



Founded 1964

# il-mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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**Above:**

NCW President Doreen Micallef, Vice President Grace Attard and General Secretary Doris Bingley meet with the Hon Minister Censu Galea to discuss the 2007 Resolutions. The discussion centred on Women and decent work for all, Measures to provide childcare facilities for 5 - 14 age group and equal representation of men and women in decision-making posts.

**Right:**

Participants of the English Course jubilant after receiving the results of their final exam that promoted them to their next scholastic year.



## Contents:

- Editorial - Page 2
- President's Message - Page 3
- NCW's Busy and Buzzing Education Committee - Page 4
- Enhancing Intercultural Dialogue with Young People - Page 4
- Mosaic: One in Diversity - Page 5
- Reading Recommendations - Page 5
- Obstacles to the Participation of Women in Decision-Making - Page 6
- The Role of Women in Diplomacy Today - Page 7
- ECICW's Spring Meeting in Monaco - Page 7
- Partners Forum at 8WAMM - Page 8
- Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women - Page 11

- Delegation of the EU Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality visit Malta - Page 11
- Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities - Page 12
- Celebrating Worker's Day: Women and Work - Page 12
- The European Court of Human Rights - Page 12
- Proposals to address Domestic Violence in Malta - Page 13
- Mother's Day Activity - Page 13
- Ghabex-Residential Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence and their Children - Page 13
- YMCA Shelter - Page 13
- Fostering in Malta - Page 14
- Diary of Events - Page 15
- Forthcoming Events - Page 16

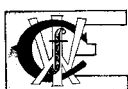
## Members of



### 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  
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Social Council of the UN.**

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# il-mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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## EDITORIAL

It is the executive's pleasure to notice women of all ages and from all strata of society come forward to voice their opinion and participate in the various activities organised by the council. This issue of Il-Mara brings you news about 'MOSAIC, a partnership project for the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All' on page 5, the role of women in diplomacy on page 7 and the importance of fostering needy children on page 14. Issues such as domestic violence and the trafficking of women are still high on our agenda and will continue to command our attention and hard work over the coming months.



Meanwhile we would like to draw your attention to ICW's website (<http://www.icw-cif.org/>) as it also provides a profuse amount of useful information and general updates. Participate in our Il-Mara Competition by answering the following questions correctly. The first three correct replies will each receive a LM5 book voucher courtesy of Merlin Library.

### Il-Mara Competition

1. In what year was the International Council of Women founded?
2. Name three of ICW's principal objectives.
3. Name the current president of ICW.

*You can send your reply via email or post. All replies should be sent to the National Council of Women's office in Blata L-Bajda. 🌸*

## Congratulations...

### Lara Tonna, Vice Chair, European Committee, World Association of Girl Guides

NCW Malta would like to congratulate Lara Tonna on her appointment as vice-chair of the European Committee of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

### Fellowship award to Dr Mary Darmanin

NCW congratulates Dr Mary Darmanin, lecturer at the Department of Educational Studies, University of Malta, who has been awarded the prestigious Marie Curie Transfer of Knowledge Fellowship at the Equality Studies Centre, University College, Dublin School of Social Justice. Through her expertise in education and equality, Dr Darmanin has made a unique contribution to society in Malta and internationally.

### Dr. Valerie Sollars becomes first women dean

NCW congratulates Dr. Valerie Sollars who has become the University of Malta's first woman dean after being appointed to the post within the Faculty of Education for the next four years.

NCW wishes Dr. Sollars great success in her plans to strengthen the faculty's role in areas outside compulsory schooling, including pre-school, youth and community, adult education, and non-formal education. We are sure that her initiatives will enhance the Maltese education landscape. 🌸

IL-MARA is issued every three months and contains the news and views of the NCW of Malta – hence its name "Woman" in Maltese.

It is distributed to all its members and affiliated organisations and sent to other NCWs all over the world. Correspondence and contributions are to be sent to:

Il-Mara, NCW Centre  
Mountbatten Street  
Blata l-Bajda, HMR.02,  
Malta

### Editorial Board

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is with us again, with the unbearable heat bringing life to a seemingly slower pace. The same cannot be said about all the activities NCW has been involved in the past few weeks and will be involved in the following months. It is enough to say that articles on activities carried out by the Council or attended by our members are battling for space in our newsletter and our News and Views page. It is glad to note that all our activities are very well attended so I feel that I must thank you, our members, for supporting these initiatives and

for letting us know what you would like to know more about and highlighting topics we need to look into more. Our barbeque and the Lejla Letterarja will surely help us socialise in the balmy weather so we look forward to seeing you there. Have a wonderful summer!



Doreen. 🌸

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Letters to the editor should be addressed to Ms. Giuliana Peresso and sent to NCW offices by post or e-mail. They should not be longer than 200 words and should include your phone number and e-mail address.*

*With each edition of Il-Mara we will be awarding a LM5 Book Voucher, courtesy of Merlin Library, to the letter of the month. Write in with your suggestions, comments, critiques or tit bits of information!*

### Concerns...

#### Schoolgirl Mothers

NCW is deeply concerned with the number of teenage mothers (under 16) who, according to the information given in reply to a parliamentary question have given birth to 68 babies in the first three months of 2007

Teenage pregnancies and births can have serious physical and emotional consequences both for the mother and for the child. Besides, adjusting to parenthood at such an early age and at the same time trying to live the life of an adolescent without renouncing on studies in preparation for their future is very difficult. Issues concerning the responsibilities of the father of the child are also often complicated

NCW believes that there is the need for more effective values-based sex education programmes in schools to help young people develop skills that challenge the media and

Internet messages, that are portraying sex in a distorted manner, completely excluding responsible behaviour.

NCW calls on the Commissioner for Children to give priority to the issues that our young people are facing in their daily life, to ensure that they can make mature and responsible choices in these and other emotionally laden situations

#### Ethical reporting in the Media

NCW strongly deplores the unethical and insensitive ways in which the case of the abandoned baby was reported, commented and discussed both in the print media and on State Television, especially in the latter case where the Broadcasting Authority should have intervened. As if this was not enough, photographs of the baby just a few hours after his birth were also published! The primary role of the media is to educate even though society tends to speculate in an emotional manner in such circumstances.

NCW believes that respect for the child who had nobody to protect his privacy should have been the objective of reporting and not simply to satisfy 'collective curiosity' in some cases based only on hypothesis of what actually happened. Nor was there any respect for both the mother and the child in the manner in which professionals dealt with the case in some sectors of the media. One question, however, why the father was spared all this!

NCW notes that the media have been responsible for repeatedly labelling the child and this could result in negative consequences when he is old enough to find out the circumstances of his birth. 🌸



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# NCW's Busy and Buzzing Education Committee

The aim and objective of our Education and Culture Committee for the year 2007 is to target the grassroots and to encourage awareness of our national heritage. Although we know that we have a gold mine of cultural places in our country, we often fail to appreciate their beauty and worth.

The Education and Culture Committee meets once a month to discuss and prepare our activities. These include talks, courses and outings of general interest. After our proposals are approved by the President and the Executive Committee, we do our best to organize the activity to the best of our ability.

