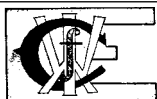


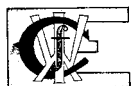


Members of


**International Council
of Women**

Founded 1888

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


**European Centre of the
International Council of
Women**

Founded 1961

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

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Front Cover:

Top photo is of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) Beijing + 20 Launch "From Words to Action" which took place in Lisbon.
Bottom photo is of the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW) Meeting "Women Building Blocks of Society" which took place in Malta.

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 13.30

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are requested to keep their subscription
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Founded 1964

Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa

Pope Pius XII Flats, Mountbatten Street

Blata l-Bajda HMR 1579, MALTA

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

<http://www.ncwmalta.com>

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and friends,
It is that time of year again when the air feels cleaner, the leaves are crisp, kids are back in school and we at NCW get a renewed energy to host another academic year in our lifelong learning programme. NCW educational programme continued throughout the summer months with the English courses for Parents and children and the Malta Communication Authority courses in Computing. The events of the summer are now over and it is time to focus on making the most of what is left of 2014.

It is indeed a great satisfaction for all the work which is done voluntarily by NCW members towards Social Inclusion. The Centre is once again offering courses in collaboration with the Department of Life Long Learning and Malta Communications Authority. NCW in collaboration with the Association for Consumer Rights, with the support of the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change is organising a conference on Food Waste and a Poster Competition for Children.

This issue continues to bring us news and information on various topics that are currently being tackled in Malta and



abroad. As Budget Day draws near, the National Council of women has sent in its Budget Proposal to Government. Since 2010 NCW has contributed towards the consultation process on pension reform and it will continue to inform members by organising a seminar, which will be held during November.

The festive season is fast approaching and we wish you all a Holy and Joyful Christmas and New Year 2015 with your loved ones.

We hope you find our articles interesting and enlightening.

Marie Demicoli
NCW Editorial Board Member

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President's Message

Dear Ladies,
According to the date, autumn should have started some weeks ago, but the brilliant sunshine, the warm weather and the balmy nights are still with us. Its fine by me, my household's carbon footprint is kept low through the generation of hot water from the solar panels. Looking after our planet is our obligation and this we do primarily for ourselves and consequently for the next generation.

On October 11th we celebrate 'The International Day of the Girl'. More than a celebration it is a dedication and an admonition of the still existing inequalities between girls and boys. It should be a reminder to world leaders, that apart from the war for power and religion, there should be a peaceful war against inequality between girls and boys. In many countries girls are still forced to marry at a very young age, banned from receiving education, trafficked for sexual exploitation, sexually assaulted and subjected to the life changing female genital mutilation (FGM). What is despicable is that these actions are considered acceptable in a number of countries!

One girl from Pakistan who courageously fought for a number of years, albeit her young age, for the right to education for girls, is Malala Yousafzai. She was gunned down by the Taliban on her way to school, but that action made her stronger in her will to fight for what is her right- education. She was recently awarded the Nobel Peace prize for her heroic struggle, a prize she shares with Indian child-rights activist Kailash Satyarthi. The Nobel Prize committee made a statement at the award announcement about the power of youth, saying "It is a prerequisite for peaceful global development that the rights of children and young people be respected. The violation of children leads to the continuation of violence from generation to generation". Gender discrimination and all types of violence must be condoned by all and it is in everyone's interest that violence stops. Violence breeds violence and unless the culture of violence in the family is changed it will continue to increase.

We are presently preparing for two important seminars. The first one shall deal with Food Waste and the following week we shall tackle the subject of pensions for women. Both pressing topics and relevant to our daily lives. When we know that some 805 million people lack adequate food and 21,000 people die each day from hunger related deceases, throwing food away is a sacrilege. However no matter how careful we are, food is still being thrown

away. In certain places such as markets and supermarkets, it is edible food that moments before was on a shelf, that is being thrown away and this without a second thought for the amount of energy, human toil, water carbon emissions and money. Minimising food waste and separate collection of it to utilise it as a source of energy, is on the country's agenda and NCW has been proactive in presenting this seminar as a means of education. More details can be found in this newsletter.



The subject of pensions and the fear that the country might not have sufficient funds to fork out as pensions, is a concern especially to those under fifty years of age. There are what we consider as anomalies in the right to a widow's pension, the right for pension to a divorced or separated persons and now 3rd pillar pension being debated in Parliament. All these and more shall be debated during the forthcoming conference. Again more details can be found in this newsletter.

Our centre this year has been buzzing with activity, especially with computer classes. It is a real pleasure to enter the centre and see all those people learning new skills and through these newly gained competences they become empowered. Perhaps they are seeking work or to help their young children or grandchildren or simply for one's own growth. I shall leave you with a quote by Kofi Annan - **Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.** And in line with this quote I ask you please to contribute to our formation of resolutions, issues that you feel must be tackled, improved or other ideas that could be implemented and that are beneficial to society or to a particular sector of society and the family. These resolutions we shall present to the government next year after these have been approved at our annual general meeting in January.

I thank you all for your participation during this year's activities, being our 50th anniversary. We are planning a final activity, but more details will be sent later on, when all preparations are set. I wish you a wonderful time for the forthcoming Christmas and New Year Festivities

Mary Gaerty
President

Congratulations to Prof Simone Borg



Congratulations to Prof Simone Borg for her new appointment as first female associate professor in the Faculty of Laws. The associate professorship given by the University of Malta is very tough and the process involves peer reviewing.

Prof Simone Borg read law at the University of Malta where she graduated with a doctorate degree in laws (LL.D.) in 1991 and a Magister Juris degree in International in 1994. In 2009, she obtained her Ph.D. on the conservation of marine natural resources at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute. Dr Borg started her career as a diplomat as a First Secretary with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then went on to Head the Legal and Multilateral Affairs Section within the Ministry of the Environment. She coordinated the transposition of the environmental and energy *acquis communautaire* during Malta's negotiations to become an EU member State. She was chief negotiator for Malta for various environmental treaties.

