



Approved Resolutions

NCW Annual General Meeting

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1 Addressing the EU Directive on 40% representation of Women in Non-Executive positions

- a. On the 20 November 2013 The European Parliament voted with an overwhelming majority (459 for, 148 against and 81 abstentions) to back the European Commission's proposed law to improve the gender balance in Europe's company boardroom. Commissioner Vivienne Reding has been the instigator of this law so that women will be given a better chance who have long faced a glass ceiling, which hinders them from reaching top jobs. Boards are dominated by one gender alone. 83.4% of board members and 97% of the boardroom chairs are men, while women only make up 16.6% and 3% respectively. The law will stipulate a 40% female representation of non-executive members on boards
- b. Although a decade has passed since the initial steps were taken and, despite an intense public debate and some voluntary initiatives, little has changed to improve the gender balance in boardrooms. This discrepancy is felt all over Europe, and Malta is not alien to this situation. The number of women in decision making positions continue to remain low and little has been achieved although there has been talk on promoting women to boards.
- c. The present situation in Malta remains with a low female participation as compared to other European States, since these have taken voluntary initiatives in order to step up the number of women in decision-making positions. So far an increase has been registered in the members of parliament, now up to 15% and the 50% percent of women MEPs. The take up rate has been too slow and it would take at least another 20 years to reach the target of 40% participation.

In view of this NCW recommends that:

- a. The government starts leading by example, by placing more women in decision making positions
- b. Enters into a voluntary agreement with the publicly listed companies to reach the 40% target by 2015
- c. Create a directory of Board Ready Women, which will also include their field of expertise
- d. With the participation of the University of Malta create a separate short course on board participation as well as the integration of this module in the final year of all university courses
- e. Government to financially assist Women's Organisations to promote more female participation in entrepreneurship and in reaching decision-making positions.
- f. The political parties to nurture more females in political participation, in order to have more women contesting both local council elections as well as general elections
- g. Establish times that are more family-friendly for sittings in parliament, board meetings and director's meetings. Better timings are beneficial to both men and women, since this issue is considered a handicap to many women who wish to enter the political scene but also wish to raise a family.

2. Addressing the Rights of Undocumented Migrant Children

Justifications:

- a. "All children who migrate from their country of origin to and within the territory of a European country in search of survival, security, improved standards of living, education, economic opportunities, protection from exploitation and abuse, family reunification, or a combination of these factors.
- b. They may travel with their family, or independently, or with non-family members. They may be seeking asylum, victims of trafficking, or undocumented migrants. The status of children on the move may differ at various stages on their journey and they may encounter many differing situations of vulnerability
- c. The key principles in this regard as set out in the UNCRC are: children's right to nondiscrimination; children's right to have their best interests treated as a primary consideration in all actions and decisions affecting them; children's right to life, survival and development; and children's right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken into account in accordance with their age and maturity.

Recommendations:

- a. The need for full compliance of existing laws, policies and practices across Europe with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its optional protocols, as well as with other relevant international instruments and standards, particularly in regard to children who migrate from their country of origin.
- b. Appropriate child-friendly reception conditions should be ensured for all "children on the move", even in the case of intra-European migration. This is a necessary prerequisite for the realization and the protection of all the other rights of these children.
- c. In particular, from their arrival, all children should be provided with specific and comprehensive information on their rights in language they can understand, as provided in international and national legislative provisions. They also should have access to education and health services on an equal basis to other children within the jurisdiction of the receiving State. Giving access to all of these rights is crucial for the integration of children in the receiving society.
- d. Migration policies in relation to "children on the move" require a range of measures that go beyond border controls and action against irregular migration. States should find durable solutions which respect human rights and the rights of children, using holistic, personalised and flexible tools and respecting their best interests as determined through formal processes.
- e. Age assessment should be made in the child's best interest, with the primary aim to ensure that the child is granted the rights and protection he/she is entitled to. Age assessment should primarily take place on the basis of documentary evidence. When documentary evidence is not sufficient, and in cases of serious doubt about the age of the child, further examination may be conducted as a measure of last resort. It should be carried out as quickly as possible, in the presence of a guardian and processed by

independent medical as well as social care experts. Until the age assessment is completed, each person claiming to be a child should be considered and treated as a child.