The main events which are scheduled to take place in the immediate future include a discussion programme entitled "Il-Parlament Ewropew u Int" and another "Lejla Letterarja Maltija".

We found out that an Education and Culture Committee is needed and relevant because when you educate, you find that you will also learn. 🌸

*Josephine Sammut*



*Education and Culture Committee 2007*

## Human Rights Education for Enhancing Intercultural Dialogue with Young People

Diane Xuereb participated in a Euro-Mediterranean training course for multipliers active in Human Rights Education with young people in South East Europe and in the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation context. This training course was organized by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Anna Lindh Foundation at the European Youth Centre of Budapest between the 16th and 22nd of April. As the title suggests, this training course aimed to support and promote the development of human rights education and intercultural dialogue with young people.

Other objectives of this course were to explore the situation and conditions for human rights education in the broader Euro-Mediterranean framework with a specific focus on South East Europe; to motivate participants to act as multipliers in human rights education and intercultural dialogue projects; to develop participants' competences in working with and training about human rights education and intercultural dialogue; to provide deeper knowledge of the institutions involved and the co-operation opportunities offered by their programmes, to experience educational tools for human rights education and intercultural dialogue and finally to support participants in developing and planning follow-up multiplying activities.

This course was conducted by four main professional

trainers coming from Italy, Lebanon, Belgium and Turkey who utilized the Manual on Human Rights Education with Young People 'Compass' as a basic tool for all activities within the training course. What made this course challenging was the methodology i.e. a right combination of formal and non-formal education which engaged participants continuously throughout the course duration. A variety of workshops and practical exercises were organized by the trainers in order to elicit discussion and teamwork among the participants. Besides the non-formal educational activities, informative talks were also given by key speakers within the Council of Europe and the Anna Lindh Foundation.

This course was attended by about thirty participants from Malta, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Spain, Palestine, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Lithuania, Rumania, Croatia, Sweden, Bosnia, Turkey, Hungary and London. What enriched this course was the participants' willingness to interact in an international environment that fostered respect and teamwork so much so that a big family feeling was felt by all participants. 🌸

*Diane Xuereb*

# MOSAIC: One in Diversity

A partnership project for the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

On the 17th May 2006 the European Parliament designated the year 2007 as the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. The aim of this Year is to launch a major debate on the benefits of diversity for the European society. It will also seek to make people in the European Union more aware of their rights to enjoy equal treatment and a life free of discrimination.

Discrimination has been defined as *'the treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favour of, or against a person or thing based on the group, class or category to which that person or thing belongs rather than on individual merit'*.

Malta together with all the other European countries is also celebrating the year 2007 as the year of Equal Opportunities for All.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) together with 9 other organisations is implementing the project "Mosaic - One in Diversity". The project Mosaic is one of the approved projects under the European Year for Equal Opportunities (EYEO) and it will address the fears and misconceptions that lie behind the six recognized grounds of discrimination by the EU which are gender, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, disability, age and sexual orientation.

All decisions will be coordinated democratically by the various organisations that are participating in the Mosaic Network. The participating organisations are:

- 1) Commissioner for Children's Office
- 2) European Network Against Racism (ENAR)
- 3) Malta Federation of Organisations Persons with Disability
- 4) Malta Confederation of Women's Organisation (MCWO)
- 5) Malta Gay Right Movement (MGRM)
- 6) National Council for the Elderly
- 7) National Council of Women (NCW)
- 8) National Youth Council
- 9) National Youth Information Centre (NYIC)

This project aims:

- to increase awareness of discrimination and its negative effects on individuals and society at large;

- to disseminate a campaign on the promotion of equality and non-discrimination equally covering all six recognised grounds of non-discrimination;
- to create an equality platform, in order to strengthen the reaching out effect of the various partners that it shall comprise, and to help them reach a wider audience while minimising duplication of work and increasing cooperation between the various organisations;
- to have a multiplier effect created through the train the trainers sessions organised on the principle of non-discrimination and the right to equality for all.

Mosaic is directed towards the delivery of a direct campaign with high visibility. The project proposal in fact, lays down a campaign intended to be delivered in close proximity to both persons in decision making and the general public and is two pronged:

- 1) providing for the provision of train the trainers sessions and capacity building for both staff and volunteers of the organizations participating in the Mosaic Network
- 2) and the dissemination of information through the media, through visibility during Diversity Days, and forum theatre sessions, as well as through informative publications aimed at addressing fears and misconceptions that lie behind the six recognized grounds of discrimination.

NCW Malta is ready to consolidate its usual objectives by its participation in this project. It also aims to achieve a positive outcome which will eliminate certain discriminations in our society, by so doing it hopes for beneficial outcomes for us all. 💖

Doris Bingley

## READING RECOMMENDATIONS!

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Author Marian Keyes is a staple of good, humorous Irish storytelling, and her various stories – both fiction and nonfiction – have always amused and are always ideal for summer reading. Her latest book, **Anybody out there** (out in paperback), is her bestselling title to date, and has topped the UK charts. In it we meet Anna Walsh, who's covered in bandages and recovering in her parents' "Good Front Room" dreaming of leaving Dublin and getting back to New York – to her friends, to the most fabulous job in the world, and especially to her husband Aiden. But her family have other ideas ...

Another book everyone is talking about this season is **A Thousand Splendid Suns**, the amazing new book by Khaled Hosseini (author of the classic Afghan novel **The Kite Runner** a few years back). This new book is an incredible chronicle of 30 years of Afghan history and at the same time a deeply moving story of family, friendship, faith and the salvation to be found in love. It talks about Mariam and Laila, two women born a generation apart with very different ideas about love and family, who are brought jarringly together by war, loss and fate. 💖

# Obstacles to the Participation of Women in Decision-making

Addressing the issue of women's participation in decision-making is one of the six priorities of the EU Roadmap for Gender Equality 2006-2010. All member states are obliged to take the necessary measures to implement the Roadmap.

NCW Vice-President Grace Attard, who worked on the project, stated that it is in this context that the National Council of Women (NCW) in collaboration with the National Statistics Office (NSO) has conducted this study on *'Obstacles to the Participation of Women in Decision-making'* (a UNESCO project). The Conference was held on Tuesday 22nd May at Le Meridien Phoenicia Hotel, Floriana, to present the findings of the survey and to identify obstacles for women in decision-making posts in political, economic and social sectors.

In her welcome address, NCW President Doreen Micallef, traced the initiatives of the NCW over the past forty-two years and its work at European and International level and the changes brought about in Malta as a result of the Council's recommendations and resolutions.

Mr Reno Camilleri NSO Acing Director spoke about the role of NSO in producing statistics regarding gender equality not only because it is a core concept of NSO but also as a national institution to contribute to Malta's achievement of the Lisbon goals.

Hon. Minister Louis Galea, Minister for Education, Youth and Employment highlighted the importance of ensuring that there are opportunities for women in decision-making posts at all levels. Minister Galea also stated that Government is committed to strengthening policies to achieve these objectives.