Presently, she is the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Laws, Head of Department of the Environmental law and Resources law within the same Faculty at the University of Malta, where she is a resident full time academic and a member of the University's Senate. She is also a visiting lecturer at the Catholic University of Leuven, the IMO's International Maritime Law Institute and the University of Auckland in New Zealand. She has published a book on the Conservation of Living Marine Resources on the High Seas, many articles and papers including articles on the role of Small Island States in International law. She has written two Monographs on Malta's Environmental Law. She is currently the ambassador for Malta on climate action issues.

Congratulations to Dr Roselyn Borg Knight

NCW Malta congratulates Dr Roselyn Borg, who was chosen as a candidate for the General Elections representing the Nationalist party. Dr Roselyn Borg Knight LL.D., LL.M, has been practising law for the past 12 years. She graduated as a lawyer in 2002 and practised employment law with the Malta Employers' Association until 2006, when she moved to the UK where she then set up her own boutique law firm, specialising in employment law. Dr Borg Knight concentrated primarily on disputes concerning employment matters and represented both employers and employees in Industrial Tribunal cases. Dr Borg Knight served as a Gender Equality Expert reporting directly to the EU Commission for three years and is a board member and Vice-President of the European Women Lawyers' Association and a member of the Employment Lawyers' Association.



NCW Malta Executive Committee will miss her contributions and advice.

Malta Unborn Child Movement

Courtesy visit of the Malta Unborn Child Movement and organisations networking with the MUCM to H. E. M'Louise Coliero, President of Malta

Members of the Malta Unborn Child Movement (MUCM) delegation who visited H.E. Marie Louiise Coleiro Preca, President of the Republic of Malta on Monday 18th August, 2014 at San Anton Palace, Attard, Malta. The President agreed to give her patronage to the work of MUCM, especially the Research and Study Team on Risks to the Unborn Child being set up between MUCM and a number of Malta University Faculties led by the Faculty of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The President's Office will collaborate with MUCM through the National Institute for Childhood of the President's Foundation for the Well-being of Society. The MUCM delegation was led by Tony Mifsud, Coordinator of MUCM.



Members attending were Rosalyn Farrugia - Church Children's Homes; Grace Attard - National Council of Women; Mary Gaerty - National Council of Women; Mary Said Buttigieg - Malta Midwives Association; Tony Mifsud - Social Assistance Secretariat, Catholic Action and Coordinator MUCM; The President of the Republic; Dr Miriam Sciberras - Life Network; Klaus Vella Bordon - Life Network; Fr Karm Mercieca - Cana Movement; Alina Darmanin - Malta Human Rights Association; Tanya Cortis - Cana Movement.

**Grace Attard, NCW Vice-President,
EESC Bureau Member**

NCW Budget 2015 Proposals

National Gender Equality Strategy
One of the NCW proposals for Budget 2015 addresses the need for a National Gender Equality Strategy with a long-term vision away from fragmented measures to include:

Reconciliation of work and family life needs to consider that

- More women are needed on the labour market and
- More women to have children

Areas to be addressed

- Flexibility and predictability of working time – how does it work in the case of mothers?
- Needs and choices change over the life course of men and women – transitions
- Working time arrangements can facilitate the organisation of private life (flexi-time, emergency leave, part-time etc)
- Companies can make a difference – not all working time arrangements are costly

Action to be taken

- **Revision of the Maternity Leave Directive**
- **Include unworked periods in Pensions Rights**
- **Recognition of skills while performing family care work**

Acknowledging mothers' and fathers' contribution to society

- Conciliation policies:
- Raise morale
- Increase job satisfaction and employee engagement
- Higher productivity
- Improves brand reputation
- Attracts other groups of women eg: the highly qualified mothers
- Support retention of expensively trained and experienced staff
- Lower absenteeism

Recent survey findings – 18% of workers in Europe have problems with work-life balance especially men between 30 and 49 years of age. In Europe **Pay Gap is on average 16% - Pensions Gap is 39%**

All social actors have a role to play:

- Company arrangements
- Social partners negotiations
- legal system, social protection system, social infrastructure etc in the organisation of care and work

Addressing the fertility rate and work/life balance

In line with the priorities of the EU2020 Strategy, there is the need **for a national policy, a package of maternity, paternity and family-friendly measures for both the public and private**

sector whilst taking into consideration the situation of SMEs to increase the participation of women in the labour market and at the same time take responsibility for the social aspect and health and safety of both mother and child.

Although a number of financial incentives have been introduced by current and previous governments, it is important that financial allocations are included in the Budget 2015 finances to ensure **sustainability in the coming years**. Government needs to ensure that all current and new **childcare centres are registered and have the necessary standards in place**. Monitoring needs to be done through random inspections

Besides the provision of childcare facilities, government should aim at strengthening the policy where both men and women have equal access to employment, not least in view of the current demographic deficit, **eliminating the obstacles through effective active labour market policies, flexicurity and vocational training**.

Legal provision on paternity leave should be raised to at least 2 weeks non-transferable in order to encourage sharing care responsibilities between mothers and fathers

A careful assessment of the research study on the cost of non-participation of women of child rearing age in different occupations on which to take action should be carried out

Collective agreements with options to include **lifelong learning opportunities by employers for women and men on parental leave or career breaks**

Further **expand sustainable care services for sick, disabled and elderly people, which is very often done by women who therefore are not in a position to seek employment**

Introduce **a framework for child minding services within the community** for those mothers who can provide the necessary services in their home



**Grace Attard,
NCW Vice-President,
EESC Bureau member**

ECICW GA September 2014 in Vilnius Lithuania

The Autumn 2014 ECICW General Assembly was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 11th September 2014 to 14th September 2014. The event was ably hosted by the Lithuanian Women's Society under its President Nijolė Steponkutė and her members.

