

Founded 1964

# U-Mara

Newsletter of the National Council of Women - Malta

**Hon Jason Azzopardi  
addressing the participants  
of the 3rd EU Flagship  
conference on volunteering**



**NCW General Secretary with  
Hon Foreign Affairs Minister  
Dr Tonio Borg along with  
other participants at the  
2011 CHOGM in Perth**



**NCW President  
awarded 2011  
Republic day  
Honours**



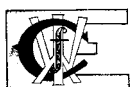
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Founded 1888

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



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Founded 1964

# Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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#### Dear Readers,

By now, we should have all positioned ourselves for a new year of challenges to face and goals to reach. Have you set your targets for this year? What would you like to achieve in 2012?

I find that we often walk on our paths without really having a destination. Think about what you would like 2012 to look like by the end of it and pursue without hesitation! At this year's AGM on Saturday 21st, the National Council of Women of Malta will look at the

resolutions it hopes to pursue in this coming year and to how to continue promoting the values it is fundamentally built upon. Above all, we will this year elect a new NCW President. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to Thank Grace Attard for all her hard work towards the Council and for believing in each and every one of us.

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM,

**Maria Stivala**

*Do you have any feedback or suggestions? Please  
feel free to contact me on [editor.ilmara@gmail.com](mailto:editor.ilmara@gmail.com)*

## President's Message



#### Dear colleagues and friends,

I would like to start the-end-of-the-year message with a thought that should be our guiding principle "individuals can only find themselves

by giving of themselves to others"

I am sure that most of you are familiar with these thoughts that have guided you in your relationship with others in your everyday life. Recently I participated in a Council of Europe Conference on Intercultural Dialogue for religious and non-religious Communities, which brought together many individuals with different ideologies. It was a practical experience in tolerance, acceptance and altruism – concepts we as NCW believe in and try to put in practice

The New Year brings with it exciting times and challenges and the unexpected no doubt. As a Council we have been quick in taking opportunities to address issues as they come up in the fast changing scenario that we are living in. We have been very active in policy proposals and making our voice heard on all media. Our plans for next year are underway. You will be able to discuss them with us during the upcoming AGM which this year will be held on Saturday

21 January 2012 at the Palace Hotel, The EU Year for Volunteering Project has been very successful and it has brought us closer to so many individuals who shared with us the true spirit of volunteering....and we are now gearing up for the EU Year for Active Ageing 2012 with the same energy.

We are aware that 2012 is a year of national importance with the next round of Local Council elections and as Malta gets closer to general elections. NCW plans to campaign for more women in political decision-making are underway. We strongly believe that positive action is necessary to ensure at least a mass of 30% female candidates to ensure their effective influence in decision-making.

Our young and energetic Editor is initiating a new link open to all who wish to be part of an ongoing forum sharing ideas and replying to queries. (See editor's message). We would like more members and friends to contact us through NCW facebook and to exchange news and views on current developments both national and European.

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of NCW's newsletter Il-Mara and feel that you are part of what the Council is doing – a sort of 'biography of NCW'. I wish you all a true peaceful Christmas spirit and a Year full of achievements

**Grace Attard**



## National Initiatives

### NCW approves the agreement on the extension of maternity leave

The National Council of Women (NCW) is pleased to note Government's successful efforts to reach agreement on the extension of paid maternity leave with the social partners within the MCESD. In this agreement, which has been approved by the Employment Relationships Board, the extension of maternity leave by four weeks spread over a period of two years, will be paid by Government with a fixed amount of 160 euros per week.

NCW sees this development as another important step after the publication of the Legal Notice regulating Temping Agencies

which came into force on the 5 December 2011. Employers also stand to gain by this measure as they will be able to employ trained personnel on a temporary basis when workers are on long leave, in this case mothers before and after they have given birth.

This reflects the importance that is being given to the health aspect of working mothers as not only will mothers be in a position to stay longer with their newborn at such a critical time but will also be able to breastfeed for a longer period. NCW is also pleased that mothers will be in

a position to choose whether or not to do overtime during pregnancy and up to one year after childbirth - another important health and safety measure for working mothers.

NCW is satisfied that consensus has been reached, after its efforts during the past months, discussing its proposals with social partners, which also took into consideration the needs of employers. The Council is pleased that its proposals for Budget 2012 will come into force on the second December 2012.

**NCW President, Grace Attard**

### Lejn Edukazzjoni ta' Kwalita' ghal Kulhadd Konferenza Nazzjonali 2-3 Dicembru 2011

Kif in-NCF, National Curriculum Framework se jipprepara ahjar lill-istudenti ghal studju oghla u ghad-dinja tax-xoghol?

- L-iskola ghandha tkun child/student centred, partnership bejn l-istudent, l-ghalliem/a u kull membru ta' l-istaff fl-iskola. Dan ifisser edukazzjoni ta' qsim ta' esperjenzi bil-gwida ta' l-ghalliem/a izda mhux biss.

- L-esperjenzi tat-tagħlim għandhom iwasslu biex jinholoq ambjent fejn l-istudenti jingibdu aktar lejn t-tagħlim mhux biss waqt s-snin ta' edukazzjoni formali izda tul hajjithom kollha (Lifelong Learning)

- Kull stadju u f'kull livell tal-Kurrikulu s-sistema ta' l-assessjar tal-istudenti se tkun marbuta mal-livelli tan-National Qualifications Framework, f'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mal-kompetenzi u l-hiliet ta' l-istudenti.

- Dan qed isir biex kull tagħlim u esperjenzi, formali u informali iwasslu biex l-izvilupp holistiku l-istudenti ikun iccertifikat, partikolarment biex isibu

posthom fid-dinja tax-xoghol L-NCF jipproponi tliet cikli li joffru kontiwita' u li jirrispettaw l-eta' u l-izvilupp ta-tfal fit-tliet livelli - is-Snin Bikrin, is-Snin tal-Priamrja u s-Snin tas-Sekondarja

#### Edukazzjoni Inkluzziva

L-NSF jhaddan il-principju ta' l-inkluzzivita' u jindirizza il-bzonnijiet ta' l-istudenti kollha, bid-diversita' tagħhom fizici u intellettuali, permess ta' professjonaita fil-qasma tal LSDs biex aktar studenti jkun jistghu ikomplu l-istudji tagħhom fuq livelli skont l-inklinazzjoni, il-hiliet u l-kompetenzi tagħhom

#### Career Guidance – Id -Dinja tax-Xoghol fil-Klassi

Servizzi Profesjonali li joffru tahrig u informazzjoni għall-istudenti kollha, fid-diversita' tagħhom

- Programmi effettivi ta' għarfien biex jgħinuhom jagħmlu għaziet infurmati skont ix-xejriet ta' kull student/a, l-interessi ta' kull

student/a biex iwassluhom għall-karrieri jew karriera. **(Matching Education with Labour Market needs u New Skills for New Jobs).** Dan is-Servizz se jkompli jahdem ma' partijiet socjali f'diversi modi:

- Permezz ta' *orientation visits* u work experience biex minn kmieni l-istudenti jifhmu ahjar id-dinja tax-xoghol u l-hiliet u l-kompetenzi li jkollhom bzonn, sew personali kif ukoll vokazzjonali.

