



N-Mara

Newsletter of the National Council of Women - Malta



2010 Year Against Poverty: The Maltese Delegation - Doris Bingley, NCW Malta; Carmel Bonello, BPC International Ltd; Roberta Scerri, di-ve; John Sammut Mission Fund; and Holger Saliba Richmond Foundation.



NCW Sec Gen Doris Bingley at CHOGM 2009



Minister Cristina, NCW President Grace Attard and organising committee member Cynthia Turner awarding the first prize to BMV 2009 winner violinist Justin Zarb



Members and friends at the NCW 2009 Christmas Dinner



Successful students at the Presentation of Certificates Ceremony of NCW Courses at NCW Centre



President Grace Attard, Mr Mario Azzopardi, Mr Vella Brincat presenting the certificate to one of the participants

Contents:

• Editorial	Page 2
• President's Message	Page 3
• Extending maternity leave – a win-win situation; Extending parental leave	Page 4
• Strengthening the Role of Women in Society Extracts from the 2 nd Ministerial Conference	Page 5
• Statement on 'The Obligation to Name Women for Top Positions in the EU.....	Page 6
• Changing Attitudes Through Education.....	Page 7
• Influenza AH1N1	Page 8
• International Triennial Conference.....	Page 10
• News from NCW	Page 11
• Neqirdu I-Pjaga tal-Vjolenza Domestika	Page 12
• Product Safety Through Market Surveillance	Page 13
• The Commonwealth at 60 CHOGM 2009.....	Page 14
• Diary of Events - October - December 2009.....	Page 15
• Current and Forthcoming Events	Page 16

Members of



International Council of Women

Founded 1888

Motto: "Do unto others as ye would
that they should do unto you."



European Centre of the International Council of Women

Founded 1961

In Special Consultative Status with the Economic & Social Council of the UN.

Executive Committee Members - 2009

President

Mrs. Grace Attard

Hon General Secretary

Mrs. Doris Bingley

Hon Treasurer

Mrs. Therese Cassola

EESC Representative

Mrs. Grace Attard

Vice Presidents

Mrs. Doreen Micallef Dip MLS, B.Sc, AIMLS, PGCE

Mrs. Helga Ellul MQR

Mrs. Mary Rose Zahra

Members

Ms. Jean Killick B.A. (Hons)

Dr Mariosa Vella Cardona M'Jur, LL.D.

Dr Mercedes Schembri Wismayer

Mrs. Nadya Anne Mangion

Ms. Maria Camilleri Dip. Social Work

Ms. Diane Xuereb B.Psych(Hons), Dip.

HRM, Dip.Gestalt Psychotherapy

Mrs. Maud Muscat M.Ed., BA

Mrs. Ruth Falzon M.A

Mrs. Josephine Sammut

Editor

Ms. Maria Giuliana Fenech BA (Hons.)

Legal Advisor

Dr. Claudine Zarb B.A. LLD

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 13.30

Membership Subscription Rates

New individual membership	€14.50
Annual renewal	€12.00
Affiliated Organisations	€20.00
Associated Organisations	€20.00
Life membership	€95.00

Members and affiliated organisations
are requested to keep their subscription
fees up to date.



IL-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa

Pope Pius XII Flats, Mountbatten Street

Blata l-Bajda HMR 1579, MALTA

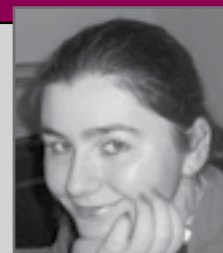
Tel: 21 248 881 Tel/Fax: 21 246 982 E-mail: ncwmalta@camline.net.mt

<http://www.ncwmalta.com>

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Some time ago I received one of those much forwarded emails. I usually have a quick laugh and if the laugh is particularly good I forward the email to my friends and family.



However this email did not encourage laughter. The email contained a picture of a letter sent to a Miss Ford in 1958. Miss Ford had applied for a position with the Walt Disney Productions training school. The reply was this: "Women do not do any of the creative work in connection with preparing the cartoons for the screen, as that work is performed entirely by young men. For this reason girls are not considered in the training school. The only work open to women consists of tracing the character on clear celluloid sheets with Indian ink and filling in the tracings on the reverse side with paint according to directions." What makes the letter particularly poignant is that it was typed on very happy looking paper, decorated with Snow White - a heroine, and the seven dwarfs. The only thing this email encouraged was indignation that a person was not deemed suitable for a line of work which is gender indifferent, merely because she is a female. One should note that this woman was not applying for a work lifting heavy machinery but to do creative work. Instead her gender was relegating her to a hobby much enjoyed by 5 year olds - filling in a colouring book. At least a 5 year old can choose his or her own colours!

My indignation would have died down hadn't I come across an old film magazine my brother was reading. In "Sight and Sound", a 1967 issue, there is a call for "Films Officer" with the State Library of Tasmania, Australia. The starting salary for men in \$4622. For women it is \$436 less at \$4186. This was not just the case in Australia, but all over the world. Older readers will remember the different salaries teachers in Malta received. Today, thankfully, such discrepancies in salaries are no longer common and no job would advertise a different starting salary depending on gender.

Finally, I ask you all, what are your resolutions for 2010? The start of a new year is a good time to evaluate any choices we might be making. I for once plan to start jogging. It has been a life-long dream to take up this sport and I am going to work on a programme which should basically take me from the couch to 5 kilometres in 2 months. This, I understand, is probably just the warm-up for fitter runners, but it's baby steps for now! In the next issue I will let you know how I am getting on.

I wish you all a pleasant 2010, 🌸

Maria Giuliana Fenech

Note from the Editor: I urge all of NCW's affiliates to send me short write ups about the role of your organisation. It would be an excellent way for our readers to learn about your good work. Please email me on: mariagiulianafenech@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As I write to you all, I wonder what you are doing at this time of the year, as the Christmas spirit is all around us, although unfortunately not perhaps a happy time for some of us

It has been a year during which so many events have taken place at International, European and National level: and we are proud that NCW has been so involved in most of them. The Copenhagen Climate Change Summit, CHOGM, ICW elections of new president and board members for the next 3 years, the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty, elections of MEPs, NCW Congress for Small States of Europe, MEUSAC, Budget 2010, BMV Music Competition, regular courses and learning experiences at NCW Centre, just to mention a few!

NCW Committees have this year more than ever, been very dynamic, organizing events of all sorts and for this I am very grateful that our voluntary work is so alive.

It has also been a time of global financial and economic crisis, with which the world and not least Malta has been struggling to survive. NCW is still evaluating the impact on women as well as women's contribution to ease the negative effects. NCW is very much aware of the changing global scenario brought about by this crisis and we want to make sure that policies to address these changes in the aftermath of the crisis will reflect the valid contribution of women in the future plans

We are at the end of another year and we look

forward to 2010 with the same confidence that characterizes NCW. As we go through the process of evaluating our initiatives for 2009, we are preparing our plans for 2010. Indeed all of us, including our affiliated organizations have an important share in the decisions taken at the Annual General meeting in January 2010. We are grateful to them for their valuable contribution to NCW initiatives throughout the year.

NCW has been increasing its networking with local and European stakeholders, working to improve the situation of women in legal, economic, cultural and social aspects. Not least we have also been giving more visibility to our work through TV, radio and print media and therefore ensuring that our society is not only aware of what is going on but will also take the responsibility to give their share to ensure equity in our society

As always I urge you to come forward with your ideas and suggestions. NCW belongs to all and I believe that its success is the result of everybody's contribution!

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas season and success in your initiatives for the future. ♡

Grace Attard, President

Presentation of Certificates of NCW Courses

The Presentation of Certificates in English Level 4/5 and certificate of attendance for all participants that have completed a course in Maltese, Computer Awareness, ECDL START and ECDL UPGRADE was held at the National Council of Women Centre on Friday 11th December 2009 at 18.30hrs.

These initiatives are in line with the National Council of Women's aim to improve the quality of life through lifelong learning. NCW President welcomed the successful candidates and highlighted some of the current developments in education. She urged them to make use of opportunities available to improve their personal,

social and academic skills and qualifications.

Mr Mario Azzopardi Director Lifelong Learning and Adult Education Services, who presented the certificates to the successful students, congratulated them for their success and spoke about the importance of learning and the concept of 'learning to learn' in today's life IT Lecturer Mr Vella Brincat spoke about the enthusiasm and determination of the students to learn which have served as a stimulus to him also during the IT sessions. NCW wishes to take this opportunity to encourage other individuals to participate in similar programmes. ♡



Successful students together with IT lecturer
Mr Vella Brincat and Marie Demicoli
Course co-ordinator



**playmobil
FunPark**

VISIT US AT HF80, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HAL FAR
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US ON 22242445 OR VISIT
WWW.PLAYMOBILMALTA.COM

Extending maternity leave - a win-win situation

The proposal for a directive on the introduction of measures to extend maternity leave by four weeks is a crucial matter that merits careful consideration because it is at once a health and safety issue and a basic family-friendly matter. NCW is very concerned with the position that the Malta business community has taken against this extension, as it reflects the lack of will to seek adequate solutions. (The Times, Thursday 26.11.09)

This initiative is an opportunity to strengthen legislation that not only enables women to recover adequately following confinement, but also encourages them to breastfeed and helps them to forge a strong bond with their newborn child. Giving the extra four weeks to working mothers who have just given birth means that they can breastfeed in a decent, calm and healthy environment - at home - for at least 18 weeks, which is 6 weeks short of the 24 weeks that the Social Platform, the European Women's Lobby, the WHO and UNICEF, are recommending, based on the benefits for children to be exclusively breastfed during their first six months of life, as a health prevention measure for both mother and child.