f. Age assessment should include a combination of physical, social and psychological maturity assessments. The techniques used should respect the child's culture, dignity and physical integrity. The fact that some physical assessments may be particularly stressful, invasive or traumatic for children should be taken into consideration. There is grave concern on the use of X-ray in view of adverse effects on the child's health, negative judgements by medical authorities on appropriateness and effectiveness and questionable reliability and accuracy.

g. The child should be fully informed about the process of age assessment and its consequences. The child's views should be given due weight in accordance with his/her age and maturity and informed consent should be requested and obtained when medical/physical investigations are considered necessary.

h. Immediately after the arrival of any unaccompanied/separated child, a skilled independent guardian should be appointed to support, advise and protect him/her until he/she is reunited with his/her family or receives an appropriate care placement. The guardian, who is appointed to serve the child's best interests, should ensure that responsible agencies safeguard the child's rights and meet the welfare and care needs of the child. The guardian should have the authority to represent the child in all decision-making processes if the child gives his/her consent

i. Child victims of trafficking are a particularly vulnerable group of "children on the move". The response of many States to the issue of child trafficking, however, remains focused on the immigration status of the child and on their asylum application - the need to protect child victims often comes secondary.

j. Unaccompanied and separated children should never be refused entry to a country in accordance with the non-refoulement obligations deriving from international human rights, humanitarian and refugee

k. As a principle, undocumented children should not be subjected to any form of detention, be they accompanied or not, and whatever procedure they are subject to (whether asylum or return to their home country or the first port of entry in Europe).

3. Follow-up of the European Year of Citizens 2013

Justifications:

In view of the negative impact of the financial crisis, over the past years, there is urgent need to restore confidence in the European Project, with stronger policies for economic growth, social inclusion and youth unemployment. Many are sceptically seeing youth as a 'lost generation'

Moreover, during such a critical time when in May 2014 European Parliamentary Elections will be held, all of us need to collectively promote the positive impact of the European Union, the Euro Zone and EU membership in general

The key aspects to be addressed as follow-up of the EUY 2013 are:

- a. An open & inclusive European Democracy
- b. Active European Citizenship
- c. Strong and recognised organised civil society

Recommendations:

- a. NCW strongly urges the EU Institutions and all Member States to put into practice all the recommendations made during 2013 dedicated to European Citizens
- b. NCW urges EU institutions and Member States to provide equal access to economic and social rights as a pre-requisite for active inclusion and participative citizenship; ensuring equality and non-discrimination throughout the whole EU territory; and guaranteeing access to public administration and justice for all
- c. NCW urges the strengthening of solidarity among European Member States, the restoring of citizens' trust in a Union that is willing and has the capacity to meet their needs and ensuring the wellbeing for all by guaranteeing universal access to public and high quality education and healthcare services.
- d. NCW also urges the active involvement of citizens as participants in the life of their communities, society and decision making activities.
- e. NCW recognises the role and contribution of civil society to democracy. The Council urges the involvement of organised civil society in policy-shaping and the preparation of decisions strengthening of the democratic legitimacy of public institutions and of their work and activities.
- f. Also strongly urges that participative democracy meets the present-day needs of European democratic governance across the Union

4. Educating the consumer on Waste Management

Justifications:

- Although a lot has been done towards creating awareness about the importance of recycling of waste in Malta, there is still a great need to continue to take measures to improve the current situation of household waste management.
- Aware of the present situation of the lack of knowledge about separation of waste amongst the Maltese consumers.
- Aware of the need for better environment situation especially the climate change problems.

Recommendations:

- a. Recycling bags in colour coding should be more available to households.
- b. The Ministry has to put up social advertisement about * separation of waste and * the correct method of cleaning recyclable packaging (that it is the “cool” thing to do) in bus stops or another places for advertising.
- c. Energy saving lamps and light bulbs should be collected by the producers/importers as indicated by the WEEE directive similar to the Batterina Campaign
- d. To advice people to separate waste at home into 4 bins (the UK model of waste management). Bins or different colour coded bags:
 - a. Should have a house or flat number (the Belgium experience).
 - b. Should have an indication of what waste should be put in the bag.
 - c. Should be available for free.
 - e. Recycling symbols should be more advertised so that the consumer would know what is recyclable or not
- f. A fine would be imposed if waste was not separated in the necessary way after sending flyers to each household to further education the consumers on waste management.

