

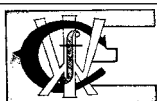


N-Mara

Newsletter of the National Council of Women - Malta

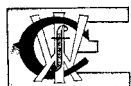


Members of


**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 Photos

Empowerment Course Participants

Foundation Day Dinner (Photos by
Mr Stephen Galea St. John)

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 13.30

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New individual membership	€14.50
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*Members and affiliated organisations
are requested to keep their subscription
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Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue 104 of NCW newsletter Il-Mara. We hope everyone is finding time to relax and enjoy the summer months, in spite of the heat. We have a lot of events and experiences to share with you in issue 104. Here, at NCW it is a time of reviewing our policies, planning ahead on current issues which are vital for our families and society which have always been our priority.

Following the successful completion of the MCCF Project (full reports and photos can be viewed in this issue) NCW is committed to continue its educational programme. The month of May has offered another enriching opportunity in the interest of the Council, three executive committee members and one representing an affiliated organisation travelled to Moscow for the General Assembly of the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW)

For many years NCW was responsible for addressing issues of violence within the family, especially preventive measures, creating awareness and educating men and women to eliminate this harmful and degrading behaviour in many ways and not least through social media. However we do not stop there. Our proposals to help individuals obtain emergency relief for battered women, ensuring they have forms of training for reintegration in society as well as ensuring children who are in shelters with their mothers are helped to live a life where in spite of the difficulties and psychological trauma they can live their childhood and adolescence in a positive manner.

NCW also organised sessions in collaboration with the American Embassy through which the Men against



Violence organisation was set up. Albeit this, we still hear of horrible cases. The time has come where we must integrate our efforts working within the community to find ways of eliminating any kind of violence especially domestic violence once and for all.

NCW is constantly aware of the changes in our society and the challenges they bring with them, not least the increase in the risk of poverty due to the lack of adequate measures to ensure

that the distribution of wealth really reaches out to those who are most vulnerable. Addressing the issue of poverty is high on the nation's agenda and NCW also has a number of proposals to be put forward. Included in this issue are NCW's resolutions on Domestic Violence, Migration and Food waste.

We hope that sharing with you our thoughts for the coming months will give you some ideas for reflection. We would be very grateful to listen to your view that is one of the reasons for sending you our newsletter

As a last thought we encourage you to be in touch with us, attend our events and initiatives and encourage others, who may be in need of our assistance to get in touch with us. Most of all let us ensure that we are strongly united in our values that are the foundation of a healthy society

Marie Demicoli
NCW Editorial Board Member

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President's Message

Dear Ladies

The relaxing summer months are with us once more and we are supposed to relax and take life easy. One can hardly think about relaxation unless you are living on a desert island, far away from the madding crowd, with no mobiles, internet and any possibility of news reaching you. Total bliss!

We cannot ignore the ongoing wars in so many countries- Libya, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan - all with high humanitarian consequences. The refugee crisis that has hit several European countries, such as Italy and Greece, causing chaos not only in the refugees lives fleeing war torn zones, but also in many instances disrupting the lives of those who accept them and others who fight against their intrusion in the host country. Violence seems to be on the increase throughout the world and one may ask, has the human race lost all the capabilities for discussion and conflict management, or is violence now the bully, causing death to innocent people, a deadly silent war that strikes when least expected. We remember the recent victims of several ISIS attacks in France and Belgium, unnecessary deaths and injuries resulting in pain within the families and disruption in the daily lives of the normal citizen. These attackers try to instill fear and as Antoine Leiris said following the loss of his wife in the Paris attack by ISIS, "You want me to be afraid? To cast a mistrustful eye on my fellow citizens? To sacrifice my freedom for security? You lost. Same player, same game," A courageous man indeed!

Although it is summer, the Council's centre is still open and busy with the ongoing courses that are booked as soon as the registration opens. The last of a series of three Empowerment Courses, has just finished

and we must thank the Malta Community Chest Fund for funding this education which the participants have found invaluable. I am sure that with this newly acquired information they will progress further and be prepared to face new challenges.

Malta has always had special ties with the UK and the recent BREXIT has been a widely discussed topic, both before and after the referendum. Since several Maltese and British are living and working in the each other's country, speculation of 'what's going to happen now' is discussed on a daily basis. We wait and see!

The Minister for Economy, Investment and Business, on the initiative of NCW and in collaboration with two other women organisations, shall be organizing an interesting and informative seminar/workshops on October 6th. Do keep the date free, especially those of you who are interested in starting a business or those of you who intend to scale up or internationalise your business. I can assure you that you will find these sessions interesting.

The Council is at present participating in several consultations and I encourage you to take up some summer reading of new Bills being discussed at present, namely The Human Rights and Equality Commission Act and the Equality Act. Comments are always welcome.

Wishing you all pleasant and relaxing summer holidays.

Mary Gaerty
President



A Visit to St James Cavalier, Centre for Creativity

2nd May, 2016

**by the students of the English course
MQF1 at the NCW**

It was an unusually cool morning when we met on the beautiful Entrance Bridge to Valletta at 9.15am. The group consisted of eight MQF1 students, a guest from the English SEC class at the NCW and myself. We proceeded up the grand staircase that leads to Castille Square, taking some photos on the way with the backdrop of the new parliament building. Then we entered St James Cavalier through the magnificent back staircase, pausing once more for a photo.