This measure will encourage mothers and fathers to have more and healthier

children. It means that our society is really committed to address the negative impact of demographic changes, knowing that our families have been reduced to an average of 1.5 children per family. It means that we are taking practical measures to address the deterioration of our pensions system for our teenage sons and daughters, the future pensioners

Rather than penalizing women for their biological condition (motherhood) we would be, in practice expressing our gratitude to mothers for giving birth, nurturing our babies and ensuring their physical and emotional well being.

The National Council of Women is fully aware of the impact of the recession on business, however it believes that women should not bear the brunt, which is already leaving its mark on women working part-time or in precarious conditions, especially when we all know that the participation rate of women in employment is less than 38% which puts Malta at the very bottom of the EU list. NCW believes that measures to ensure that progress achieved so far in the area of gender equality are sustained and developed during and post the economic and financial downturn

Social considerations should be given priority over short-term gains, as after all

business are run by men and women who at the end of a day's work go back to their families and therefore they and their sons and daughters too will suffer the negative consequences.

NCW and Trade Unions have sought adequate solutions believing in a win-win outcome

One proposal is the gradual introduction of one extra week per year for four years. Businesses should be urging government to speed up a legal framework for Tempering Agencies. They should be negotiating measures to share the costs, to provide schemes and incentives through, for example ETC to support both SMEs and big business in the implementation phase. NCW is fully confident that Government's commitment to the family at the centre of all national policies will once again be reflected in its final position and give its support in favour of this extension at the Council Meeting to be held, in a few days' time on 30 November. This proposed directive will be once again debated in the EU Parliament before the end of this year and therefore NCW urges all Maltese MEPs to ensure that their respective political groups will vote in favour of this proposal 🌸

Grace Attard
NCW President

Longer parental leave and incentives for fathers agreed by EU ministers European Commission, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Parents will have the right to longer parental leave, under new rules agreed by EU ministers today.

The revised Directive on Parental Leave will give each working parent the right to at least four months leave after the birth or adoption of a child (up from three months now). At least one of the four months cannot be transferred to the other parent - meaning it will be lost if not taken - offering incentives to fathers to take the leave. The new Directive also provides for better protection against discrimination and a smoother return to work. It puts into effect an agreement between European employers and trade union organisations.

The main changes in the new Directive are:

- Longer leave - each parent will be able to take four months off per child (previously three months). The extra month cannot be transferred from one parent to the other, thereby encouraging fathers to take their

leave. In the past many working fathers have transferred their right to leave to the mother.

- No discrimination - an employee applying for or taking parental leave will be protected from any less favourable treatment for doing so.

- Temporary changes to work schedules - employees returning from parental leave will have the right to request changes to their working hours for a limited period. In considering such requests, employers will be obliged to balance the needs of the employee as well as the company.

- Parents of adopted children and children with a disability or long-term illness - governments and employers/unions will be obliged to assess the specific needs of such parents.

- Work contracts - the new rights will apply to all workers, regardless of their type of contract (e.g. fixed-term, part-time, agency workers); however the possibility of

a qualification period of maximum one year is maintained.

- All matters regarding the income of workers during parental leave are left for Member States and/or national social partners to determine.

The Framework Agreement on parental leave, on which the Directive is based, was signed by the European social partners. The new Directive will replace Directive 96/34/EC, which put into effect the 1995 social partner agreement and established for the first time minimum standards on parental leave at EU level. More than 15 years later, these rights for working parents have now been strengthened and clarified.

After the political agreement by the Council on 1 December 2009, the new Directive will be formally adopted in the coming months. Member States will then have two years to transpose the new rights into national law. 🌸

Grace Attard, NCW President, EESC member

Extracts from the 2nd Ministerial Conference on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" 11th and 12th of November 2009, Palmeraie Golf Palace Resort, Marrakesh, Morocco.



NCPE members Grace Attard and Therese Bugeja with representatives of the Euromed Platform for NGOs

The Marrakesh Conference, was held in accordance with the Barcelona Declaration and Five Year Work Programme agreed upon during the 10th anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Summit held in Barcelona in 2005, in which it was stated that partners would adopt "measures to achieve gender equality, preventing all forms of discrimination and ensuring the protection of the rights of the women".

The purpose of the Conference was to review what has been achieved since the first Euromediterranean Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the role of Women in Society held in Istanbul in 2006, to acknowledge the importance of the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society and to reiterate their commitment to promote *de jure* and *de facto* equality between women and men and to respect the civil, political, economic, social and

cultural rights of women as well as men, as defined in the international human rights instruments to which they are parties

The Conference provided an opportunity to exchange views on the ways and means of implementation of their common political will through actions at national, sub-regional and regional levels, targeted towards improving women's status, strengthening the role of women in political, civil, social, economic and cultural life, and combating all forms of discrimination against women and girls.

In the conclusions, the Euro-Mediterranean partners, in accordance with their international obligations, reiterate their commitment to promote *de jure* and *de facto* equality between women and men and to respect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of women as well as men, as defined in the international human rights instruments to which they are parties, in particular the **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and in the **Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)**, the **Beijing Platform for Action** and the **Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**.

Equal participation of women and men in all spheres of economic, political and public life constitutes a crucial element of democracy and sustainable development, therefore Ministers agree that new concrete measures should be implemented to achieve this goal and to mainstream a gender perspective in all policy areas, acknowledging the diversity of the region

Ministers mandated the senior officials/experts meetings on strengthening the role of women in society to act as the appropriate follow up mechanism during 2010 - 2011.

The senior officials/experts meetings shall convene at least once a year to share views on national trends and policy developments, identify and exchange best practices, as well as address issues, which arise in the implementation of the Common Framework of Action 2006-2011. The meetings will draw up an outcome document on progress under the Common Framework of Action 2006-2011 to be submitted to the next Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society in 2012

The following new projects have been proposed for the UfM

- The Foundation of Women for the Mediterranean (France, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco), which is presented in the annex;
- Educational and Training project for vulnerable girls and women (Jordan);
- Women Safety project for vulnerable girls and women (Jordan);
- Women Empowerment and Protection Media Network (Jordan);
- ICT for Poverty Reduction (Egypt), which is presented in the annex;
- Centre for the Political Empowerment of Women (Egypt), which is presented in the annex.

The full document is available on NCW website: ncwmalta.com 🌸

Grace Attard, NCW President

Preparation for CHOGM - Committee of the Whole Report



HE Joseph Zammit Tabona, Malta's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland at the Committee of the Whole Meeting in Marlborough House, together with NCW Geb Sec Doris Bingley

Doris Bingley, NCW Malta participated at the Committee of the Whole (COW) which took place in October in Marlborough House, London, in preparation for the Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago.

Doris Bingley presented highlights on Gender Equality urging:

- The Commonwealth to support the idea of developing Commonwealth standards and protocols towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- The improvement of gender equality within Member States and adhering to commitments in international declarations and conventions, which should be a priority, as we move towards the ten year review of the Millennium Development Goals.

- Commonwealth countries to increase the participation of women in decision making by achieving the 30% target set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action.

- The Commonwealth Women Affairs Ministers to recognize that the on-going level of gender based violence, most pronounced, by male violence against women, in Commonwealth Countries, is both a shameful abuse of human rights and a significant barrier to positive economic social outcomes.

- The elimination of Gender inequalities which lie at the heart of the HIV epidemic. Stigma, culture and gender stereotyping, contribute to women's vulnerability to sexual and other forms of violence, and decreases their ability to protect themselves and negotiate safer sex.

- The Commonwealth Member States, The Commonwealth Secretariat and The Commonwealth Foundation to facilitate the strengthening and development of the Commonwealth Women's Network as a mechanism for the promotion of gender equality.

- The Commonwealth to find a solution for the vulnerable in our societies and communities, who are going to be severely impacted upon, through loss of income, and erosion of sustainable livelihoods due to the current financial crisis and world recession

- The Head of Governments to recognize the

Mid Term Review of the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action 2005 – 2015 to be discussed at the 9th Women Affairs Ministers Meeting in Barbados in June 2010, and look forward to the Secretary General's Mid Term Review Report at the 2011 CHOGM.

