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NCW-Mara

Newsletter of the National Council of Women - Malta



NCW members and friends with Mrs Fenech Adami, 2009



NCW General Secretary Doris Bingley with other representatives at the ECICW General Assembly in Barcelona



NCW President Grace Attard addressing the participants OF the EU Flagship Volunteering Conference



NCW bids farewell to H.E. Isabel Vicandi, outgoing ambassador for Spain, H.E. Douglas Kmiec outgoing ambassador for the US and Mr. William Martin, outgoing Head of EU Commission representation in Malta.



Hungarian President Scmitt Pál opening the European Civil Society Meeting in Parliament. Present from Malta; Doris Bingley and Larkin Zahra

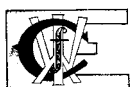
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International Council of Women

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.**

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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Editorial §



Dear Member,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this editorial. Over the past few weeks I got acquainted with the significant role of the National Council of Women of Malta, both on a national and International level and I am very proud to be part of a group of such inspirational women.

In this issue we take a look at the events in which our members participated, such as the Annual General Meeting of the International Council of Women; and this year's Spring General Assembly of ECICW where our Hon General Secretary Doris Bingley was elected ECICW President.

Moreover, we also feature the *Getting Together* Seminar, that I proudly participated in, which was conducted by NCW, as part of the EU flagship programme where NCW is responsible for increasing awareness of volunteering and encouraging volunteers from all sectors in Malta.

I hope you enjoy this informative issue. My aim is to project to you, the reader, all the efforts that we made in the past quarter, as we all ultimately continue to strengthen the role of women in our society.

Keep yourself well,

Maria

P.S. I would be very grateful to receive any feedback or recommendations from you. You may do so by sending an e-mail to editor.ilmara@gmail.com

NCW Representatives meet with the Prime Minister

On 26th April, NCW President Grace Attard and Hon General Secretary Doris Bingley were received by the Prime Minister of Malta Dr Lawrence Gonzi at his office in Auberge de Castille. The various issues discussed were related to this year's Resolutions, as approved at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. The President also gave an overview of the various Training Programmes carried out at NCW Centre.

The Prime Minister took great interest in the resolutions especially initiatives Addressing Undeclared Work and Professionalizing Domestic Work, Engaging Men and Boys in Raising Gender Equality Awareness, Proposals for Pension Reform and Women and Mental Health. The Prime Minister congratulated the Council for its valuable work, which he stated should also be discussed with relevant Ministers.

President and Hon Secretary thanked the Prime Minister for acknowledging the work carried out by the Council and hoped that future legislations and policies will reflect these important issues.

Grace Attard, NCW President

President's Message



Dear Colleagues and friends,

We now welcome the Summer Season in Malta. I sincerely hope you will enjoy it; even perhaps take the opportunity to slow down and find some time for yourself.

The first months of this year have been very active for NCW. The AGM and its follow-up initiatives are on the way. But we have had other interesting opportunities. We are strengthening our ties with ICW through NCW General Secretary Doris Bingley and Vice-Presidents Nadya Anne Mangion and Doreen Micallef. In addition, we are now more involved in ECICW with Doris Bingley elected President - indeed a big responsibility.

At national level we have been following closely the parliamentary debate on divorce as we feel that measures should be taken to ensure that women, in particular those who are not financially independent as well as children, do not suffer unnecessary emotional and financial hardship. We are also taking steps to ensure that MCESD Civil Society is represented on the MCESD Core group. The NCW is also very much involved in the MEUSAC consultation sessions at sectoral level on various areas ranging from EU Strategy on Youth, the Rights of the Child and Energy Policy among others. We are now following the initiatives of the Polish Presidency.

As you may be aware, 2011 is the EU Year for Volunteering and we are proud that the

EU Commission gave us the go-ahead with our Flagship Project which is co-funded by the Commission itself. Our first meeting/conference, which is only the first phase, has been a success; and we hope that it will serve as a springboard for the next phases of the project.

Equally important are the wide range of courses run at the NCW Centre, which are now becoming increasingly popular, which thus augurs well for our Maltese adult society, in particular women.

Furthermore, NCW has also been participating in the National Reform programme consultation, in synergy with the EU2020 Strategy, through consultation meetings and by sending our recommendations on various aspects, not least the gender equality aspects.

Participating in the Annual General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby, EWL earlier in June, was also an interesting experience. As Associate Member Organisation, (Observer Status) we have more opportunities to widen our network with colleagues working on gender equality at EU level. At the same time, by not being full members, we retain the sovereignty of NCW Statute to dissociate from EWL policies we disagree with.

More on the work of NCW can be found in this issue and on the NCW website which I urge you to visit in order to keep up with our updates. As always, I end my message by encouraging you and your friends to come forward to offer your expertise and your ideas, so that we can continue to truly reflect the views of the Maltese women and therefore be in a better position to address their needs.

Grace Attard

NCW donation to Malta Community Chest Fund



On Wednesday 24 May 2011 Representatives from NCW Malta together with Mr Josef Camilleri representing HSBC Malta the main sponsors of the International Women's Day Concert, presented a cheque of Euro 3200 to His Excellency the President of Malta Dr George Abela for the Community Chest Fund. The Concert which featured Maltese soprano Lydia Caruana was organised by NCW Education and Cultural Committee



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News

NCW Recommendations on the extension of the maternity leave directive

In line with the proposed directive, NCW believes that there is the need for a change of policy to ensure that both men and women have legal **access to the labour market in the public and private sector.**

To ensure that **national policy be legally put in place and that both public and private sectors will be equally and legally bound to address equality issues and the implementation of family-friendly measures**, in line with the Commission's proposals for a **work/life cycle approach (working time) that takes into consideration the different work stages of both men and women**, and the situation of SMEs and that it will no longer be a question of choice by the private sector.

There is the need to ensure a level playing field in the sharing of costs and benefits, by both private and public sector as well as provide equal access to the labour market for both men and women. It will also serve to encourage a change of culture in society by promoting family-friendly measures for both mothers and fathers.

The importance of **a holistic and comprehensive approach** to these matters, to see the whole picture and achieve economic and social progress is necessary in line with the EU2020. In this context, policy makers must

consider different needs, competing values and conflicts of interest in the following issues:

- demographic issues (including low birth rate and fast growing number of pensioners);
- labour market needs;
- education and life long learning;
- equal opportunities for men and women;
- reconciliation of work, family and private life;
- accessible, affordable and high quality child care;
- fight poverty and social exclusion;
- and the best interest of the child
- The role of the social partners as main actors in the labour market is crucial in this respect. Civil society too has to take an active part in the process, both in ensuring that Member States are implementing the directive and in supporting by all means the above mentioned comprehensive approach.