Those of us, who participated, saw this event as a positive experience as we were able to visit the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and meet the officials who run it.

We also participated in the Seminar "Women and Work: Economic Empowerment" organised by the Lithuanian Women's Society and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The Opening Speech of the Minister of Social Security and Labour, Algimanta Pabedinskiene was read by the Deputy Minister and the delegates were welcomed by Nijolė Steponkutė – President of the Lithuanian Women's Society



There was a panel of 8 speakers. Ms Vanda Juršėnienė – Head of Equality Division of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour spoke about "Women in the Lithuanian Labour Market" while the speech of Vilija Blinkevičiūtė - member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament "Women and Work - View of the European Parliament" was distributed to the participants as Ms Vilija Blinkevičiūtė was held up in Brussels.

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) was represented by two experts: Ms Jolanta Reingarde - Senior Gender Expert – who presented the "EIGE's Gender equality Index" and Ms Therese Murphy, Head of Operations, European Institute for Gender Equality spoke about - "Good practices in Reconciliation of work and family Life"

Other speakers were Jūratė Puidienė - President of the Lithuanian Women's Lobby who talked about Lithuanian Women Entrepreneurs "WANTED: Women in Business in the Labour Market" while Margarita Jankauskaitė – expert of the Center for Equality Advancement gave an original presentation of "Women's (dis) Empowerment in Neo-liberal Context: Focus on Lithuania" Doris Bingley ECICW President spoke on behalf of the European Centre of the International Council of Women and welcomed the importance given to "Women and Work: Economic



Empowerment" in the seminar. She mentioned how the European Union supports and acknowledges that Gender Equality is a fundamental human right and a question of social justice and believes that Gender Equality is essential for growth and poverty reduction. She also mentioned that the Italian Presidency in these six months is also addressing Europe for employment and economic growth as one of its pillars. Overall Women are in the centre of this issue. Nijolė Steponkutė - President of the Lithuanian Women's Society gave the concluding remarks

Immediately after the Seminar, Delegates left for the visit to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). They toured EIGE premises and met EIGE Director Ms Virginija Langbakk who addressed them and shared with them the good news that the EU Commission has Ms Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. The meeting continued with Ms Therese Murphy, EIGE Head of Operations who showed the delegates a video and explained the functions of EIGE.

ECICW General Assembly was held the next day. It was a full day of work with reports from different member, while the afternoon was dedicated to discussions on Women & Child protection; MEP Women Candidates in

ECICW members Country; Actions for 2015 relating to the Millennium Development Goals & Beijing + 20; Migration in the Mediterranean Region and Internet Security.

ECICW GA adopted ICW Peace Statement and asked the members to disseminate it in their Countries.

The Delegates were able to tour Vilnius, visit “Jewish Vilnius”, and spend an afternoon visiting the historic city and lake resort of Trakai.

Doris Bingley
ECICW President



Peace Statement



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

In 2014, it is poignant that we commemorate the start of the first World War in 1914, with all its suffering and horrors. Yet, a century on, we still have so many current conflict zones around the globe, which are no less horrific.

The **International Day of Peace** on **Sunday, 21 September** is a good opportunity to remind ourselves, our friends, our families and our politicians, that it is **men** in pursuit of power who start wars, but that it is women and children who mainly suffer because of wars; and until local **women** are around the peace table, to help negotiate a lasting peace and reconstruction process, wars will continue.

In 2000 the **UN Security Council** passed **Resolution 1325** which spelled out the specific risks faced by women in conflict areas, and set out to tackle this huge challenge. Much has been achieved since then, but much more remains to be done. The International Council of Women (ICW-CIF) continues to strive for peace, through its affiliated National Councils, and fully endorses UN SCR1325.

Let's use this International Day of Peace to join in any event which reflects on the peace challenge. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said:

"I urge every peace-loving person to engage with their friends and neighbours, their community organizations and governments. Together, let us demand the right of peoples to peace."

(This year's International Day of Peace theme recognizes the 30th United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace.)

<http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/index.shtml>

<http://www.peaceoneday.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/peaceday>

NCW FIFTY



My first contact with NCW came when, as a fledgling lawyer, I attended a seminar organised by Council. It was there that I was approached by the formidable Jane Spiteri and invited to apply for membership. I did, and eventually became directly involved as Legal Adviser in the early 'eighties and subsequently as President for two consecutive terms (1988-1992). This period coincided with a heightened political will to establish a legal framework which would eliminate gender discrimination. NCW spearheaded these reforms and I recall a particularly successful seminar held at Targa Gap which was packed to its full capacity on the legal issues which needed to be addressed. We also met with representatives and leaders of all political parties and put forward our agenda. I must say that we were always well received and a number of our proposals were reflected in new laws. One such important amendment was the removal of succession tax between spouses .

Of course, the blanket amendments to the Maltese Constitution and the Maltese Civil Code came later (1991 onwards) and I was to be involved in these amendments as Vice Chairperson of the Commission for the Advancement of Women and as Chair of the Commission's Legal Committee. But I definitely owed my formation and direction to the work, experience and advice of persons like Jane Spiteri and to the members of the NCW Executive. I was also elected to the Executive Board of ICW and had firsthand experience of the work performed on a global scale. Although we came from different cultural backgrounds and beliefs, we were all united in a common aim which was the improvement of conditions for women in every society.

As President. I firmly believed that the role of NCW was to give women a voice in decision-making at every stratum of society - family, civil, social and political . This did not only necessitate legal reforms, but a cultural change from the ground up. Only then would society reflect a true partnership between men and women. During my Presidency NCW courageously blew the whistle on that silent monster , domestic violence ,and inspired the formation of the political commitment shown by successive Governments to eradicate this blight.