The Commonwealth Women Affairs Ministers recognized that the challenge of prioritizing gender equality can only be addressed effectively through coordinating action, and genuine partnership with civil society, as is enshrined in the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action 2005 – 2015. We need to create a new world where women and men respect and understand each other, uniting together to forge partnerships. Gender is about **Women** and **Men**. 🌸

Doris Bingley NCW Hon General Secretary



CoW Meeting, Marlborough House

Statement on 'The Obligation to Name Women for Top Positions in the European Union' (November 9, 2009)

Members of the Board:

Herdis Thorgeirsdóttir (Iceland) - President

Beate Rudolf (Germany) - Vice-President

Katalin Daszkalovics (Hungary) - Vice-President

Regula Kägi-Diener (Switzerland) - Vice-President

Myriam VanVarenbergh (Belgium) - Treasurer

Jackie Jones (United Kingdom) - Secretary

Martina Thomasberger (Austria); Svetlana Ganeva (Bulgaria); Iva

Jermanová (Czech Republic); Eithne O'Doherty (Ireland); Nina Grunow

(Denmark); Tytti Peltonen (Finland); Caroline Bommart-Forster (France);

Panayota Petroglou (Greece); Eithne O'Doherty (Ireland); Antonia

Verna (Italy); Dace Liga Lutters-Thümmel (Latvia); Eugenija Sutkiene

(Lithuania); Roselyn Knight (Malta) - Members

The European Women Lawyers Association, representing women lawyers organisations from Member States of the European Union as well as from EFTA countries, and women active in all legal professions and on all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors in all these states recalls that

- the principle of substantive equality between men and women is one of the constitutional principles upon which the European Union is built and a positive obligation of its institutions and Member States, as proclaimed by Articles 2 and 3(2) EC;

- the principle of substantive equality between men and women is reaffirmed by Article 23 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;

- the principle of substantive equality between men and women is also enshrined in Articles 3 and 4 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which binds all EU Member States and is a source of fundamental rights to be respected by the EU as well; and that, moreover, Articles 7 and 8 CEDAW expressly oblige them to ensure women's equal participation in the political and public life, and in the representation of their governments at the international level;

- in addition to being a common constitutional principle of the EU Member States and hence a fundamental value of the EU, substantive gender equality also contributes to a more just, more inclusive, and more diverse society;

- the principle of substantive equality between men and women imposes on the EU and its Member States an obligation to adopt a pro-active approach and to take measures to actively promote gender equality.

EWLA welcomes

- * the ratification, by all EU Member States, of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing

the European Community, signed at Lisbon on 13 December 2007,²

- * the inclusion of equality between men and women among the values of the EU and the promotion of equality between men and women among its objectives (Articles 2(1) and 3(3) EU, as amended by the Treaty of Lisbon);

EWLA emphasises that

- * the respect and effective protection of fundamental rights in Europe, including, in particular, substantive equality between men and women, constitute a core value of the Union and an essential element for bringing the citizens

closer to the European Union;

- * that women's equal participation in the EU is not limited to their participation in European and

national elections, but also extends to their equal participation in decision-making positions on all levels of the EU;

- that women do not constitute a minority, but more than half of the citizens of Europe;
- * that, for these reasons, the presence of women in high-level decision-making positions in the EU is both a democratic requirement and a requirement of substantive equality between men and women in Europe;
- * numerous highly qualified women have been proposed for the various positions to be filled;

For these reasons

- **EWLA calls upon the governments of the Member States**
- * to choose a woman either for the position of the new President of the European Council or of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy;
- EWLA calls upon the governments of the Member States and the President-Elect of the Commission
- * to agree to propose an equal number of women and men for the positions of Commissioners;

- **EWLA calls upon the European Parliament**

- * to reject its consent to any proposal on the positions of President of the European Council, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the Commission that does not comply with the above requirements. 🌸

Dr Roselyn Knight , NCW member

HSBC



The world's local bank

Changing Attitudes through Education

"Social, occupational and economic changes of the recent past make the traditional sex roles, as well as traditional sex stereotypes and beliefs about gender differences outmoded"

(Furnham & Stacey, 1991 p.108).

A great deal is being done for the advancement of women. Laws are being changed and amended, the media is giving priority to gender issues and an effort is being made all around to create awareness as regards equality. On one hand, both genders seem to agree that co-operation and not competition is the key to greater effectiveness in all areas where men and women work side by side. On the other hand, have our attitudes and mentality changed so much? How many times do we find ourselves in situations where actions belie words?

In my career as a Personal and Social Development (PSD) specialist I have often come across very rigid gender stereotyping in the attitudes shown by the students. Some examples involve refusing to have anything to do with the household chores because they are boys, male chauvinism already evident at so young an age, as well as very rigid traditional ideas about the roles of men and women in Society. Usually these young people would themselves be unaware that they hold such attitudes, yet when awareness dawns it is with great difficulty that change is brought about. Many times we ourselves, both as parents and teachers seem to consolidate those very same attitudes that we wish to change. One very clear

example which comes to mind is our different expectations of sons and daughters as regards family responsibilities.

Progress in Malta has been so rapid in the last couple of decades that the change in mentality has not kept up with the pace. Consequently, both males and females find themselves, at times, uncertain where they stand when faced with specific issues. This is even more so with children and young people who are still in their formative years. They are being bombarded with conflicting messages all the time and often they become overwhelmed and even confused. Where do we start in this gigantic task of clarifying thoughts, bringing about awareness and where necessary bringing about positive changes that would enable young people to adapt to a world which is rapidly changing? I believe that the answer lies in education. Schools reflect the Society of which they form part and the school can be a powerful agent in bringing about social change.

Education is a very powerful tool and any change that we want to bring about in the country has to start from places where young people meet, either informally, like the school, or informally. Such a place where education is delivered in a non formal or informal way is a youth centre. Attitudes, values and beliefs take the longest to change or at least adapt to a new way of life. Teachers and youth workers play a very crucial role as agents of change. However, they need to put into practice what they believe in.

"Vocational guidance teachers, teachers and 'gender' workers have to understand the very complexity of gender identity construction, of its implications in the social world and their own position regarding current discourses of femininity and masculinity" (Darmanin, 1997, p.216)

Guidance teachers, PSD specialists and youth workers play a very important role when it comes to supporting opportunities and empowering females to take positive action. They are often in a position to guide young people in the transition from school to work and this often reflects on domestic roles as well. Very often, 'Guidance teachers need to offer some very proactive support for non-traditional choice' (Darmanin, 1997, p. 218).

Finally we need to self evaluate constantly and be self critical in order to bring about in ourselves, first and foremost, any change in attitudes which we would like to stimulate in students and young people through education. In a nutshell, we should practice what we preach.

References: Furnham, A. & Stacey B. (1991) *Young People's Understanding of Society* London : Routledge

Darmanin, M. (1992) *Gender and Education* Vol.4 No.1/2 Malta: Department of Educational Studies. ♡

Maud Muscat, NCW Education Committee Coordinator

BICE MIZZI-VASSALLO NCW MUSIC COMPETITION YOUNG VIOLINIST WINS NCW MUSIC COMPETITION



Bettina Cassar

Violinist Justin Zarb and pianist Bettina Cassar were the two lucky students who last Saturday placed first and second in the finals of the music competition organised by the National Council of Women. Named after Bice Mizzi-Vassallo, a renowned pianist and music teacher, as well as the wife of one of Malta's Prime Ministers, the Council has been holding this competition uninterruptedly every two years since 1987. Justin Zarb can choose between a summer course at the Lake District and a summer course at the Academy of Music in Vienna. Bettina Cassar will get the other option.

Set up in 1987 the Competition aims at encouraging young pianists and string players in their music studies by offering them a musical experience in a prestigious music school abroad. It has served as a launching pad for players like Carmine Lauri,

Sarah Spiteri, and Caroline Calleja, as well as other performers who have made a name for themselves both locally and abroad.

The finalists on Saturday included four pianists and two violinists, each of whom presented the public present at the Sala Isouard with a 20-minute programme that, besides their own choice, a set piece besides other piece. The third-prize winner was Maria Elena Farrugia who received of a season ticket for concerts organised by the Manoel Theatre Management Committee and a book and CD token worth €100. The other two performers were given iPods that were kindly donated by ICentre.

In her introductory address Corinne Bowman thanked the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts that was the principal sponsor of the Competition, as well as Malta International Airport that made available the masterclass in Vienna besides sponsoring the visit of two judges from Vienna who joined the local team for the finals. Other sponsors included the Teatru Manoel, Veritas Press and Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti. The adjudicating panel was chaired by Cynthia Turner and consisted of Sarah Spiteri, Martina Caruana from the Maltese side and Benno Schollum and Eleanor Hope from Vienna..

Prior to the distribution of prizes and certificates of participation Grace Attard,



Justin Zarb

President of the National Council of Women, stated that the Council has always believed in the importance of nurturing music and the arts in our young Maltese youth, contributing to the a holistic development of the individual and certainly will serve young people to face the challenges of a fast changing society, confidently, and at the same time enable them to reach high levels of professionalism

Minister Cristina spoke about the importance that this competition has achieved over the years in the musical education of our country and commemorated Jane Spiteri, to whom this year's edition of the competition was dedicated. Who was the chief promoter of the competition from its very beginning and who passed away just over a year ago. ♡

Cecilia Xuereb, NCW ad hoc BMV Committee

Influenza AH1N1 - No Cause for Panic



Flu viruses commonly change from year to year. Sometimes this change is small but other times it is large. The virus can affect both humans and animals (pigs and birds) and it is thought that it is the mixing of human virus with that of animals is what produces the changes in the virus. In the past few years there has been considerable concern over the SARS virus and bird flu from Asia. Fortunately the number of people infected was quite small, deaths were few and no cases were recorded in many countries.