5. Irregular immigration by Sea in the Euromed Region

Justifications:

Irregular immigration is a subject that raises a lot of concern in Malta and which requires both short-term and long-term measures

NCW wishes to express its sorrow at the death of at least 311, African migrants off the coast of Lampedusa. These tragedies reinforce the absolute need for the EU to deal with irregular immigration and border supervision as a European issue.

Recommendations:

1. NCW stresses that the human rights of irregular immigrants must be upheld at all times, when they are saved or detained, when they are granted the status of protection, are in an irregular situation "undocumented", or are repatriated to their country of origin.
2. That anyone in danger at sea, or at risk, including irregular immigrants, must be rescued.
3. In line with the EESC recommendations, NCW calls on the EU to adopt a disembarkation policy that does not increase the burden on those Member States that are already facing disproportionate influxes. The issue of disembarkation needs to be resolved, on the basis of the principle of disembarkation in the nearest safe place only so long as the country in question fully adheres to all international conventions concerning human rights and is monitored by human rights organisations
4. Stresses that all persons requiring international protection must be able to submit an application in the EU. Such applications must be processed by the competent national authorities. In this context there is a need to create a more efficient system of examination of asylum requests.
5. NCW supports the EESC in its recommendation on cooperation with third countries in order to strengthen their asylum arrangements and increase their compliance with international standards
6. that European return policy should promote a voluntary approach and be based on the greatest possible regard for humanitarian values.
7. **NCW fully supports a comprehensive European policy on irregular immigration based on solidarity:** In order to ensure respect for fundamental rights, EU solidarity with those Member States that, because of their geographical location, have to deal with large numbers of victims of criminal trafficking/smuggling networks who arrive by irregular means, should be enhanced. This is not only about showing solidarity, but also about Member States taking up their responsibilities by means of mechanisms to share burdens brought about by irregular immigration.
8. Frontex should continue to be restructured into a genuine European external borders agency, with a broader coordinating role vis à vis joint EU action on the external borders of its Member States.
9. The recently established European Asylum Support Office (EASO) must be able to clear identify the differences in asylum practices between the Member States, as well as the differences in their legislation, and to propose the necessary changes with adequate funding resources

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10. NCW also stresses that every possible effort must be made to combat organised crime vigorously.

No resources should be spared in tracking down and bringing to justice the "facilitators" of people smuggling.

In this regard it is essential that the assistance of third country governments be sought.

Reference:

(EESC REX 375)

6. On the situation of women in the Euromed region

Justifications:

- a. NCW expresses great concern about the deterioration of women's rights in several countries in the region, including those that up until recently had comparatively high rights standards in the region, and deplore the failure or outright rejection of governments to ratify and implement in full the CEDAW protecting women and children against violence; support the various processes under way at the United Nations with the aim of promoting the status of women, in particular as part of the post-2015 process
- b. The Council draws attention to the fact that, in spite of the increasing violations of women's rights and the deteriorating situation of women, national governments in the north and south have until now failed to take adequate action to support women and to implement the previous ministerial declarations of Istanbul and Marrakesh. International players such as the EU should step up their support for the implementation of these declarations and carry out the relevant monitoring
- c. In this regard, NCW commends the courage and consistency of efforts by women's civil society organisations to safeguard their rights in the face of defamatory campaigns and legal moves by some governments, and of pressures exerted by certain religious movements, that seek to block their activities and severely reduce women's participation in public life.

Recommendations:

1. NCW call on governments, with the support of the ILO, to foster a safe and accommodating working environment for women by putting in place measures to tackle harassment and discrimination.
2. Calls on international players such as the EU to step up their efforts for the implementation of the Istanbul and Marrakesh ministerial declarations and to fully implement the measures agreed upon by national governments of the Euromed region at the Ministerial Conference held in Paris on 12 September 2013
3. The Council fully support the UfM Secretariat in its efforts to promote projects in support of women, in particular those that empower women economically
4. Calls on the EU and National governments in the Euromed region to put in place effective measures to eliminate all forms of violence on girls and women in situations of conflict and in refugee camps.