Women in Malta today owe their status to the foresight shown by the founding members of NCW. The issues and direction may be different today, but ultimately, women - as women , as partners and as educators - must participate and move forward for the betterment of society.

Lorraine Schembri Orland

*Remembering the Founder
Members and past NCW
members during the
month of November*



YEARS ON



The National Council of Women came into my life in the mid-eighties. At the time life was hectic. Three young children demanded most of my attention and I had been a fulltime Stay-at-Home Mum for more than a decade. My initial reaction to a friend's suggestion that I become a member of NCW was a 'Thank You but No, Thank You'. However, her persistence won the day. It was one of the best decisions of my life and for this I will always be grateful to Irene Saliba.

The first event I attended was an Annual General Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel. It was a revelation. I, who had always looked at Women's Groups with cynicism and scepticism, immediately felt at home with the other women in the room. We were on the same wavelength. Even though I was probably one of the youngest members in the room on the day, age was not a factor. How could age be a factor with the likes of Jane Spiteri who become my mentor in the years to follow? Daily she drove me round the bend but daily she made me stretch myself to a level I had not

realised I was capable of. Always brimming with energy, both physical and mental, she was undeniably the pivot of NCW. There was not a subject about which she did not have a strong opinion and it took me a while to realise that she reflected NCW which had quietly but surely, perhaps too unobtrusively, contributed towards many of the country's evolving policies, economical, social, cultural and others.

The Council has always been synonymous with striving towards gender equality and was foremost in placing issues which were considered controversial at the time on the nation's agenda. In the early nineties NCW formed part of an unprecedented alliance where all women's groups joined together in making the 'Equal Partners in Marriage' Law the best possible and my first foray into Parliament was as a visitor in a Strangers' Gallery packed with women who saw a radical change voted for unanimously by a male-dominated House.

Domestic Violence, the rights of the elderly and of children, conditions at work, health issues, education, the country's economy, the advancement of women and their promotion in public life were all matters that NCW members felt very passionate about and they were vociferous and persuasive in their unstinting commitments to the evolution of Maltese society based on justice and equality.

NCW is an active participant in the international scene and has always been foremost in organising fora and other events that bring many women of repute to our islands. In 1991, shortly after I became President, an International Council meeting was held in Malta. I was proud to be Maltese as I listened to NCW members expound their views and opinions on myriad topics.

Years later, as I sat in Parliament during debates, my mind would go back to the comments made by Maltese women on that day in 1991, way ahead of our country's adoption of relevant policies and confirmed my belief that politics are first made in non-governmental organisations and in civil society before they take the long road towards Parliamentary legislation.

Fifty years on and the laurels are many. But then so are the challenges for NCW if its wants to retain its relevance to today's world. My best wishes for the next half century and my thanks to so many women who brought about change in my life and in that of Maltese women and men. You are too many for me to mention but special thanks go to Jane Spiteri, Jean Killick, Mercedes Schembri Wismayer, Cecilia Xuereb, Lorraine Schembri Orland, Catherine Galea, Grace Attard and Mary Gaerty.

Dolores Cristina



EESC Opinion: Services to the Family

Background

This opinion aims at exploring the obstacles to overcome and the conditions for developing quality services for the family in order to create decent and attractive jobs. Previous work on the professionalisation of domestic work and on a family policy that tackles the challenge of demographic change need to be continued and updated by:

- revealing and describing the nature of the obstacles currently blocking the development and professionalisation of these jobs which; and
- making known positive experiences and good practices being implemented today in a number of Member States and major companies.

The EESC recommends

to the European Union, to:

- promote the exchange of best practice and disseminate statistics
- prepare a set of recommendations for the social partners comparing gender neutral jobs
- institute a prize for business innovation in services to the family
- promote social innovation in

developing services to the family, regardless of the form these services take (businesses, cooperatives, associations, public authorities, etc.).

to the Member States, to:

- ratify ILO Convention 189
- legalise undeclared work by means of fiscal aid measures and simple declaration schemes to make family work a job like any other
- combat stereotypes to ensure that care work and household tasks are seen as activities for both men and women
- establish a general framework to encourage the emergence and development of a professionalised sector for services to the family, in accordance with the specific features and cultural practices of each Member State.

to the social partners, to:

- recognise diplomas and certificates of qualifications, including accreditation of skills gained through experience
- negotiate collective agreements and job classification tables that

take account of all skills, including those relating to psychology and relationships.

to business, to:

- set up companies and cooperatives to provide services to families and the status of employee to workers.

to unions, employers' organisations and works councils, to:

- promote the image of services to the family and upgrade jobs in this field
- promote training for those involved and certification of the skills acquired
- work towards setting up structures to bring services to the family together and organise them, while respecting traditions and differences between countries
- organise domestic worker and employer representation
- call, as one of the measures to promote professional equality, for services which create jobs and negotiate a financial contribution from businesses in order to promote a better work-life balance for all.

**Grace Attard, NCW Vie-Presidnet,
EESC Bureau Member**

EESC Opinion on Social Investment Package Gist of the Commission document

With the Social Investment package, the Commission urges EU countries to put more emphasis on social investment. Social investment means enhancing people's capacities and supporting their participation in society and the labour market. The Commission's view is that this will benefit individuals' prosperity, boost the economy and help the EU emerge from the crisis stronger, more cohesive and more competitive.

In order to take up the challenges, the Commission Communication proposes, with a mix of Member States actions and Commission initiatives, to increase the sustainability and adequacy of social systems through simplification and better targeting, to pursue activating and enabling policies through targeted, conditional and more effective support, and to ensure social investment throughout the individual's life.

Gist of the opinion

The EESC welcomes the Commission's Social Investment Package and the shift

in approach it represents, to one in which a stronger focus on social investment is no longer seen as a mere cost, but as investment in the future and in growth and employment.