Dan huwa servizz li għandu johloq għarfien dwar xejriet godda fix-xoghol li qed jinbidlu mhux l-inqas minhabba zviluppi teknoloġici, u b'mod partikolari fl-Ewropa fejn hemm deficit demografiku.

#### Edukazzjoni għal Opportunitajiet Indaqs l-Ugħalja bejn is-sessi – nindirizzaw l-isterjotipar

- Fit-tagħlim formali,
- kif ukoll dak informali;
- Fil-kommunikazzjoni bejn l-istudenti l-ghalliem
- Hemm bzonn li l-istudenti jgħixu fl-esperjenza tagħhom fl-

iskola l-kuncett ta' l-ugwaljanza biex neqirdu l-isterjotipar

- Dan huwa importanti soċjalment u ekonomikament u għandu jinbena fuq ir-rispett lejn kull individwu bħala persuna umana.

- Ir-rizorsi umani huma l-aktar rizorsi importanti ta' pajjizna. Għalhekk hu importatni li l-edukazzjoni, partikolarment fejn jidhlu suggetti speċjalizzati bħax-Xjenzi, Teknoloġija, Teknoloġija ta' l-Informatika Avanzata, fost oħrajn għandhom jinkoraggixxu lit-tfajliet jidhlu għal studju u karriera li sa issa hemm it-tendenza li jitqiesu bħal ta' sess maskil.

Izda mhux biss, dan jghodd ukoll għas-sess maskil f'oqsma ta' care u Edukazzjoni li b'mod generali jitqiesu bħala setturi li l-aktar li jidhlu għalihom huma s-sess femminili

Il-Kurrikulu jagħti hafna importanza wkoll lit-tagħlim tal-lingwi li huma għodda indispensabbli biex ikun aktar faċli biex jimirhu f'orizzonti godda ta' studju aktar avvanzat barra minn xtutna

### **Ix-Xjenza u t-Teknoloġija – l-istudenti u d-dinja ta' madwarna**

Bidla importanti qegħda tigi proposta fil-Kurrikulu sabiex t-tagħlim tax-xjenza u tar-ricerka fit-tifsira wiesa tagħhom ikun miftuh għal kull student

- biex inzidu r-rati ta' studenti li ispeċjalizzaw f'dan i -qasam
- biex kull student/a ikollu l-opportunita li jasal għal kwalita' ta' ahjar billi jifhem u jesperjenza d-dinja ta' madwarna li jista' joffri t-tagħlim tax-xjenza biex kull student jitharreg fil-hiliet ta' investigazzjoni u analizi li huma l-pedamenti tar-ricerka

### **Tahrig Għall-Għalliema**

It tahrig għall-għalliema se jittwessa billi jtfasslu programmi sabiex l- għalliema li jkollhom il-hiliet necessarji biex fil-klassi johlqu ambjent fejn it-tagħlim ikun qed jirrifletti d-dinja ta' madwarna jikkellmu ma' l-istudenti dwar kull ma qed jigri madwarna

### **L-Innovazzjoni u l-Krejattivita' fl-istrategija Ewropeja 2020**

Din l-istrategija li kull pajjiz membru ta' l-Unjoni Ewropeja qed jiehu sehem fiha permezz tal-NRP ( National Reform Programme) ma tfissirs biss innovazzjoni permess tat-Teknoloġija jew ICT, izda tfisser aktar u aktar li nkunu krejattivi f'kull ma naghmlu biex ikolln kwalita' ta' ahjar. Dan japplika sew għall-istudenti, sew għall-għalliema kif ukoll innovazzjoni fuq il-post tax-xogħol

### **Sehem il-Genituri u l-Iskola**

Il-genituri għandhom sehem importanti fl-izvilupp ta' l-istudenti u fis-success tar-riforma tal-Kurrikulu.

Bħala imsieħba ma' l-għalliema u l-istudenti (partnership) għandhom ifittxu li jkunu attivi u jaqsmu l-esperjenzi mat-tfal tagħhom u mhux biss fil-parent-teacher associations

**NCW President,  
Grace Attard**

## **2011 Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural**

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe organised the 2011 Exchange of intercultural dialogue on the 28 and 29 November 2011 in Luxembourg at the Abbaye de Neumunster, historically renowned for its role in bringing peoples together.

The exchange brought together experts representing media professionals, religious communities and representatives of non-religious communities including women's organisations. The theme chosen for this event was "Media, beliefs and religions

– the role of the media in fostering intercultural dialogue, tolerance, and mutual understanding" This event was a follow-up on CoE exchanges since 2008.

The objectives of this event were to continue the debate on media ethics with regards to religious beliefs and sensitivities as well as non-religious beliefs. The three themes debated were 'Expression in the media of society's religious and non-religious convictions – the respective role of the traditional and the new media'. The debate addressed significant challenges

such as hate speech, segregation and stereotyping. The discussion also addressed a number of issues on access and control of the media, democratic representation and the risk of strengthening divisions and fragmentations of society.

The second theme 'Place, image and discourse of women with religious and non-religious beliefs' centred on women's issues and the conflicts which arise from the right to freedom of religion and the right to gender equality – two fundamental rights that





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sometimes seem contradictory. Immigration today is resulting in families which have grown up in a model where sexes are sealed off from each other moving into a society where the male-female worlds permeate each other. The role of the media to support the transition from one culture to another is crucial.

The third theme dealt with 'Building bridges based on common values – the role of education'. The primary objective of intercultural dialogue is 'living together as equals in dignity'. This sharing and building requires proper awareness to be able to exercise critical thinking on the basis of reliable data and objective information. It means

distinguishing between shared convictions and personal beliefs. It requires training in media analysis and criticism.

Alongside professional journalists, new media opens up numerous sources of information and allows each and every person to launch messages into the public arena. The media can contribute to combating ignorance by using their power of communication to educate the public, in a formal and non-formal way. Better trained media professionals are needed to fight media stereotyping or erroneous interpretations of religions, in particular on how to better highlight the valuable role of women as actors in intercultural

dialogue

In conclusion, this Exchange supported to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of necessary measures as follow-up to the proposals put forward by the Parliamentary Assembly, in its recommendation 1962 (2011) on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, promoting a genuine partnership and the recognition of a platform for dialogue between the Council of Europe and high-level representative of religious and non-denominational organisations

**President, NCW,  
Grace Attard**

## The Price of Motherhood

A seminar on research findings by NSO and Centre for Labour Studies, Lecturer Anna Borg on the relationship between female employment and fertility rate in Malta was held on the 24 November 2011 at the Westin Dragonara Hotel St Julians.