Unfortunately, with regard to exhibitions at the Centre for Creativity, Monday, 2nd May turned out to be a very bad day for us because the staff had just dismantled a very interesting exhibition on WINDVANES ('PINNURI') as well as another exhibition by

students of Spanish on DON QUIXOTE in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the great Spanish writer CERVANTES. However, we did appreciate another exhibition about CERAMICS by Tony Briffa.

At 10am we met Ms Elaine Felice Pace, our friendly and knowledgeable tour guide, who explained to us the historical development of the Cavalier, taking us through the Knights of St John's period to the British period and finally to the wonderful transformation into its present state by RICHARD ENGLAND as the MILLENNIUM PROJECT. Ms Felice Pace then took us on a tour of the different venues of the place explaining about the activities held in each place, particularly the CONCERT ROOM, the ATRIUM, the THEATRE and the CINEMA. With regard to the Atrium and the Theatre, she expanded on their use in the British period as cisterns or

water reservoirs that received water from Rabat through the aqueduct to feed Valletta.

At about 11am the tour was over, so we all gathered at the local cafeteria for some relaxation and a friendly chat over a drink or a snack. Before we left, we all agreed that it had been an enjoyable and culturally fruitful morning.

JOHN ELLIS (Tutor)



Advancing in Society through Empowerment Course

The third consecutive Empowerment course was once again a success. It celebrated accomplishments as participants embarked on this journey towards empowering themselves to evolve into better individuals.

The reasons why the participants decided to attend this course were various and unique, just like each and every member of the group. We shared our joys and sorrows, we shared our experiences, we supported each other to develop our strengths and weaknesses, and most of all our debates were not judgemental, but presented compassion and acceptance towards the diversity of opinions and lifestyles that we all lead.

The dynamics between the participants harmonised through the fact that they were all there for one common goal: to empower themselves and uplift their personality characteristics towards being better persons. This course was an eye-opener to some and a ray of hope to others. I, as a trainer could observe each and every participant advance in their personal skills, and this could easily be witnessed through their rapport with each other and with us as trainers. The participants were being more assertive when expressing their opinions during the discussions. I could observe that they acknowledged their flaws and showed willingness to act. Being

aware of one's strong points and weaknesses is the first step towards empowerment, the rest is up to personal motivation towards a better life.

I would like to conclude by first of all thanking the

National Council of Women for organising such a beneficial course, it surely left a mark in people's life forever. I would like to thank all the participants for their contribution and dedication towards the course, which was intensive however it was worth all the effort – I admit that it was a learning experience for me too. Last but not least, I would like to express heartfelt gratitude towards Your Excellency President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca for her endless support towards such projects and initiatives.

Josette Barbara Cardona B. Psy (Hons) (Melit.), MSc. Occ. Psych. (Leicester), PGDip. Educ. (Derby), MBPsS - Trainer



Presentation of Certificates by H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca - President of Malta



All the participants thanked the National Council of Women, the Association for Consumer Rights and the Malta Community Chest Fund for this learning experience.

Advancing in Society through Empowerment course was funded with the support of MCCF.

Foundation Day Dinner



NCW celebrated its Foundation Day Dinner at the Corinthia Palace Hotel Attard on Friday 29th April 2016. Many members and guests enjoyed the lavish dinner expertly prepared by the professional staff at the hotel. Amongst the distinguished guests were Mrs Michelle Muscat, wife of the Prime Minister, the Hon Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, US Ambassador H.E. G. Kathleen Hill, the Ghana High Commissioner H.E. Kenneth Enos Kofi Tachie with his lovely wife Victoria, Dr and Mrs Lawrence Gonzi and the Member of Parliament Kirsty Debono together with Mr Debono. During the evening the Council honoured Mrs Doris Bingley for her professional and outstanding commitment towards the National Council of Women and for her constant initiatives in promoting Gender Equality at National, European and International level.

During the evening NCW President Mary Gaerty presented Doris Bingley with NCW Malta's Hon Life Membership, whilst thanking her for her work. She invited Doris Bingley to say a few words. Doris Bingley started by saying how humbled and honoured she was to be made an Honorary Life Member of the National Council of Women Malta. She offered her sincerest gratitude to the Executive Committee and NCW Members for this prestigious award.

She gave a very brief description of her life before she returned to Malta having spent many years in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean, where she helped various organisations in contributing to the development of society to improve gender equality and justice for women and children.

Her retirement in Malta did not last long, as at a chance meeting with Mary Rose Zahra during a millennium function for teachers at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, she was encouraged by Mary Rose to join NCW Malta. Little did she realise that she would be nominated and elected Honorary General Secretary soon after she joined and that she would hold the post for so many years.

She extended her gratitude to the numer-

ous people that supported her throughout these years among them Mary Gaerty, Grace Attard, Marie Demicoli, and all the members of the Executive. She felt greatly honoured to follow in the steps of distinguished predecessors like Jane Spiteri, Dolores Cristina, Cecilia Xuereb and many more, who worked hard to strengthen the Council with innovative ideas to improve and revitalise it.

She believes passionately in what NCW Malta stands for and what members can achieve together, a desire to have a society in which everyone can live life to the full.