The labour market is the key to managing demographic change and to sustainable fiscal consolidation. In the EESC's view, robust, targeted social investment sustainably increases employment opportunities for people. The Social Investment Package could therefore make a significant contribution to a change of policy direction in favour of more growth and jobs, if it were consistently implemented in practice.

The EESC welcomes the fact that the important role of the social economy, social enterprises, civil society and the social partners for implementing the social investment package is expressly recognised in the communication.

The EESC calls on the European Commission to publish a plan for the

practical implementation of the social investment package, to support the Member States in implementing the necessary measures and to promote exchanges between interested parties at all levels.

However, the EESC is critical of the question of financing for the Social Investment Package remaining largely unanswered. Without a change in the lop-sided policy of spending cuts, successful implementation of the proposals does not seem a realistic prospect. Better use of the European structural and investment funds (ESIF) and the best possible targeting of the measures are certainly to be welcomed, but will certainly not be enough to achieve the desired policy shift.

The EESC therefore reaffirms its view that it is imperative that new sources of revenue for public budgets be identified. Specifically, the EESC reiterates in this context its call for a European growth and investment programme worth 2% of GDP.

Minister Helena Dalli invited to address the September Plenary Session

ESC President Henri Malosse introduced Minister Dalli who made a presentation on the initiatives that the Maltese government is carrying out. She highlighted the ongoing public and social and civil dialogue through MCESD, legislation on violence against women in line with the Council of Europe, which Malta has now ratified, legislation on the Rights of LGBTI (Civil Union) and the setting up of a Consultative Council to address their needs.

She also referred to the NCPE which will have its scope widened to include other forms of discrimination. The Minister also made a strong reference to the situation in the Mediterranean regarding conflict and irregular migration

and the need for the EU to ensure that these problems are seen as an EU issue in which all MS should be involved. Questions from the floor included the Maltese delegation Grace Attard, Anna Maria Darmanin, Stefano Mallia and Vince Farrugia who asked about the vision of the Maltese government in the economic, and social development of the Mediterranean, the creation of jobs and boosting SMEs, improving social dialogue structures, addressing precarious work, the ongoing work of the EESC on integration and the need for an adequate budget for the Frontex Agency and an appeal to Commission President Junker and the Italian Presidency for a global approach to the situation of

the Mediterranean Region to which the Minister responded highlighting what Malta is doing and what the EESC can do also

Grace Attard, NCW Vice-President, EESC Bureau Member



European Women's Lobby Annual General Conference



The General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby took place in Portugal, Lisbon, from the 9th October to 12th October 2014. Doris Bingley, ECICW President and Hon General Secretary of the National Council of Women Malta, Rosa Artigas Norat from Spain ECICW Treasurer and Joelle Letsch from Luxembourg new ECICW delegate for EWL participated.

On Thursday 9th October a meeting was organised by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) for European Women's Lobby representatives. It took place at Hotel VIP Executive Saldanha. Doris Bingley participated. Ms Virginija Langbakk wanted to share EIGE top highlights from 2014 as well as explain to the delegates what is the function of EIGE, its relationships with other EU institutions & stakeholders and its key achievements of 2013/2014. Ms Virginija Langbakk referred to the discussions held with ECICW in Vilnius when the members of ECICW visited the Institute. The participants in Lisbon had a positive discussion on the Main Findings of the very successful Gender Equality Index.

On Friday 10th October there was the Launch of the Beijing+20 report of the European Women's Lobby "1995-2015: From Words to Action". The three ECICW representatives attended this meeting held at Escola Básica e Secundária Passos Manuel. The delegates were welcomed by Viviane Teitelbaum, President of the European Women's Lobby, João Afonso, Deputy Mayor of Lisbon on Social Rights and Margarida

Medina Martins President of the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights.

The main discussion was on the importance of Beijing+20. The Presentation of the main outcomes of EWL Beijing+20 report was given by Pierrette Pape; Marino Di Nardo and Elena Falcomatà, senior experts of the Italian Presidency of the EU together with Virginija Langbakk, Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality EIGE, Teresa Morais, Portuguese Secretary of State of Parliamentary Affairs and Equality and Gertrud Aström, on behalf of the Nordiskt Forum presented the different issues and the various actions of the Beijing + 20 as all women organizations desire a post-2015 agenda that covers women's rights, removes stereotypical roles of women, promotes economic independence and a society free from violence. This debate was able moderated by Joanna Maycock, EWL Secretary General

Saturday 11th October was dedicated to EWL affairs and elections. I am delighted to report that Joelle Letsch was elected to represent ECICW on the EWL Board with Rosa Artigas as her alternate. Annelies Pierrot-Bults was also elected on this Board and has been chosen for the post of EWL Treasurer.

Unfortunately we had the bad news from our friend Borbala Juhasz from the Hungarian Women's Lobby that Judit Asbot Thorma former President of the Hungarian Association of Women has passed away. She was a wonderful friend and representative of her country.

This was a very fruitful meeting. We know that Joelle and Rosa will be good ambassadors for ECICW.

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

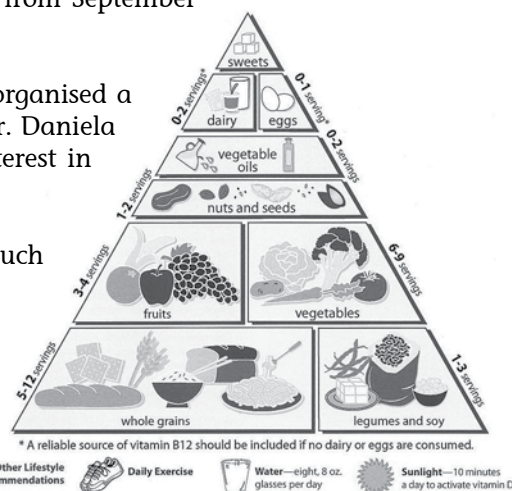
Nutrition Talk By Dr Daniela Cassola at NCW Centre

The National Council of Women Malta decided to join the European Community in its aim to increase fitness and health, in the European Move Week starting from September 29th till Sunday 5th November 2014.