Ms Maureen O'Neill BA (Hons), EESC Expert and Researcher, gave her reactions and recommendations emphasizing the importance of education, starting with the family, not only to change stereotyping but also as concrete measures to encourage gender equality behaviour at the earliest stages of life. Ms Maureen also gave examples of good practices in the UK, in particular in enterprises where the concepts of flexibility and diversity were introduced and which gave marked results in company profit.

Dr Joanna Drake, Head of the EU Commission Representation Malta, spoke about the need to find practical and effective solutions that deliver results. She stated that structural deficits need to be addressed across the board. She encouraged NCW not to lose sight of its goals in its strategies to bring about changes in government policies, trade unions, political parties and other institutions to ensure that opportunities for women in decision-making are a reality. Dr Drake also spoke about the EU policy that is treating gender equality as a global issue. She also encouraged the participants to make use of EU funds to address the issue of women in decision-making and other issues



Mr Etienne Caruana, National Statistics Office Manager, presented the results of the survey. Preliminary results clearly reveal that many women are not coming forward for top posts because of the difficulties in reconciling long hours of work and family responsibilities. The study also reveals that both women and men fail to see the relationship between a woman's life pattern and her gender



and the negative impact on her career path choices.

In her concluding remarks, NCW President Doreen Micallef highlighted a number of observations of the findings. To women job satisfaction seems to play a more important role to them than it does to men. Does this mean that women will make better and more devoted workers at higher positions? Married women seem to perceive that their chances of attaining a promotion is much lower than if they were single. Is this their own perception or is it employer related? Child care/partner support are very important factors in determining whether women can move forward in their career. However gender does not seem to have a high level of importance in keeping them back from getting a promotion.

The findings revealed a great difference between women and men in participation in political parties, trade unions and NGOs. There seems to be a greater interest by women to join an NGO in the future than in political parties and trade unions. Women show that they would like females to be present in our political system both in parliament and in local councils as it is our right and because we are capable of doing it. So why is it that we actually do lack participation? Also gender is not an issue when voting for a person and this shows that if political parties were to present good female candidates, their probabilities of succeeding could be quite high.

A high percentage of women without children (70 per cent) don't work. Childcare can't be the problem here. So is partner support/family support very important to working women, as attested by the support given by grandparents in child-care?

Clearly the findings reveal that perceptions and actual facts are very different. Consequently, it is the perception of both men and women that needs to be addressed together with changes in current social structures.

NCW believes that gender equality in decision-making is a societal issue. Policies based on the concept of diversity of human resources (in this case, women) enrich society and therefore should not be underestimated.

NCW is convinced that this study is a timely opportunity to encourage an objective debate and to propose concrete measures, to address the issue and to pave the way for young women.

*Publications of the study and a full report of the Conference will be available from NCW Centre on request.* 🌸



## The Role of Women in Diplomacy Today

**N**CW, in collaboration with the Austrian Embassy, has organised a seminar entitled 'The Role of Women in Diplomacy Today' which was held on Thursday 24th May at Palazzo Capua, Victoria Hotel in Sliema. In her welcoming address, NCW President, Doreen Micallef, spoke of the changing role of women in diplomacy and the difficulties women face as women diplomats.

Dr Omar Grech, Director of the International and EU Office and lecturer at MEDAC then spoke on diplomacy and diplomats today. He spoke of the changing structure of diplomacy which has changed as society has developed and evolved. He also spoke of the important role that civil society plays in diplomacy and how certain organisations, such as Greenpeace, have even become household names.

Her Excellency Dr Elizabeth Kehrer, the Austrian Ambassador then spoke on women's participation in diplomacy and highlighted the difficulties that women face in this work by relating to her own experiences. She mentioned how women were relegated to certain softer areas of diplomacy but how now changes have occurred even in hard core diplomacy. She also discussed the difficulties encountered by married diplomats who had spouses who had to decide whether to follow their partner and lose their career and probably their pension or stay separated in different countries.



*Women in Diplomacy Seminar*

Some cultures still do not accept a woman in a public role so this can prove to be difficult to a female diplomat working in that country. With the necessary degree of flexibility, she added, women should be able to make diplomacy their career.

The last session was a roundtable discussion in which past, present and future female diplomats contributed with their comments and questions. 🌸

## ECICW's Spring Meeting in Monaco

**T**he Spring meeting 2007 of the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW) was this year hosted by NCW Monaco between 26th and 28th April.

On the first day, the delegates attended a seminar entitled 'Violence in Marriage'. The panel members represented Monegasque authorities such as the police force and social workers who deal with cases of domestic violence.

The second day started with the opening of the General Assembly. Amongst other items during this session, representative countries presented changes which have occurred in their local legislation affecting women and their families. The delegates present also worked to produce a resolution dealing with domestic violence, based on the findings of the previous day's seminar and on the situation of domestic violence in the delegates' countries. The delegates present also attended working groups which discussed other resolutions which will be presented in the coming ECICW meetings.

On the last day the General assembly continued and amongst other things, the election of the new board of the ECICW took place. NCW general secretary Mrs Doris Bingley stepped down as vice-president during this session as her term in this position came to an end. However, NCW Malta still kept a vice-presidency post since the president, Mrs Doreen Micallef was elected as vice-president of the ECICW together with Mrs Eleni Adam of Greece and Mrs Cosima Schenk of Switzerland. Mrs Grace Wedekind of Great Britain is now the newly-elected president of ECICW. Mrs Brigitte LeGouis of France now occupies the post of General

Secretary and the treasurer is Mrs Annelies Pierrot-Bults of the Netherlands. Our heartfelt congratulations go to all the elected members of the Board.

Other matters discussed during the General Assembly were the ICW General Assembly held in Kiev, a report by ECICW permanent representatives to the UN, Mrs Brigitte LeGouis on UNESCO, Mrs Cosima Schenk on ICW, a report on the Council of Europe by Mrs Brigitte LeGouis, another on EWL by Mrs Grace Wedekind, information of the RECON project by Mrs Laura Finne-Elonen, news from the European Union by Mrs Astrid Lulling and a report on the situation in Belarus by Mrs Tatiana Vanina.

The Autumn General Assembly will be held in October 2007 at Strasbourg, France. 🌸

### NEW MEMBERS

Abela Rita (Marsaxlokk), Bunyan Mary Anne (Mellieħa),  
Dr Camilleri Charlotte (Attard), Cilia Josephine (Marsascala),  
Cilia Maria C (Marsascala), Farrugia Marthese (Msida),  
Ghirlando Maria (Sliema), Guillaumier Joyce (Santa Lucia),  
Harrison Alfreda (Gzira), Pace Moore Anna (Sliema),  
Paris Maria (Sliema), Zammit Mary Anne (Qormi).

## PARTNERS FORUM at 8WAMM

The Partners Forum held from 8 – 10 June 2007 brought together representatives from 300 civil society organisations, private sector, and professional associations to debate the theme: Financing Gender Equality for Development and Democracy.

The Partners Forum, coordinated by the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Women's Network Secretariat in Uganda, preceded the Eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (8WAMM) which was held from 11 – 14 June 2007. Both meetings took place at the Speke Resort Munyonyo, Uganda, and both meetings addressed issues arising from the same theme. Coming five years after the Monterrey Consensus was reached and midway between the 2015 deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, it was a timely occasion for civil society and governments to examine where the money is for women's rights.