7. Protecting Children and Young People using the Internet

Justifications:

1. NCW is aware that the internet and communication technologies (referred to as "online technologies") were envisaged and designed as communications tools for academics and researchers; however, as a result of their increased access in particular through the social media, in homes, schools, businesses and public administrations, children are increasingly becoming active users of online technologies
2. But, beyond the benefits of interactivity and participation in the online environment, they also face some serious risks: Direct harm, as victims of sexual abuse documented through photographs, films or audio files and distributed online (child abuse material).
3. A perpetuation of victims' sexual abuse by the repeated viewing of the records of their abuse due to widespread online distribution and global availability.
4. Direct contact by predators who will befriend them in order to commit sexual abuse ("grooming").
8. Victims of bullying in the online environment ("cyber-bullying").
9. Recent data suggests that online child sexual abuse content regularly hops host company and host country in order to avoid detection and removal, thereby complicating law enforcement investigation at a solely national level. There is still lack of international efforts by domain name registries to de-register domains advocating the sexual abuse of children or providing access to such content
10. NCW supports the valid work of the Commissioner for Children in dealing with the protection of children using the internet, the recent services of Agenzija Appogg and the Ministry for Information and Communication Technology (MICT)
11. Also supports the service of a helpline that was initiated by Agenzia Appogg and that more volunteers will participate in the service that is now being operated.
9. Also supports the initiatives of the Malta Communications Authority responsible for the Protection of Children using the Internet

Recommendations:

- That young people are more involved in the policy planning and relevant implementation with the Commissioner for Children and the dissemination of information to social networks utilised by those most vulnerable. (Youth have their own language and are often reluctant to listen to authority but welcome advice from their peers within their social environment). The CoE Convention on "Rights of the Child" (up to the age of 18) must be taken into account and therefore young people including also beyond the age of 18 must be involved in the process
- Further studies and collection of data for a clarification of the scale of the problem as regards publicly available websites depicting the sexual abuse of children, (studies

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identified a concrete "manageable" target of around 3000 websites per year hosted around the world facilitating access to many hundreds of thousands of child sexual abuse images(2000.).

- the reduction of public exposure to child sexual abuse material by voluntary industry blocking of individual URLs by service providers.
- national recommendations to further develop online tools, such as filtering products, search engine security preferences etc
- Better networking with education institutions, services, government internet providers and the Office of the Commissioner for Children
- that the legislative harmonisation across EU Member States is implemented at National as set out in the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention
- to include in the national Curriculum (through PSD sessions) education for young people about responsible use of the social media and the internet and the negative consequences if this is abused or used wrongly.
- To educate young people on how to behave in private and to encourage the value of privacy, which regrettably is being lost as a value and to make young people aware that what is placed on the internet is something which will remain there for years and can be accessed by anybody.
- Further education and information for parents about what measures they can take to protect their children from child sexual abuse material
- Clear definition of what constitutes child sexual abuse material.
- That the age of a child for the purposes of the victims of child sexual abuse material is up to 18.
- That the possession and viewing/downloading of online child sexual abuse is an offence and warrants severe custodial penalties.
- That Malta continues to participate in the EU Commission programmes such as Safer Internet for Children encouraging international cooperation as an integral part of the programmes

8. Gender-Specific Medicine: a Major Challenge of the Future

Justifications:

- a. The EU Health Strategy "Together for Health" supports the overall Europe 2020 strategy, placing health as a precondition for economic prosperity and stating that Europe needs smart investments in health.
- b. Recent research carried out in Germany and Italy in laboratory medicine has revealed crucial differences between men and women with regard to cardiovascular illness, cancer, liver disease, osteoporosis, and in the area of pharmacology.
- c. Research in patient's responsiveness to chemotherapy, osteoporosis incidence, absorption time of certain medication and the duration of treatment must take into account the patient's gender.
- d. Research shows that gender also has an impact on the patient's responsiveness to chemotherapy administered to treat cancer, such as colon, lung, or skin cancer. In this way, gender impacts the course of the disease and the patient's chances for survival.
- e. While typically viewed as a female disease because of the much higher rate of female patients, osteoporosis also strikes men. Studies contend that osteoporosis is too often overlooked in male patients, even though there is a higher mortality rate among men suffering bone fractures.
- e. Variation between men and women in the pharmacology of aspirin and other substances, differences in action and side effects attributable to different body types, varying reaction times in the absorption and elimination of substances, and a fundamentally different hormonal status.
- f. Thus, to administer medication safely and effectively, the dosage and duration of treatment must take the patient's gender into account.