She again thanked everyone present that evening for the honour that had been bestowed on her and she felt committed to continue to support the cause of the Council in the interests of Gender Equality and

Civil Society.

She finished by dedicating the award to her late husband who was very supportive to her and NCW Malta in those first years of her tenure of office.

Marie Demicoli
NCW Office Secretary



NCW Malta honours Doris Bingley

Commemorating the Jubilee Year of Mercy, International Women's Day and Workers' Day.

On the occasion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, International Women's Day and Worker's Day 2016, the National Council of Women and the Catholic Action Women's Branch organized a special pilgrimage followed by Mass which was celebrated by H.G. the Archbishop of Malta Mgr. Charles J. Scicluna at Mdina Cathedral on Saturday 30th April 2016. Mr Joe Aquilina kindly offered to animate the pilgrimage from Mdina main gate to the Cathedral. During the homily the Archbishop said that The Lord of Mercy will be with women in moments of disappointment and sorrow



Commonwealth Women Leaders' Summit

Visionary women leaders in government, business and civil society from across the Commonwealth came together in London to identify practical steps to achieve gender equality and the protection and empowerment of women and girls.

They explored solutions ranging



from improved education, to making better use of new technologies, to targets and quotas to boost women's leadership.

Opening the Women Leaders' Summit this morning, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland vowed to be a champion for women and girls. She made it clear that action on gender equality and women's empowerment is "core to the success of the Commonwealth".

"As we move from aspirations to entitlements and from plans and intentions to actions, I thought it was necessary to convene this Women Leaders' Summit," she said. "It comes at an opportune time, a time that recognises women's capacity and capability to take control of their lives and reshape the world they live in."

The Secretary-General also praised phenomenal women leaders around the world, including the UK's new Prime Minister Theresa May. But she also highlighted the lack of recognition for great women and the challenges women still face in rising

to leadership.

The keynote speaker was the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry in India, Kiran Bedi. She shared her six-point plan for sustainable crime prevention, which involves collaboration with the media, the police, the courts and other agencies.

Ms Bedi was voted the most admired and trusted woman in India by Reader's Digest. She stressed the importance of collaboration, care and conscientiousness in effective leadership.

She said: "It's all about sharing – the more you share, the more you give others a voice. You are translating leadership to the grassroots level, and as you turn back and go home you've left leaders behind, who will continue to transform because they were inspired. You became a mentor and a role model and that was your duty to do, you've not done anyone a favour."

Working in groups, the participants examined three specific areas: violence against women,



women in leadership and women's economic empowerment. They discussed disturbing statistics which laid bare the plight of the millions of girls who are forced into marriage at a young age, who live with female genital mutilation, and who experience school gender-based violence.

They discussed specific measures such as compulsory sexual and relationship education in schools

and domestic violence perpetrator programmes. They called on the Commonwealth to lead with initiatives such as model laws to strengthen legislation, creating tool kits, co-ordinating collaborations, sharing best practice, awarding companies with diverse boards, and stepping up its advocacy efforts on behalf of women and girls.

After lunch HRH The Duchess of Cornwall paid a surprise visit to the Summit. Today she had her own meeting on domestic violence, but she wanted to show her solidarity with women at the Commonwealth meeting.

Secretary-General Scotland, who is nearing the end of her first 100 days in office at the Commonwealth Secretariat, thanked The Duchess of Cornwall for her support. In her closing speech she highlighted the importance of collaboration and thanked the women for taking up her challenge to commit to at least one thing to improve the lives and prospects of women and girls.

She urged the women in the room to visualise the people, the children, to think about the elderly, the youth and those struggling to make ends meet. She said "What we are doing really matters. It is not esoteric. We have a choice to really change lives. I thank you from the bottom of my heart from all those people who need your passion, your contributions, and as a result of today are going to get it."

Doris Bingley participated and joined the "Women in Leadership" working group.



Commonwealth hosts seminar on Governance and Sustainable Development

Government Ministers and policy advisers met on 8 June 2016 at the Commonwealth's headquarters in London for a panel debate on how best to promote those governance systems which will best deliver the Sustainable Development Goals

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, opened the meeting saying "In September it will be a year since global agreement was reached on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development following what was an extensive and inclusive process of consultation," The agenda really defines the global aspirations of us all going forward. This unanimous endorsement defines the global development priorities for the next 15 years. These are our Commonwealth priorities too," she added, "and it is clear to me that all our work must be directed towards helping our member states to reach these goals."

Three specialists, Dr Ebba Dohlman Senior Adviser on Policy Coherence at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Audley Shaw, Jamaica's Minister of Finance, and Dato Sri Idris Jala, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia, led a panel debate to share their experiences of working towards the Sustainable

Development Goals with Commonwealth High Commissioners, ministers and guests attending the event

Audley Shaw, Jamaica's Minister of Finance said that the Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the member states presents a historic opportunity for countries to address the most urgent priorities. These include income and gender inequality, promoting inclusive economic growth with decent work for everyone, while creating sustainable cities and communities, addressing climate change.

Fellow panelist Dato Sri Idris Jala shared with delegates his experiences of advocating for change in the Asian country. You've got to translate high-level strategies into practical programmes for implementation. "Goal setting, prioritising projects, and adopting a granular approach to strategic implementation are central to effective government," he said.