Doris Bingley, NCW's General Secretary and a CSAC member was one of the delegates to make a presentation, participate in the workshops and facilitate the dialogue with the Ministers.

When we look around our parliaments, our governments and our countries top companies, how many women do we see in key decision-making positions? Unfortunately women are under-represented despite the fact that they make up half the population and silently contribute to society and the economy.

Very few countries around the world can boast a strong contingent of women who have the power to make decisions. In both developed and developing states, women's participation at top levels is lacking. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an advocacy group that promotes democracy, women's representation in parliaments are only 17% worldwide. Some Commonwealth countries have shown remarkable progress over the past decade. Mozambique, South Africa, New Zealand and Tanzania stand out because more than 30 per cent of their members of parliament are women.

The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005–2015 outlines women's participation in key decision making bodies in the public, private and political spheres and was endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in



Doris Bingley representing NCW at the Partner's Forum in Munyonyo, Uganda.

Malta. The PoA mirrors the minimum 30% target set at the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

Commonwealth member states were urged to review their policies and practices, to achieve this target and for those already there, to attain a 50% goal of gender equality.

The issues facing women must be addressed in order to achieve better economic standards and a better socio-economic climate around the globe. By opening the floor to debate at The Partners' Forum and facilitating a dialogue between civil society and ministers, the voice of civil society was once again essential in creating social change.

*The Commonwealth is an association of 53 countries. It consists of nearly 2 billion citizens, about 30 per cent of the world's population. The citizens of the Commonwealth are drawn from the broadest range of faiths, races, cultures and traditions.*

*The Eight Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (8WAMM) and its focus on funding gender equality was timely. "We need to put our money where our mouth is"*

8WAMM in Uganda was one of the biggest summits on gender equality this year, with a focus on funding. The welcome news that there is a recommendation to establish a

new, independent United Nations agency for women is a positive signal that the tide is finally turning in our favour.

The Communique that follows will be presented for endorsement to the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM) in Uganda in November. Here we note that the Commonwealth Chairperson – in - Office Prime Minister Dr. Lawrence Gonzi of Malta will hand over the Chairmanship to Uganda after holding it for the two years from CHOGM 2005.

### Eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting

Kampala, Uganda, 11-14 June 2007  
Kampala Communiqué

1. The 8th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (8WAMM) was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 11-14 June 2007. Delegations from 32 countries attended the meeting. The meeting was opened by H E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda. The keynote address was delivered by the Hon Luisa Dias Diogo, Prime Minister of Mozambique.

2. The Meeting was chaired by the Hon Syda Bbumba, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda. All





*Doris Bingley (Malta), Shantal Munro Knight of Barbados and a representative from Uganda during one of the Partner's Forum Workshops.*

delegations expressed their appreciation to the host Government for the hospitality and excellent conference arrangements for the meeting.

3. Ministers commended the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat particularly the Gender Section in assisting countries in the implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action (PoA) for Gender Equality 2005-2015.

4. Ministers acknowledged that increased investments in gender equality must be a priority to ensure sustained economic growth, the achievement of democracy, peace, security and development.

5. Ministers expressed their concern that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are seriously off-track are the ones based on the achievement of gender equality: improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, (MDGs 3, 5 and 6).

6. Ministers emphasised that the timely implementation of the Commonwealth PoA for Gender Equality 2005-2015 requires adequate resources and the operationalisation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, as agreed, will require full commitment by member countries of all governments.

7. Ministers noted that substantially more effort is required to achieve gender equality as evidenced by the following statistics in Commonwealth countries:

- Only five out of the 53 countries have achieved 30 per cent representation of women in national parliament;
  - 30 million children are not in primary school, the majority of those are girls;
  - 60 per cent of HIV and AIDS cases globally are in the Commonwealth, and a growing proportion are women and girls;
  - 300,000 maternal deaths per annum; and
  - Some Commonwealth countries are amongst those with the highest infant and maternal mortality rates.
8. The Meeting discussed the following agenda items:
- Tracking the Money for Gender Equality
  - National Women's Machineries (NWMs) and Public Sector: Role in Financing Gender Equality
  - Financing HIV and AIDS Interventions: Implications for Gender Equality
  - Investing in Gender Equality: Promoting Peace and Democracy.

#### **Tracking the Money for Gender Equality**

9. There were four Ministerial Roundtables on Aid Effectiveness; Gender Responsive Budgets (GRBs); Microfinance and Innovative Financing for Gender Equality; and Gender

and Trade. Ministers' conclusions from the Roundtables included:

- the importance of developing indicators for tracking the money that is being allocated by governments and donors for gender equality and women's empowerment;
- the need to develop and enhance capacity for the implementation of GRBs. Finance Ministers must take the lead in implementing GRBs working closely with NWMs. Gender Audits and impact assessment must be undertaken by respective ministries;
- the need to build women's capacity to access markets, develop products and create an enabling environment for women to scale up their businesses to enter global markets. It is imperative that women participate in trade policy formulation and negotiations; and
- the critical role of micro-finance and innovative financing for women's empowerment and they called for the greater involvement of women in managing micro-finance. Given that there are good practices across the Commonwealth, they emphasised the sharing of lessons learned.

#### **National Women's Machineries and Public Sector: Role in Financing Gender Equality**

10. Ministers stressed that strong NWMs are needed to achieve gender equality and

underpin the achievement of wider social and economic goals. NWMs need authority and resources to be effective.

11. Strong NWMs are important now, more than ever, to ensure that national development plans and new aid modalities reflect gender equality. Enhanced responsibility and accountability in the public and private sectors will ensure improved and equitable socio-economic outcomes.

#### **Financing HIV and AIDS Interventions: Implications for Gender Equality**

12. Gender inequalities lie at the heart of the HIV epidemic. Ministers called for strengthened national programmes on prevention, treatment, care and support, including ARV treatment, female condoms, microbicides, and research on HIV vaccine.

13. Stigma, cultural 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. This calls for a co-ordinated multisectoral response.

14. The increased feminisation of HIV and AIDS requires enhanced and broader access to gender sensitive sexual and reproductive health services as well as dialogue between women and men, girls and boys.

15. Women and girls bear the disproportionate costs of care yet lack rights to resources such as access to land, finance and information. Ministers emphasised the need to implement policies and commitments to address gender inequality in HIV and AIDS funding and programming.

#### **Investing in Gender Equality: Promoting Peace and Democracy**

16. Ministers recognised the uneven and slow progress in achieving the minimum 30 per cent target of women in leadership and decision-making at all levels, and urged governments to provide and implement appropriate laws and policies through constitutional and legislative reforms to achieve gender balance.

17. They highlighted the critical importance of providing financing and voter education, in particular, for women, in order to promote and achieve inclusive democracy and good governance.

18. Acknowledging the negative consequences and impact of conflicts on women and girls, Ministers strongly urge governments to provide resources to address the challenges in conflict and post-conflict situations, including Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR).