What's different this time is that the flu virus has spread to many parts of the world from its origin in Mexico. The virus is also being spread from person to person in sufficient numbers to maintain its spread and produce influenza outside the normal flu season of winter.

It is worth noting that even seasonal flu, can kill the young, the weak and the elderly, and occasionally healthy people. According to the WHO, seasonal flu infects 3-5 million people around the world every year and kills 250,000 - 500,000 of them without making the headlines.

Malta has been preparing for a flu pandemic for several months now. This has included developing plans for how to respond to a pandemic and stocking up on anti viral drugs that can have some affect on flu viruses. With any new variation in the influenza virus it takes five to six months to develop and manufacture a vaccine specific to it. This process is underway and it is hoped that there will be a vaccine available in Malta by the winter.

As with ordinary flu there are precautions that can be taken to prevent exposure. The main one is to stay at home if you think you have flu so as to prevent its spread. Isolation for 7 days from when symptoms start is necessary. If possible the ill person should be isolated in one room as much as possible and only one person should be designated to enter that room. Keep the door to the room closed, but open windows for ventilation. Do not allow children to enter that room. Regular hand washing, washing down of surfaces, handles on doors and the bathroom used by the ill person with a household disinfectant and disposal of paper hankies will also prevent the spread of the virus. The sick person should always cover his/her mouth when coughing or sneezing using disposable tissues. The sick person should wash his/her hands with soap and water or if not possible, should alternately wipe hands using

alcohol wipes after coughing and sneezing. These are the normal precautions for personal and general hygiene usually taken during any situation of illness.

Fluid intake (such as water, broth, sports drinks, and electrolyte beverages for infants) is encouraged; this will keep from getting dehydrated. Any high temperature should be controlled with antipyretics (e.g. paracetamol). **Do not give aspirin to children suffering from the flu. No anti viral medication should be taken unless prescribed by a doctor.** You can get flu 'out of season' but any sign of flu in the current situation should be considered suspect.

Symptoms of the influenza A H1N1 are similar to the symptoms of common flu; namely: fever, cough, blocked/runny nose, sore throat. Other symptoms may include: all-over muscle aches, headache, shivering, lethargy diarrhoea and vomiting (not symptoms common in ordinary flu but may be symptoms in cases of A H1N1)

Should anyone suffering from influenza show any of the following symptoms then emergency medical assistance should be sought for.

Children may show the following warning signs:

- Fast breathing or troubled breathing
- Bluish or gray skin colour
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

Adults may show the following signs

- Difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath that may cause inability to speak
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Unresponsiveness
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

Monitor yourself and all household members for flu symptoms and if symptoms develop inform Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit immediately on **2132 4086**. 📞

**Nadya Anne Mangion NCW Health Committee
Coordinator**

Talk on Media Education - how to empower users



On Thursday November 26, the monthly talk organised by the Education Committee was held at 7.15pm at the National Council of Women Centre, Blata l-Bajda. This time the topic was media education and the talk was entitled **Who is in control: we or the media? - How to empower users**. Fr. Joe Borg delivered the talk which soon turned into a discussion, being very interactive.

Some points that were stressed were:

- Since we give so much importance to the media it is influencing our lives, whether we're aware of this or not.

• Research has proved that young people widen their circle of friends through the internet. However, do they practice their social skills?

• Young people are growing in a technological world; they know more than the adults and this can place them in a position of power.

• We cannot stop the influence of the media; what we need to do is educate young people to be more aware of the influence of the media and be more selective and analytical. 📞

**Maud Muscat,
Education Committee co-ordinator**

Talk on Dyslexia - NCW Education Committee



On October 27, a talk was held on how parents and tutors can help dyslexic students with their homework. The turnout for this talk was over fifty participants. Although the talk was intended to be carried out in

Maltese, the language had to be switched to English, as some participants were non-Maltese speaking. In fact, this talk was again held on December 10th, at 7.15 in Maltese. This interactive session lasted from 19.15 to 21.00.

Participants were given a copy of the powerpoint presentation. Issues raised by participants included difficulties encountered

by dyslexia students, access to literacy, presentation and content adaptation and self esteem issues. Ms Falzon notes that the basic message is that dyslexic students need to be truly included as otherwise a lot of talent is lost and wasted. 🌸

Ruth Falzon & Maud Muscat,
Education Committee co-ordinators

Annual Gozo Outing by Environment Committee



The Environment Committee organised the Autumn Gozo Outing on Friday 6th November. Members and guests enjoyed a day full of activities. On our arrival in Gozo, we had some free time in Victoria, followed by a visit to San Lawrenz Local Council as guest of the Mayor Mr. Noel Formosa. Mr. Formosa spoke about his

Council's recent projects: most outstanding was the installation of solar panels for water heaters on 80% of houses in San Lawrenz. The expense for this project came from European funding and the residents did not fork out a penny. He also told us that the Council's next initiative is that in two years' time San Lawrenz would be equipped with enough photovoltaic panels so that all households in that locality would depend only on the electricity generated there. Then we visited Dwejra and had lunch at one of the

restaurants in Xlendi. During the afternoon we went to Ta' Mena Estate, an example of an agro-tourism concept. We were shown round the place by Mr. Grech. Later he invited us to taste his products: wine, bread with *kunserva*, olive oil and *gbejniet*. The day proved to be interesting and enjoyable. Everyone is looking forward to the next Gozo Spring Outing which would be held sometime in May 2010. 🌸

Marie Demicoli,
Environment Committee Coordinator

Canamovement - NCW Youth Committee Activity: Parental Skills in Sexual Education



The Youth Committee in conjunction with Canamovement have organised a series of informative and interactive sessions on the topic of 'Parental Skills in Sexual Education'. The sessions were held at the Catholic Institute on the 16th, 23rd and 30th October 2009 between 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

The aim of these sessions was to raise awareness among parents on sexual health issues concerning their children. The sessions covered sexual health themes which may arise at different ages, including sexual education, responsible parenthood, sexually transmitted infections, contraception and the HPV vaccine.

Dr. Anna Maria Vella and Ms. Pauline

Tufigno from Canamovement facilitated these sessions. They have drawn upon their extensive experience in the field of sexual education to provide guidance to parents on this important topic.

Throughout the course, the trainers managed to cover parenting skills on sexual education in its entirety and from a holistic perspective. Emphasis was made on the fact that communication about sexual education has to be more than information-giving: it has to include values. This is because information about sex reaches youths from different angles, yet the values around growing up, how to build a relationship with our body and a relationship with others are not given the same priority. Another issue that has been highlighted in the course is that parents need to address sexual education from a young age and this by itself helps parents to build and develop a relationship with their children as from

their early years. This is important since nowadays youths are starting to engage in sexual intercourse from a young age and girls are having their first menstrual cycle at a younger age as well.

This activity was well attended, attracting couples, mothers and fathers who have children of different age groups. Participants enjoyed the input of the trainers and the opportunity for discussions during the course. Furthermore, participants reported that they found the course very informative and that it provided a useful guidance in approaching the topic of sexual education with their children.

The Youth committee is satisfied to have dealt with this topic given its importance for society as a whole. However a lot more can and needs to be done. 🌸

Diane Xuereb,
NCW Youth Committee Co-ordinator

Awguri mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa lil Dr Paula Mifsud Bonnici

Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa jifrah lil Dr Paula Mifsud Bonnici li giet eletta President tal-Kunsill Ġenerali tal-PN, l-ewwel mara li rnexxiela tilhaq kariga ta' din ix-xorta.

Matul is-snin, il-Kunsill tan-Nisa dejjem segwa lil Paula Mifsud Bonnici fil-hajja pubblika taghha, b'mod partikolari fil-Kunsill Lokali u jinsab

čert li l-esperjenza u l-kapaçitajiet taghha se jservu ta' siwi fil-hidma taghha f'din il-kariga importanti

Il-Kunsill tan-Nisa jaghraf dan ir-rizultat bhala pass importanti fi-socjeta' taghna fejn qed jidher car li kull ma' jmur il-mara qed issib postha f'karigi ta' decizjoni.

Il-Kunsill huwa fiducjuz li aktar ma

tizdied il-partecipazzjoni tan-nisa f'karigi gholja sew politici kif ukoll ekonomici aktar pajjizna se jimxi 'l quddiem bil-hiliet tan-nisa u l-irgiel fil-hidma taghhom flimkien ghall-gid tas-socjeta' Maltija. 🌸

Grace Attard
President
Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa

International Triennial Conference - Johannesburg 2009

Report to ECICW members from Grace Wedekind, ECICW President

ECICW was well represented in Johannesburg at the Triennial Meeting of the International Council of Women in October 2009. European representatives from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the Ukraine were present and played a full part in the international meeting, which was held from 14-20 October. NCW Greece was represented by proxy (Spain). Meetings of the Regional Committees of ICW also took place, with the ECICW Autumn General Assembly held on 13 October, and a further session on 16 October.

General overview of the ICW Conference

Taking as its Theme – “Equality for women is Equality for all” – the meeting was excellently arranged by the National Council of Women of South Africa, who celebrated their Centenary with a lively reception at the opening of Conference, and a stirring musical contribution by African girls from a Johannesburg High School. Among the speakers at the Opening Ceremony, Dr. Anamah Tan (Singapore), the out-going ICW President, spoke on the need for women to act as agents of change and activists for improvements in society.