Recommendations:

The National Health strategy has and is treating chronic medical issues in terms of access to services, difference in longevity between the sexes and certain medical conditions being sex-linked from the gender aspect. The challenge for the future is developing gender-specific treatment especially where chronic diseases are concerned. In order to eliminate fundamental inequalities between men and women in the treatment of disease and eventual reduction in the costs to the national healthcare system

NCW recommends that:

- a. gender-specific treatment be considered relative to the biological differences between men and women
- b. gendered medicine be promoted at a national level and awareness raised about the issue through regular, ongoing training and research projects
- c. staff working within health related institutions and in the medical field to be provided with information on gender-specific medicine
- d. an interdisciplinary approach on a national level involving various medical fields to guarantee appropriate medical care for all be instated
- e. a national gender medicine monitoring committee be set up

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- f. research into gendered medicine on a national level be promoted and supported
- g. state university introduces modules in gendered medicine as part of degree programmes in medicine and surgery, as well as specialization courses in specific fields of medicine
- h. the Ministry of Health undertakes to launch regular gender healthcare awareness campaigns designed to provide accurate information for the general public on matters concerning gendered medicine.
- i. The creation of a National Committee for Gendered Medicine with the responsibilities to collate, coordinate and share epidemiological and clinical data in order to achieve equal rights for all to healthcare as well as the development of measures to promote and support gendered medicine on a national level

References:

1. *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM)* "Gender medicine: a task for the third millennium" - Baggio G, Corsini A, Floreani A, Giannini S, Zagonel V. of Padua University Hospital and her team; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23515103>
2. Berlin Institute of Gender in Medicine: <http://gender.charite.de/en/>
3. Sex and Gender Aspects in Clinical Medicine; Editors: Sabine Oertelt-Prigione, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Institute of Gender in Medicine (GiM), Vera Regitz-Zagrosek, Inst. Geschlechterforschung in der, Medizin, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
4. Foundation for Gender-specific Medicine: <https://gendermed.org/dr-legato/>
5. Centre for Gender-medicine Karolinska Institutet Stockholm, Sweden: <http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=8993&l=en>
6. Gendered Innovations in Science, Medicine, Prof. Londa Schiebinger, Stanford University, California USA

9. Opening up Education: Innovative Teaching and Learning for all through new Technologies and Open Educational Resources

Justification:

- a. This Communication sets out a European agenda for stimulating high-quality, innovative ways of learning and teaching through new technologies and digital content. 'Opening up education' proposes actions towards more open learning environments to deliver education of higher quality and efficacy and thus contributing to the Europe 2020 goals of boosting EU competitiveness and growth through better skilled workforce and more employment.
- b. It contributes to the EU headline targets for reducing early school leaving and increasing tertiary or equivalent attainment and builds on the recent initiatives 'Rethinking Education', 'European Higher Education in the World' as well as the flagship initiative Digital Agenda. The European Commission launched the "Opening up Education" initiative as an action plan to tackle this and other digital problems which are preventing schools and universities from delivering high quality education and the digital skills which 90% of jobs will require by 2020.
- c. The "Opening up Education" joint initiative led by Androulla Vassiliou, Commission for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, and Neelie Kroes, Commission Vice President responsible for the Digital Agenda, focuses on three main areas:
 - creating opportunities for organisations, teachers and learners to innovate;
 - increasing the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) to ensure that educational materials produced with public funding are available to all; and
 - improving ICT infrastructure and connectivity in schools

Recommendations:

- Developing Teacher/ Staff Working Relationships
- Building on the excellence of teaching staff to reduce resistance to change
- Teachers at all levels including University level need ongoing preparation and support through current relevant pedagogy systems required
- Preparation for new dynamics of student teacher relationships
- The role of the teacher as a guide to stimulate critical thinking in the use of digital programs besides the traditional information giving role as well as the holistic development of children/students
- Developing the relevant skills in initial B. Educ University degree courses as well as ongoing training for teachers
- Strengthening vocational education programs to meet the needs of developing industries
- Encouraging a spirit of 'collective sharing' among teaching staff, heads of schools and other staff in contact with students
- Stimulating interest in STEM subjects, which are the key to future jobs especially among female students
- Ensuring access to all including vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities physical/intellectual, children with learning difficulties and immigrant children / students among others. The need for more professional LSAs (Learning School Assistants)
- Promoting research for a higher rate of participation of students
- Developing programmes to continue developing an entrepreneurial mindset
- More attention to Lifelong learning
- Taking the necessary action to reduce/avoid a new type of digital divide

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- Getting the social partners on board to support the developments in different phases to include also working conditions issues and salary levels
- Companies to offer hands-on practice for teachers during the training process – opportunities to work with industry
- Building strategic partners including reliable service providers, researchers and university practitioners already familiar with Open Educational Resources
- Taking young people on board in all phases of the process as partners
- Building strategic partnerships with parents that include also encouraging them in assisting schools in the process where parents have the necessary skills
- Addressing the possible perceived economic disadvantages of the printing industry versus digital books/ material
- Intellectual Copyrights and eIntellectual copyrights (reference to EESC opinion 2012)
- Developing assessment criteria and standards for recognition of qualification for both formal and informal learning
- Monitoring tools to assess also critical aspects such as: reduction in early school leaving rates and increased participation in higher education, the performance of socially disadvantaged groups etc

Reference:

Communication from the Commission (SWD(2013) 341Final)

10a. Medical Justification for the Legal Banning of Female Genital Mutilation

Justifications:

The procedure of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) constitutes a brutal form of gender-based violence against girls and women and a serious violation of fundamental human rights. Officially FGM is not practiced in Malta, certainly not amongst the Maltese population. However, midwives practicing in Malta are now being more frequently called upon to assist women who have undergone FGM. In this developing scenario, the Malta Midwives Association (MMA) feels it should raise public awareness on the subject.

The Malta Midwives Association:

- a. condemns unreservedly, the practice of FGM as a violation of human dignity; and
- b. notes that no particular need ever arose to legislate on the subject

However, in view of the changes that have taken place in Maltese society, the MMA now sees an urgent need to provide a legal framework whereby FGM is rendered illegal. FGM refers to “all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons”. These practices are carried out by many different societies for a number of traditional and cultural reasons. Girls and women who undergo this procedure are afflicted to immediate and long term complications that impact on their reproductive health and childbirth outcomes (WHO, 2008).

The MMA acknowledges the immense suffering that those women who have undergone FGM experience when conceiving and giving birth. MMA urges midwives to be aware and be informed about the practice and its health consequences. Midwives are encouraged to respect the dignity of the female body and refrain from supporting and participating in any way in genital mutilation practices.

Recommendations:

- a. The Maltese Government should criminalise the performance of or the rendering of any form of assistance in FGM.
- b. Appeals to the local Government to help in providing targeted services, such as translation services and cultural mediation to enable better forms of communication and understanding between the healthcare professionals and women coming from different cultural backgrounds. Moreover, specialized training on FGM needs to be offered to the local healthcare professionals who are more likely to care for women with FGM
- c. To encourage the setting up of counselling sessions for women who have experienced FGM. These women need to be helped in understanding that FGM is a criminal act, a violation of their dignity, otherwise they risk being ostracized from their community.
- d. FGM and its physical, psychological and social impact should be given more prominence through the media. Raising awareness amongst the local population helps to conceptualise FGM as a reality in today's world. Educating those practicing FGM about the serious consequences of their practice

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and helping them change their norms and behaviour, although a challenge is surely a step to the way forward.

- e. The MMA publicly declares that it is also willing to team up with the local Government and/or any other organization with the scope of holding seminars and public debates, targeting in particular, groups with high FGM prevalence.

10b ZERO TOLERANCE TO FGM (campaign and Education re: FGM by MUMN)

Justification:

Although the practice can be a crime: it can still be practiced by immigrant communities.