Building on previous measures by Government to increase the participation rate of women in the labour market, the following are NCW recommendations to address the extension of maternity leave in the forthcoming budget for 2012

- Government needs to subsidize employers' social security payment for all/part of the 18 weeks

- Payment of **integrated maternity and parental leave** to be shared by government and employer on a percentage basis of the 18 weeks
- Maternity leave payment should be equivalent to average pay of the last 3/4/5 years
- **Financial incentives for private sector** who introduce positive action, including integrated maternity and paternity leave
- Research study on the cost of non-participation of women of child rearing age in different occupations
- Strengthening social security measures for **self-employed women and assisting spouses**, and including measures for the provision of temporary workers
- **ETC Schemes and Industry to provide temporary workers through ESF**
- Government to further expand and subsidize care services, through **private/public partnerships through Structural Funds**
- Legal provisions on parental leave, with a number of **non-transferable weeks in order to encourage the sharing of care responsibilities by both mothers and fathers;**

Grace Attard,
President NCW, 25.07.2011

EESC NEWS – Empowering the citizens' rights

Ms Isabelle Camilleri and Mr Vincent Attard attended the Orientation Seminar on the European Citizens' Initiative, held in Brussels on the 27th June, by invitation from the European Commission. The event brought together various national civil society organisations from all the EU member states. In addition, representatives from EU-related institutions were also present, made significant interventions and answered questions raised by the participants.



Isabelle Camilleri KNZ,
European Citizens Initiative
seminar in Brussels

The orientation seminar initiated a debate about the democratic innovations of the Lisbon treaty – **the citizens' initiative**. In *Article 11* of the treaty, there is formal recognition to the role of the citizen in the participatory democracy of the EU. To this effect, the Group III feels that this initiative will strengthen the role of civil society in the heart of discussions, and will thus help to influence the EU policy agenda in a positive way.

The seminar was therefore aimed at opening more communications channels with other national NGOs concerned by the ECI and bring a more participatory role.

The President of Group III, Mr Luca Jahier, presented the participants with procedural information on the Lisbon treaty and the European Citizens' Initiative.

Following the event, an

innovative idea was developed on how EU citizens can voice their opinion through a structured system: each country would have a benchmark of signatures, which it had to reach according to the population size, in order for the message to be presented further up the EU institutions.

The European Citizens' Initiative serves as a bridge to the civil society. The importance of direct democracy, involvement

of European citizens, active citizenship and civil dialogue were emphasised during this seminar. A European Constitution was introduced in December 2001. The commission website has the 23 official languages of the European Union and it has a free online collection system.

**Isabelle Camilleri KNZ and
Vince Attard Nature Trust
Malta**

ICW News – ICW presents report to ECM Barcelona



In the Spring 2011 ECM Barcelona meeting, the General Well-being Standing Committee presented a report. The paper was presented by Datin Hajah Masni Binti Haji Mohd Ali, the Vice President of the Council of women of Brunei and Environment Advisor to the Standing Committee.

The women's role in response to climate change and environment protection: Our role in global warming. Concern for the environment is growing worldwide. The challenge is to empower everyone to protect and conserve the environment as a way of life. Everyone must work harder to reduce carbon emissions thoroughly, by taking initiatives and changing of lifestyles. We need to increase our efforts to bring awareness of green issues to the forefront of everyone's mind.

The extreme weather of winter 2009-2010 with heavy snowfall, floods, mudslides, the unusually-low temperatures and drought,

are in fact signs of how climate change disrupts long-standing weather patterns. Overwhelming scientific consensus and real life examples tell us that global warming is a real and significant threat to our health, economy and future survival.

"Together we can minimize our impact on global warming, balancing growth and environmental protection, and act together for a successful business community and civil society", she said.

Points to be focused on in the coming months:

ICW Triennial theme: Progress for Women is Progress for All

Health: Preventive health – screening – education – public health.

a. Environment: challenges of climate change.

b. Habitat: All aspects of housing, e.g. cultural, environmental, health, social aspects including

safety, affordability and sustainability, good town planning including clean water and sanitation.

c. Nutrition: promote healthy lifestyle across the lifespan.

During our days at the ECM the problems associated with migration from African countries northwards cropped up. Malta's position in this context was completely unknown to the majority of the representatives present. I pointed out Malta's position as the southernmost country in the EU and also its close proximity to Northern Africa. The recent unrest in Tunisia and Libya has led to a greater influx of migrants northwards. This resulted in Malta being given media coverage which was not always correct. We have suffered negatively due to this type of reporting. On the one hand it was not reported that due to the small size of the island and our already high population density the arrival of even the minimal arrival of migrants affects us greatly. On the other hand we were even accused of turning migrants away. This was never true. Two affiliated organizations with our Council work very hard with migrants and refugees present on the island.

**Nadya Anne Mangion, Vice
President NCW**

ECICW NEWS – NCW General Secretary Doris Bingley elected ECICW President

NCW Malta General Secretary Doris Bingley was recently elected ECICW president at the General Assembly held in Barcelona, Spain.

The 2011 Spring General Assembly of ECICW followed the ICW meeting and was attended by Doris Bingley, outgoing ECICW vice-president and NCW Malta vice-president Doreen Micallef and Nadyanne Mangion, NCW vice-president.

Apart from the elections held during this general assembly, members discussed the Reports from National Councils on action taken on ECICW joint work programme. All member countries present showed their concerns on how the current global economic crisis and the political instability in several countries were affecting citizens particularly women. Slovenia commented that they had also noted a rise in suicides in the form of traffic 'accidents' made by people who were so desperate because of their economic situation and called it their 'silent epidemic'. Older women are feeling abandoned as they used to support their families with their pensions but pensions are now so low that they no longer feel that they are of any help. If women are unemployed, they are not building up their pension entitlement and they will eventually only depend on the state pension and this will mean that they will live in poverty. This is unfortunately the case as many more women are becoming unemployed than men in the wake of the economic crisis.

People who are carers of elderly relatives, handicapped or young children will eventually have the same problem. In this

case these people are actually helping the financial situation of their respective countries as they are reducing the budget spending allocated to care.



The newly elected ECICW Board with President Doris Bingley 2nd from right

This is one of the main reasons for the inequality of pensions between men and women since a high proportion of carers are women. A proposal should therefore be made to the respective governments to give these people some form of compensation for this work such as a better pension.

Many National Councils are working hard to try to tide over the economic crisis however this has not always given a fruitful outcome. Women are not only suffering the consequences of the financial crisis due to a lack of legislation but also due to illegalities incurred by employers. Great Britain, for example, is currently facing problem with women who are returning to work after their maternity leave. Many of these women are not getting their jobs back or are being placed in posts inferior to the ones they held before they took their maternity leave. Women are not only suffering the effects of the financial crisis from an economic point of view but also from a social one.

Several delegates mentioned the positive effects quotas have had on seeing more women in politics even if it is only at a local level at municipal elections. However, some countries are resolutely opposed to the quota system although it has been proven to be the most effective way of including women in this sphere.

Another item of interest on the agenda of this General Assembly was the topic 'Action on manipulation and sexualisation of children'. This was the theme of a previous workshop held by ECICW which saw the formulation of a resolution on the matter.