19. Ministers noted that since women and girls bear the brunt of conflict, and also participate as combatants, the need for their involvement in peace negotiations and post-conflict management is critical. Thus, the Ministers urged governments to provide access to women to participate and be represented in these processes.

20. Ministers agreed to the establishment of a Commonwealth Working Group on Gender, Peace and Security.

#### **Other Priority Issues**

21. Ministers raised other issues of concern which hinder the full and equal participation of women and impede the socio-economic development of Commonwealth countries.

These include:

##### **Maternal mortality**

Ministers noted that it is within the grasp of Commonwealth countries to make major strides to reduce persistently high maternal mortality rates.

##### **Education of Girls**

Ministers highlighted the critical importance in investing in girls' education.

##### **Violence against women and girls**

Ministers recognised 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 and social outcomes.

#### **Partnership with Men**

Ministers noted that changing attitudes and mindsets, and working in partnership with men and boys is critical.

#### **Dialogue with Partners**

22. Ministers acknowledged the substantive contributions of Commonwealth intergovernmental bodies, associations and civil society organisations who met under the auspices of the Partners Forum from 8-10 June at the same venue.

23. Ministers further recognised that the challenge of prioritising gender equality can only be addressed effectively through coordinated action and genuine partnership with civil society. Ministers underscored the critical importance of empowering youth and providing resources to build their capacity to participate at all levels.

24. Ministers viewed partners as a valuable source of human, financial and technical capability. They reaffirmed their commitment to collaborate with partners to improve co-ordination.

#### **Gender Architecture**

25. Ministers supported the creation of a strong, unified, independent and properly resourced UN entity for gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### **Emerging Gender Issues**

26. Ministers noted that emerging issues as they relate to women, such as Climate Change, Migration, Digital Divide, Diversity and Disability, are matters to be considered when the Plan is reviewed in 2010.

#### **Next Meeting**

27. Ministers warmly welcomed the offer of the Government of Barbados to host the Ninth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (9WAMM) in 2010. 🌸

*Commonwealth Secretariat  
Speke Resort & Conference Centre  
Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda  
June 2007*



**LEFT:**

*Left to Right: Ms Marie Demicoli, NCW Executive Member, Helen, Mr Jean-Pierre Faure, SMO Secretariat, Ms Marlene Tellus, Dip Water Mgt, MCQI, NCW Hon Treasurer, Ms Maria C Cilia, NCW Member attended the conference "Malta in the Single Market – Findings and Views of Organised Civil Society" held at Hilton Portomaso on 14th June 2007.*



**RIGHT:**

*NCW members on an educational visit to a farm in Gozo.*

# Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women

NCW was recently invited to attend a roundtable conference at Brussels entitled '*Gender equality principles: the roadmap for preventing and combating trafficking*' organised by the European Network against Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation (ENATW). This was attended by Doreen Micallef, NCW president and Grace Attard, NCW vice-president. During the roundtable, a report on a project carried out by ENATW entitled 'Implementing gender equality principles to combat trafficking and to prevent sexual exploitation of women and children' was presented. The aim of this research was to make EU members reflect on some of the issues involved and to open a debate on the promotion and protection of women's rights particularly in the field of trafficking and sexual exploitation.



NCW President Doreen Micallef and Vice-President Grace Attard and representatives of NGOs during the Conference on 'Gender equality principles: the roadmap for preventing and combating trafficking' held at the European Parliament in Brussels

The report offers suggestions on how to reflect on the relations between prostitution, sexual exploitation and trafficking within the sex industry as well as the impact they have on the protection of human rights and the fight against violence on women. The report also gives indications to focus on the issue of demand and the sex industry and offers information on the state of implementation of EU policies against trafficking, focusing on mainstreaming the principle of equality between men and women in national and local policies. Speakers at the roundtable included Elena Garavaglia, Chair of IRENE Association,

Mrs Mariapaola Colombo Svevo, Maria Neményi, vice-chair of MONA Foundation, Ms Patrizia Toia and Ms Zita Gurmai, MEPS, Ms Louisa Pavan-Wolfe from the Commission in charge of equal opportunity and Ms Fatima Ribeiro, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity.

The research showed that all the participating countries interpreted the term trafficking differently, have incorporated international norms highly differently and have applied these norms and domestic laws differently. Some of the countries approve that the dealing

with prostitution and trafficking is a woman's right; others ridicule it.

Older member states have very different solutions to trafficking; some states believe that prostitution and trafficking are two independent phenomena while others agree that both are two aspects of the same social problem. Some countries accept that prostitution is a legal income earning activity while in others both the prostitutes and the client are criminally punishable. Almost all of the poor new mem-

...continues on page 14

## Delegation of the EU Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality visit Malta

In the framework of its activities, a delegation composed of Anna Zaborska (Chairperson), European People's Party Christian Democrats and European Democrats (PPE-DE), Astrid Lulling, PPE-DE, Christa Prets, Party of European Socialists, (PSE) and Anna Hedh, (PSE) visited Malta on the 7th and 8th May 2007. The objective of the visit was to assess the implementation of the *acquis* with regards to equal treatment for men and women in particular in the areas of employment, reconciliation between professional, family and private lives, social security, empowerment, domestic violence and the integration of migrant women and trafficking of women for sexual exploitation.

The delegation met Government and members of Parliament as well as representatives of the local authorities, of the Public Service and the Maltese Civil Society. The meetings were held at NCW Centre in Błata l-Bajda with representatives from 20 NGOs active in the field of Women's Rights, Health, Domestic Violence, Education and Immigration.

A number of issues were raised including the empowerment of women especially the need for a cultural change. Other issues raised were: the implementation of Parental Leave, Working Time and Self-

Employed Directives, the need to reinforce childcare facilities to help women re-enter the workforce and services at the workplace to enable women to breastfeed and sex education in schools.

The positive impact of the Gender Equality Act and the Domestic Violence Act were also discussed, however the need for more efforts to empower women and to ensure socio-economic independence were also expressed. The members also expressed the need to share good practices with other EU member states to ensure gender equality policies and measures in a wider range of sectors and at all levels.

The delegation also met women mayors, representatives of National Commissions, Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs, Hon C. Mifsud Bonnici, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs, Hon H. D'Amato, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care and Hon D. Cristina, Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity

The delegation thanked NCW for the services of its Centre to hold their meetings with Civil Society during their visit to Malta. ♥



## Meeting of the European Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

During the European Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, held on the 19 December 2006, Mrs Tuula Haatainen, Minister of Social Affairs and Health gave an *Review of the gender initiatives carried out during the outgoing Finnish Council Presidency*. The eradication of violence against women, (under the Daphne III programme), trafficking of human beings, approval of the Roadmap for Equality by Parliament, strengthening the role of women in business and the gender pay gap are among the priorities which will be followed during the first half of 2007 under the German Presidency. The Minister also highlighted the need to tackle gender issues not only from the aspect of work-life balance but also from men's perspective. We need to look at relations between men and women in their respective supportive roles. Men have much to give and to gain from gender equality policies.