Together with Kunsil Malti għall-iSport, the National Council of Women organised a talk by Dr. Daniela Cassola at NCW Centre on Thursday 3rd November. Dr. Daniela Cassola has a PhD from the University of Plymouth with a particular interest in Obesity and is a registered Nutritionist.

The talk highlighted that all foods are important to par-take though some, such as fat would need to be in a smaller quantity.

Dr. Cassola reiterated that it is not only a balanced diet which helps to maintain a level of healthiness but also through exercise, even if we just do a simple step like parking our car further from the target, which means we will walk more. It is important to take simple strides to make our life healthier, more vegetables and protein and less carbohydrates. Though this does not mean we need to eliminate them completely. Everything is important for our healthy living.



The people present also got to learn more not only about the food pyramid but were given an insight on how much they knew about healthy eating and how healthy they were being.

This therefore opened their perspective on what they needed to do to improve their level of healthiness.

The National Council of Women Malta's Education and Youth Committee, thanks all those that attended as well as Dr. Daniela Cassola who enlightened us all on good practices for healthy eating.

Tamara Gauci

NCW 50th Anniversary Quiz and Social Night.



Christian women as a creative energy in Europe

Christian women from 27 countries came together in Tinos, Greece, for the General Assembly of the Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women (efecw.net). Tinos is special because it is a place of pilgrimage to the Virgin Mary. This location inspired the theme, 'Born of a woman. Christian women as a creative energy in Europe'. The Assembly was made very special by the generous hospitality of our Greek sisters and the people of Tinos.

The Forum is very diverse with women from all the Christian traditions throughout Europe and of all ages. In coming together as Christian women we hope to live the European values of reconciliation and understanding. By sharing our different experience, we reflected that each woman and man is born equal. We believe that we are created in God's image.

We therefore bring our perspective as women of faith, our collective voice and our belief in the power of prayer to the following challenges.

We are mindful that it is 100 years since the start of the First World War and 75 years since the Second World War began. We acknowledge that women played many different roles in these wars both promoting nationalist values as well as working for peace. These devastating wars profoundly changed the lives and roles of women.

Today we continue to live in a world where there are many places of conflict including Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and Palestine/Israel. The civilian population, especially women and children, is suffering greatly. These conflicts touch all our lives and it is difficult to discern what is right. We condemn the fact that for many of our nations the business of weapons manufacture is a driving economic force.

Women and women's organisations must be instruments of peace. We encourage women to come together to pray and work towards peace. The women of the Forum will continue to work within their churches to inspire them to advocate for peace within the public and private sphere.

Current conflicts heighten societal issues of racism, refugees and migrants that are already present in our European context. We believe all people are created in the image of God and this makes us deeply concerned at the dehumanising experience of refugees and migrants within our communities. We will work within our churches to ensure their dignity and support their voice.

Our presence in Greece reminds us of the severe impact of the 2008 financial crisis. We still have a financial system that causes poverty, disadvantage and environmental problems. As Christian women we will respond to the call to be a creative power by working to discover new solutions that will provide a sustainable life for future generations.

The basis of our hope for the future is nurtured by our faith and our experience that prayer works. We take as our inspiration the prayer of Hildegard of Bingen (1098 -1179 a.D.).

Holy Spirit

You are the breath, give us life,
You are the salve, heal our wounds,
You are the fire, warm our hearts,
You are the light, guide our feet.

Let all the world praise you,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Catholic Action Women's Branch Malta

Malala Yousafzay awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2014

Malala Yousafzay born on the 12 July 1997 is a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize recipient.

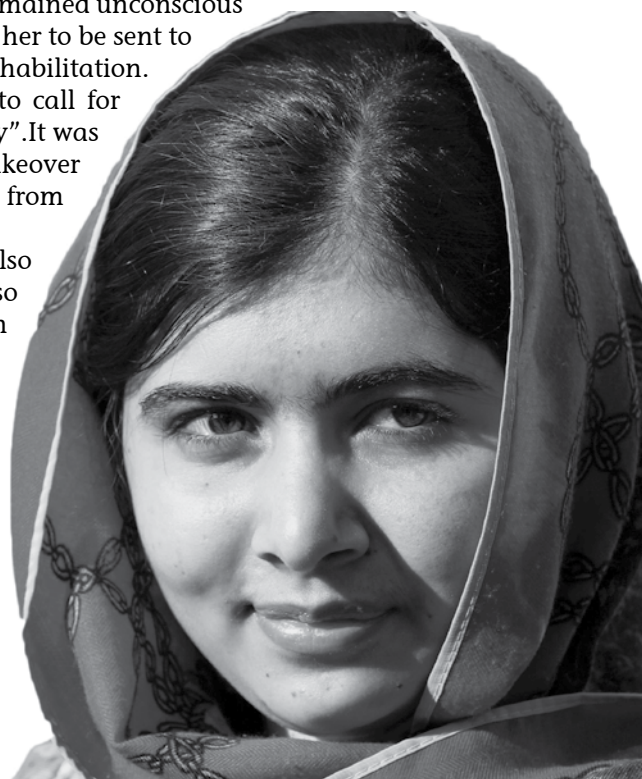
On the afternoon of 9 October 2012, Yousafzai boarded her school bus in the northwest Pakistani district of Swat. A gunman asked for her by name, then pointed a pistol at her and fired three shots. One bullet hit the left side of Yousafzai's forehead, travelled under her skin through the length of her face, and then went into her shoulder. In the days immediately following the attack, she remained unconscious and in critical condition, but later her condition improved enough for her to be sent to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, England, for intensive rehabilitation.

