express our ongoing support for the Catalan political prisoners who were unjustly condemned in 2019 and continue to languish in prison or who were forced into exile for their part in the independence referendum in Catalonia in 2017.

In 2021, as COVID restrictions eased, the BNG invited Gabriel Rufián, MP in the Spanish Parliament for the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC) and member of the Secretariat of the Catalan National Assembly (ANC), to Galiza, where he took part in a livestreamed debate with the National Spokesperson, Ana Pontón.

Catalan National Day

As every year, in 2021 and 2022, the BNG took part in the Diada (Catalan National Day) celebrations and demonstration in the capital, Barcelona, on 11 September, where the Secretary for Organisation, Bieito Lobeira, and the coordinators for international relations, Rubén Cela and Ana Miranda, on behalf of the National Executive were accompanied by a member of the Catalan Branch of the BNG, Rubén Permyu.

Meeting with the President of Catalonia, Pere Aragonés

As part of our high-level, bilateral institutional talks, in May 2022, the National Spokesperson for the BNG, Ana Pontón, met in Barcelona with the President of the *Generalitat* (Catalan Government), where they discussed the need to strengthen economic, scientific and research collaboration between our two nations, especially in times of economic crisis.

Germany

On 24 August 2022, on behalf of the BNG Tomé Laxe, Coordinator of the Commission for International Relations and Social Movements of the BNG Assembly Abroad, met top representatives of the South Schleswig Voters' Association (SSW), which defends the interests of the Danish national minority and the Frisian peoples in Germany. The meeting was hosted by Martin Lorenzen, General Secretary of the SSW, the former Education Commissioner, Anke Spoorendonk, and Flemming Meyer, former Member of Parliament for Schleswig-Holstein in charge of international affairs, and dealt with issues ranging from cultural assimilation, respect for the environment, the role of local communities and feminism to counter the negative impact of State centralism.



Vía Galega at the round-table debate in Frankfurt

The Frankfurt Bookfair

A representative of the Galizan Vía Galega platform took part in the conference *Beyond Spain. No to Spanish White-washing* at the Frankfurt Bookfair 2022, together with speakers from the Catalan National Assembly (ANC) and the Basque Gure Esku association, committed to the sovereignty of their respective nations.

Click [here](#) for the homepage of Vía Galega.

Portugal

In September, we took part in the 46th AVANTE! Festival organized by the Portuguese Communist Party in Seixal, providing thousands of people with the opportunity to get to know the PCP over three whole days while enjoying food, literature, theatre and music. The stand run by the BNG has become a staple reference for festival-goers who drop by to pick up information and to try traditional Galizan drinks. This year focused on the centenary of the birth of the Nobel prize for literature and Communist activist, José Saramago, as well as the fight for peace and alternatives to combat the cost-of-living crisis and the lack of job security, all of which featured prominently in the closing speech delivered by the General Secretary of the PCP, Jerónimo de Sousa. The meeting with leaders of the PCP and Rubén Cela and Montse Prado on behalf of the National Executive of the BNG underlined the extent to which we coincide on our analysis of the current, highly complex international situation and the economic crisis as well as the alternatives we defend. The festival also provided us with the opportunity to strengthen our ties with some of the scores of other international delegations present at the event.

EU and EFA



EFA delegates during their visit to Galiza

Ana Miranda was sworn in as the MEP for the BNG in the European Parliament on 5 September 2022, where she will continue to defend the interests of Galiza and the Galizan People as a member of the European Free Alliance (EFA) and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Petitions. That same month, the city of Pontevedra hosted a meeting of members of the EFA to discuss cross-border issues and opportunities in the EU and how local policies and initiatives can help build a Europe of the Peoples.

Click [here](#) for full details on the EU Parliament website.

Ireland



Ana Pontón with the President of Sinn Féin, Mary Lou McDonald

Sinn Féin's Ard Fheis (Party Conference) held under the banner *Tá sé an am dom athrú* ("Time for Change") held in Baile Átha Cliath (Dublin) in November 2022 brought together two women who are destined to become the Presidents of Galiza and Ireland, Ana Pontón and Mary Lou McDonald. The National Spokesperson was accompanied on her visit by Ana Miranda, the MEP for the BNG, during which she also met the former Member of the Legislative Assembly of the North of Ireland and former MEP and current Spokesperson for Sinn Féin in Europe, Martina Anderson, who had already visited Galiza at the invitation of the Galiza Sempre Foundation in May 2022 when she took part as a guest speaker in a round-table debate organised in Santiago in collaboration with the Coppieters Foundation and the Eusko Ikaskuntza (Basque Studies Society), where the document entitled *Territorial Conflicts of Sovereignty in Europe: Good Practices and Proposals for Resolution* was also presented.