Ebba Dohlman highlighted the need for policy coherence for development and the EU's approach using this policy tool. "Three key elements of policy coherence support sustainable development," she said. "First – identifying and managing the interaction trade-offs. As you implement SDGs, there

will be trade-offs between well-being here and now on the domestic front, trade-offs between future generations, and also in terms of impacts elsewhere. "The second element is to establish and adapt institutions that are fit for purpose to help reconcile these trade-offs. The third critical element is that one has to assess policy effects at all stages of the policy-making process, she said.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is committed to working with its member states and partners in their effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and help fulfill a pledge to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Doris Bingley attended this meeting.



Diverting Food and Organic Waste from Landfills to combat Global Climate

Committee/organisation submitting the resolution

NCW Environment Committee

Justifications

- Most people don't realize how much food they throw away every day — from uneaten leftovers to spoiled produce. Once in landfills, food breaks down to produce **methane**, a potent greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change.
- Local Scenario
 - 22% of food purchased is thrown away* – NSO 2013
 - 50% of the mixed-waste bag from Maltese households is food – NSO 2013
 - 246,100 Tonnes of Municipal Waste in 2012 – NSO 2014
 - 175, 003 Tonnes to Landfill – NSO 2014
- Diverting food waste from landfills not only conserves limited landfill space, but also helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In landfills, organic materials, like food scraps and yard trimmings, are broken down by bacteria to produce methane. Methane, a potent greenhouse gas, is shown to have a warming potential of 21 times that of carbon dioxide. As we

try to combat global climate change, we need to reduce methane emissions to the atmosphere.

- By putting food waste into a landfill, we are wasting a valuable resource. When properly processed, food scraps can generate renewable energy, enhance the soil as a fertilizer, and feed animals. Composting food waste produces a natural fertilizer, which can create healthier soil and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers. Through anaerobic digestion, bacteria can digest the food waste to produce methane, a valuable energy source when captured.

Recommendations:

- Better labeling system and **education of the 'Use by' 'Best before' and Expiry date'** will avoid perfectly good food from being thrown away. One fifth of food thrown away in the UK was due to confusing labels
- **Creating Awareness Campaigns** will reveal the quantity of food that is being wasted and offering simple solutions will help in cutting down on food waste
- Introducing projects encouraging **home composting** will divert waste from landfills. Using the proximity principle,

organic waste can be turned into good compost.

- The **participation of children** in these projects will help them to become familiar with the food chain especially if they are encouraged to use the compost for growing food.
- **Organising Roadshows** in different localities where compost bins can be sold at subsidized rates (easily done through funds saved from landfill or gate fees for the disposal of the material). These roadshows will have the assistance of composting experts, who will answer questions from those interested. These roadshows have brought composting possibilities within the reach of many who had thought that it was impossible to achieve good results.
- Introduce **community composting**: The government can allocate a parcel of land to the local Council where those interested can compost their waste.
- Create **a website/facebook page** for composting enthusiast where compost 'recipes' can be discussed and experts will advise on methodologies, etc
- Education on **waste avoidance** in a manner that is well understood by all.

Foundation Da



ny Celebrations



Report on Launch Conference on Violence against women across the EU Abuse at home, work, in public and online. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

The survey is based on interviews with 42,000 women from across the 28 Member States of the EU. It reveals that violence against women and more particularly gender-based violence disproportionately affects women, families, friends and society as a whole.

The survey asked women about their experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence, including incidents of intimate partner violence (domestic violence) and also asked about stalking, including through internet and mobile messages, sexual harassment, violence in childhood and fear of victimisation

The survey findings reveal that violence against women is an extensive but widely under-reported human rights abuse across the EU.

Overall, extent and nature of violence against women including intimate partner violence.

About 8% of women have experienced physical and /or sexual violence in the last 12 months before the survey interview and one in three women has experienced some form of physical and /or sexual assault since the age of 15

One in 10 women has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 15, and one in 20 women have been raped since the age of 15. Of those women in the survey who say they have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15, almost one in 10 indicate that more than one perpetrator was involved in the most serious incident of women who have been in a relationship with a man, 22% have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.

Of women in the survey who indicate they have been raped by their current partner, about one third (31%) say they have experienced six or more incidents of rape by their partner. Many have experienced several incidents of marital rape. Evidence shows that a significant number of women continue to be vulnerable in the aftermath of violent relationships. The survey results also show a relationship between a woman's partner's heavy alcohol abuse and increased violence. The findings show that repeated victimisation on many women's lives is a particular characteristic of intimate partner violence

Consequences of physical and sexual violence against women including intimate partner violence

Reporting rates of incidents of violence against women to the police and other services are low (between one in three and one in four). Women experience several incidents of abuse by a partner before they decide to report, whereas non-partner violence reporting is more likely. In particular the findings reveal the victim's lack of satisfaction with the police. The survey indicates that pregnant women are vulnerable to violence. The survey shows that 87% of women would find it acceptable if doctors routinely ask about violence if patients exhibit certain injuries.

Compared to the number of women who contacted healthcare services as a result of violence, few women contacted victim support organisations or women's shelters. About one in four victims of sexual assault by either a partner or a non-partner did not contact the police or any other organisation after a most serious incident because of feelings of shame and embarrassment.