On 12 July 2013, Malala's 16th birthday, she spoke at the UN to call for worldwide access to education. The UN dubbed the event "Malala Day". It was her first public speech since the attack, leading the first ever Youth Takeover of the UN, with an audience of over 500 young education advocates from around the world.

Malala received several standing ovations. Ban Ki-moon, who also spoke at the session, described her as "our hero". Yousafzai also presented the chamber with "The Education We Want", a Youth Resolution of education demands written by Youth for Youth, in a process co-ordinated by the UN Global Education First Youth Advocacy Group, telling her audience:

Malala day is not my day. Today is the day of every woman, every boy and every girl who have raised their voice for their rights

Despite her youth, Malala has shown by example that children and young people, too can contribute to improving their own situations. This she has done under the most dangerous circumstances. Through her heroic struggle she has become a leading spokesperson for girls' rights to education.



What is Steiner education?

Steiner education...

- Works for all children irrespective of academic ability, class, ethnicity or religion;
- Takes account of the needs of the whole child – academic, physical, emotional and spiritual;
- Is based on an understanding of the relevance of the different phases of child development;
- Develops a love of learning and an enthusiasm for school;
- Sees artistic activity and the development of the imagination as integral to learning;
- Is respected worldwide for its ability to produce very able young people who have a strong sense of self and diverse capacities that enables them to become socially and economically responsible citizens.
- In today's world of technology such an education seems more and more necessary.

The first school based upon Steiner's ideas was opened in 1919 in response to a request by Emil Molt, the owner and managing director of the Waldorf-Astoria Cigarette Company in Stuttgart, Germany, to serve the children of employees of the factory. This is the source of the name Waldorf, which is now trademarked for use in association with the educational method. The Stuttgart school grew rapidly and soon the majority of pupils were from families not connected with the company. The school was the first comprehensive school in Germany, serving children from all social classes, abilities and interests.

Steiner Education

Rudolf Steiner education is an international movement. At present there are 1,039 independent Waldorf schools, about 2,000 kindergartens and 646 centres for special education, located in 60 countries. There are also Waldorf-based state schools, charter schools and academies and home-schooling environments. The Waldorf method is a large independent alternative education movement, which has a worldwide



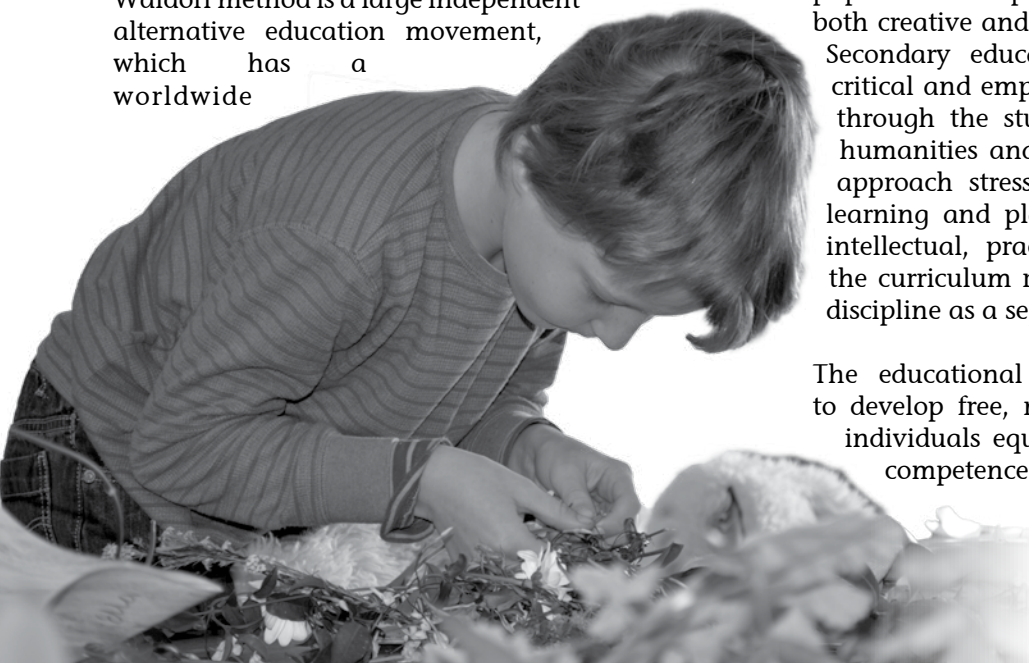
following. The Waldorf approach has achieved general acceptance as a model of education and has influenced mainstream education in Europe.

The Rudolf Steiner curriculum recognizes that children pass through distinct developmental stages at which times specific forces are at work and capacities develop. The curriculum is designed to deliver the right stimulus at the right time, thus allowing each of these developmental stages to unfold fully. Rudolf Steiner education emphasizes respect, reverence and wonder for nature and for human existence. Learning becomes much more than the acquisition of vast amounts of information; rather, learning becomes an engaging voyage of discovery, both of the world and of oneself.

Waldorf pedagogy distinguishes three broad stages in child development. The early years, education is focused on providing practical, hands-on activities and environments that encourage creative play. In the elementary school, the emphasis is on developing pupils' artistic expression and social capacities, fostering both creative and analytical modes of understanding. Secondary education focuses on developing both critical and empathetic understandings of the world through the study of mathematics, arts, sciences, humanities and world languages. Throughout, the approach stresses the role of the imagination in learning and places a strong value on integrating intellectual, practical, and artistic activities across the curriculum rather than learning each academic discipline as a separate concern.

The educational philosophy's overarching goal is to develop free, morally responsible, and integrated individuals equipped with a high degree of social competence.