Click [here](#) for the full text of the document in English.



Néstor Rego speaking in the Spanish Parliament

For Peace and the Sovereignty of the Peoples

Néstor Rego took advantage of President's question time in March 2022 to condemn the military intervention of Ukraine by Russia, while calling for de-escalation and a peaceful and diplomatic solution within the framework of the UN and OSCE, in line with the position defended by the BNG in other conflicts from Iraq to Afghanistan, going on to call for the withdrawal of existing troops and the halting of the supply of military aid, including troops and equipment. The National Executive of the BNG issued a five-point statement outlining its position entitled *For peace and the sovereignty of the peoples: NO TO WAR!* based on the withdrawal of the troops, compliance with the Minsk Protocol, respect for the decision of the people of Donbass and the Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and a commitment by NATO to cease its expansion eastwards.

The full statement is available in English [here](#).

In defence of international peace and anti-imperialism, the National Executive of the BNG also issued an official statement on the NATO summit held in Madrid in June 2022 which is also available in English [here](#).

Lula: The People's President

The BNG has long-standing ties with the PT, stretching as far back as 2001 when Camilo Nogueira was the voice of Galiza in Brussels, as well as with the PCdoB and more recently the PSOL and has taken part in the World Social Forum (WSF) held in Porto Alegre and the São Paulo Forum (FSP). While Lula was in prison, the coordinator of International Relations of the BNG National Executive and MEP, Ana Miranda, called for his release in the European Parliament. In October 2022, Ana Miranda travelled to Brazil to take part in the first round of elections where she also met with LGBT activists, later going in the European Parliament on to denounce the political persecution suffered by left-wing organisations

and the violation of democratic and human rights. She returned for the run-off when the BNG hailed Lula da Silva's election as a victory for the fight against poverty, racism and discrimination, the return of democracy and the rebuilding of public services, dismantled over the last four years by Bolsonaro's government. Ana Miranda also represented the BNG as one of the over 50 international delegations invited to attend the inauguration of the new President in January 2023, described as a triumph over fascism. The BNG expressed its full support for Lula as the rightfully elected President and firmly condemned the attempted fascist coup and continues to monitor the situation closely.



Ana Miranda with the President of Brazil, Lula da Silva



Elisa Loncón with Ana Pontón and Ana Miranda

Chile

In March 2022, Ana Miranda represented the BNG at the investiture of the newly-elected President of Chile, Gabriel Boric. Ana Miranda stated that the swing away from the right marked a step-change in Chilean politics driven by feminism, the recognition of indigenous rights and a turn away from neoliberalism towards social policies and respect for the environment and equality. During her visit, Ana Miranda also took part in an international seminar on Constructing Alternatives to Neoliberalism through Latin American and Caribbean Unity and Integration and met with the

President of the Communist Party, Camila Vallejo, and other grassroots activists.

Earlier in January, the Galiza Sempre Foundation invited the Mapuche activist and President of the Chilean Constitutional Convention, Elisa Loncón, to Galiza, where she met the National Spokesperson of the BNG, Ana Pontón, and gave a talk on The Plurinationalism of Chile under Construction within the framework of the Dialogues from the Periphery programme.



Ana Pontón and Ana Miranda with the Vice-President Francia Márquez

Support for the new government led by Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez

In August 2022, the National Spokesperson of the BNG, Ana Pontón, flew to Colombia accompanied by the MEP for the BNG, Ana Miranda, to attend the investiture of the newly-elected President, Gustavo Petro, paving the way for the first left-wing government in the country's history. During their stay, they

met with a range of politicians, high-ranking officials and representatives of grassroots organisations, including the Senator and Co-President of the Peace Commission, María José Pizarro. The Constituent Chile Foundation also signed a collaboration agreement with the Galiza Sempre Foundation.