This resolution was sent to Council of Europe and the head of the children's rights policy within CoE has written back to say that this resolution will be taken up. In fact, CoE will be running a campaign and ECICW has been asked to join this campaign.

Other reports were discussed during the General Assembly as ECICW is active in many organisations such as the European Women's Lobby, the Council of Europe, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the RECON project. This year, ECICW is celebrating its 50th anniversary since it was set up in Switzerland. On this occasion, a gala dinner was held at the Catalonia Plaza Hotel where members of both ECICW and ICW celebrated this event. The Mayor of Barcelona was also invited to the event.

The Autumn General Assembly of ECICW will be held in Switzerland. The dates and venue of the meeting are to be announced in the near future.

Doreen Micallef,
NCW Vice President

Commonwealth News – European Regional Consultation for CHOGM 2011

During the second week of May, the National Council of Women brought together a team to participate in the European Consultation in preparation of the Commonwealth People's Forum in Perth Australia, held at the Commonwealth Foundation Marlborough House, London UK. The team led by Doris Bingley included Priscilla Muscat coordinator of NCW Social Issues Committee, Pauline Azzopardi President of Banking on Women HSBC and Jesmond Xuereb CEO of Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit. In London they were joined by a team from Cyprus led by Petros Pashiardis and the United Kingdom team led by Dr Balasubramanyam Chandramohan, Project Secretary/Board Member, Council for Education in the Commonwealth and Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London.

Themes discussed and agreed were: the current financial crisis in the Eurozone and its affect on the civil society in the delegates' countries; new ideas of civil society gained in response to the crises in Europe as a whole and in individual countries (e.g. 'The Big Society' in the UK); How to optimise outcomes of civil society initiatives funded/facilitated by the EU and the Commonwealth; Can CW-EU civil

society initiatives provide models of good practice in fostering people-to-people links across overlapping histories/identities in the 21st century; What joint EU-CW civil society initiatives can be proposed to CHOGM. The Maltese team put forward the problems of immigration in the EuroMed region, Climate Change and Gender Equity. These three issues were approved as they



Malta, Cyprus and UK Representatives with the Commonwealth Foundation

were of concern to the three countries around the table.

Another meeting held during the same week was the Commonwealth Civil Society Organisation yearly meeting. Doris Bingley represented NCW Malta and the Commonwealth Women's Network. Nabeel Goheer, Director Strategic Planning and Evaluation Division, Commonwealth Secretariat highlighted some of the

ways in which the Commonwealth is increasing its commitment to civil society, such as the Eminent People's Group (EPG), the closer working relationship between the Foundation and the Secretariat, and the new initiative which is looking at institutional engagement with civil society. *Danny Sriskandarajah, Interim Director, Commonwealth Foundation* spoke about the many changes which are taking place.

Kamalesh Sharma, Secretary General of the Commonwealth spoke about this as a period of opportunity. He talked about the need to involve young people. He discussed CHOGM, as a space which is smaller as now it takes place over a few brief days, and the need for message to include everyone's aspirations and communicated at political levels. He discussed 'Commonwealth Connects', the new name for the CP3 Portal, and encouraged us all to respond to the EPG. At this point Doris Bingley commented on the fact that the EPG statement did not include the urgent issues on gender equality, which was strongly supported by other organisations. The meeting noted this very important point and all associations were encouraged to send their comments and proposals to the EPG.

Doris Bingley,
NCW General Secretary

European Civil Society Meeting 2011

The National Council of Women Malta was represented by Doris Bingley Hon General Secretary at the European Civil meeting, an international civil society conference, organised by the Századvég Political School with the support of the European Council between 5th-7th June in Budapest as part of the Hungarian EU presidency and the European Year of Volunteering. The focus theme of the conference was active European citizenship. 400 participants, including 150 guests from the EU and the Western Balkans discussed the present situation and the future of active citizenship in Europe.

The event is part of a series of

European civil society conferences known as the European Civic Days (ECD), started in France in 2008 and followed up by a meeting in Spain in 2010.

Hungarian President Schmitt Pál opened the conference in the Parliament on June 6, followed by the welcome speech of other dignities including Mr Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Ms Enikő Győri, Minister of State for EU Affairs and Dr Katalin Szili, former Speaker of the House.

There were four topics discussed at parallel sections: 'Active European citizenship and civic participation', 'EU citizenship education and

active youth', 'The role of CSOs in the Western Balkan enlargement' and 'Active European citizenship and volunteering'. Following the discussions, the participants made professional recommendations on the specific topics for the institutions of the European Union and national governments. On the last day in the SYMA Hall, the participants discuss and accept common statements based on the workshop conclusions.

The ECM was one of the major programmes of the closing month of the Hungarian EU presidency.

Doris Bingley,
NCW General Secretary



EU flagship Project European Year of Volunteerism between Volunteers and Society in Active

Introduction:

The National Council of Women together with the Commission on Domestic Violence, Nature Trust Malta and the National Youth Council, are currently implementing a project aimed at strengthening the voluntary sector in Malta. The first of four meetings was held on the 28th June 2011. It brought together voluntary organisations and volunteers active.



Participants from all voluntary sectors at the EU flagship project volunteering conference

Programme and outcomes:

Mrs Grace Attard, NCW President, opened the meeting by highlighting the importance of the project and of the collaboration envisaged through mutual discussion throughout the project.

Mr. Martin Bugelli – Head EC representation in Malta: By dedicating a year for raising the profile and awareness of volunteering, Europe recognises the value that this area brings to society. The main aim is to increase volunteering across Europe and thus reawaken and rekindle the civic duty of helping others in need. Mr. Bugelli outlined the objectives of this year. The volunteering environment is enabled and facilitated by creating more awareness for volunteers and VO to work better and more effectively; Empowerment - to improve the quality of volunteering; Reward and recognition of Voluntary activities in order to attract more people towards volunteering; and **awareness raising** on the benefits of volunteering for all

Mr. Robert Farrugia – President VO Council: 100 Million people across Europe work in the voluntary sector. While in Malta the statistic of those engaged in volunteering stands at 30,000, this number increases drastically with the recognition of those who are active in the sector informally. Mr. Farrugia outlined

the importance of volunteering wherein volunteers have forged the society we live in today and what the needs of the most vulnerable are. In terms of challenges to the sector, while financial and human resources are still seen as a top priority, the necessity to move with the times and answer the realities of a changing society should ensure that the voluntary sector remains relevant today.

Hon. Minister Dolores Cristina:

The Hon. Minister expressed her satisfaction at the way voluntary organisations create changes in the way society works, such as on its views of women, challenging stereotypes and create awareness among the general public on various issues. Volunteering makes a difference not only economically but also, and perhaps even more so, socially and culturally. Minister Cristina stressed the importance of passing on the value of volunteering to children and students. Through education establishments, young people are being encouraged to participate in voluntary activities. University students can make use of the CreditPlus system while there are plans for secondary schools to include voluntary contributions by students in the school leaving certificates they issue, thus giving it added value also through the National Qualifications Authority.