Nadine Carbone



DIARY OF EVENTS

July

- 2nd Reception on the Anniversary of America's Independence. Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Grace Attard attended
- 3rd NCPE consultation
- 7th Public Dialogue with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador for Italy on the Italian Presidency.
- 8th Networking Group Empowering Adults
- 9th Succession Planning for Family Business Mary Gaerty attended
- 10th Anniversary of the ODIHR Gender Plan of Action Conference in Vienna. Meeting in Gozo of the Business Consultative Council. Mary Gaerty attended
- 11th Round Table discussion organized by the EU Commission. Mary Gaerty attended
- 12th Doris Bingley presented the views of Civil Society in Vienna
- 16th LGBT and I meeting at NCPE Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 18th Occupational Therapy conference on Eating disorder u l-Obezita at the Dolmen Hotel
- 21st Business Breakfast on Pensions. Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley attended
- 22th Signing of the Condolence Book at The Netherland Embassy
- 28th Tunisian Ambassador visits NCW Centre
- 29th Men Against Violence

meeting at NCW Centre Digital Malta yearly consultation Workshop Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended

31st Talk on Pensions at NCW

August

- 1st Focal Point Office meeting on the rights of persons with disability in Malta today .
- 4th Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley meet Dr Claire Cassar – CHOGM
- 8th Laqgħa pubblika mal-Prim Ministru at the Auberge de Castille Doris Bingley, Mary Gaerty and Grace Attard attended.
- 12th MSV meeting Mary Gaerty, Grace Attard and Doris Bingley
- 18th Courtesy Call on H.E. President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca by the Malta Unborn Child Movement Mary Gaerty attended
- 21st Nuncio Apostolico visits NCW Centre
- 22nd Nisa Laburisti Conference entitled, «Women – Leaders in an evolving society» Mary Gaerty and Marie Demicoli attended
- 29th Barbeque and Quiz nights at the residence of NCW President organised by NCW

September

- 1st Association for Consumer Rights Malta meeting
- 3rd Business Consultative meeting. Mary Gaerty attended

- 6th Jum il- Vittorija F'Misrah Assedju il-Belt Mary Gaerty attended
- 7th Jum il-Vittorja Naxxar Parish Church Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 10th- 15th Doris Bingley, ECICW President in Vilnius for the General Assembly
- 13th WE3 Opening of Oils and Acrylic Collective Exhibition
- 16th MCESD CSC Doris Bingley participated
- 21st Independence Day Celebrations Mass and Concert Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended. Reception at the British High Commission to welcome Prince William Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended. Concert at the President's Palace Valletta – Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 24th Public consultation organized the Ministry of Finance at the Intercontinental MSV Meeting MCVS Meeting – Doris Bingley
- 25th Executive Committee Meeting at NCW at 5.00pm Central Committee Meeting at NCW at 6.00pm Chinese Anniversary Celebrations Reception at the Embassy Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended.
- 26th Meeting with EUPA
- 30th Men against Violence Meeting at NCW Centre Civil Society Committee (MCESD) Meeting Doris Bingley attended

Renewal of Membership fees

NCW Treasurer would like to remind members to renew their subscription of Twelve Euro by the end of the year. Cheques should be addressed to NCW Malta and sent to NCW Malta, Pope Pius XII Flats, Mountbatten Street Blata l-Bajda HMR 1579.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN MALTA

Conference venue: Parliament of Malta

Date: Monday 3rd November 2014

Time: 9.00 – 16.00hrs

Co-organizers: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the House of Representatives of Malta (Kamra tad-Deputati), the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality of Malta, and the National Council of Women Malta
STRICTLY BY INVITATION.

CONFERENCE: A STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF FOOD WASTE.

Conference Venue: The Palace Hotel Sliema

Date: Friday 21st November 2014

Time: 8.30 – 12.35hrs

A networking lunch will follow. Participation is Free of Charge

Love Food Hate Waste

Wasting Food is Wasting the Planet

Poster Competition for Children aged 8 to 13 years

The National Council of Women and the Association for Consumer Rights are organising a Poster Competition entitled, "Wasting Food is Wasting the Planet" for children from the age 8 years to 13 years. Posters should include 5 to 10 text (either in Maltese or English on the theme of, "Wasting Food is Wasting the Planet". The dimensions must be (A3) in landscape layout.

Awards/Prizes

1st Prize - 100 euro book voucher

2nd Prize - 75 euro worth of books

3rd Prize - 50 euro worth of books

The winners will be announced during the

European Week for Waste Reduction between the 22nd November and the 30th November 2014

Entries for the competition should arrive at NCW Centre Blata Pope Pius X11 Flats Mountbatten Street, Blata l-Bajda by not later than 12th November 2014

Conference Women and Pensions: Creating Sustainable Pension Systems for Women in Malta

Venue: Phoenicia Hotel, Floriana

Date: 28 November 2014

Time: 8.30 to 13.00hrs

The Conference is being organised by the National Council of Women and MSV Life. A network lunch will follow. Participation is Free of Charge.

Lejla Letterarja - Il-Milied ta' Dari

Lejla Letterarja nhar il-Erghba 3 ta' Decembru fil-Centru tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa Blata l-Bajda fis- 6.30pm Matul is-serata ser jinqaraw xogholijiet letterarji fuq Il-Milied ta' dari miktubin mill-membri u l-hbieb tal-Kunsill. Dawk li jixtiequ jibghatu kontribuzzjoniet ta' xoghol letterarju ghandhom jibaghtuh li Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa qabel 25 ta' Novembru. Registrazzioni ghal din l-attivita' jinghalqu se Tlieta 2 ta' Dicembru

Fil-Lejla ser jisserva Ikel Tradizzjonali tal-Milied .

Prezz €5 Ghal aktar dettalji cemplu lill-Kunsill fuq 21248881/21246982

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

HSBC