The objectives of the research study were to provide evidence to interpreting the current employment/fertility situation in Malta which traditionally view female employment and fertility rates as being inversely related.

The research study challenges these theories and contends that education, social norms, work flexibility and family support structures are among the factors that moderate the relationship between female employment and fertility rates in Malta.

The study provides evidence on how higher investment in female education is leading to greater opportunity costs in having children, thus delaying childbearing. Social norms, that is traditional gender roles in higher asymmetric division of

unpaid work as well as a negative view of formal childcare are also key obstacles to women to join the labour market together with work flexibility and family support structures.

The study has been carried out on three categories of mothers:

- **Career mothers:** in employment with the same employer between 2000 and 2009
- **Drifting mothers:** changed their employer and moved in and out of the labour market between 2000 and 2009
- **Non-working mothers:** do not have a registered employment history with the ETC.

### **A number of findings reveal amongst others that**

- Whereas the total number of male employment increased by 7.5% between 2000 and 2010, total female employment increased by a much higher 28.1% over the same period (NSO)
- The share of Maltese 21-year-old females enrolled in

tertiary education increased substantially from 22% (of all 21-year old females) in 2000 to 32% in 2009 (Eurostat)

- The higher the average wages of occupations, the greater the number of days worked by drifting mothers. Thus drifting mothers work more days if they are employed in technical, professional; or managerial jobs compared to plant operators, crafts persons, sales workers and those in elementary occupations

Overall the increase in the average worked days from 35% to 50% would result in an additional euro 18.5 million per year in household income and an increase in euro 5.1 million in government tax revenue (social security contributions and income tax)

**Further information can be obtained from NSO and the Centre for Labour Studies**

**NCW President,  
Grace Attard**



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## MUCM Round Table on Work-Family Balance and Parenting



**H.E. Swedish Ambassador, Ulla Gudmundson, Hon Carmelo Abela, CHair Mr Joseph Zahra, Hon Chris Said, Mr Corey Greenland, GWU and Ms Grace Attard, NCW addressing the Round Table**

Following the National Conference "Caring for the Unborn Child" which was organised by the Malta Unborn Child Movement (MUCM) and the Swedish Embassy in Malta on 10th, December 2010, MUCM, the Swedish Embassy, the Midwifery Dept of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Malta and the National Council of Women held a

Round-Table Work-Family Balance and Parenting on Friday, Nov 11th, 2011 from 9.00am to 1.00pm at the Green Room of the Phoenicia Hotel, Floriana. I

Mr Joe F X Zahra, economist, Director, MISCO chaired the Round-Table. Hon Dr Jean Pierre Farrugia, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on the Family opened the Round-Table. Onor Dr. Chris Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue made the concluding speech. The Swedish Ambassador for Malta, H.E Ulla Gudmundson offered her support and identified a distinguished scholar from Sweden, Prof Lars Jalmert, Professor of Paedagogy at the University of Stockholm, who delivered one of the two key-note speeches. H.E. also invited a Swedish parent who related his experiences on the same theme. A Maltese parent, Dr Marthese Portelli, Strategy and Business Development Manager at Alert Communications Ltd, related her experiences on the same theme.

Dr. Rita Borg Xuereb, Head of the Midwifery Dept of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Malta delivered a key-note speech, 'Caring for the Unborn Child'. NCW President Grace Attard made a presentation on 'Alcohol Consumption during Pregnancy'. Onor. Carmelo Abela, Shadow Minister for Social Policy, Mr Joe Farrugia, Director General, MEA and Mr Cory Greenland, GWU addressed the Round-Table.

Tony Mifsud, Coordinator, Malta Unborn Child Movement and Grace Attard, President, National Council of Women, addressed the Round-Table. Local politicians, business people, managers, professionals and union representatives contributed to the discussion sharing thoughts and experiences.

We would like to thank H.E. Ulla Gudmundson, Swedish Ambassador for Malta for her valuable support to the MUCM initiatives.

**Grace Attard,  
President NCW**

## AMIE Project Exposure during Girl Guides Annual National Conference 2011

Nadya Anne Mangion was invited by Ms Marjoe Abela Chief Commissioner of The Malta Girl Guides Council Malta to promote AMIE Project during the Girl Guides Annual National Conference held at the Fortress Suite Corinthia San Ġorġ Hotel St Julian's on the 19th November 2011.

AMIE being the acronym for Ambassadors in Malta for Increasing Women Entrepreneurs as well as the French word for female friend. National Council of Women Malta together with Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs (FWE), Reach Beyond Foundation, Malta Business Bureau (MBB) and Malta Association of Women in Business (MAWB) 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 project

has been in action since its launch in November 2010.

Much interest was shown during an interactive cafe' activity held during the conference. Girl Guide unit leaders asked for information about the project. Ms Abela had requested that unit leaders include talks by AMIE ambassadors in their three-month programme of activities to take place from January to March 2012. These ambassadors will be role models to inspire young girls to become entrepreneurs by 'telling their story'.

The AMIE team is preparing a number of interactive sessions to be able to convey the message of the project – girls and women can be entrepreneurs. The ambassador team will be targeting the Girl Guides sections made up of 10 - 13 year olds as well as the Rangers sections comprising 14 – 18 year olds.

Girl Guides are usually faced with the requirements of fund-raising;



**Nadya Mangion with Unit Leaders**

being voluntary organisations with the need for funds. Entrepreneurship skills are definitely an asset in such environments. The skills earned at an early age will undoubtedly bear fruits in the future.

The AMIE Project team wish the Malta Girl Guides the best of luck for future entrepreneurial activities.

**Nadya Anne Mangion, AMIE  
Project Coordinator  
/ VP NCW Malta**

## NCW targets Youth in Campaign on Domestic Violence

The National Council of Women (NCW) regards families as the backbone of a strong and healthy community and the establishment of loving supportive relationships from a young tender age as being the heart of happy, well functioning families. Contrastingly, relationships founded on fear and violence cannot sustain or nurture either partner or the family they might hope to raise. Parents too need to become more aware of the importance of a family environment that is conducive to the emotional development of children and youth.

For this reason, NCW believes that there is a growing need to create more awareness of this problem of domestic violence amongst adolescents and youths, identifying early signs of domestic violence, placing particular emphasis on common patterns of controlling behaviour and abuse, such as signs of possessiveness, jealousy, put downs and humiliation, menace and threats.

These types of behaviour are all damaging to the youth's emotional development and are the cause of a lot of suffering both

on the victim and the perpetrator. Some youths come to accept violence as the norm, thinking they deserve no better. Violence can become a learnt behaviour, destroying the youths' capacity to form healthy relationships.

The Council stresses the importance of educating youths by addressing these initial signs of domestic violence and offering opportunities to develop skills through preventive measures which are crucial for young people to take control of themselves and their situation and also to stimulate them to seek help from competent professionals as early as possible.