Session A: Entering our meeting together

The first workshop session delved into the motivations and expectations that participants had when attending the meeting. Some of the points highlighted during this session include:

The importance of volunteering as improving the quality of life for those they work with; Promotion of inter-generational solidarity; Strengthening and giving a voice to Voluntary Organisations; Share and learn from best practices; Reducing fragmentation and collaborating with other entities; To renew our determination to continue volunteering.; To celebrate our self-fulfilment through the act of giving to others.; To challenge ourselves and our limits.

Session B: Sharing our success stories and learning from them

Participants were asked to discuss and share any success stories they experienced through their work in voluntary organisations and what lessons

they learned from them. Interventions included:

Personal development was one of the areas where many participants felt volunteering resulted in a positive experience. Through volunteering many found support related to their own life challenges, through sharing and networking with others in similar situations. Participants felt that helping others gave them a sense of satisfaction and fulfilment, as well as an acceptance of different lifestyles and life experiences.

Civic duty: In terms of civic duty, most participants felt that volunteering helped in offering a better quality of life and prospects for the future. Specific examples included working with migrants on English language training and supporting the disabled members of society and understanding about society's needs and those of the people they support.

Challenging the status quo:

Voluntary organisations were seen as important in challenging the status quo and supporting the state in developing a more holistic and inclusive society. In particular, best practices mentioned include the creation of support structures for those in need which in turn encourage the development of state-run services. Amendments to legislation are possible through consultation with authorities on the specific needs at grass-root level. International contributions were also highlighted as important best practices.



From left - Robert Farrugia, President VO Council, Grace Attard President NCW, Mr Martin Bugelli Head EC representation in Malta

Session C: Identifying developments to support volunteering

The final workshop session dealt with looking forward at what was required to strengthen and develop successful and effective volunteering and identifying

ring 2011: Encouraging and Strengthening Interaction Citizenship and the creation of improved structures

the potentials and needs of the sector. Recommendations and way forward: In terms of potential and needs identified by the participants, a number of areas of concern emerged as important.



Hon. Dolores Cristina, Minister for
Education, Employment and the
Family

Education and awareness raising in schools and to the public, particularly through the media in general was and still remains a high priority, particularly in recruiting volunteers, amongst the younger and older generations. Sowing the seeds of volunteering and its benefits to students from a very young age will ensure greater civic participation in the future and creating a more inclusive society. To this end, schemes in schools were greatly welcomed. Education for voluntary organisations, particularly on the benefits of registering with the Commission for Voluntary Organisations is also important.

Funding and financing :The need for more funding opportunities and financial support were high on the agenda for most voluntary organisations, in particular with reference to administration costs and project funding. The possibility of financial support for small organisations was highlighted, as well as further support in the co-financing element of EU funded projects.

Professionalism: Those present expressed the need for a more comprehensive legal framework of Voluntary organisations and the recognition of skills and benefits of volunteering. To this end, tri-partite agreements between the State, the private sector and voluntary organisations was highlighted to facilitate this recognition process. Effective synergy and collaboration amongst voluntary organisations was seen as imperative to

reduce fragmentation and duplication of work.

Codes of conduct and ethics were necessary for voluntary organisations. Volunteers should be made aware of these codes of conduct and trained on their use and importance. Participants felt that it was important for volunteers to be motivated and committed to their contributions.

Training, Capacity building: Training must cover both volunteers and members of organisations in specific skills, including IT and managerial skills. Furthermore, specific training for volunteers would enhance the effectiveness of the organisation, through team building and motivation training. Online tools were identified as highly important in carrying out research and receiving training on particular issues of interest to the volunteering sector

Creating a friendly environment for Volunteering: The affirmation and appreciation of voluntary work was seen as paramount in promoting access to volunteering for those who were not presently involved in this area of work.

Sharing best practices and networking both at a local and international level were seen as supporting and helping organisations in improving their impact through project implementation across nations and fostering links with other organisations.

Other recommendations: An interesting suggestion involved the use of voluntary and community work for rehabilitation and re-integration purposes.; Voluntary organisations should be involved in policy development in order to contribute their substantial and important experience in their respective fields. Many of the smaller organisations felt that allocation of premises for their offices could be of support to strengthening the structure and operational level of the organisation.

Presentations by Project partners

National Council of Women – NCW – Ms. Doris Bingley introduced the role of the National Council of Women in Malta. She explained how in the last forty seven years, the Council provided a forum for women of different backgrounds. She described how together with the thirty three affiliated organisations, the Council, advocates and proposes policies that promote the

effective participation of women in the life of the nation. NCW also carries out regular courses in various subjects including ICT

Commission on Domestic Violence – Ms. Joanna Xuereb outlined the main tasks, responsibilities and projects of the Domestic Violence Commission which she heads. She highlighted the articles in the Domestic Violence Act of 2006 which set up the Commission and its roles and tasks. Recent undertaken projects include a research report on the prevalence of domestic violence and a publicity campaign on overcoming domestic abuse and finding financial and social independence.



The first EU Flagship volunteering
meeting

National Youth Council – Mr. Ryan Mercieca, KNZ Vice-President described the work of The National Youth Council (KNZ). Kunsill Nazzjonali taz-Zghazagh is a forum for dialogue among young people. It is a channel of information and opinions between young people and decision makers. KNZ is the representative body of young people's interests. KNZ is a member of the European Youth Forum.

Nature Trust Malta – Mr. Vince Attard presented the EcoSkola project, currently run by Nature Trust Malta and being implemented in schools. The Aims are to empower students to adopt an active role in environmental decision making and action in their school and in their community. Schools that have successfully achieved this goal are awarded a Green Flag - a prestigious eco-label testifying the school's commitment to fostering sustainable lifestyles.

Lucy Pace Gouder,
Project Co-ordinator

AMIE Project Introduction to MCAST Students

Nadya Anne Mangion and Mary Gaerty were invited over to introduce the AMIE Project to prospective Business and Commerce students at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology on 7 July 2011.

The National Council of Women Malta together with the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs, Reach Beyond, the Malta Business Bureau and the Malta Association of Women in Business have obtained funds from the European Union's Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme for a project to promote female entrepreneurship in Malta through the establishment of a Network of Women Ambassadors. This Network will be part of the European Network of Women Entrepreneurs and will campaign amongst unemployed women, women in active professional life to set-up their own businesses and become entrepreneurs.

The objective of the Ambassadors is to act as role models so as to raise women's ability to create a vision for themselves as entrepreneurs as well as the required motivation and self-confidence in setting up and creating a successful business. The Ambassadors shall be role models to inspire other women to become entrepreneurs by 'telling their story'.



NCW Vice President Nadya Anne Mangion introducing AMIE project to MCAST students

The Project also aims to establish collaboration between women entrepreneurs on a European level, to promote female entrepreneurship in Malta, inspire other women when they hear how the female ambassadors started out and to increase the potential of women who are already in enterprise.