The meetings took place in a very pleasant atmosphere in mild spring weather at the Indaba Resort Hotel some distance outside Johannesburg, where ICW members visited Soweto (South West Township), the Apartheid Museum, and the new building projects to re-house people from the shanty towns, which are still very numerous. Poverty, acute unemployment and hardship are massive problems, and we heard of many projects taking place to assist orphans, victims of AIDS and street children.

The National Council of Women of South Africa were most hospitable and were delighted to welcome the world's women to their country. Many African women's organisations also took part, coming from within South Africa, in addition to Nigeria, Uganda, Lesotho, Dar-es Salaam and Burundi. In South Africa, the National Council of Women are working alongside many black women's groups, faith groups and aid agencies to secure improvements in the lives of women and children, and to provide assistance for street children.

A major seminar on the subject of HIV/AIDS and its effects on women both as carers and victims was arranged in South Africa as part of the Conference. 1000 people die every day in South Africa as a result of AIDS. Many informative contributions came from groups, both black and white, working in this field, together with many health experts, speaking on subjects such as “Stigma and Attitudes”, “Reality of living with HIV/AIDS”, “HIV, Gender and Violence” and “Mother to child transmission”. The need to persuade people to take the antiretroviral drugs which can help against the disease, particularly in children, is a constant struggle, as there is some local mistrust that medicine can in fact make the disease worse. The role of women as Carers is vital, although many are also victims of the disease, and many widows and older women are left to care for orphans with little support. The related questions of domestic violence, and of women and rape, were also included.

Other discussions at the Conference included **a presentation on climate change, with a tool-kit for the use of ICW members.** The role of women in securing changes in attitude to climate change was emphasised. Contributors came from across Africa and many other countries.

Presentations and work-shops were held on net-working with business and the press, and working groups were held on the review of the United Nations work for Women under the Beijing Platform for Action, which is scheduled to take place in the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2010 in New York.

The ICW Small Projects scheme continues to flourish and detailed reports were given by Dame Judith Parker of Australia on the success of the programme. Among the current projects reported were water projects in Papua-New Guinea, work on artificial limbs for women in India, IT training in FYROM, and a project teaching women animal husbandry in Kenya, including budgeting and marketing. In Port Elisabeth, South Africa, a project has been set up to assist young carers looking after younger brothers and sisters, with access to education and a meal. Money is always required for these Small Projects schemes, and National Councils were asked to assist with a donation where possible.

The ICW Theme for the last 3 years on the challenge of gender equality was well covered in individual member countries' reports, and Grace Wedekind presented the ECICW Triennial Report for the last 3 year period. These reports have all been published in ICW booklets, together with reports from the ICW Standing Committees covering many aspects of work towards improvements in many countries. Questions of equality and status of women continue to be of concern to women across the world. New Action Plans for the coming 3 years are being drawn up.

Among the **Resolutions ratified at the ICW Conference** and proposed by ECICW member Councils were: *Rights to a Carer's Pension* (Belgium), *Action in support of Widows World-wide* (Great Britain, working with Affiliate - Widows for Peace through Democracy) and *Education and Training for Human Rights* (France). Other Resolutions ratified at the ICW Conference covered: *women's empowerment and equality, sexualisation and exploitation of children, rape in marriage, and dialogue and tolerance in conflict situations.*

ELECTIONS: Cosima Schenk of Switzerland was elected **ICW President** for the next 3 years, with **Lydie Rossini van Hissenhoven of Italy as a Vice President; Bhaswati Sarkar** (Singapore) being the second Vice-President. **Monica Hall (GB)** was elected Co-ordinator of the ICW Standing Committee on Status of Women.

ECICW member countries played a full role throughout the meeting and in discussions, with 3-yearly reports by National Councils on their work and activities undertaken since the previous Triennial meeting in Kiev. Short presentations were given by ICW UN Representatives **Eleonora Hauer-Rona** (UN Vienna), ICW representatives to UN Habitat **Emmy Galama** and **Lily Hutjes-Boelaars** (Hairou Commission)); **Lois Hainsworth MBE** again organised the Interfaith Service, and **Grace Wedekind** chaired the European ECICW meeting.

Invitations for the next Triennial meeting came provisionally from Thailand and South Korea. Very enjoyable social arrangements and African entertainments were arranged in the evenings, with a number of special dinners, including one to celebrate World Food Day, a Gala Dinner, and a dinner to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of ICW. As always members enjoyed meeting with women from across the world and exchanging views and information. All ICW members are very grateful to Janet Louis, President of the National Council of Women of South Africa for the very generous hospitality and warm welcome received from all members of NCW South Africa. 🍷

**Grace Wedekind,
ECICW President, November 2009**

News from NCW Affiliated Organisations

The Malta Girl Guide Association: Challenging Girls and Young Women

Over the years, the role of women in society has changed dramatically; We are moving from the full-time housewife duties our grandmothers used to fulfill, to the more business minded women we see today. The issue has always been whether working women can handle both family life as well as a full-time job which is required in the high-speed world we live in today.

The perception of women in society is ever changing, but one thing that is on the increase is the idea that to survive in a male-dominated world, a girl needs to grow up strong and determined. This is what guiding gives to its members; the challenges and opportunities needed to grow up to be stronger. A throughout development emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, morally, socially and physically. Our non-formal educational programme helps our members learn while at the same time, have fun and realise their potential at their own pace. Surely, we have not grown out of the basic principles that Scouting and Guiding was founded upon but we have built on these founding principles to make our association better and stronger to the 10-million-member-strong association you see worldwide today.

The World Association for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts reaches these members in one hundred and forty five different countries around the globe. It is the largest female organization in the world that works towards being the voice for girls and young women around the world. Being such a large association helps give members more and more opportunities not only with regards to Guiding but also growing as a person and a citizen of the world. A chance to go abroad and visit your sisters in guiding during a world jamboree not only gives our members an idea of the different cultures and ideas one can find, but also give them the challenge to get to know more about the world they live in, make life-long friends, increase their abilities and skills

as well as touch on worldwide issues that are effecting our world today and how we can change our world and make a difference.

Advocacy is one way how our members want to changing the world. It enables girls and young women to influence issues they care about and build a better world through better decisions that will improve their lives and the lives of others. The Malta Girl Guides are following these footsteps in many ways. We have touched many issues such as healthy lifestyles, building bridges between different generations as well as the Millennium Development Goals.

Being a member of the Malta Girl Guides opens your life up to adventure, challenges and opportunities. It is the Girls and Young Women that take decisions, make the difference and built a better world. 🌸



The Breast Care Support Group Europa Donna Malta - 20 years of activities!

We started with a fund-raising open weekend at Jean Bannon's beauty salon in Balzan, entitled "Beat the winter blues... think pink!" Jean and her helpers gave up their weekend to give clients treatments for just 12 euros and we also held a raffle with many prizes donated by Jean's suppliers.

In February we held our annual mass at St Agatha's church in Rabat; St Agatha is the patron saint of breast cancer patients. On the occasion of Women's Day in March, we held a walk in collaboration with the Ladies' Running Club, which was very well attended. The LRC also gave us a donation. Another Awareness walk was held in Gozo on the last Saturday in May, which was very well attended.

October is always a busy month for us since it is breast awareness month, and this year was even busier than usual. We opened the month with a weekend of activities at Bay Street, St Julians. Activities included abseiling, face painting, an instant lottery with some fantastic prizes donated by the Bay Street outlets and other local businesses, keep fit sessions and a healthy recipe live cooking demonstration. We held a similar event on a smaller scale at the Duke shopping complex in Gozo.

Our annual Hilda Schembri Memorial lecture was extremely well attended this year, with over 240 people. Speakers were consultant surgeon



Mr Charles Swain, consultant radiologist Dr Malcolm Crockford and consultant geneticist Dr Christian Scerri. The lecture was opened by Parliamentary secretary Dr Joe Cassar and chaired by consultant surgeon Mr Gordon Caruana Dingli.

This year, in collaboration with a Sicilian group, Associazione SOS Donna, we also organised a seminar for medical and healthcare professionals, entitled "Breast cancer: prevention, communication, treatment, reconstruction".

Apart from Maltese experts, speakers included specialists from Catania and renowned oncoplastic surgeon Mr Gerald Gui from the Royal Marsden Hospital, UK. The seminar was opened by Parliamentary secretary Dr Joe Cassar and was also very well attended, including a delegation of doctors from Sicily. This international event took a lot of hard work to organise, but was greatly appreciated by all attendees.

Our last formal activity for the year was our 20th anniversary dinner held at the Capua Palace at the end of October. We of course continued with our monthly meetings in both Malta and Gozo, where we give support to women going through the trauma of breast cancer, and held a number of talks on breast awareness for the public, with the help of the breast care nurses from Mater Dei Hospital. 🌸

The Malta Association of Occupational Therapists (M.A.O.T.)

MAOT was founded in 1985 having its first meeting on the 20th February at the Nursing School, St. Luke's Hospital. In January 1986, the association had its first annual general meeting with 21 members. This consisted of 4 qualified OT's as members whilst the rest were made up of OT students and OT technical staff. Since its formation to date the AGM takes place yearly and elections of the committee members bi-annually.