The Council also stresses the need to provide more adequate and effective education on the early signs of domestic violence in relationships of teenagers and young couples, in schools at primary, secondary and tertiary level. In this way, more emphasis would be placed on prevention and early intervention of the early signs of domestic violence, both if these predispose the youth to become a victim or an abuser.

For this reason, the National Council of Women is presently embarking on a prevention

campaign aimed at generating more awareness on the early signs of Domestic Violence amongst youths and possible measures which can be taken to address these problems. One aspect of the campaign will be to introduce youths to key professionals who can help them become be self-confident. In this way youths are not only being educated on the matter, but are also being empowered to take action against Domestic Violence.

We believe that the local media has an important part to play in eliminating domestic violence and we rely on them to support this campaign.

The project will be coordinated with Agenzija Zghazagh and will be running towards the beginning of the upcoming year. More information on this project will be published in the upcoming weeks. This project will reach out to adolescents and youths from secondary schools to tertiary level through a series of activities held throughout the year which will target youths as the main protagonists against domestic violence towards a better future.

**Priscilla Muscat,**  
**NCW Social Issues Co-ordinator**

## NCW Consumers Association

### **Dear Members,**

As you may recall, at the NCW AGM 2011, we embarked on the setting up of a Consumers Association with the aim of empowering women, not only to be informed but also to be active participants of consumer matters through their everyday life experience.

We are grateful for your response to membership of the NCW Consumers Association. The number of members is close to 100 already. For 2011 membership and registration fees of the Association were incorporated in the NCW membership fee.

To facilitate matters, payment of annual membership fee -2 Euro - for 2012 can be made during registration at the AGM 2012 that is on the 21 January 2012, which as you have been informed will be held at the Palace Hotel, Sliema (High Street).

The next steps in the near future will be information sessions by expert consultants on different consumer matters; the first session will in fact be a dialogue and sharing of concerns by members, followed by the first General Meeting (AGM) to elect officers.

I wish to thank the *ad hoc* Committee who has worked very

hard on the process including the drafting of the organisation's statute, a copy of which will be available at the NCW AGM.

We look forward to meeting you for these sessions and urge you to encourage friends to become members to ensure that our society is actually participating in the major decisions of our country, in this case on consumer affairs. As you may be aware, membership of the NCW Consumers Association is open to men as well as women.

**Grace Attard,**  
**President**

## NCW Malta holds 3<sup>rd</sup> EU flagship conference Paving the way for the EU

On Saturday 12th November, the National Council of Women in Malta held its third EU Flagship Volunteering Conference at Dar L-Ewropa in Valletta. The theme for this conference was *Intergenerational Volunteering: Paving the way for the EU Year of Active ageing 2012*, bringing together youth, adults and the elderly. The purpose of the event was to promote the concept of voluntary work between different generations and to highlight the importance of coming together for a common cause, regardless of age.



The meeting opened with an introduction from NCW President Grace Attard who spoke about the active participation of the council in the European Year of Volunteering 2011, which is purposed towards encouraging and supporting the efforts of volunteers, whilst creating conditions conducive to volunteering and to increase the visibility of voluntary activities in the EU. She explained that the council work hours on end to create awareness through their organised events, in order to promote citizens' participation, breaking down barriers and reduce stigma.



Ultimately, she said that the broader scope of the EU Year for Volunteering 2011 is to promote a participative democracy and as such, assured participants that the data collected will be put forth to the Maltese Government and the European Commission.

Ms Attard also introduced the flagship project for next year, the EU Year for Active Ageing 2012, which is dedicated towards promoting an active lifestyle amongst the older generation, living with purpose beyond age limit and the importance of the contribution of all participants within society.

Following a short video clip which highlighted the theme of the meeting, that is the importance of dialogue between generations, Hon Dr Jason Azzopardi, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Finance, gave a very warm presentation of his personal experience in volunteering. Dr Azzopardi highlighted the fact that we can all be volunteers, simply by being aware of the needs of others and taking action up it.

He also spoke about the importance of bridging the gap between generation, mixing social groups, sharing the wealth of knowledge of experiences

and practises. Dr Azzopardi emphasised that we should not quantify the value of volunteering but rather appreciate the fulfilment it provides, and thus added that many people are not aware of the personal benefits that are attained by doing voluntary work. We should take a leap into the dark and just go for it, he added enthusiastically.

On a broader context, Dr Azzopardi said that our society cannot have economic progress without sociological progress and vice versa. Everyone is important; we are all chained together and are all equally weak and equally strong. It is therefore our responsibility to strengthen this chain. He ended his speak with a sincere quote, "It is irrelevant whether I am running a country or a family, we must all work together towards progress".

The Meeting progressed with a presentation from Mr Moses Azzopardi, President of the National Association of Pensioners, who spoke about his initiatives at EU level and his influence on the EU Commission's communication on active ageing. Mr Azzopardi explained the scientific advantages to living a better lifestyle. Interestingly, he also said cross-bridged social factors such as the elderly having an adequate income would result



## rence - Intergenerational Volunteering: Year of Active ageing 2012

in better mental and physical health, and an overall good quality lifestyle.

One of the most important social factors included friendly measures at work for the elderly, which Mr Azzopardi believes could bring experience transmission between the age groups and thus, a stronger national workforce.

Ms Miriam Teuma, Agenzija Zghazagh Chief Executive gave an interesting presentation on youth and their needs and dreams, and how adults can help them 'connect'. Ms Theuma enthusiastically stated that when generations bridge together it is like fireworks.

Unfortunately, however, we have been brought up in a culture where, through segregation in our social system, we feel the generation gap more than ever. She highlighted how consequently, youth development is affected because they lack integral dialogue. More than ever, our society needs to develop horizontal bonds through intergenerational solidarity in order to sustain the strength of our communities.

We also need to breakdown stereotypes and re-establish our ancestors as our role models, rather than media icons; in order

to pass down values, traditions and social messages.

Ms Vivien Cassar, family therapist, gave a very lively presentation on relationships, particularly within the family and how the way we bring up our children can serve to develop a caring society of young people.

How can I prepare the values for the next generation? She asked. Preparing strong values to pass on to the next generation, rather than prevent negative ones, is key.

Intergenerational relationships also serve to the development of emotional intelligence; 'mattressing' society towards emotional disappointments and ultimately bring social strength.