Vladimir Spidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities addressed the meeting on the need to make *the future of the population of Europe (demographic change)* more visible in all policies in line also with the Lisbon Agenda. The discussion focused on improving the participation of women in the labour market through more flexibility and balanced policies in parental leave and other conciliation policies on work-life balance. Immigration policies, minority

groups (including the Roma population), education and training and the future of our children were some of the areas discussed

He also stated that agreement has been reached between Council and Parliament on the Regulations of the *European Institute for Gender Equality* which will be set up in Lithuania in 2007. The aim of the Institute is to be forward looking in dealing with gender equality in an integrated manner, by awareness raising campaigns, providing high quality service regarding information, sharing of best practices and assistance to the 27 EU member states (including Rumania and Bulgaria).

Commissioner Spidla also spoke about the initiative of the Commission to have regular *meetings with Gender Equality Bodies* of the EU member states with the aim of working together to develop harmonization of legislation, development of policies and monitoring implementation.

The Committee also submitted a number of proposals in response to the Commission's Communication on the *Promoting Decent Work for All*. These include the need to improve transparency of labour markets so that all kinds of work (temporary, permanent, part-time, full-time, paid-by-the-hour) are official, special attention to be paid to the employment of women with regards to regulations that are not being complied with and the need for suitable indicators for revealing gender inequalities such as pay differentials

*The Roadmap for Equality between Women and Men 2006-2010* will be adopted in January 2007 followed by a vote on Parliament. ♡

## Celebrating Workers Day: Women and Work

Celebrating Workers Day has always had great significance as it raises more awareness of the impact of change on different sectors of society and how far workers are living a decent life with a decent work and pay.

Today, women's accessibility to work has become crucial. It is a key prerequisite for women to be able to earn an income that allows for economic independence without being penalized for being potential mothers and carers. This means having access to the labour market and a secure job with a decent income that is also sustainable for pensions entitlement in old age.

Giving women better opportunities to fully and equally participate in the labour market while allowing them to combine starting and raising families in shared responsibilities with their partners has to be seen as an asset and an investment in economy and society as a whole, particularly in the context of the current demographic changes.

More needs to be done to provide access to childcare and elderly and dependent care that are a burden on women's potential wages and which are keeping women out of employment. Offering publicly funded care services, or private provision that is affordable and of good quality which

matches both parents' working hours will lead to an increase in female employment.

The family today needs to be perceived as a diverse concept with both parents going through different stages in their working life where they will have to take care of children or parents/relatives at different stages and therefore the concept of "full time" is changing. As a result, structural changes leading to a modern division of labour need to be addressed including reducing long hours, upgrading part-time work and allowing for adaptation of work time within collective agreements in a legislative framework

There is urgent need to take further action on reconciliation between professional, private and family life for both men and women that should be mainstreamed in all policies regarding employment, social security and public and social services. Reconciliation needs to be studied both in terms of excessive working hours and too short working hours, both of which affect women and men's ability to reconcile their work and family life. ♡

Grace Attard  
NCW Vice-President  
EESC member

## The European Court of Human Rights

The failure of the Maltese Government to nominate a female candidate to the post of judge on the European Court of Human Rights shows a persistent denial that traditional gender traits can be broken and that our country should move forward in all aspects of gender equality. By refusing to put forward a female candidate, Malta is also risking having its list rejected by the Council of Europe because it is failing to comply with the requirement to nominate a woman candidate. It is hard to believe that, amongst all the female lawyers, judges and magistrates, there is not even one person who is suitable to be a candidate. The minimum legal requirements of twelve years experience should not be used as an excuse

as this is clearly not a requirement by the European Court. The National Council of Women has, for many years, supported the promotion of women in decision-making posts. In the Council's continued commitment to attain gender equality on our islands, NCW has presented resolutions in 2003 and 2007 to the local government dealing specifically with this regard. The annual seminar presented in November 2007 and a recent survey commissioned by the Council, sponsored by UNESCO and carried out by NSO which showed the obstacles women face in attaining decision-making posts, are also evidence of this continued commitment. ♡

## Proposals to address Domestic Violence in Malta (NCW)

As part of an ongoing study of current legislation to strengthen areas where there are weaknesses related to domestic violence in Malta, NCW recommends:

1. More emphasis on prevention and early intervention methods:
  - i. Interinstitutional and crossdepartmental programmes
  - ii. National Action Plan
2. Adequate and professional training in different sectors, including:
  - i. Health Services: professionals in hospital emergency department, primary care in particular the general practitioner, pregnancy and childbirth services including gynaecologists, midwives, nurses etc
  - ii. The Police Force
  - iii. Professionals in Social Welfare Services
3. Shortening time frames between (unnecessary length of time is a risk factor to victims)
  - i. reporting to the Police, and
  - ii. different phases during Court proceedings (the need for stronger protective measures and sanctions)
  - iii. decision by Judge to continue court proceedings needs to be taken within a much shorter time frame (protective measures and sanctions)
4. Strengthening assistance to victims and their family (aged and children) (Appogħ and other services)
5. Follow up of victims in the workplace during this process and after.
6. Eviction of perpetrator measures must be strengthened and put in practice
7. Monitoring and law enforcement
8. Free legal aid where necessary
  - i. proposal: bringing together a team of legal advisors who will be state remunerated. This will also help to reduce the time during court proceedings
9. The role of the Health Promotion Department
10. Education on domestic violence in schools at primary, secondary and tertiary level
11. Addressing the issue of increase of violence on TV/Internet
12. Addressing violence in relationships of teenagers/young couples
13. Media Campaigns to educate the public
14. Financial and technical resources to support NGOs working in this field
15. Collaboration and co-ordination of efforts by different NGOs for better use of resources and expertise
16. European Year of Equal Opportunities 2007 should include initiatives to address the issue of domestic violence
17. Co-ordinating with National Commission for Equality (NCPE) 🌸

Grace Attard  
NCW Vice-President  
EESC member

## Mother's Day Activity

On the occasion of Mother's Day, members of the Social Issues Committee within the National Council of Women, who were led by Maria Camilleri (Coordinator), visited two shelters, these being Ghabex and YMCA. The aim of the visit was to show solidarity with mothers and their children who due to difficult situations in their own home environment, are presently residing in these two shelters.

In fact during these visits, the NCW delegation presented the residents

with a hamper each. The hampers consisted of various toiletries, towels, cereals, snacks and sweets most of which were sponsored by Francis Ellul, JB Stores and JCassar Ltd. They were also presented with meals and food vouchers which were sponsored by McDonalds and the B'Bugia Girl Guides respectively. The latter had purposely organised a fund raising activity with which the food vouchers were bought.

The same delegation had the chance to speak to the residents and empathise with them. At the same time they took the opportunity to learn more about these shelters since the social worker at each shelter explained the aims and objectives of the shelter and gave an overview of the services provided to the residents. 🌸

## Ghabex – Residential Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence and their Children

The service provides a safe refuge to women and their children who are victims of violence in intimate relationships, and who require emergency and temporary shelter in a safe environment. In addition, it provides professional support to women and their children leaving abusive relationships, by helping them deal with the effects of abuse while

also working towards making healthy plans for the future. This service aims to increase women's and children's awareness of the dynamics and adverse effects of violence and helps them to understand that abuse is never acceptable or justified. 🌸

## YMCA Shelter

YMCA's which is based in Valletta, operates from two centres: one in Merchants' Street and the other in St. Paul's Street. The premises in Merchants' Street is a drop-in centre, where people with difficulties can visit with the aim of being helped. In St. Paul's Street there is Dar Niki Cassar, a shelter for people who are homeless.