In its initial stages and through the years the association worked for the Occupational Therapy Course Recognition by the Department of Health and the University of Malta, the official uniform (white tunic and green trousers), the professional badge, recognition of the association the World Federation of Occupational Therapists; representation of the OT profession on the Council of Professions Complementary to Medicine;

publication of the journal / newletter, Continuing Education for OTs, promotion of the OT profession in Malta.

In 1988, MAOT was accepted as an associate member of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (www.wfot.org) with full membership in 1994. Also in 1994, MAOT was accepted as an association member on the Council of Occupational Therapists of the European Countries (www.cotec-eu.org). In 2007, MAOT became an affiliated member of the National Council of Women. Currently in the process of being affiliated member of the Malta Health Network and to register under the NGO Act.

MAOT has also its official website, www.maotwebsite.org. Various documents and news are available on the site. A Facebook group can be also accessed to view the events that are organised by MAOT. 🌸

Neqirdu il-pjaga tal-Vjolenza Domestika - Kulhadd ghandu sehem x'jaghti F'Jum Internazzjonali Kontra l-Vjolenza Domestika 25 ta' Novembru 2009



Il-Vjolenza domestika sew psikologika, emozzjonali jew fizika tmur kontra d-dritt fundamental tal-bniedem għall-hajja u dritt ta' sikurezza b'mod partikolari fil-familja, l-ambjent l-aktar essenzjali għall-hajja decenti.

Il-vjolenza domestika hi att kriminali f'kull tip ta' relazzjoni intima u mhux biss fil-familja. Mhix marda u l-abbuzz mill-alkohol u f'xi kazijiet, kundizzjonijiet mentali jistghu jaggravaw is-sitwazzjoni.

Il-konsegwenzi huma devastanti għall-vittmi li għalkemm fil-maggoranza huma nisa (80%) hemm anki tfal, anzjani u rgjel li jsufu minn dan l-agir indinjat. Disgrazzjament insibuh f'kull qasam tas-socjeta' fejn il-biza', l-umiljazzjoni u x-xewqa li ma titfarraxx il-familja, il-vittmi joqghodu lura milli jfittxu l-ghajjnuna xi drabi. Id-drittijiet tat-tfal li jsufu mill-vjolenza domestika għandhom jigu msahha u mharsa

Il-KNN japprezza l-isforzi kollha li qed isiru fic-centri fejn jilgħu vittmi ta' vjolenza izda jshaq li għad hemm bzonn kbir ta' aktar mizuri preventivi, partikolarment ta' Politika Nazzjonali ta' strategija multi-disciplinarja li jservi biex jidentifika l-ewwel sinjali ta' vjolenza u l-persuna tkun tista' tigi mhejjuna kemm jista' jkun malajr biex tfitte l-ghajjnuna. Din l-strategija tinvolti l-Puluzija, il-Gudikatura, is-servizzi tas-sahha, servizzi finanzjarji, servizzi soċjali u edukattivi. (qed nitkellmu dwar 500 kaz fis-sena li huma ittrattati mill-Appogg)

Għalkemm hemm il-ligi dwar il-Vjolenza Domestika (DV) giet fis-sehh madwar sentejn ilu, hemm bzonn ta' aktar mizuri prattici u effettivi. Iz-zmien bejn meta jsir ir-rapport u il-kaz jitressaq quddiem il-Qorti qed ikun twil wisq u l-omm u t-tfal hafna drabi qed ikunu f'periklu mill-aggressur

Fejn jidhol il-manteniment, nisa li ma jahdmux mhux qed jingħatalhom manteniment adegwat għax il-partner ma jonorax l-obbligi ta' manteniment jew jagħti bi tnaqqir; hafna drabi l-ommijiet ikollhom jittalbu għall-ikel mix-shelters, f'kazi fejn il-kaz ikun ingħalaq

Meta jingħata *treatment order* mill-Qorti (biex l-irgiel jattendu 'rehabilitation treatment') dan hafna drabi mhux qed jagħmluh u hadd ma' qed jiehru responsabbilta'. Kif inhuma l-proceduri, qed ikun hemm dewmien meta l-avukati jressqu kaz b'urgenza, jgħid

kazi ta' vjolenza fizika gravi u dan qed iżid it-trawma fuq l-omm u t-tfal. Iridu jsiru arrangamenti biex daww il-granet meta l-kaz jittella l-Qorti, ikun hemm protezzjoni mix-shelter sal-Qorti u mhux is-social worker trid tmur hi l-ghassa tal-puluzija, għaliex fl-intervall mara qed ikollha attentati ta' aggressjoni.

Għall-kazijiet ta' vjolenza domestika fejn vittmi qed jispicaw *mental cases* rultat tat-trawma m'għandhomx facilitajiet fejn jistghu jingħataw terapija adegwatamgħajr ma jittiehdu l-Isptar Monte Carmeli

Tahrig lis-social workers, terapisti tal-familja, tobba, medjaturi, psikologi u daww li jahdmu fil-qasam tal-VD, specifkament fuq vjolenza domestika. Tahrig speċjalizzat li jsir barra minn Malta, għaliex m'għandniex esperti f'dan il-Qasam u allura għandu jingħata mingħajr ma' l-persuna thallas hi min butha għal dan l-istudju u anki mill-leave li hi intitolata għalih kif qed jigri issa

Bzonn ta' aktar rizorsi umani, partikolarment social workers li jahdmu f'dan il-qasam għaliex qed ikun ta' stress qawwi imhabba l-fatt li ma jistghux ilahhqu mad-domanda, jew qed ibatu il-vittmi li jkun tard wisq meta tingħatalhom l-attenzjoni. Incentivi bħal pagi ahjar għaliex hafna drabi is-social workers u t-terapisti qed ifittxu xogħol alternattiv wara li jkun hadu daqshekk esperjenza

Social workers zgħazagh qeghdin jidhlu mill-ewwel malli jiggradwaw għal dan ix-xogħol u l-effetti fuqhom u fuq il-familji tagħhom hum gravi għaliex m'humiex ippreparati u l-anqas għandhom support emozzjonali u psikologiku adegwat. Il-bzonn ta' psikologi fid-Dipartiment ta' l-Edukazzjoni għal tfal li għaddejjin minn din it-trawma. Hemm kazijiet fejn it-tfal m'humiex qed jattendu l-iskola minhabba biza' u nuqqas ta' sigurtà

Shelters aktar adegwati, speċjalment biex ir-residenti jkollhom access għall-internet biex ifittxu fis-siti tal-gvern informazzjoni dwar diversi applikazzjonijiet li jehtiegu kif ukoll access għal persuni b'disabbilta' fi-shelters kollha. Tahrig għax-xogħol mill-ETC fix-shelters għaliex f'certi kazijiet hemm periklu gravi meta l-ommijiet johorgu mix-shelters

Fuq kollox kull persuna għandha r-responsabbilta' li tirraporta lill-awtoritajiet sabiex titnaqqas kull tip ta' hsara kemm jista' jkun kmieni. ♡

Grace Attard, NCW President

UN Secretary-General Message On International Day for Elimination Of Violence Against Women, Urges Ending Discrimination, Reaffirming Women's Human Rights

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, observed on 25 November:

In the 10 years since the General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the circle of engagement has widened. More groups and individuals, including men and boys, are getting involved in efforts to prevent and address this heinous violation of women's human rights. There has also been significant progress at the national level as many countries have adopted laws and comprehensive action plans.

However, much work lies ahead. In every country, women and girls continue to be plagued by violence, causing tremendous suffering. Such violence undermines development, generates instability, and makes peace that much harder to achieve. We must demand accountability for the violations, and take concrete steps to end impunity. We must listen to and support the survivors.

Our goal is clear: an end to these inexcusable crimes whether it is the use of rape as a weapon of war, domestic violence, sex trafficking, so-called "honour" crimes or female genital mutilation/cutting. We must address the roots of this violence by eradicating discrimination and changing the mindsets that perpetuate it.

The "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign that I launched last year is galvanizing action across the United Nations system. It calls for all countries to put in place, by the year 2015, strong laws, multi-sectoral action plans, preventive measures, data collection, and systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations. I invite Governments, organizations and individuals to join us in this Campaign. I have also just launched a Network of Men Leaders to strengthen our advocacy.

The United Nations General Assembly's support for the creation of a new gender equality entity will also bolster our work. The new entity will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and hold the United Nations system itself accountable for supporting measures to eliminate discrimination against women and end violence against them.

Women around the world are the very linchpin keeping families, communities, and nations together. On this International Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to women's human rights; let us invest more resources in countering this violence; and let us do all it takes to end these horrific assaults once and for all. ♡

**Department of Public Information
• News and Media Division • New York**

Product Safety Through Market Surveillance

The Malta Standard Authority organized a Conference entitled "Product Safety Through Market Surveillance" on 4th December 2009 at the Weston Draggonara resort St Julians. The conference was an eye opener on the EU Regulation 765/08 on Accreditation and Market Surveillance, which was adopted in July 2008 by the EU Parliament and the EU Council. This regulation will for the first time with effect from 1st January 2010 establish a legal framework for market surveillance activities across Europe.