Recommendations:

- a) Faster communication, information and strategy sharing re: Zero tolerance for FGM within communities most likely to practice it (SUCH AS MIGRANTS)
- b) Educational activities/campaign to strengthen the fight against FGM by uniting and encouraging in, country NGOs, professionals etc., to fight against FGM. Locally the campaign should focus on health education instead of activism. (This should take in consideration the cultural sensitivity)
- c) Men should be specifically targeted for educational campaigns since a lot of reasons for continuing the practice is based on ideals encouraged by men
- d) Implementing a comprehensive multiagency action plan is urgently required, To ensure that young girls at risk of undergoing FGM are protected.

Documenting and collecting information regarding FGM – confide

11. National Sexual Assault Clinic

Justifications:

- a) Staff working at this clinic can provide support and information to the particular individual, medical attention and reporting the crime
- b) To provide comprehensive medical and psychosocial support service – which at present still need to be improved.

Recommendations:

- a) A clinic will operate 24/7 to serve victims of sexual violence. Staff at this clinic need to be trained on issues surrounding sexual violence
- b) Staff working in this clinic can provide; a holistic service delivery (counselling, legal advice, sheltering, etc.) – incorporate the medical, legal and psycho-social components of the response into a one stop shop.
- c) Such a clinic can also create public awareness about the problem of sexual assault and educate the public about prevention and management of rape

12. Perinatal Mental Health Services

Justifications:

- a. Perinatal mental illnesses can affect at least 10% of women (NSPCC; Report); if untreated can have a devastating impact on them and their families
- b. When mothers suffer from these illnesses it increases the likelihood that children will experience behaviour, social or learning difficulties and fail to fulfil their potential.
- c. The needs of women need to be central. (holistic care)

Recommendations:

- A. A proper, efficient, effective and sustainable perinatal mental health services is needed:-
All women with a child under one year who need psychiatric admission should be offered a place in a specialist mother & baby unit (NICE Guidelines)
- B. The implementation of such a service need to be done after a strategic mapping of where these services is being provided need to be done. This is because there is enormous strain for a family where a new mother is being treated far from home
- C. The organisation of care need to be from pregnancy till the postnatal period so that the disorder/illness will be detected efficiently, effective referral system, provision of care in the most appropriate setting.

13. Thejjija għaż-żwieġ ċivili.

Justification:

Ilkoll għandna għal qalbna il-familja u kuljum jinhass aktar il-bżonn li l-familja tissaħħaħ billi ssib sapport u għajnuna min-naħat kollha tas-soċjeta'. F'soċjeta' li ssejjah lilha nnifisha progressiva u pluralista mhux aċċettabli li t-thejjija għaż-żwieġ, li hu l-pern li fuqu tinbena s-soċjeta', s'issa għada tiġi provduta biss mill-Knisja għall-membri tagħha. Dan hu kontribut prezzjuż li l-Knisja Kattolika ilha żmien twil tagħti u li f'tit huwa rikonoxxut mill-Istat. Imma mhux biżżejjed. Jehtieg li din it-thejjija l-Istat joffriha b'mod strutturat u sovvenzjonat lil kull koppja indipendentement mit-twemmin reliġjuż jew kull distinzjoni oħra.

Recommendations:

Għalhekk nixtiequ nipproponu li l-koppji li jkunu se jiżżewġu jingħataw opportunita' ta' thejjija serja għal dan il-pass. Din l-għajnuna għandna tkun ta' natura serja, soda u ta' ċertu tul, bħal, per eżempju, permezz ta' kors imħejji apposta.

Kif l-Istat huwa afdat bid-dover li jgħin lill-ġenituri jedukaw it-tfal biex isiru persuni sħaħ u ċittadini responsabli, joffri formazzjoni għal professjonisti u nies tas-snaġja kompetenti u ta' fiduċja u b'hekk jassigura soċjeta' serena u b'saħħitha, hekk ukoll għandu jerfa' r-risponsabilita' li jgħin lill dawk li jagħzlu li jiffurmaw familja li jkunu ffurmati, imħejjija u mgħejjuna jwettqu dan il-kontribut kruċjali għall-istabilita' u l-kwalita' tal-ħajja ta' kull membru fis-soċjeta'.

L-istat, jekk ma jasalx li jobbliha lill-koppji jsegwu din it-thejjija, għandu, talanqas, ihegġiġhom, jinkoraġġi hom u jincentivahom jagħmlu dan.