YMCA which is an NGO, offers the following services; psychotherapy, social work, youth work, advocacy in psycho-social factors such as housing, legal matters, matrimony and counselling. At YMCA the Field Generalist Team works with a huge variety of different cases such as;

Homelessness, Poverty, Domestic Violence, Addictions, Usury, Mental Health, Child Abuse, Unemployment, Education, Forensic, Legal, Immigration, Housing etc.... YMCA also assists disadvantaged groups and individuals in the allocation of food, clothing and furniture which would have been donated by the general public.

The philosophy of YMCA Malta is conformant with the international stance, but has added on some factors, which make it conformant with the local environment. It states that there should be focus and attention to the body, mind and spirit of the person. 🌸

# Fostering in Malta

The Social Issues Committee within the National Council of Women has organized a talk about Fostering which was conducted by John Rolè who is the Service Area Leader of Fostering within Appoġġ Agency. Mr Rolè is also a member of the International Foster Care Organisation, a Board member of the Children's Advisory Board and a part-time lecturer at the University of Malta. The talk which was very interesting was held at NCW on Thursday 26th April. During the talk, the audience present participated by asking and discussing issues re the subject.

Mr Rolè began the talk with an overview of the service, how it had started in Malta and how it evolved has through the years. He then made reference to the latest development in this regard, that is, the Foster Care Bill which is presently being debated in Parliament.

Mr Rolè then showed a short film comparing babies reared in institutions and others reared within their families to show the difference of behaviour between the two rearings and the long term psychological effects of those reared in institutions.

The speaker then explained that Fostering is a planned service where a family shares the rearing of children who, for some reason or other cannot live with their natural families. He explained that the primary goal of the service is to have each child placed in a safe nurturing family who will seek out a child's needs and fulfill them. This way these children will get the opportunity to experience a family who can give them love and security which they mostly need. He emphasized that the scope of Fostering is NOT of adoption, but that the children will be reunited with their natural families. In fact according to him some children do manage to return to their families while some others remain with the foster carers. However, he stressed that the principle aim of fostering is to be in the best interest of the child.

He then continued to explain that before being fostered, most of these children would have been living in an institution due to difficulties that their families encounter which could be due to for example, separation, death, imprisonment etc... He said that due to their situation, these children are very often traumatised especially when they experience domestic violence in their families.

According to same speaker, Foster carers benefit from a Lm12 a week per fostered child and they need to follow certain procedures so as to ensure the best possible placement for these children. In fact, matching is also a very important issue. Mr Rolè emphasised that training and retraining (which is provided by Appoġġ), is vital to carry out this role. Moreover, before becoming foster carers, families' stability need to be assessed. On the other hand, when they become foster carers, they need to have the support of a social worker from Appoġġ who at the same time monitors the child's placement. He mentioned some obstacles or difficulties which hinder the Fostering process. One example of such difficulties is that of the parents' consent. Some parents prefer to visit children once a week and do not give their consent, thus children must be left in the institution. Although they are well cared for in the institutions, these children suffer from fear, and anxiety. Due to these situations, these children experience insecurity and as a result very often they substitute material things with love.

Mr Rolè emphasized that if possible fostered children should keep in contact with their natural parents. Whenever possible, children are placed with their relatives eg. grandparents, aunts, uncles etc.... In all cases, case reviews are a must.

Foster Carers are sometimes faced with a few difficulties which are mostly lack of cooperation from the natural families. He then stressed the need of information about the fostered children which is very important because it could be very beneficial to their general development. As an example, there is a need of information about their genes and health history, which could be very beneficial in case a health problem arises for the child.

Mr Rolè stressed that each child is an individual with his/her own particular needs thus, requiring an individual approach. Finally Mr Rolè stressed the need for more Foster carers and mentioned a few success stories where fostering has been a very positive experience for all involved. These included those cases where fostered children were reunited with their biological parents. 🌸

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bers of the EU have been found to be sources of Western European sex markets and that new technology such as internet, mobile communications, etc. have brought about fundamental changes in trafficking. Problems are different in countries where most women and children prostitutes are foreigners than in countries where locals are involved in the business. In Western European countries where

social benefits have become better and more accessible, the number of local prostitutes has been found to be declining. However, in Central and Eastern Europe, sex tourism has caused an increase in local prostitution with a continuous supply of women from a growing number of poor groups of society. Prostitutes coming from a different culture, religion or speaking a different language are even more exposed to deprivations. Hence the responsibility of European governments and citizens is

immense. ENATW is encouraging further debate and European level actions on:

- Gender mainstreaming to tackle the root causes of women's 'disposability to be employed' in the sex industry.
- The sex industry and protection of women's rights.
- Addressing the demand.
- Training on EU standards on trafficking and gender equality. 🌸



## DIARY OF EVENTS

### April 2007

- 3 Launch of the Civil Society Report Business Ethics and Religious Values in the EU & Malta for a moral level playing field at Raddison.
- 4 Half day of Recollection at NCW Centre by Mons Lawrence Gatt
- 9 Mr. Joe Zahra meets Consumer Sectoral Committee at NECC. Doris Bingley attended.
- 10 Introducing Voluntary Services during the discharge process of long term hospitalised elderly patients. Doreen Micallef attended.
- 11 Equal DP meeting at NCPE. Doris Bingley attended.
- 13 Executive Committee
- 14 NGO Family Forum meeting at Mount St. Joseph. Doris Bingley attended.
- 15 San Anton's Open Day in aid of the Community Chest Fund. NCW Members attended.
- 16 - 22 Human Rights Education for enhancing Intercultural Dialogue with Young People at Budapest. Diane Xuereb participated.
- 18 Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Familja – Seminar – Nistharrgu Aspetti differenti mill-Familji Maltin Illum at Ċentru Ffidma Soċjali. Mary Rose Zahra and Josephine Sammut attended.
- Lisbon Strategy Seminar on the Programme Implementation Process at Westin Hotel. Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended.
- Mosaic Project Meeting at NCPE Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended.
- 19 ENATW Conference at EU Parliament in Brussels. Doreen Micallef and Grace Attard attended.
- 20 NCPE – KMPD Seminar at Intercontinental – Gender & Disability, Double Discrimination.
- 25 Mater Dei Hospital Visit – NCW Members visit Mater Dei MUMN Reception at Phoenicia.
- 27 Ensuring Quality Childcare Conference organised by ETC at Corinthia San Gorg.
- Gozo Outing
- PN Golden Sands Resort – Working Breakfast – Aktar Xogħol – Xogħol Ahjar.
- 30 General Workers union Seminar – Workers and the Euro-Med process at Preluna Hotel, Sliema. Grace Attard attended.