Market Surveillance safeguards the safety of products used by people during the course of their life and can be divided into the following areas:

- Children (e.g. safety of toys, playground equipment and other items used by children)
- Domestic and Occupational (e.g. fire safety of electrical appliances, safety of DIY tools and communication equipment and safe use of domestic chemicals, safety of lifts)
- Recreation (e.g. Safety of engines used on recreational craft, media equipment and equipment used in amusement parks)
- Personal Care (e.g. safety of cosmetics and tattoo dyes)
- Industry (e.g. safety of machinery, pesticides and fireworks)

The objective of market surveillance is to ensure that only safe products are placed on the market. The Malta Standards Authority

is the national body responsible for organizing and performing market surveillance activities. The regulations stipulate the measures to be carried out by the surveillance authorities which include:

- Organising random and spot checks;
- When justified, entering a manufacturer's premises and taking samples for testing and in extreme cases, destroying products;
- If Authorities find hazards, they have the responsibility to alert other potential users of those products, to reduce the risk of any further injury or damage. Products which present a serious risk, requiring rapid reaction, must be recalled from the market and measures must be taken in order to ensure that they do not end up on the market;

The key note speaker was Mr. Jacques McMillan from DG Enterprises, EU Commission who was the person responsible for the drafting of EU regulations. Other speakers during the conference were Ing. Francis E. Farrugia Chairman MSA, Mr. Paul Bonello, Director compliance Customs Division, Ms Shirley Mifsud, Mr. Michael Cassar, Mr Jan Deconinch from Belgium, Mr. Dirk Meijer, Dr. Simon Busuttill MEP and Mr. Louis Grech MEP. 🌸

Marie Demicoli represented NCW at the conference

Launch of the Malta Information Technology Agency Strategic Plan 2010-2014

The Meeting held on Friday 27th November 2009 launched the Strategic plan for 2010-2014

The meeting was organised by the National Information Society Advisory Council (NISCO)

The Meeting was chaired and introduced by John Gatt, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Infrastructure, Transport & Communication

Claudio Grech, Chairman, Malta Information Technology Agency gave a detailed presentation of the Strategy. The strategy addressed 12 Key deliverables (**can be viewed on government website**)

Matthew Gatt, CEO Malta Information Technology Agency explained how the different phases of the strategy will be implemented. Keith Fearn, Chairman, IT Business Section – Chamber of Commerce presented reactions and proposed measures to the strategic plan, envisaged by the Chamber who will be collaborating

with the Agency for the success of the implementation

A consultation session followed the presentations during a roundtable discussion by stakeholders present. Key points raised included the need to for the education system at all levels to ensure that ICT is accessible to all, to reduce and eliminate the digital divide at all ages; the application of ICT skills to enterprise in particular to SMEs; the importance of sharing of good practice at local and European level and ensuring efficiency in services to operate effectively. NCW President Grace Attard highlighted the importance of matching future ICT skills for future jobs in emerging areas which will be the corner stone of the Maltese economy.

Minister Austin Gatt briefly traced the fast developments of the ICT infrastructure in Malta. In his concluding message, the Hon Austin Gatt emphasized the crucial role to be played by our education system to ensure that the strategic plan reaches its social and economic objectives through a citizen/client centred approach. 🌸

Appreciation: Mary Fiorentino

Mary was a life member of the National Council of Women and supported most of NCW initiatives. I do not recall any activity that Mary wasn't there. Even when she was weak due to chemotherapy she made an effort to join us. When we had the plant a tree activity she was the one with the most number of trees to plant. During last summer when she needed to go to Valletta, on her return home she would come to the office just for a few minutes. She was keen to be well informed so she attended many talks, seminars and conferences organised by the council. She invested in a computer and enrolled to one or two courses at NCW CTLC. At NCW we shall miss her dearly but we are sure she is enjoying her new life as Mary was a bubbly and fun loving person. To her friend Pauline and her family in Australia our condolences. 🌸 **Marie Demicoli**



WEB DESIGN



MULTIMEDIA



DATA CENTRE



SOFTWARE DEV.



SEO



ONLINE PAYMENTS

ALERT COMMUNICATIONS IS A ONE-STOP-SHOP OFFERING
WEB DESIGN & MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT,
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, SERVER CO-LOCATION
& HOSTING, SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMISATION & MARKETING
AND ONLINE PAYMENT MANAGEMENT.



258 Cannon Road, Santa Venera SVR 9034
Phone: +356 20 999 192 / 3 / 4 / 5

www.alert.com.mt
info@alert.com.mt

The Commonwealth At 60 - CHOGM 2009

Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future

The Commonwealth Foundation organised the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) with the theme 'Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future'. It was held in the run up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The CPF seeks to influence the agenda of 53 Heads of State, to consider the impact of their decisions on equitable and sustainable development for over 1.8 billion Commonwealth citizens.

The challenges of climate change, over-fishing, rapid urbanisation, gender issues, human rights and the current global financial situation were just some of the issues addressed by Commonwealth civil society representatives who gathered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from Sunday 22 November to 29 November when they had the dialogue with the Foreign Ministers.

Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Manning opened the Commonwealth People's Forum on Sunday 22nd November to an audience of key civil society players. In response to the global financial emergency he underlined the need for increased investment in small businesses. He also highlighted the fundamental role of civil society in the Commonwealth saying "there are no buildings without foundations", and went on to say that "Civil society dialogue is key to the success of democracy" and that it is imperative "that the sacred relationships between governments and people are preserved".

Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma said that the People's Forum contains the voice of the people that must be heard. Civil society is just one leg of a three-legged stool comprising society, government and business. "All three need each other." He added that the global downturn had hit civil society groups by reducing donations. Civil society, he said, acts both to protest, cajole, criticise and provides accountability, but can also advise, support and partner. Secretary General Kamlesh Sharma said of the Commonwealth People's Forum: You have earned this space, and we watch this space. You bring voices that will help both deepen and broaden the debates of Foreign Ministers and Heads of Government. Yours is a voice of the people, and it will be heard"

The 2009 Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) eight assemblies were: Human Rights; Financial Crisis and Economic Development; Environment and Climate Change; Gender; Health and HIV/AIDS; Peace and Conflict; Deepening Democracy and Governance; Creativity and Innovation.

Doris Bingley General Secretary NCW Malta coordinated the



Hon. Sec. Doris Bingley at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, CHOGM 2009

Gender Assembly. The level of participation of the delegates in the Gender Assembly

was impressive. Gender is viewed not only as a goal in its own right, but also as a key factor in enhancing democracy and peace, eradicating poverty and violence against women, ensuring education for all, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality and combating HIV and AIDS. Advancing gender equality across the Commonwealth will contribute to deepening democracy, development and peace. In fact Gender Equality cuts across all the thematic issues that were addressed in this forum.

There is therefore a need to forge genuine partnerships and reinforce capacity of civil society to contribute to the realization of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005 -2015. Education and training on gender should be extended to the grass root and promoted at all levels, and the importance of creating the environment where both men and women, boys and girls can respect each other as equal partners, so that they can all form an integral part of society, cannot be over-emphasized, and we must all work tirelessly towards achieving such a noble goal.

Speaking at the CPF closing session, the Minister for Social Development in Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Amery Browne said; Solutions lie not just at the level of the Heads and Parliaments but at constructive gatherings of the peoples of the Commonwealth." He went on to say; "Solutions require the inputs of those most involved. You have given the nearly two billion people of the Commonwealth an avenue to air their concerns and by extension enable their participation in the decision making process."

Commonwealth Foundation Director, Dr Mark Collins said the civil society statement was a reflection of the concerns and aspirations of the Commonwealth people and that it must be used by civil society as their guide over the next two years to achieve great things.

Dr Collins also pledged to use the statement to form and influence the work of the Commonwealth Foundation, organisers of the CPF. He talked about the pride that civil society has in the statement they produced and he thanked the Minister for making it clear that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and those of the wider Commonwealth will stand together with civil society as they work towards partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future. 🌸

Doris Bingley , Hon Gen Secretary, NCW Malta

Civil Society Findings Presented to Foreign Ministers

Civil society organisations from more than 50 countries sent a clear message that they are core to the very being of the Commonwealth. They presented a statement addressing the CHOGM theme to Commonwealth Foreign Ministers on Wednesday 25 November, which focused on the need for concerted action to address the economic downturn and climate change. It also made reference to the need to uphold universal human rights across the 53 member states. They again met the Foreign Ministers on Saturday 28th November. This time they had a dialogue on the issues presented in their statement.