This project is called AMIE - AMIE being the acronym for Ambassadors in Malta for Increasing women Entrepreneurs as well as the French word for a female friend.

The AMIE project was launched in Brussels on the 8th December, 2010. Overall AMIE aims to carry out activities so as to increase the potential of women becoming entrepreneurs. It is the intention of all the partners of the consortium to sustain this action even beyond the project duration of AMIE.

By presenting already established female entrepreneurs as role models the consortium hopes to increase female students' conviction of their own worth, contributing positively towards increasing their self-esteem and possible future life choices.

Nadya Anne Mangion, NCW Vice President

Environment Committee News

An Evening of Maltese Poetry, Prose, Food and Wine. -

NCW Environment Committee organised an evening of Maltese poetry and prose followed by a feast of Maltese food and wine on Wednesday 29th June 2011

Vice President and Environment Committee coordinator Mary Gaerty hosted the evening at her lovely residence situated in the area known as Ta' Nadur limits of Rabat. The countryside scenery covering a big area of unspoilt land with the sight of the Mdina Cathedral and the Rabat Church beautifully lit in celebration of Mnarja in the background complimented the splendid evening.



NCW members and friends during the Environment Committee Literary Evening at Mary Gaerty's residence

Mr. George Cassola prepared the evening literary programme which included works by Georgina Aquilina, Lina Brockdorff, Imelda Serracino Ingloft, and also by Mr. Cassola. Music by the Gukulari Ensemble was played throughout the evening. Around forty-five members enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere and the delicious variety of food and fruit professionally prepared by Mary and her family. The evening was enjoyed by all and a very big thank you goes to Mary Gaerty and her family, without whom the evening would not have been such a truly memorable one.

**Marie Demicoli,
Environment Committee Rapporteur**

Excellent Academic Achievements at National Council of Women



Since 2005 the National Council of Women in collaboration with the Directorate of Lifelong Learning within the Ministry of Education has been organising courses in English Language, Maltese Language, Mathematics and computers.

Throughout the years a great number of Adult learners have achieved academic qualifications and were empowered to further their studies at University and MCAST. As many people would agree a good academic result would provide a holistic approach for an individual to compete

better in the employment world

NCW tutors provide an effective learning system, which incorporate

both input and output learning, thus fostering feelings of competence and developing positive attitudes that will enable adults to develop the enthusiasm and resilience to achieve academic success.

NCW would like to congratulate the students, who this year have achieved good results in their Maltese and English Language Matriculation Certificate, the European Computer Driving License and Advanced ECDL and would like to announce that during the next scholastic year starting in October 2011 there will be a new intake for courses in English, Maltese, Mathematics and Computers. For further information and registration kindly contact NCW Office on 21248881/21246982 or email ncwmalta@camline.net.mt

**Marie Demicoli,
NCW Courses Coordinator**



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Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of victims of gender-based and domestic violence

Brussels, 16/06/2011 (Agence Europe) - The Council of Europe has created a convention to protect the victims of gender-based and domestic violence. It was presented in a press conference at the European Parliament on 15 June with José Manuel Bota, chair of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Eva-Britt Svensson, chair of the EP women's rights and gender equality committee.

Bota explained that it is the most far-reaching international convention to tackle this violation of human rights. It aims to harmonise international laws to ensure equal rights for every woman by demanding that activities such as stalking, sexual harassment or forced marriage be made criminal offences. Svensson added: "We could never build a society if women are scared in many areas of their lives". Until now, only 13 countries have signed the convention but Bota is sure that others will join soon: "There is no reason to be concerned. The treaty was published in Istanbul 11th May. We rushed things because we wanted to send a strong signal to East-Europe, but most of the countries need more time to sign it because of their own procedures".

On the other hand, at the European Parliament, the S&D Group is

not so confident and called on EU governments to speed up adoption of a European Protection Order for victims of gender-based and domestic violence. The Parliament voted for the measure last December, but now, according to the Socialists, the Hungarian Presidency would prefer to move the issue to another committee delaying the decision for up to two years. (G.Ba.)

NCW Malta, who had worked hard on the draft legislation on Domestic Violence against many odds, believes that strengthening national legislation in Malta should be a priority to be addressed without delay. Stronger and more binding measures to ensure effective implementation on all forms of violence against women including stalking and sexual harassment should also be put in place. Above all education programmes for young people of all ages, for professionals and for the Police Force should be put in place, criminalising those who do not comply with the law - guidelines are not enough! National campaigns should be financially supported both at EU and national level to eliminate violence and the resulting negative social impact on our society

Grace Attard,
NCW President

The European Women's Lobby General Assembly was held on the 18th & NCW participates as Observer status as the European Women's Lobby AGM 2011

EWL Events - AGM in Brussels

The European Women's Lobby Annual General Assembly was held on the 18th & 19th June 2011 with the meeting of the EWL Observatory on Violence Against Women was held the day before on 17th June and the "Together for a Europe free of Violence Against Women" taking place 18th June.

Grace Attard, NCW President and Doris Bingley, NCW Hon General Secretary attended the Assembly as observers. Three Emergency Motions were adopted which call on the EWL members to take action and lobby relevant decision-makers with regards to:

A) Justice for Women - Olympic Games

London 2012: Sporting events mirror dominant societal gender roles and prejudices, whether it is in terms of gender-based stereotypes, discrimination and violence in which women are the targets and/or practices of excluding women from participating in some sports and gender segregation in others. The notorious lack of women in the decision-making processes of the sporting governing bodies requires urgent action from these governing bodies to ensure and reaffirm in sporting events respect for the principles of equality, parity and diversity particularly in the forthcoming Olympic Games to be held in London in 2012.

B) Support to women in the democratic transformation of their societies in the Middle East and North Africa:

In the recent uprisings that launched the Arab Spring women have emerged as key players. It remains to be seen whether their rights will improve. The current transitional period is bringing opportunities for change and worrisome trends concerning women's participation in the emerging states. The EWL calls on the European Commission, EU External Action Service and any other relevant EU and national authorities to support these women to promote their rights and establish, together with men, sustainable democratic change in their societies. The EWL also calls for assurance that the voice and participation of women in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, are respected

C) Coherent strategy to counteract a backlash which undermines gender equality and women's rights: Increasingly agreed outcomes on gender equality and women's rights are being challenged particularly

in international settings. The EWL has played an important role in coordinating the European caucus at the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women. Seeking other partners at the 2012 CSW meeting will help develop a coherent strategy to counteract a backlash movement which is undermining gender equality and women's rights.

The Annual Conference was dedicated to issues related to **violence against women.**

Rashida Manjoo, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women was the keynote speaker saying that violence against women remains the most pervasive human rights violations in the world, irrespective whether there is peace, economic security, conflict or insecurity. Moreover, violence against women is often recognised as a human rights violation but not as a gender issue. She pointed out the lack of implementation of existing legislation to tackle the root causes of violence and the need for more coherent governance policy and cooperation.