It is therefore down to us to change and be disciplined; get youths involved as we adapt to activities that they enjoy; to work with elderly rather than for the elderly; breakdown perceptions by taking the time to explain. After the presentations, NCW President Grace Attard challenged the attendees to think outside their margins and created a dynamic discussion that addressed the challenges, as well as the benefits of intergenerational dialogue. All the attendees were involved in 6 live role plays and the following

points were raised:

- Empathising with youths
- Importance of dialogue
- Listen to youths rather than preach
- Alleviate pressure on youths by not expecting them to be the extension of our success
- Elderly sometimes perceived as a burden to family and society
- Do we reciprocate the care we received from the elderly when they were our guardians?
- Elderly may be comfortable in homes, they simply miss social interaction.
- Modernism continues to enlarge the gap between generations
- Technological knowledge can help elderly interact with society (such as Skype)
- Do elderly understand the generation gap? Or do we look down on youths because they live a more comfortable lifestyle?
- Do we focus on the content, or do we try to understand social gaps, by empathising for instance?
- Do we trust the abilities of the elderly?
- The importance of social inclusion
- Adapting social spheres for both young and elderly
- Do we empower our children to help the elderly?
- Need for quality time between generations.

The conference was indeed an experience of interaction and togetherness. It came to an end on a simple note: Let's reflect on our own behaviour and start from there.



## European Initiatives

### Consumer Protection Laws

**Rapporteur:**  
**Mr Hernández Bataller**

The Council and the European Parliament decided, on 19 and 18 January 2011 respectively, to consult the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) under Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws COM(2010) 791 final - 2011/0001 (COD).

#### Main recommendations

At its 471st plenary session, held on 4 and 5 May 2011 (meeting of 5 May), the European Economic and Social Committee adopted the following opinion by 104 votes to 13 with 4 abstentions. While supporting the Commission's proposals to introduce greater legal security, certainty and clarity into EU legislation, the EESC makes a number of recommendations aimed at improving the workings of the current cooperation between authorities responsible for consumer affairs. The EESC considers the proposal to be too narrow and believes that it does not deal with many of the current issues affecting cooperation between consumer authorities. The following is a summary of these recommendations

#### Systematic market surveillance

The monitoring and inspection of goods and services regulated by EU legislation requires maximum joint planning in the programming of actions to be taken in each case by Member States' consumer authorities, both in terms of time and in terms of content.

#### Penalty procedure

In order to prevent a border

effect in the application of corrective measures resulting from infringements of the EU legislation in force, there should be minimum harmonisation of the common criteria for the penalty procedure. These penalties would include:

- Appropriate types of administrative penalties for the breach of key provisions;
- Publication of serious penalties;
- High level of administrative fines, in accordance with the infringement committed;
- Criteria to be taken into account when applying penalties;
- Penalties for natural and legal persons;
- Possible introduction of criminal penalties for the most serious breaches;
- Appropriate mechanisms supporting effective enforcement of penalties.

#### Quality monitoring of goods and services

A common procedure must be established for monitoring with a view to harmonising its methodology. There must also be cross-border planning in order to extend the spectrum of monitoring, using the resources made available in each participating administration as efficiently as possible.

#### Product safety

The rapid alert system, could be improved as a complement to the implementation of tools and instruments for the identification, management and communication of risks, as happens in the case of food safety risks.

#### Consideration of ethical and environmental factors in the marketing authorisation of goods and services.

It is essential that the procedures relating to the aforementioned alerts be extended to products which must be withdrawn from the market for ecological, ethical

or other reasons relating to business practices that violate people's dignity or their environment.

#### Promoting good business practices in relation to responsible consumption

In view of the increasing importance and spread of Corporate Social Responsibility programmes, consumer policies must play a key role and consumers must be consulted for the purposes of the corresponding responsibility reports.

#### Collective actions

Collective actions for injunctions are regulated at Community level, although this does not currently include collective actions for compensation. In the event of serious infringements, the confiscation of unlawful profits resulting from infringements and punitive damages should be provided for as measures to accompany the penalty handed down by authorities and the resulting amounts should be paid into a "support fund for collective action", which would help consumers' associations to launch this kind of collective action for compensation.

#### Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

The Commission has published a consultation document on "The use of Alternative Dispute Resolution as a means to resolve disputes related to commercial transactions and practices in the EU". In order to increase consumer confidence, consideration should be given to the possibility of establishing a "European label" for establishments and companies signing up to these systems.

#### Resource networks and hubs

There is the need to further promote European hubs through measures to develop the current cooperation networks to promote

the information, training and education of consumers (e.g. European Consumer Centres, publications, programmes and projects).

### Price traceability.

In a European single market in

which consumers have common concerns and difficulties, and whose global nature can hinder access to reliable information and obscure the setting of product prices, a method for tracing prices of similar basic products should be established.

**A hard copy of the full document will be available at the NCW AGM on Saturday 21 January 2012 or on EESC website: [www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu)**

**Grace Attard,  
EESC**

## Addressing Alcohol Consumption during Pregnancy

Held at the European Parliament in Brussels, the theme of the conference was *Protecting the unborn baby from alcohol*, under the patronage of the President of the European Parliament Prof Jerzy Buzek. The conference was hosted by MEP Elzbeita Lukacijewska (EPP Poland).

The Conference addressed a number of issues:

- Risks associated with prenatal exposure to alcohol
- FASD children and their families: therapeutic dilemmas
- Measuring the problem in Europe
- Recommendations for effective health warning messages - labelling
- What could be done at European level

### Alcohol and pregnancy – what everyone should know

No amount of alcohol is safe during pregnancy

- Reduces fertility
- Increases risk of miscarriage
- Causes brain damage and birth defects
- Can cause cognitive damage, learning disorders and mental retardation
- Can cause behavioural disorders such as ADHD and autism

### FASD and FAS

FASD - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum disorder - is an umbrella organisation term covering a range of birth defects and brain damage resulting from prenatal exposure to alcohol

FAS - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and related disorders is diagnosed when a child shows retarded growth, a specific pattern of minor facial anomalies and neurological damage.

Even moderate drinking or a single binge can cause permanent damage. The prevalence in Europe is not known. The usual estimates of prevalence in the

western world run from 1 to 3 per thousand for full FAS and 9.1 per thousand for all.

### Prevention

- Labelling and health warnings on alcoholic drinks have been one of the most effective preventive measures
- Campaigns of prevention of FASD
- Messages financed by producers
- Information of the health professionals
- Information in schools

Mr John Dalli, EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection gave the keynote speech: 'Reaching consensus between producers and consumers'.

NCW will be submitting a resolution on this theme in the AGM 2012

**Grace Attard, President NCW  
EESC member participated  
in the debate**

## Autumn General Assembly ECICW

Doris Bingley, General Secretary of NCW Malta & President of the European Centre of the International Council of Women presided over ECICW autumn general assembly which took place between the 24th and 26th November in Zurich. ECICW celebrated its 50th anniversary as it was founded in 1961 in Axenstein, Switzerland. Doreen Micallef, Vice President NCW Malta, attended as the Maltese delegate.

The General Assembly was attended by delegates from France, Germany, Greece, Israel,

Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Spain, UK, Ukraine, Slovenia and Switzerland. Lebanon has been accepted as member of ECICW and will attend future general assemblies. Cosima Schenk, president of ICW was also present.