Psychological partner violence against women

Psychological violence by partner is widespread. The survey results show that two in five women (43%) have experienced some form of psychological violence, either by a current or a previous partner. 25% have been belittled, 14% whose partner has threatened to hurt them physically and 5 % whose partner has forbidden them to leave the house or locked them up or taken away their car keys. Employers and Trade Unions should consider adopting awareness raising and related training activities for responsible personnel to help them identify and respond to the needs of employees suffering from psychologically controlling behaviour by partner

Experience of stalking

The findings show that one in five women have experienced some form of stalking since the age of 15. However one in four stalking cases reported in the survey never came to the attention of the police.

Internet and the social media of victims of stalking 23% indicate in the



survey that they had to change their email address or phone number in response to the most serious incidents. The police need to investigate where cyberstalking plays a role

Vulnerabilities of professional women alongside other women

Between 64% and 75% of women in a professional capacity or in top management jobs have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime. One in 10 women have experienced inappropriate advances on social websites or have been subjected to emails or text messages (SMS), young women in particular.

Experiences of violence in childhood

The scale of childhood abuse and under-reporting

Just over one in 10 women (12%) has experienced some form of sexual abuse or incident by an adult before the age of 15. Some 27% of women have experienced some form of physical abuse in childhood before the age of 15 at the hands of an adult. In 97% of cases of sexual violence in childhood the perpetrator was male whereas in cases of physical violence only slightly more cases were attributed to men than to women

Ways forward

The study presents the EU and Member states with the most comprehensive EU-wide data set on violence against women which can serve to inform policy

responses and action based on the evidence of the findings themselves.

The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) provided the most recent studies carried out, following an earlier publication in June 2013. A summary of the key points of the CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) was also highlighted during the Conference.

The CoE Convention is the first European legally-binding instrument devoted to violence against women. The Istanbul Convention recognises female genital mutilation (FGM) as a form of violence. Sanctions need to be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Justification on the basis of culture, religion or tradition may not be used in order to lessen the punishment.

Although the EU has several directives

and has carried out vast research studies on violence against women, the topic falls under the competence of National Governments. The EU Parliament has repeatedly called for a European Strategy to counter violence against women including a legally binding instrument. The Parliament called once again on the Commission to devise an EU strategy for tackling violence against women, which would include the drafting of a directive laying down minimum standards. Finally in January 2014 the FEMM Committee adopted a legislative initiative report with recommendations to the Commission on combating violence against women (rapporteur Antonia Parvanova, ALDE, Bulgaria)

Useful websites

<http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu>

<http://epthinktank.eu>

ep@ep.europa.eu

Technical Report - <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/vaw-survey-technical-report>
<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/vaw-survey-results-at-a-glance>

fra.europa.eu

E-learning course on Female genital mutilation (FGM): www.uefgm.org

Factsheet summarising key concrete actions aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in the EU, published March 2016(456 kB)

Factsheet on the Istanbul Convention: combatting violence against women, published March 2016(478 kB)

NCW Resolution on Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Situations

Domestic Violence - Removing a tool for ongoing power and control whilst safeguarding victims and children financially.

The situation: Victims, who are most often women, are likely to have already suffered financial abuse and often leave their violent relationships in a state of personal financial ruin. When there are children, the situation is made worse when the non-custodial parent, who is responsible for making monthly child support payments, fails to do so. This comes at additional costs and suffering to the custodial parent and children. The withholding of child support payment can be used by the non-

custodial and abusive partner as a tool for blackmail and further control and violence. Children are often embroiled in the requests and the passing around of money between parents.

The recommendation: That the non-custodial parent make payments (as per court decree) directly to a state agency or department. The state agency or department will issue payments of said amount to the custodial parent (irrelative of whether or not payments by other parent have been made or defaulted). The state agency or department is then responsible for recovering defaulted payments from the non-custodial parent.

This measure

1. Ensures an uninterrupted flow of child support, preventing the currently experienced hardship felt by custodial parents and their children, when payments are not made.
2. Eliminates the possibility of withholding child support as a tool for control by the noncustodial parent.
3. Alleviates the legal burden from the less financially powerful custodial parent, of suing for defaulted payments.
4. Removes the direct financial link between estranged parents, freeing children up from the role of 'messenger'.

Malta Girl Guides Association Seminar on FGM

Malta Girl Guides Association Seminar on FGM

A number of NCW members, including Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Grace Attard participated in a Seminar 'Talking Lips' - an event organised by the Malta Girl Guides to raise awareness about the illegal practice of Female Genital Mutilation. The objectives of this conference were:

1. to raise awareness on FGM on local level;
2. to educate professionals who are in direct contact with women migrants;

3. and
3. to speak up for FGM potential victims.

The volunteer-led seminar took place on 22 April between 9am and 1pm at St James Cavalier under the patronage of Health Parliamentary Secretary Dr Chris Fearne and funded by the Small Initiatives Support Scheme operated by the Malta Council for Voluntary Sector. The Seminar included sessions about FGM from a legal, medical, social and cultural perspective. Additional

Resources were provided by the organizers together with a Certificate of attendance



Report of ECICW &

This year the European Centre of International Council of Women (ECICW) held its Spring Assembly in Moscow. The Women's Union of Russia successfully hosted this conference which took place between 18 and 22 May 2016, and four delegates from NCW (Malta) attended, namely, Doris Bingley, Grace Attard, Therese Cassola and Gertrude Abela. The various international delegates were warmly welcomed by Helena Baschun and Lyudmila Porokhnyat as they arrived at Hotel Arbat, Moscow, where the conference took place.