Liz Kelly, a feminist researcher and activist from the UK, who has worked in the

field of violence against women and children for 30 years, stressed the importance of not losing what we have gained over the years, including the understanding of the political dimension of violence against women. She talked about new contexts and challenges we face which might undermine equality.

Ms Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, pointed out that the EU is working on a gendered approach to combat trafficking in human beings. She highlighted new forms of trafficking, which are also gendered in their nature and expression. She stressed that EU institutions and NGOs need to collaborate in a more systematic way to deal with trafficking.

Mr Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director of Directorate Equality, DG Justice and responsible for VAW within the European Commission, announced that the European Commission has changed its opinion and will not plan an EU Strategy on Violence against Women, instead the EU wants to promote mainstreaming in all EC instruments.

The conference was also the opportunity to launch the inaugural edition of its EWL e-magazine, the European Women's Voice. The first issue of this thematic publication is dedicated to Violence against Women.

Doris Bingley, NCW Gen Secretary



Grace Attard and Doris Bingley at the EWL AGM June 2011 Brussels

Gameela Ismael, journalist, founder Member of the El-Gad Party (Egypt) spoke about the fact that the revolution in Egypt dates back to 2004. Women have taken the front in society as a whole, without a political stand. The three cities involved in the process are Cairo, Alexandria

WORKSHOP
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:
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COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES
AND THE ARAB MAGHREB UNION

Monday 20.06.2011
ALTIERO SPINELLI BUILDING – Brussels
15.30-18.30 ROOM: ASP 3G3

**The role of women in the
democratisation process and
governance changes in North Africa
and the Middle East societies**

Eva-Britt Svensson
Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights
and Gender Equality

L'Espresso 19 June 2011

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ΕΡΩΤΗΡΗΤΗΡΙΟ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΟΥ ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ

ΕΡΩΤΗΤΗΣ	ΠΑΡΑΓΡΑΦΟΙ	ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ
1. Ποιες είναι οι προκλήσεις που αντιμετωπίζουν οι γυναίκες στην Αραβική Άνοιξη;	1. Η ανάγκη για δημοκρατικές μεταρρυθμίσεις και για την προστασία των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων.	Η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση υποστηρίζει τις προσπάθειες για τη δημιουργία ενός δημοκρατικού πλαισίου, με έμφαση στην ισότητα των φύλων.
2. Πώς μπορεί να ενισχυθεί ο ρόλος των γυναικών στην κοινωνία;	2. Η βελτίωση της οικονομικής κατάστασης και η παροχή εκπαίδευσης.	Η ΕΕ θα συνεχίσει να συνεργάζεται με τα κράτη μέλη για την προώθηση της ενεργής συμμετοχής των γυναικών στην κοινωνία.
3. Υπάρχουν συγκεκριμένα προγράμματα ή πρωτοβουλίες;	3. Το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τις Γυναίκες».	Το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τις Γυναίκες» στοχεύει στην ενίσχυση του ρόλου των γυναικών στην κοινωνία και στην αγορά εργασίας.

ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΩΒΟΥΛΙΟ

and Mansoura. Women are not acting as feminists; they have gone beyond feminism; they are acting as citizens calling for a political change. It is a social revolution for social values 'to liberate minds and souls'. In the process they are calling for the signing of international conventions. Their objectives are to move societies to see how to deal with all the different groups – muslim brotherhood, islamists amongst others.

As an all women group they are asking for the immediate stop of military trials. Women are spearheading the revolution on how the political machine should work. The path being developed by women in the next few weeks is that of insisting on a proper Constitution before elections targeted for September 2011. It has taken three months to get coalitions together (apart from Islamists who did not join). Alliances are insisting on respect for civil rights; no religion in the political process. Women are being treated as individual citizens promoting rights and values beyond gender equality.

Salwa Fawzia El-Deghali, Member of the National Transitional Council of Libya (Libya), a lawyer by profession and member of the Legal Affairs Committee in the post revolution National Transitional Council.

The Committee is addressing problems such as war crimes and collecting evidence on mercenaries. The Human Rights Watch are assisting in identifying actions against human rights. The Committee is also drafting the Constitutional Change (Char-

ter) for the transition period. It is also collecting evidence of rape and sexual violence as war crimes. This is very difficult as women in particular are afraid of speaking.

Fourth Theme: Advancing Women's economic status as a key factor in Arab human development and governance changes

"Gender inequality is one of the most significant obstacles to human development in the Arab region. Despite the legal guarantees for women's right for political and economic participation, stereotypical gender roles are deeply entrenched, limiting women's employment and decision making opportunities, which are still the lowest in the world" (UNDP website)

Interventions were made by **Soraya Badraoui, President of the Association des femmes chefs d'entreprises du Maroc (AFEM); Nadereh Chamlou, Senior Advisor at the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa region for Knowledge and Economic Sector Work; Outi Karkkainen, Administrator in the Department EFT Operations, European Training Foundation on access and participation of women in education, training and employment**

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Vice President of the European Parliament concluded the Workshop

Grace Attard, NCW President, EESC Group III

Second EU Thematic Conference on the European Year of Volunteering 2011 - Volunteer make a difference!

The European Year of Volunteering 2011 gathered around 400 volunteers from all over Europe in Brussels on the 23rd-24th May 2011. This was the 2nd thematic conference of the EYV 2011 entitled "Volunteers: the difference they make and the challenges they face" organised by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee.

European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek, European Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding, and European Economic and Social Committee President Staffan Nilsson addressed the volunteers by stressing their important contribution to spreading European values and strengthening European citizenship. The conference was a unique occasion for the volunteers to voice their views on the current issues and to work together towards finding solutions to boost volunteering in Europe. The interactive methodology created an atmosphere of openness and encouraged all participants to share ideas and comments.

Opening session: Sharing our success stories of volunteering and learning from them and Looking together at next possible developments to support volunteering were the two major themes on the first day of the Conference.

The key results of that conversation were brought together in a *collective mind map* to build an overview of the question: What areas do we need to focus on now to create even better conditions for volunteering. The contributions from all the participants were collected under the following major headings, which at the same time gave a clear picture of priority areas in improving volunteering in general. These included Education (54 votes), Legal Framework (43 votes); formally recognizing volunteering as a contribution to training and skill acquisition (41 votes); financing/funding (33 votes); shar-

ing best practices (23 votes), on-line tools (20 votes); more diversity in volunteer workforce (18 votes); leaving space for youths to bring in new ideas (14 votes) and others.

On the second day the Conference concentrated on two important aspects: Exploring ways on how to build quality volunteering and Corporate Citizenship.