Climate change dominated discussions at the Commonwealth summit. For the first time ever the Secretary-General of the United Nations attended a Commonwealth summit. As well as Mr Ban

ki Moon, two other non-Commonwealth leaders also flew into the Caribbean country to take part in climate change talks, as leaders across the world look for a binding commitment in the Danish capital next month. President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen of Denmark – who will chair the UN sponsored talks next month – both spoke with Commonwealth leaders and attended a special session on climate change. Prime Minister Rasmussen called the Commonwealth summit "a unique opportunity to discuss the truly global nature of climate change." The French president echoed the need expressed by Mr Ban and Mr Rasmussen for a successful agreement to come out of Copenhagen. 🌸

Doris Bingley , Hon General Secretary, NCW Malta

DIARY OF EVENTS OCTOBER 2009 TO DECEMBER 2009

October

- 2nd Talk organised by NCW Health Committee "Il-Kura tas-Sider"
- 5th Reception to celebrate the 19th anniversary of German Unity - Grace Attard attended
NCW President Grace Attard member of the Movement of the Rights of the Unborn Child meets the Swedish Ambassador to discuss the Rights of the Unborn Child
- 6th NCW President Grace Attard and the General Secretary Doris Bingley meet Dr. Sue Vella, ETC Chief Executive officer at ETC offices.
- 7th Business Breakfast to discuss Budget 2010 with the Hon. Minister Tonio Fenech - Doris Bingley attended
Jum Dinji Ghax-Xoghol Dicenti Seminar organised by the Malta Labour Party -Therese Cassola attend
Commission Working Group: The Role of Women in Society – Grace Attard participated
- 8th Malta Encounter organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean - Doris Bingley, Cecilia Xuereb and Rita Camilleri attended
Laqgħa ta' Konsultazzjoni għall-preparazzjoni tal Budget 2010 Tema, "It-Tkabbir Ekonomiku" Doris Bingley attended
- 9th Malta Encounter organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean - Doris Bingley, Cecilia Xuereb and Rita Camilleri attended
Konferenza Nazzjonali L-Ewropa t'Għada, Wara l-Vot fl-Irlanda"- Grace Attard attended
EESC Section for the Single Market, Production and Consumption - Grace Attard participated
- 11-12th 2nd Ministerial Conference on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" NCPE members Therese Bugeja and EESC member Grace Attard participated
- 15th The Breast Care Support Group seminar - Grace Attard attended
- 16th NCW Youth Committee Session 1 on **Parenting Skills in Sexual Education**
EESC Section on External Relations – Grace Attard participated
- 18-19th EUROMED Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions Alexandria, Egypt – EESC member Grace Attard attended
- 20th Meeting with Jamie Mercieca, Grundtvig Programme Officer - Education Committee coordinator Ruth Falzon and Education Committee members attended.
- 21st MEUSAC Meeting on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive - Doris Bingley attended
- 23rd NCW Youth Committee Session 2 on **Parenting Skills in Sexual Education**
- 24-25th Malta Association of Occupational Therapists hosted the 51st meeting at Ministry of Social Policy Gender Equality in the Euromed Region Conference in Istanbul - Nadyanne Mangion attended
- 27th ESF Wood SPR meeting at Bighi - Doris Bingley and Jean Killick attended
- 29th Poverty between reality and perceptions: The Communication Challenge Grace Attard attended
Talk **Coping with Homework and Dyslexia** – organised by NCW Education Committee, at NCW Centre. Key Speaker: Education Committee Coordinator Ruth Falzon
- 30th NCW Youth Committee Session 3 on **Parenting Skills in Sexual Education**

November

- 2nd Town twinning Citizens Conference - Grace Attard was invited to make a presentation on Gender Equality
- 5th EESC Plenary Session – Grace Attard participated
- 18th EESC Labour Market Observatory – Grace Attard participated
- 20th Commission on Domestic Violence – Seminar entitled an Integrated Approach to Domestic Violence - Marie Demicoli and Maria Camilleri attended
Monitoring Committee - Marie Demicoli attended.
- 26th Talk on Media Education organised by the Education Committee at NCW Centre EESC Study Group on Integration of Immigrant Workers - Grace Attard participated
- 27-28th CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago Doris Bingley attended
- 30th Mass in commemoration of the first anniversary of founder member Jane Spiteri and the passing away of NCW members

December

- 2nd Greenhouse interviews NCW President Grace Attard on Human Rights
- 4th Product Safety through Market Surveillance Conference organised by Malta Standard Authority - Marie Demicoli attended
EESC Section for Employment, Social Affairs and citizenship Meeting - Grace Attard attended
- 5th Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition Preliminary Concert
Radju Malta – X'Ghandi x'Nghid - In-Nisa f'Malta – Grace Attard was invited to participate
- 7th-8th EU Commission Restructuring Forum on New Skills for New Jobs - Grace Attard attended
- 9th EESC Study Group Equality between Women and Men and follow-up - Grace Attard participated
- 10th Second Talk (by general request) on **Coping with Homework and Dyslexia** organised by NCW Education Committee. Key speaker – Ruth Falzon Education Committee Coordinator
- 11th Presentation of Certificates to Students who attended NCW Courses at NCW Centre during 2008/2009. Mr Marion Azzopardi – Director Lifelong Learning presented the certificates
- 12th Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition Final Concert.
- 14th Executive Committee Meeting
Central Committee Meeting
- 15th NVQ Seminar at Westin Dragonara - Doris Bingley attended.
- 16th EESC member Grace Attard attended plenary session
- 17th EESC Plenary Session - Grace Attard participated
National Council of Women Christmas Dinner
- 18th Civil Society Pre-financing ESF Presentation Ceremony by Hon Chris Said -NCW Hon Treasurer Therese Cassola attended.
Meeting of Council for the Voluntary Sector - Grace Attard attended
- 21st MEUSAC Competitiveness and Consumer Affairs Committee meeting - Marie Demicoli attended (**check date!!!**)
Invitation to PM Christmas reception – Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli attended

CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Nhar il-Hamis 28 ta' Jannar, Il-Kummitat tal-Edukazzjoni sa jorganizza tahdita:

Tema: "L-Abbuż - Kif Nagħrfuh?"

Hin: Fis-7.15

Post: Fiċ-Ċentru tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa, Blata l-Bajda.

Il-Kelliema: Carmen Galea li hija Counsellor fl-iskejjel.

It-tahdita sa tiffoka fuq it-tipi differenti t'Abbuż u l-evidenza tagħhom. Tiġi ndirizzata wkoll il-htiega ta' sostenn lil dawk it-tfal li jifthu qalbhom dwar xi abbuż li jkunu għaddejjin minnu.

Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa jhegġeg lill-ġenituri u kull min jahdem mat-tfal biex jattendi għal din it-tahdita.

Foundation Day Celebrations

Friday 12th February 2010. Details will be announced later.

NCW Environment Committee and Nature Trust invites NCW Members for the presentation of awards to the winners of the **ECO Poster Competition** on Friday 19th February 2010 at 18.00hrs at 'Dar l-Ewropa' 254 St. Paul's Street Valletta.

International Women's Day Celebration Mass

A Celebration Mass will be held at St. Patrick Church on Saturday 6th March 2010 at 10.30hrs.

Concert and Art Exhibition on International Women's Day

Monday 8th March 2010. Details will be sent later.

Half-day of Recollection at NCW Centre

Thursday 1st April 2010 at 9.00am, Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am

Passover Meal at NCW Centre
Wednesday 24th March 2010 at 19.00hrs

NCW MALTA - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 30 January 2010 at The Victoria Hotel, Sliema, from 8.30 a.m. to 13.30 p.m., with the following agenda:

1. 8.30 Registration & Coffee
2. 9.00 Opening prayers, Welcome and Notices.
Nomination of Tellers
3. 9.15 Minutes of the last General Meeting.
4. 9.25 President's Address.
5. 9.35 Annual Report by General Secretary
6. 9.50 Financial Report by Treasurer.
7. 10.00 -10.30 Reports of Standing Committees.
8. 10.30 - 11.00 Reports of Sectional Committees.
9. 11.00 - 11.30 Election of officers and members of the Executive.
10. 11.30 - 11.35 **Reaffirmation of Policy**
 - a) Gender Responsive budget
 - b) A favourable business environment for women entrepreneurs
 - c) The Gender dimension in the Lisbon Agenda
 - d) Health and Safety at the workplace
 - e) Investing in our children:-
Children & domestic violence; - Protection from the Internet; - Children's Education
 - f) The Environment: Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
 - g) Addressing the needs of irregular immigrants in the host countries
 - h) Strengthening the role of civil society in MCESD
 - i) National Action Plan on Domestic Violence
11. 11.35 - 13.00 **Adoption of Resolutions** .(5 mins each)
 - a. The Right Prosthesis for Breast Cancer - Action for Breast Cancer Foundation
 - b. Health promotion/prevention by family health nurse/ midwife in the community MUMN
 - c. Consumer driven health services MUMN
 - d. A National Sexual Health Policy
 - e. Cancer Screening
 - f. Extension of Maternity Leave
 - g. Subsidy or tax refund to those women opting to uptake private medical care such as breast care or cervical screening MUMN
 - h. Legal Aid
 - i. Social Assistance and taxation for separated women
 - j. Vulnerable Refugees
 - k. EC - MATSEC Children with Learning difficulties
 - l. A more inclusive national curriculum
 - m. Regulations re energy friendly buildings
12. 13.00 - **Approval of declarations**
 - European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010
 - European Year for Volunteering 2011
 - National Action Plan on Domestic Violence
13. 13.05 **Election results**
14. Correspondence.
15. Other Matters
16. Concluding Address by President

Notes:

The full text of the resolutions will be available at the AGM.

The following are the posts on the Executive Committee to be filled by elections

- 3 Vice Presidents,
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- 3 Executive members

End of AGM

LUNCH 1.30 to 3.30 pm

All members and affiliated organisations are urged to attend. As only paid up members are entitled to vote, subscriptions should be renewed during the month of January or paid before the start of the AGM.