(With Perú. Against Repression and Fascism)

Peru

The BNG congratulated Pedro Castillo on his Victoria in June 2021 in the Peruvian run-off elections when he stood against the daughter of the former dictator Fujimori. Since he was illegally ousted as President in the 2022 coup, the BNG follows the ensuing situation of unrest, political instability and persecution with increasing preoccupation for the country itself and the surrounding region.

Mexico

For the first time, in August 2022 the Galiza Sempre Foundation was one of the nearly 300 international delegations from over thirty different countries invited to take part in the 26th International Seminary held in Mexico City by the Mexican Workers Party (PT) with the title *Parties and a New Society*. The Seminar focused on the world post-COVID and in the new geopolitical situation in the light of the war in Ukraine and the demise of US dominion together with the political situation in South and Central America and was attended by key figures from Latin America, including the former presidents of Bolivia, Evo Morales, and Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, who delivered the opening and closing speeches. At the

Seminar, the President of the Foundation and member of the BNG's National Executive, Rubén Cela, was invited to address the delegates with a presentation entitled *Nationalism and the Left in the 20th Century*.

The full text of the presentation is available in Spanish [here](#).



The president of the Galiza Sempre Foundation, Rubén Cela, during the Congress *The Parties and a New Society*



Montse Prado during her visit to the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tinduf

Solidarity with Western Sahara

Together with other international delegates from around the world, representatives of the BNG led by the Galizan MP and member of the BNG National Executive and Member of the Galizan Parliament, Montserrat Prado, renowned for her commitment to the cause of the Sahrawi people, visited the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf (Algeria) and attended the 16th Congress of the Polisario Front accompanied by the BNG's MEP, Ana Miranda, held on 13-17 January 2023 in Dakhla in a show of our international solidarity with peoples around their world in their rightful quest for national liberation and social emancipation.

Kurdistan: The BNG at the 5th Congress of the HDP

As part of the delegation of the European Free Alliance (EFA), the Spokesperson for the BNG in Brussels, Ana Miranda, joined international delegates from 50 countries at the 5th Congress of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), where she expressed our ongoing support for the Kurdish and other peoples within the Turkish State, denouncing the hypocrisy of the European Union and the Spanish Government, going on to state that the HDP is an example of democratic, feminist and environmentalist struggle in the face of the repression and persecution meted out by the government of the dictator Erdoğan.



The MEP Ana Miranda holding the HDP flag during their congress.



One more day Israel bombards Gaza. West keep silence. Palestine will win!

Palestine

In May 2021, the MP for the BNG in the Spanish Parliament, Néstor Rego, called upon the Spanish government to condemn the criminal aggression by Israel and an immediate halt to the bombing of the Gaza Strip with the death of dozens of civilians, including children, part of the ongoing murderous genocide waged against the Palestinian people since 1948. He went on to call for the need to deploy all means necessary, ranging from the expulsion of diplomats, sanctions and backing for the boycott against Israeli goods to an intervention by the UN demanding the restoration of peace in compliance with its international resolutions. The same month, the BNG also participated actively in the demonstrations organised across Galiza demanding an immediate halt to the genocide against the Palestinian people.

The following month, the Galizan MP for the BNG and second Vice-President of the Galizan Parliament, Montserrat Prado, reiterated

the BNG's steadfast commitment to supporting the Palestinian people and its fight for national liberation in every way possible in a meeting with the National Spokesperson for Europe for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Fayez Badawi. She went on to state that the international community should put an end to its complicity with the occupation by guaranteeing the creation of an independent Palestinian State within the borders agreed in 1967 with the right for all Palestinians to return to their homeland.

Once again, in 2022 Néstor Rego denounced the extrajudicial arrest and illegal detention of Palestinians and called upon that the Spanish government use its diplomatic relations to demand the liberation of all Palestinian prisoners, including the liberation of the Secretary-General of the PFLP, Ahmad Sa'adat, held for the last ten years in Israeli jails.

Homepages:



[BNG](#)



[GN](#)



[FGS](#)

Bloque Nacionalista Galego (BNG)

Avenida Rodríguez de Viguri 16 baixo, 15702 Santiago de Compostela (Galiza)

Correo: sedenacional@bng.gal

Tel.: + 34 981 555 850

Follow us:

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Instagram](#) [Flickr](#)