Second day: Workshop 1 Exploring new ways - quality volunteering

A number of topics were raised by the participants, such as: "Who do I turn to if I want to volunteer?" "The role of volunteering in active ageing" "Promoting volunteering among the young" "What obstacles do I face if I want to volunteer? Can they be removed?" "The role of new technologies in facilitating volunteering" "A European Volunteer Card?" "Europeans volunteering abroad: mechanisms and resources"

Workshop 2 : Corporate citizenship:

A number of topics were raised by the participants such as: "Volunteering and employability: the role of the business sector" "The value of employee volunteering" "Getting the most out of an employee volunteering scheme: the need to coordinate with existing local volunteering organizations and structures" "Employee volunteering as a staff motivator" "Employee volunteering and productivity" "Lower recruitment costs because of pride in the company?"

The Conference was brought to an end with a last activity: What am I taking back with me from our time together during which all the participants were able to voice the areas where they feel they can contribute best to volunteering.

Grace Attard, NCW President EESC member

Lasting memories of Mrs Fenech Adami



I have known Mrs Fenech Adami for many years, but more closely during the months prior to Malta's accession to the EU. I discovered her tenacity, her quiet determination coupled with her faith in the Maltese people making the right choices. A woman who had never experienced working outside the home, yet she always supported the work that we, the National Council of Women, carry out. "Life has changed" she often repeated during our conversations. "You are doing a good job, God bless you!"

A strong believer in family unity, she always supported the Council's initiatives, often expressing her concern for working mothers. She understood that time brings change and change needs to be dealt with. She was never lacking in topics of conversation; I always enjoyed listening to the "stories" of her life,

describing a variety of experiences, her immense ability in remembering names, places and the circumstances related to them – a veritable history!

Over the years, I have grown to understand what lies behind her love for her family, her fondness for her grandchildren, her understanding of her husband's different roles with a simplicity that she retained all her life; as wife of the President of Malta, not even San Anton Palace would lure her away from her dear home in B'Kara! As I look back, I realise why I enjoyed listening to her without any wish to interrupt her as she related everyday experiences – something that I shall always carry with me – the wisdom of her simplicity

Grace Attard
NCW President

NCW invited to Nisa Giljanizi weekly meeting



Group Nisa Giljanizi with NCW General Secretary
Doris Bingley

On Thursday 19 May 2011 NCW was invited to the Nisa Giljanizi weekly meeting to update them on NCW programme of activities and give them an overview of the work done during the year 2010 - 2011. Doris Bingley made a presentation which included the work of NCW's Committees.

The visual presentation was well received and Mrs Catherine Calleja, President of the Nisa Giljanizi Group, opened the discussion with questions from the members, exchange of good practices and requests for more information sessions was very encouraging and positive. As is traditionally done with all NCW Affiliated Organisations, we will continue to work together, network and exchange information for the benefit of women, the family and society.

Doris Bingley, NCW General Secretary

Concert of Classical Music by NCW member Soprano Louiselle Pace Gouder



Soprano Louiselle Pace Gouder accompanied on the piano by Maria Ellul presented a lovely concert of classical music on Saturday 28th May 2011 at St. James Cavalier.

Louiselle had a fine presence, clear diction and was deeply involved in the interpretation of every work and phrase. The programme was a journey of arias from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries from Giovanni Pergolesi to the opera, 'Il Pirro e Demitrio' by Alessandro Scarlatti and the opera 'I Zingari in Fiera' by Giovanni Paisiello. W.A. Mozart featured through his opera 'Le Nozze di Figaro' and his two well-known arias from the Countess of Almaviva. The nineteenth century was featured with arias from the Italian repertoire operas by Giacomo Puccini

and Giuseppe Verdi, La Boheme and Aida. The recital also included popular sentimental melodic Italian songs such as Musica Proibita, Core' Ngrato and Non Ti Scordar di Me as well as Franz Lehar's Tu Che M'Hai Preso Il Cuor.

Louiselle was effortless and insouciant, she is a very talented soprano, it was obvious that the audience loved her singing as some became emotional especially her vocal coach, teacher and renowned soprano Antoinette Miggiani, who is also a NCW Hon. Life Member. It was an evening which lived up to the theme of 'If Music Be The Food of Love Play On

Marie Demicoli,
NCW Environment
Committee Rapporteur

NCW welcomes new members

Judith Debono -Pembroke, Anna Cauchi -Sliema, Lilly Muscat -Rabat (Malta), Rita Pace -Swieqi, Mary Schembri -Zejtun, Maria Stivala -Tal-Ibrag, Pauline Gregory -Pembroke and Agatha Fabri -Zebbug

The Membership Secretary would also like to take this opportunity to remind those members who have not yet renewed their membership to kindly do so as early as possible.

DIARY OF EVENTS APRIL 2011 TO JUNE 2010

April:

- 1st Grace Attard holds a Meeting with St Margaret College Students on Your Europe! Your Say! EESC Project
- 4th: Amie Project Launch at the Corinthia Hotel San Gorg. Nadya Mangion gave a presentation. Doris Bingley, Therese Cassola and Marie Demicoli attended Grace Attard participates in the EESC Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI)
- 5th: Malta Qualifications Council in collaboration with the National Commission for High Education Seminar on Vocational Education and Training and on the ESF Project "VQ Pack". Doris Bingley attended Grace Attard participated in the EESC External Relations Section meeting REX
- 7th: NCPE Conference Launching Project entitled "Think Equal". Marie Demicoli attended
- 8th: Business Breakfast. Women at the top-How to achieve affective leadership organised by NCW and Leading Talks Guest Speaker Ms Viviane Amar
- 11th: NCW President Grace Attard led a delegation for a meeting with David Spiteri Gingell regarding the Pension Reform
- 12th: Think Equal Conference by NCPE. (Therese, Doris and Mercedes attended).
- 13th: EESC Delegation to Tunisia – Meeting Social and Civic partners
Passover Meal at NCW centre
- 18th: EESC Euromed follow-up Committee Grace Attard participated
- 19th: Local Councils and NGOs meet Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector at Ewropa House. Doris Bingley, Therese Cassola and Marie Demicoli attended
MEUSAC meeting – Early School Leavers EESC Study Group on Homelessness Grace Attard participated
- 20th: Executive Committee meeting.
NCW Social Issues Committee meeting.
Mr. Martin Scicluna from ESU visits NCW Centre NCW Half-day Retreat
- 26th: Farewell reception at NCW for the Spanish Ambassador, the American Ambassador and the EU Head of Representation Mr. William Martin Meeting with Prime Minister - Presentation of NCW AGM Resolutions Grace Attard and Doris Bingley
- 27th: NCW Consumer Affairs Committee meeting
NCW BMV. Committee Meeting.
- 28th: Project-Flagship. Meeting (Louiselle, Priscilla, Doris, Marie, Grace and Partners).
PL Public Dialogue at Dar L-Ewropa Grace and Doris participated
Nisa Azzjoni Kattolika 's celebration of Saint Catherine at Le Meridien Hotel and Spa
MEUSAC Consultation Session on EU Rights of the Child.
- 29th: Session at NCW by Mr. Woods " Women Outside the Box" Lateral thinking
Meeting of the Monitoring Committee.
Doris Bingley attended