In her president's speech, Doris Bingley outlined the work that has been achieved so far. She introduced ECICW to the European Institute of Gender Equality in Vilnius and to the Small States of Europe at their Congress in Liechtenstein. In Perth, Australia

she raised ECICW's visibility at the Commonwealth People's Forum during CHOGM where she made contact with ICW Council members from Africa, Asia and Australia. She presented ECICW at a meeting on volunteering in the province of Messina.

ECICW representatives presented reports on the meetings with EWL, the Council of Europe, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the RECON project. Cosima Schenk, ICW President reported on ICW Executive Meeting in Barcelona and the preparation of ICW for



the United Nations Commission of the Status of Women March 2012. The National Councils reported on their projects and programmes they have been working on in the last six months.

During the meeting, Rosa Artigas of Spain was elected ECICW representative for EWL and Doris Bingley was elected as alternate.

At the end of the first working day a plan of action for 2012 was agreed. This was based on Europe 2020. Doris Bingley urged all National Councils to engage with stakeholders to build partnerships and promote quality assured education and training to empower women. Councils were advised to develop life-long learning programmes to enhance skills which include computer literacy and encourage entrepreneurship. By assisting women to achieve economic independence we help eliminate violence and poverty.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November being International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, ECICW issued a statement calling on European Institutions and Governments to take action by supporting National programmes and initiatives to eliminate gender-

based violence, by focusing on prevention, protection and services, improve advocacy for women's empowerment and promote women's decision-making roles at all levels, especially in political and economic positions.

On the second day, the Swiss Council organized a seminar entitled 'Swiss Women in Society and Politics and the role of Women's Organisations'. The keynote speaker was Etienne J. Verry, president of the Federal Commission for Women's Issues and past vice-president of Alliance F. Ms Verry spoke of the history of women's rights in Switzerland, gave an overview of the actual situation of Swiss women in society and politics regarding equal opportunities and highlighted the role of women's organisations in society and politics. Switzerland was one of the last countries in Europe to allow women to vote and this was in 1972 although it was in 1971 that women were allowed to run for politics. Inequalities still exist between men and women in salaries, choice of profession, balance of power, balance of work and family, domestic violence and human trafficking. Women in top

management positions still make up less than 10%. Although quotas have proved to help boost these numbers in other countries, it is still difficult to even to talk about them in Switzerland.

A discussion and workshop followed about the situation of women in society and in politics in the participants' countries and how these countries are trying to motivate women to actively participate in politics.

The seminar ended with the presentation by Valentyna Semeniuk-Samsonenko, head of the Ukrainian NGO 'Ukrainian Women for Children's Future' and president of the Ukrainian National Council of Women. The National Council of Ukraine consists of 36 organisations which in total represents 5 million women. She spoke of the role of social organisations in the explanatory work on a healthy way of living and how her organisation actively educates men, women and children about such themes as drug abuse, the dangers of abortion, food and water safety to avoid radiation contamination, etc.

**Doreen Micallef**  
**NCW Vice President**

## **ENVOY- European Network for Volunteers and Youth**

### **4-8 November 2011**



The first of six international conferences being held to commemorate the Year of the Volunteer and the organisations involved in volunteering was held

in Sicily from the 4th to the 8th November 2011.

This was organised by the Unione Dei Comuni Delle Valli Ioniche Dei Peloritani, an organisation that embodies Local councils along Sicily's Costa Ionica in the province of Messina. Thanks to the twinning agreement which Pembroke Local Council has with Roccalumera in Sicily, Malta is a main participant in this project. This project invites six participants to represent various voluntary organisations in their country and this to promote the importance of voluntary work in different sectors of society.

To represent the various organisations which are actively involved in the voluntary sector in Malta were Ms Doris Bingley, representing NCW, Ms Judith Debono

representing the Lions Mdina, Ms Connie Tonna and Mr Pierre Galea representing The Association for Abandoned Animals, and Mr Arthur Borg representing Pembroke Athleta Football Club. Also accompanying me in my capacity as Head of delegation, Project Leader Malta and Pembroke Local Councillor Representative, were Mr Kevin Borg, Pembroke Local Council's Executive Secretary, and Joe Vella Brincat as the delegation's Italian speaker and interpreter, who is also actively involved in voluntary work in the Education Sector.

As the first event was held in Sicily, with Italy being the organising country, our group was picked up from Catania airport and we began the adventure which was to provide all the participants with five full

days of indulgence in information. The groups participating in this ENVOY project were from the Unione Dei Comuni, Octerville-France, Fuveau-France, Crnomelj-Slovenia, Antonovo-Bulgaria and Pembroke-Malta. Each participant gave information about their particular voluntary sector. Presentations delivered by members of our delegation were of very high quality and highlighted the importance of voluntary work. Ms Doris Bingley for NCW delivered an excellent presentation, which was highly acclaimed by all present and was met with a loud round of applause,

and her contribution certainly made us proud to have her as part of our delegation.

Our Sicilian hosts gave us a excellent show of hospitality. The magic of sharing information and knowledge, together with the sightseeing events that were organised for us and indulgence in the wonderful Sicilian traditional food, spread over five days in the various visits to Mandanici, Valle D'Agro, Forza d'Agro, Roccalumera and of course Furci where we were based, turned this conference into an event one cannot easily forget. The last visit was to the Parco Letterario

"La Terra Impareggiabile" which is dedicated to the life and literary works of the Nobel Prize winner Salvatore Quasimodo.

The next conference will be held in Malta from the 24th to the 28th February 2012. We hope that this will generate more interest and at the same time we are convinced it will provide each participant and each delegation with a lot of information which I believe will help increase the interest in voluntary work as well as generate more appreciation of this work.

**Evelyn Vella Brincat,  
NCW**

## Commonwealth People's Forum provides crucial interface between governments and civil society

Perth, Western Australia hosted the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) from 25th to 27th October 2011 in the run up of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from 28 to 30th October 2011. These meetings are held every two years.

Civil society representatives gathered in Perth to discuss and debate key issues facing Commonwealth People. The theme of this year's Forum was "Driving Change for a Dynamic Commonwealth"

The Forum was officially opened by the Hon. Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister of Australia in a ceremony also addressed by Premier of Western Australia, The Hon. Colin Barnett MLA, Commonwealth Secretary-General H.E. Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Foundation Chair, Madam Simone de Comarmond and Commonwealth People's Forum Chair, Ms Sue Ash.

Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett said the mark of any civil society was how it treats its most vulnerable in society. Forums like this are important because they provoke debate and remind governments that they can always do better.

Commonwealth Secretary-General H.E. Kamallesh Sharma described the Forum as a "vibrant expression of the Commonwealth family in action."

The Forum continues to be a crucial part of the interface between governments and civil society. Central to these discussions is a powerful statement from civil society

representatives of the 54 member association calling on Heads of Government to act urgently to strengthen the role of civil society so that the Commonwealth can become a "meaningful vehicle for change."