The seminar commenced officially on 19 May. Ekaterina Lakhova, Member of the Federation Council of the RF Federal Assembly and President of the Women's

- Strengthening networking with Employers representatives, Trade Unions and NGOs. Currently there are over 16, 000 established NGOs

- The setting up of Women's Councils has resulted in initiatives in a number of areas: Healthy lifestyles, addressing issues in rural areas, equality, Friendship/Peace

During the 1990 crisis a lot of work was carried out towards the integration of women in employment and a revision of the Constitution including Article 19 *Equality for Women and Men*. Over 350 new laws were drafted addressing: the development of the Family Code, Improved election processes, Draft laws on violence, amongst others.



International Initiatives:

Stability, rural women, peace and security, military conflicts New York UN – Women, Asia Forum for Peace (St Petersburg)

A number of Local and Regional Projects/Programs were presented on the following themes:

- Solid family – stable country
- For Sustainable development and social security
- Advance practices - new ideas - for men and women positive action
- Guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities
- Women for Rural Development

The Women's Union of Russia has turned into one of most stable and large-scale organizations in Russia, with a wide and well developed network. Women's councils operate not only on the regional, but also on the municipal level, in towns, villages, enterprises and institutions and at places of residence. They are very active and enterprising; they organize numerous activities and events and implement projects, which add to their wider recognition. The Women's Union of Russia are very thankful that the member societies of the ECICW have worked much in attracting women's organizations from Eastern European countries to work together to promote gender issues all over Europe. They are proud to



Union of Russia, introduced and chaired the opening session, which had as its theme **Transforming Society through Political and Economic Empowerment of Women** – small-scale practices – a weighty contribution into the national development.

The conference included various presentations by a number of distinguished women from various rural regions across Russia holding political, social and academic key positions, on the following themes:

- Women's role in the process of decision making as a factor of stability and sustainable development
- Women's role in ensuring equal rights for men and women
- Women in the north Caucasus
- Role of public organizations in social and political life of municipalities (example of Kursk)
- Social policies in Russia
- Role of Civil Society in public control and public expertise
- Women's Union of Russia: small-scale practices - a weighty contribution into the national development

In 2015 Women's Union of Russia marked the 25th anniversary in full compliance with national and international law. The following are areas in which Women's Union of Russia has contributed

Families for the Future

Over 1 million signatures were collected in favour of strengthening the family

The initiatives that were addressed included:

- Strengthening the traditional family
- Secure childhood
- Healthy life-style
- Development of early education
- Responsible parenthood
- Recognition of 'Father's Day' which was the result of the setting up of a Council of Fathers and Council of Parents working directly with schools
- Recognition of the contribution of the elderly, raising the importance of integration of religious denominations

Youth organizations

The following are various initiatives targeting the youth sector:

- Development of partnership responsibilities with government, social partners, NGOs and political parties.
- School of Civil Society: such as training for different sectors regarding their role in civil society and training at Local Council level



ICW Spring Assembly 2016



be one of the member organizations of the ECICW although they cannot participate in every general assembly. But the decisions and resolutions of the ECICW make the basis of the work of the Womens' Union of Russia.

The next day of the conference was dedicated to ECICW general assembly. The meeting opened with reports from ECICW President Cosima Schenk and ECICW Treasurer Martine Marandel.

Reports from the European organisations were read out. A discussion ensued among most of the member countries about the financial situation that their respective NGO is in, due to lack of funds, they are limited to implement more projects and activities. Among the topics discussed were the following: giving space for women in decision making and politics; the rights of women are still violated; women and peace (women's power is peace power); non-discrimination between women and men; solidarity; women's pensions; sexual and reproductive health rights; strategies encouraging women entrepreneurship; gender and sustainable development; abuse against elderly women; giving empowerment to female asylum seekers.

Another report from the **European Women's Lobby (EWL)** was read out with the following highlights:

- The need for an action plan to address Violence against women and in line with EU Parliamentary report (FEMM) on EU

- Strategy on Violence against women.
- EWL Campaign '**Together we can make it happen**'
- New model – both men and women are breadwinners
- Launching of project on refugees- women and girls
- Abolishing prostitution
- Women Social Entrepreneurs – Mapping Women's Entrepreneurship in Europe
- Working with EIGE especially to address issues on the young generation

(Council of Europe (CoE) reports - Fundamental Rights Agency

"ECICW is a vibrant Regional Council of ICW" as Cosima Schenk, President of ECICW, puts it; and as the European National Councils of Women are also affiliated with the International Council of Women, it is customary that the International Council of Women (ICW), the *mother* umbrella organisation, also held its general assembly at the same place to make it easier for its members to participate.

Jungsook Kim, President of ICW, was next to read out her report. She mentioned the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 2016. ICW Board Members met UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon who acknowledged the huge role played by ICW, as the oldest organisation of women in the world, in unifying women, fighting for peace



and the betterment of the planet. The issues discussed during this meeting were Women's rights in general and participation of women in decision-making processes and the theme *Transforming Society through Women's Empowerment*, which is the theme for ICW for these three years. UN Secretary-General then added that he did his best to promote women at the United Nations and he called on governments, businesses and others to step up for gender equality like full respect for the human rights of women and girls everywhere.