May:

- 2nd: MCESD Civil Society Committee Meeting. Grace Attard and Doris Bingley participated
NCW Social Issues Committee.
Education Committee Meeting
- 3rd: MUMN. Gala Dinner.
- 4th: CEV Symposium-"The Future of Volunteering, Concepts, Trends Visions."
EESC May Plenary session Grace Attard participated
- 5th: MCESD. "Social and Civil Dialogue to Better European and Local Governance"
Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended.
May EESC Plenary Grace Attard participated
- 6th: EESC final Plenary Session of Your Europe Your Say Project
- 9th - 13th: Commonwealth meetings at Marlborough House London UK – Doris Bingley
Priscilla Muscat, Pauline Azzopardi and Jesmond Xuereb
- 10th: Meeting with NCPE. Grace Attard, Therese Cassola, Mary Rose Zahra
Nadyanne Mangion and Marie Demicoli attended
- 13th: SOS Empowering Private Sector Employees through Volunteering Project.
EESC Group III Meeting in Budapest with Civil Society
Grace Attard participated 16th:
Antidiscrimination Focal Point - PROGRESS.
Dialogue a new National Framework for 2011 meeting Marie Demicoli attended
- 17th: CTLC Workshop and a teambuilding session at Isla Local Council.
Marie Demicoli represented NCW and gave a presentation.
- 19th: Nisa Giljanizi Seminar. NCW Hon. General Secretary Doris Bingley gave a presentation, Marie Demicoli attended
NCW Executive Committee Meeting
- 20th: SOS Empowering Private Sector. Employees through Volunteering project Westin Dragonara.
MUESAC Elections for MEUSAC Core Group Dar L-Ewropa. Grace Attard and Doris Bingley attended
- 23rd: EESC SOC Meeting on EU Year for Volunteering Grace Attard participated
EURAXESS. Research in Motion Stakeholders Workshop.
SOS Malta Mother's night event. (Doris Bingley gave a presentation on MDG 5).
- 24th: Presentation of the Donations from the IWD Concert to H.E. the President Dr. George Abela at the Palace Valletta.
FTZ Conference "Synergia" Igniting the Mediterranean Innovation Society".
House of Representatives Valletta. Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 29th - 31st: Executive Committee Meeting of ICW and Regional Councils of ICW. Barcelona Spain. Doris Bingley, Doreen Micallef and Nadyanne Mangion participated
- 31st: Local Councils and NGOs meet NCPE at Europe House Therese Cassola and Marie Demicoli attended

June:

- 1st: Jesuit Centre for Faith's Justice Seminar "Children's Rights or Rights of the Child." at the Phoenicia Hotel. Jane Callus attended
EESC Study Group on Specific difficulties facing islands Grace Attard participated
ECICW General Assembly in Barcelona-Doris Bingley & Doreen Micallef represented NCW Malta. Doris Bingley elected President of ECICW
- 3rd: Public Lecture by Dr. Lawrence Gonzi at Aula Magna to mark seven years since Malta's Accession to the EU. (Marie Demicoli attended).
- 5th - 7th: Budapest Hungary – Doris Bingley attended the European Civil Society Meeting organised by the EU Hungarian Presidency
- 8th: Executive Committee Meeting
- 9th: EESC Communications Meeting at Dar L'Ewropa. Grace Attard, Communications link participated Doris Bingley attended.
- 13th: MCESD Civil Society Forum meet with CMTU President William Portelli at NCW Centre
- 14th: NCW Environment Committee Meeting.
- 16th: EESC June Plenary session 17th – 19th
Grace Attard and Doris Bingley in Brussels for the European Women's Lobby General Assembly
- 17th: Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta Centenary of International Women's Day Seminar Nadyanne Mangion represented NCW and gave a presentation
- 18th: National Association of Pensioners Annual General Conference Nadya Anne Mangion attended
- 20th: EU Parliament Workshop on Women and democratisation process on North Africa and the Middle East Grace Attard attended
- 22nd: Reception. Farewell German Ambassador - Grace Attard attended
Partit Laburista Laqgħat ta' diskussjoni Prioritajiet għal Pajjizna Doris Bingley attended.
MEUSAC Conference at The Palace Sliema; An Agenda for New Skills and Youth in jobs in the EU. Doris Bingley participated.
- 23rd: Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, Training Committee Meeting
MEUSAC in collaboration with the Malta Resources Authority consultation session on the Strategic Environmental Assessment(SEA) on an Energy Policy for Malta, Mary Gaerty attended.
Education Committee Meeting
- 27th: Trade Fair MCVS Stand visited by Hon Minister Dolores Cristina
Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 28th: Launch and 1st meeting EU Flagship Project at the Palace Hotel Sliema
- 29th: Poezija and Maltese night at Mary Gaerty's Residence
EU Commission Workshop on Women in Science Structural Change Grace Attard participated as EESC member.

Forthcoming events



Health Issues Committee News

Health Committee is preparing for Sept 2011. The date still has to be confirmed as the speaker is requesting leave to come to Malta then. As part of our prevention and education campaign in the sector the committee is organising a talk on Coping with Dementia & Alzheimer Disease by Dr Carmelo Aquilina - Director Specialist Mental Health Services for Older People at the Cumberland Hospital , Sydney Australia.

Nadya Anne Mangion,
NCW Vice President

Social Issues Committee News

The Social Issues Committee would like to announce that its upcoming event is a public dialogue on family in October. The aim of the dialogue is to explore present family needs and challenges as well as the impact of divorce legislation and what measures need to be implemented to safeguard the needs of the family.

Other projects include publication of leaflets regards Domestic Violence with the aim of preventing violence by educating people to be more aware of the first signs.

If you wish to learn more about Social Issues committee public dialogue on family, please contact the NCW office.

Priscilla Muscat,
Social Issue committee co-ordinator

EU Year for Volunteering 2nd Flagship meeting

Following a successful seminar in June, as part of a series of meetings which are aimed at analysing and monitoring the local volunteer, NCW would like to announce that the next seminar titled **Partnering for quality volunteering – reaching out to a wider society** will take place in the 3rd week of September. If you wish to learn more and attend the flagship meeting, please call the NCW offices.

Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition

The 13th edition of the Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition is being held in October for pianists and string players. This edition will be an interesting one since 18 applicants have applied, one of the highest number ever. Though the jury will have a hard task to choose a winner, I am sure this will be an exciting experience for all the participants. The preliminary session will be held on the 8th October while the second round will be held on the 15th October. The final session will be open to the public. Venue will be announced at a later date.

This event will be interesting since it will reveal new local talent and will hopefully serve as an incentive for the performers to take music as a career.

Corinne Bowman, Music Committee, Co-ordinator

For booking and further details please contact the office on 21248881 or 21246982 between 9.30am and 2.30pm or email ncwmalta@camline.net.nt

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