### May 2007

- 2 Soċjetà Ażmatiki Maltin for World Asthmatic Day Conference at Phoenicia. Doreen Micallef and Mary Rose Zahra attended.
- 4 Action for Breast Cancer Foundation – Launch of the Foundation, at Professional Health and Beauty Services Ltd, Eucharistic Congress Rd, Mosta.
- MEPs visit. Delegation of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament visit NCW Centre to meet Maltese NGOs.
- 9 NECC – Mr. Joe Zahra meets Consumer Sectoral Committee. Doris Bingley attended.
- "Can EU survive another 50 years?" Annual Europe Day Lecture by Forum Malta fl'Ewropa at Westin Dragonara Hotel. Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended.
- Doreen invited for a Reception on the Occasion of the Anniversary of the Declaration of Robert Schumann.
- 11 Mater Dei Hospital Seminar – "Improve the representation of women at specialist and managerial levels at St. Luke's Hospital" held at Westin Dragonara Hotel. Mercedes Schembri Wismayer attended.
- 12 Asthma Association Meeting. Doreen Micallef attended.
- 16 e ID cards connecting Government and Citizen at Corinthia San Gorg
- 17 - 20 Caring Awareness, Fair Grounds Naxxar.
- 17 PN – Working Breakfast – "Ingeddu s-Suċċess flimkien" at Radisson Golden Sands.
- 20 Equality and Disability, The way forward – Round table at the Intercontinental. Josephine Sammut attended.
- 22 SME's in the Arab Region: Opportunities and Challenge Forum.
- 23 Prime Minister's Consultation Meeting "Biex inkomplu intejbu l-pensjonijiet" at Auberge de Castille. Grace Attard attended.

Equal opportunities – the way forward at Suncrest Hotel, Qawra. Josephine Sammut attended.

- 24 PN Women's Section – "Ingeddu s-Suċċess Flimkien" at Villa Arrigo. Grace Attard and Doris Bingley attended.
- Seminar – "The Role of Women in Diplomacy Today" at Palazzo Capua organised by the EU-Youth Committee.
- 25 – 27 Kunsill Generali of PN – Ingeddu s-Suċċess Flimkien at Trade Fair Grounds, Naxxar. Grace Attard and Doris Bingley attended.
- 28 – 29 Seminar NECC "Gearing up for the Euro-train the trainer". L'Ambassadeur de France national day. Doreen Micallef and Grace Attard attended.
- 30 The Gender Gap in Science and Technology in Malta, Evaluating the Problem and Tackling the Issues at Radisson Baypoint. Marlene Tellus attended.

### June 2007

- 1 Doreen Micallef, Grace Attard and Doris Bingley meet Minister Censu Galea
- Seminar on Child Abuse by NCW Social Issues Committee at the NCW Centre, Blata l-Bajda.
- 7 Courageous Hearts – Without retreat
- Kumitat Festi Nazzjonali – Ċerimonja tas-SETTE GIUGNO
- 8-10 Commonwealth Foundation Partners Forum - Financing Gender-Equality for Development and Democracy at Kampala Uganda
- Doris Bingley participated and made a presentation.
- 11-14 Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers 8th meeting (8WAMM) held in Uganda. The Commonwealth Foundation Delegation included Doris Bingley from Malta, Nelcia Robinson from Trinidad and Tobago and Fatma Alloo from Tanzania.
- 11 NECC Seminar – Train the Trainer.
- 12 NECC Seminar. Marie Demicoli attended.
- On the Occasion of the National Day of Russia NCW was represented by President Doreen Micallef.
- Executive Committee Meeting.
- 13 NECC meeting with Mr. F.X Zahra. Marie Demicoli attended.
- 14 Hearing on "Malta in the Single Market - Findings and Views of Organised Civil Society" at Hilton Malta Hotel. Marie Demicoli, Marlene Tellus and Maria Cilia attended.
- NISCO Meeting at MCC at 10 am
- 15 Queen's Birthday Reception at Villa De Giorgio, San Pawl tat-Targa. Doreen Micallef and Grace Attard attended.
- Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee for the CPF at CHOGM 2007 in Uganda – Doris Bingley participated.
- Desalination – Educational tour visit to Pembroke Ro Plant.
- NECC consumers' sub Committee meeting. Marie Demicoli attended.
- 16 Launch of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for all, at the Waterfront Hotel, Gzira at 10 am. Marlene Tellus attended.
- 20 Osteoporosis Seminar at The Catholic Institute organised by the Health Committee.
- 21 NECC Meeting.
- Hearing on Retail Financial Services – Working with a single market mindset in a post Euro context: Banking, Insurance and Investments at the Radisson SAS Bay Point, St.Julians. Marlene Tellus to attend.
- 22 Meeting with The Hon Tonio Fenech at the Ministry of Finance by Doreen Micallef, Grace Attard and Doris Bingley.
- The European Parliament in the life of the Maltese Citizens – Chaired by NCW President Doreen Micallef. Taking part MEP Dr. Simon Busuttil; MEP Mr. Joseph Muscat and FME's Chief Executive Dr. Gabriella Pace.
- 23 KDZ – Seminar – "L-Addoloxent u l-Knisja: X'għandhom x'jagħtu lil xulxin?"
- 28 European Workshop on Gender Equality in Scientific Research at Lodi, Italy.
- CIP – Funding Opportunities for Competitiveness & Innovation at Westin Dragonara organised by FME.

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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**Courses for Housewives, women and men married to Maltese Nationals and all those that have left school early and would like to improve their written and spoken English and Maltese.**

### **Short Summer English Course**

The National Council of Women in conjunction with the Adult Education Section of the Education Division is once again organizing a short summer English Course for those Adults who dropped out early in their education or those who would like to improve their English. Classes are held once a week at the National Council of Women Centre at Blata l-Bajda on a Wednesday starting the 4th July 2007 from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

### **Basic Maltese Course**

NCW in conjunction with Adult Education is organizing a short summer course for those Adults that would like to improve their Maltese. Classes are held once a week during the mornings at the National Council of Women Centre at Blata l-Bajda. The course will start on Thursday 5th July from 9.00 to 12.00.

For these classes there is a very small charge of Lm1 for administration costs which also covers tea, coffee and biscuits and all handouts. Classes are in small groups.

### **Summer Bar-B-Q**

Summer Bar-B-Q at the Paradise Bay Resort Cirkewwa on Friday 20th July at 8.00pm for 8.30pm

Members and friends are invited. Price Lm6.00 which includes a glass of wine or soft drink. Transport will be available on request. Come and join the fun. Kindly book by Wednesday 18th July by phoning the National Council of Women office during the mornings on: 21248881 / 21246982 or email; ncwmalta@camline.net.mt

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### **Lejla Letterarja Maltija**

The Education Committee is organizing the Lejla Letterarja Maltija to promote the use of the Maltese Language. at the popular Café Deux Baronnes with the splendid view of the Grand Harbour next to the Upper Barrakka Valletta on Friday 27th July 2007 at 19.00hrs. Those that have submitted their works kindly contact the office. Members and friends are invited. Price Lm2.50 which includes a light supper.

*For booking and further information for these activities/courses, contact the NCW Centre.*

**Tel: 21248881 / Fax: 21246982**

**Email: ncwmalta@camline.net.mt**

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