The next days were dedicated to ECICW & ICW Board meetings respectively. Doris Bingley, NCW Hon. Secretary, currently holds the post of Hon. President of ECICW and ICW Vice President.

Our warmest congratulations go to the members of the Women's Union of Russia who very ably organised this conference and other social activities which took the delegates to the theatre to watch the opera *L'Aida*, a gala dinner and a tour of Moscow.

Therese Cassola – Hon. Treasurer NCW (Malta)



Memorial Service for Grace Wedekind

The International Affairs Committee of the National Council of women of Great Britain organised a memorial service for Grace Wedekind at The Macmillan Room, Portcullis House Westminster on Monday 6th June 2016. It was a moving ceremony with family, friends and colleagues paying tribute to Grace for a life she dedicated to NCW GB, ECICW and ICW. A special tribute sent by The Rt Hon Theresa May was read by Gwenda Nichols NCWGB President and Grace's daughter Karen gave a moving account of her caring mother and the satisfaction she showed in sharing the upbringing

ing of her two grandchildren Tom and Emma. Doris Bingley spoke about Grace's friendship and support to NCW Malta especially to the Bice Mizzi Vassallo Competition winners and her devotion to ECICW and ICW. We all valued her wisdom and involvement in these Organisations, holding office in both. Grace was an active supporter of the National Council of Young Women as she saw that the future of NCW lay in encouraging, listening to and supporting the younger generation. For this reason the Grace Wedekind memorial fund will be used for NCW GB Youth Project. NCW Malta contributed 200 Euro to the fund.



Doris Bingley with Grace Wedekind's daughter Karen and granddaughter Emma

A Holistic Approach to Migration NCW Resolution 2016

Justification

Eurostat survey findings reveal that 83% of the Maltese population consider migration as the highest concern and an issue which the EU will not effectively address.

Malta, a relatively small island has received 19,00 asylum seekers since 2002; however only 1/3 of these have remained in Malta. There is therefore the need to understand better Malta's situation even though for the last months there has been decrease in the number of irregular migrants arriving in Malta.

The situation is developing with migration flows from East and West Africa, with asylum seekers going through a very complex migration - that is going through one country (in transit) and moving on in difficult conditions to reach a European host country.

The recent Balkan Route and Migration to Turkey which is very complex especially as a result of the new phenomenon of migrating units as families is causing hardship and needs to be dealt with in a holistic manner

The development of migrant smuggling and the risk of the presence of terrorists amongst the asylum seekers is causing alarm and fear amongst the population in the various EU Member States

Recommendations

According to EU law on Fundamental Human Rights and the Council of Europe Convention as well as the International Humanitarian Convention, all asylum seekers are entitled to protection and have equal rights with the people of host countries including housing, education, health services and employment.

Immediate action needs to be taken with regards to the Schengen regulations in view of the disproportionate number of asylum seekers and economic migrants attempting to enter EU countries without visas

There is the need for a holistic approach to Migration at EU level, especially in the Mediterranean, the need to reform the Dublin 111 regulation to provide the necessary measures for a permanent relocation and strong measures to combat human trafficking and smuggling - a modern day slavery

The current situation calls for strengthening the mandate of the Frontex agency and the strengthening of a maritime

rescue operation in the Mediterranean;

The need to revise the Dublin Convention so as to authorise asylum seekers to submit their request in any Member State

Urgent need to develop pro-active policies which facilitate legal migration;

Evaluating if the Blue Card directive fits the purpose to make Europe a more attractive place to work for skilled workers

addressing barriers such as reducing the time it is taking for the documents of irregular migrants to be processed and reducing time in detention centres

Bureaucracy and barriers to get their recognition of qualifications recognized, resulting in a lengthy process together with difficulties in finding jobs and progressing in their career as well as studying to reach to the level of University qualifications need to be seriously addressed

EU member states need to define measures supporting professional training, agreements with countries of origin, and matching labour supply and demand for the economic development of countries of origin

From a sociological perspective there is the need to address the different perceptions through the language used when speaking about irregular/illegal migration, the media coverage that is very often sensational in reporting on issues of burden sharing and the 'limited structures' in Malta to assist migrants in settling down. More discussion on xenophobia and racism are necessary to change mentalities

The integration of migrants does not mean only integration in the labour market. A number of aspects linked with integration include: education, housing, family reunification, social integration as well as the importance of participation in the life of the community, and proper monitoring mechanisms to evaluate existing policies and planning new policies.

Employers are having difficulties in recruiting employees with the necessary qualifications as well as highly specialized employees, as many posts are not being accepted by the Maltese or they lack the necessary qualifications in specific areas that require high degree levels.

Reference was made to the Social Economy which SMEs can make use of and which will be beneficial to vulnerable groups including third country nationals

President' Foundation for Wellbeing

The **National Observatory for Living with Dignity**, within the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society held a public workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), encouraging dialogue on the SDGs on a national level on Friday 22nd April between 13:30pm and 17:30pm, at the President's Palace in Valletta. NCW was represented by Doris Bingley and Grace Attard.