300 accredited delegates from Australia and the wider Commonwealth debated the issues raised in the statement which they presented during the round table dialogue between civil society representatives and Commonwealth Foreign Ministers on Thursday 27 October in Perth. The theme for CHOGM 2011 was "Building National Resilience, Building Global Resilience", which reflected the importance of addressing pressing challenges at multiple levels: as individual states, as members of the Commonwealth, and as part of the global community.

During their retreat the Heads of Government discussed sustainable development, the threat of climate change for large and small states, developed and developing, also recognised that food security is one of the most difficult and pressing challenges facing the world and issues facing small states. The leaders agreed that there should be a charter of the Commonwealth by 2012. This was a central recommendation of the Eminent Persons Group's (EPG) report. There will be a process of consultation on the content of the charter as was recommended by the EPG. The charter will bring together the Commonwealth's values, principles

and aspirations in one clear and powerful statement.

There are 104 recommendations in all. The leaders have asked foreign ministers to do some further work on the other 102 recommendations

The Commonwealth People's Forum had space for eight one day workshops and fifteen learning journeys.

Doris Bingley participated in the Gender & Women's Rights Assembly. She made a presentation at the Gender meeting on our role in Europe. Gender equality is one of the fundamental principles of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality (PoA) 2005-2015 provides the framework within which organisations can contribute to advancing gender equality in Commonwealth countries. This workshop explored mechanisms for taking forward the recommendations of the PoA Review and how these can be supported.

Doris Bingley also contributed to the Education, Technology & Innovation Assembly. She distributed papers from Malta's Ministry of Education on e-learning initiatives that the Maltese Government has in place to make technology accessible and user friendly for teachers and students as this government wants to ensure that students are ready for the knowledge based economy that awaits them.

**Doris Bingley,  
NCW Hon General Secretary,  
President ECICW**

## News from the Council

### NCW President Grace Attard awarded Republic Day Honour

The National Council for Women is proud to announce that on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2011, Grace Attard was awarded the Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika (service to the Republic).

Grace Attard was for many years a teacher of various subjects. She furthered her studies and taught in Prevention Services in the Community, Parenting Skills, Personal and Social Development (PSD), Media Education and Career Guidance.

She has served as President of the National Council of Women (NCW) for two terms. She is a regular contributor to local media on social policy and gender Issues, particularly on the early detection of domestic violence and the promotion of gender equality in political and economic decision making. Through research and dialogue with social partners, she has submitted proposals for family-friendly and social security measures.

She chaired the Working Group on Gender Equality Legislation (2004), and Domestic Violence Legislation (2006), and was a member of the Working Group on

Early Childhood Education and on Legislation on the Voluntary sector.

During her Presidency, the NCW was established as a Centre of Learning in ICT, Empowerment of Women, and Lifelong Learning Programmes. The Centre is very active in disseminating information and educating women, especially grassroots on various gender equality issues.

Grace Attard has been a member of the EU Commission Advisory Committee on Gender Equality, working on women in the media, the role of men in gender equality, and women in research and science.

She has been very active in raising awareness of participative democracy of civil society during Malta's pre-accession period to the European Union.

For the past six years she has represented Civil Society on the European Economic and Social Committee. Grace Attard is an expert in the European Gender Institute, member of the MCESD Civil Society and the National Consultative Council for Enterprise, and is the co-chair of the Committee on Women in Research and Science within the Malta Council for Science and Technology.

### 2011 Christmas Party



*We would like to Thank all who attended this year's Christmas Get Together on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. It was yet another enjoyable evening with our members.*

### New Members

The National Council of Women would like to Welcome

**Shirley Cauchi from Mqabba**  
**Anouk Myers Carbone from Gzira**  
**Mariella Agius from Attard**  
**Doris Aquilina from Birkirkara**

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](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.nt)

### Forthcoming Events - March 2012

- **Foundation Day Dinner** - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012  
Venue to be announced
- **Celebrating International Women's Day**  
Thanksgiving Mass, Visit to the elderly at St. Vincent de Paule, Residential Home for the Elderly, Visit to the inmates of the Female Section at Corradino Prison.
- **Final Conference of the EU Flagship Project**, European Year for Volunteering 2011. Together for Change: Towards an Action against Domestic Violence.
- **Launch of a National Campaign** Engaging Youth in the elimination of Domestic Violence

We urge all our members to support these very important activities. **Details will be announced on our website and through our mailing list.**

#### Courses at NCW

The National Council of Women, in collaboration with the Directorate for Lifelong Learning, is offering courses at MQF Level 3 in ECDL covering the 7 modules and Advanced ECDL. Early booking is advisable. Please contact NCW on the contact information listed in the box above.



## Diary of Events - October to December 2011

### October

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kun int id – Differenza Discussion in preparation for The Year of Active Aging and intergenerational Solidarity organized by Agenzija Zghazagh and the Council for the Elderly. Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Richmond Foundation Conference; Trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Dolmen Hotel  
EESC INT Section Meeting – Grace Attard attended
- 4<sup>th</sup> NCPE SEN National Workshop 3 at the Weston Dragonara  
Doris Bingley attended  
CCMI preparatory meeting Publishing on the move – Grace Attard participated
- 6<sup>th</sup> NCW Central and Executive Committee Meeting  
Working Breakfast Bagit 2012: Process ta' Konsultazzjoni. Grace Attard and Doris Bingley attended
- 8<sup>th</sup> Progress 2007-2013 Think Equal Seminar for Youths  
Diane Xuereb attended
- 12<sup>th</sup> Enterprise Consultative Council Meeting Grace Attard attended
- 13<sup>th</sup> Breast Care Support Group The Hilda Schembri Memorial Lecture Grace Attard and Doris Bingley attended
- 14<sup>th</sup> APAN Seminar L-Anzjani f' Socjeta b' Sahhitha  
Intrapriza Malta Reception
- 15<sup>th</sup> BMV Music Competition Final Night at St. James Cavalier
- 17<sup>th</sup> Addressing invisible work organized by FAFCE –Grace Attard participated
- 18<sup>th</sup> EESC Study Group EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child – Grace Attard participated
- 19<sup>th</sup> 'Europe 2020' Strategy. Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth Doris Bingley attended
- 20<sup>th</sup> ICT For All and Microsoft Courses Meeting Marie Demicoli and NCW Tutor Joe Vella Brincat attended
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth People Forum (CPF) and Commonwealth Head of Government meeting (CHOGM) in Perth Western Australia. Doris Bingley participated  
ESF1.31 Wood CPR Final Conference Marie Demicoli attended  
Environment Committee Meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup> Lejla ta' Tifkira Poeta Nazzjonali Dun Karm Il-Parlament  
Marie Demicoli attended  
MEUSAC Informative meeting Marie Demicoli attended.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Austrian National Day  
EESC Plenary – Grace Attard participated
- 27<sup>th</sup> Seminar, "Trafficking in Women" at the US Embassy Doreen Micallef together with other NCW members attended
- 28<sup>th</sup> Malta Council for the Volunteering Sector Conference  
Employee Supported Volunteering at the Hotel Excelsior
- 29<sup>th</sup> Green Job Seminar Mary Gaerty attended

### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium on Multiple Discrimination at The Palace Hotel Sliema
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Malta Association of Psychiatric Nurses CBT – Basics and Beyond Dolmen Hotel Qawra
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference in Roccalumera Sicily on Volunteering  
Doris Bingley represented NCW and made presentation
- 8<sup>th</sup> European Gender Summit – Grace Attard participated  
Universal Peace Federation Conference Grace Attard attended
- 10<sup>th</sup> European Study on the Role of Men in Gender Equality

- 11<sup>th</sup> Round Table Conference, "Family- Work Balance and Parenting" organised by Malta Unborn Child Movement –MUCM, The National Council of Women and the Swedish Ambassador. NCW President was one of the speakers, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended.
- 12<sup>th</sup> NCW third meeting of the EU Flagship Project Intergenerational Volunteering –Paving the Way for the EU year of Active Ageing 2012 at Dar l-Ewropa  
Gift of Life Foundation – Annual pro-Life award Ceremony
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jum it-Fifkira Quddiesa Koncelebrata San Gwann
- 16<sup>th</sup> EESC Euromed Summit - Istanbul - Grace Attard presented a country analysis on Women in Society
- 17<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Committee Meeting Doris Bingley attended
- 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> MCESD Models of Social and Civil Dialogue in Europe Seminar at the Palace Hotel Sliema  
Occupational health and Safety Authority Seminar Specialised Research on OHS Josephine Sammut attended
- 20<sup>th</sup> PN Kunsill Generali fl-Eden Area San Giljan Grace Attard and Doris Bingley attended
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Non Discrimination and Equality Awareness raising Seminar for Civil Society Organisations Therese Cassola attended  
Ambassador for the Republic of Poland Reception Grace Attard attended
- 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> ECICW Autumn assembly in Zurich Doris Bingley presided and Doreen Micallef attended.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Seminar, "The Price of Motherhood" organized by the Centre for Labour Studies. Grace Attard participated
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Malta Council of the Voluntary sector. Launch of the Voluntary Organisation Directory; The European Bus Tour
- 28<sup>th</sup> The Role of the Media in promoting Intercultural dialogue conference in Luxemburg Grace Attard attended
- 29<sup>th</sup> Laqgħa ta' Preparazzjoni – Sena Ewropeja at Dar l-Ewropa  
Doris Bingley attended
- 30<sup>th</sup> Europa 2020 Goals and Challenges for a better Europe  
National Conference organized by MEUSAC Doris Bingley attended  
CCMI/092 - Hearing + 1st SG: Publishing 'on the move' Grace Attard rapporteur

### December

- 1<sup>st</sup> INT/593 - "Advertising/young people and children" Hearing and 1st SG – Grace Attard chaired
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministry of Education Employment and the Family Conference NCF Lejn Edukazzjoni ta' Kwalita għal-Kulhadd at MCC. NCW President Grace Attard was one of the speakers.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Europe: Where are we heading? – A European Parliament Citizens' Forum at the Phoenicia Hotel  
Get your Business Moving with Women Technology Entrepreneurs Final Conference Marie Demicoli and MaryRose Zahra attended.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Gimgha tal-Persuni B'Dizabilita'
- 5<sup>th</sup> Closing of EYVO tour and VO Award Ceremony. Doris Bingley and Nadyanne Mangion attended  
MCST Women in Research Committee Meeting. Grace Attard participated as co-chair
- 7<sup>th</sup> EESC December Plenary - Grace Attard participated
- 9<sup>th</sup> Executive and Central Committee Meetings
- 13<sup>th</sup> Grace Attard received Medal Għal Qagħdi tar-Republika MQR
- 14<sup>th</sup> Grace Attard participated in EESC Extraordinary Group III Bureau Meeting on the future of EESC members
- 15<sup>th</sup> EESC REX Section meeting – Grace Attard participated
- 16<sup>th</sup> EES SOC Section meeting – Grace Attard participated

## Annual General Meeting 21 January 2012 - AGENDA

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 21 January 2012** at The Palace Hotel, High Street Sliema, (complimentary parking at the Victoria Hotel car park) with the following agenda:

8.30 Registration & Coffee  
9.00 Opening prayers, Welcome and Notices.

Nomination of Tellers

9.15 Minutes of the last NCW Annual General Meeting.

9.25 President's Address.

9.35 Annual NCW Report by General Secretary

9.50 NCW Financial Report by Treasurer.

10.00 Election of President, Vice-President, Officers and Members of the Executive

10.15 Reports of Standing and Sectional Committees.

11.15 Results of Elections

11.20 NCW Consumer Affairs Association

11.40 **Reaffirmation of Policy**

1) Addressing undeclared domestic work - NCW

2) Extension of Maternity Leave - NCW

3) Engaging men and boys in the elimination of violence against women - NCW

4) Breast Care Awareness - BCSG Europa Donna

5) L-Addozzjoni - Catholic Enquiry Centre, Emigrants Commission

6) Thejjija ghaz-zwieg - zwieg

- Catholic Enquiry Centre, Emigrants Commission

7) Women and Mental Health - NCW

8) Health Promotion and Prevention by Family Health Nurse/Midwife in the Community - MUMN

11.55 – 13.10 **Adoption of Resolutions.**

- Engaging Youths in the Elimination of Domestic Violence – Priscilla Muscat, NCW

- Women's Representation in Local Councils and Parliament – Doris Bingley, NCW

- Oocyte Vitriification as an Alternative to Embryo Freezing during IVF Treatment – Nadyanne Mangion

- A Designated Space for a Breast Clinic at Mater Dei Hospital - Gertrude Abela, BCSG Europa Donna Malta

- An Adequate Prosthesis Fitting Room – Gertrude Abela, BCSG Europa Donna Malta

- Follow-up to the Extension of Maternity Leave - Grace Attard, NCW

- The EU Year for Active Ageing 2012 and Intergenerational Solidarity – Grace Attard, NCW

- Addressing Alcohol Consumption during Pregnancy – Grace Attard, NCW

- NCF - Lejn Edukazzjoni ta'

Kwalita' ghal Kulhadd – Grace Attard, NCW

- Improving Measures regarding Refugee Status to Asylum Seekers – Antoinette Giglio & Helen Borg Bonnici – Emigrants' Commission

13.10 - Correspondence. ICW, ECICW

- Other Matters

13.20 - Concluding Address by President

**End of AGM - LUNCH**

### Notes:

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

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

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

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

**Doris Bingley**

**Hon. General Secretary**

**National Council of Women**

**12 December 2012**



The world's local bank