The event took the form of various experts giving a Pecha Kucha (20 X 20) presentation on a goal which falls under their area of expertise, and included time for comments and reflections from participants. (Pecha Kucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where 20 images are shown, each for 20 seconds). The aim of the Pecha Kucha SDG workshop was to offer a space

for dialogue among all active stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs, in particular policy and decision makers, and civil society organisations. It was an excellent opportunity to start reflecting on SDGs as they are linked to the wellbeing of our society, identifying both potential obstacles to the expected progress towards the goals, as well as possible solutions.

On the 25th September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight injustice and inequality, and combat climate change by 2030. The SDGs are intended to structure the policies and agendas of the United Nations' member states for the next 15 years.

Grace Attard, NCW Vice-President

DIARY OF EVENTS

April

- 4th Partit Laburista & Nisa Laburisti Roundtable entitled, "Women, Work & Economy" at Centru Laburista Mary Gaerty attended
- 7th President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society in collaboration with the Australian High Commission – Closed Door discussion on responding to Domestic Violence. Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 8th Tumas Fenech Foundation Second Pillar Pensions at the Dolmen Hotel Mary Gaerty and Grace Attard attended
- Gender Balance in Senior Management Positions in Malta Conference Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 10th Konferenza Generali Partit Laburista Mary Gaerty attended
- 11th MEUSAC Consultation on ERDF & Cohesion Fund 2007-2013 Ex-post evaluation
- 12th SOS malta & Victim Support Malta Breakfast launch of a new service: "Victim Support online" at the Palace Hotel
- 15th MEP Marlene Mizzi invited NCW Executive Committee to an event entitled "Women's Rights in 2016: Are we there yet?" Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley, Therese Cassola and Marie Demicoli attended
- 21st March of the Penguins Documentary narrated by Morgan Freeman at the US Embassy
- 22nd The National Observatory for Living with Dignity: Public Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals at The President's Palace Valletta Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 22nd Girl Guides Conference on FGM at St James Cavalier Valletta Mary Gaerty Doris Bingley and Grace Attard attended
- 25th EU Drugs Strategy Consultation Session organised by MEUSAC at Fortress Builders
- 27th Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Reception Mary

- Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 27th Press Conference MITA student Placement Prog 2016
- 29th Foundation Day Dinner
- 30th Jubilee Year of Mercy, International Women's Day and Worker's Day 2016, the National Council of Women and the Catholic Action Women's Branch organized a special pilgrimage followed by Mass celebrated by H.G. the Archbishop of Malta, Mgr. Charles J. Scicluna

May

- 4th Radio RTK Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 5th MCESD meeting Mary Gaerty attended
- EPALE Café at Junior College DLLL Centre Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 9th Starting of the last and third Course, "Advancing in Society through Empowerment"
- 18th Non Contributory Pensions Talk organised by the Social Issues Committee at NCW Centre
- Farewell Reception of H.E. Mr Cai Jinbiao and Mme Wang Jianqies Mary Gaerty attended
- 18th – 24th Doris Bingley, Grace Attard, Therese Cassola and Gertrude Abela leave for the ICW/ECICW Spring Assemble in Moscow
- ECICW General Assembly and ICW Board Meeting
- 20th Malta Mediterranean Forum on Governance – Symposium at Aula Magna Valletta
- 23rd MCESD Meeting Mary Gaerty attended
- 25th NCPE Annual Conference at Dar Qalb ta Gesu
- 26th Ms Maria Suarez Lafuente from the University of Oviedo Spain visits NCW Centre
- 27th Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) "State of Play and Future" consultation meeting at Europe House
- 27th Executive Committee Meeting

June

- 6th Presentation of Certificates at San Anton Palace by H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca to participants of the Advancing in Society through Empowerment Course
- 6th Sette Guigno Celebrations Mary Gaerty attended
- Memorial to Grace Wedekind at Portcullis House London. Doris Bingley spoke on Grace's contribution to ECICW
- NCW Malta contributed to Grace Wedekind Memorial Fund
- 8th Doris Bingley was invited by Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Deodat Maharaj to attend a High Level Seminar on 'Governance for Sustainable Development: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' at Marlborough House
- 10th Queen's Birthday Reception at the British High Commissioner's Residence Doris Bingley and Mary Gaerty attended
- 13th Soroptimist International Summer BBQ
- Doris Bingley attends meeting at Marlborough House addressed by Secretary General Baroness Patricia Scotland
- 14th EIGE in cooperation with NCPE seminar entitled, "Towards Gender Equality in Malta" Mary Gaerty attended
- 21st Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley meet Dame Sue Dale Tunnicliffe to discuss courses on STEM organised by CASTME.
- 22nd Public Consultation Seminar on the White paper amendments to the Voluntary Organisation Act "Towards a stronger civil society a dynamic voluntary Sector"
- Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attend Business Breakfast organised by MEDE at Hill Top Gardens Naxxar
- 23rd President's Foundation Annual Forum at San Anton Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended.
- Citizens Dialogue Mary Gaerty attended



WEB DESIGN



MULTIMEDIA



DATA CENTRE



SOFTWARE DEV.

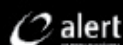


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FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**Summer BBQ and Manoel Theatre visit**

NCW will be organising a Summer BBQ and visit to the Manoel Theatre during the month of September. Further information will be sent to you.

Lifelong Learning Courses.

NCW in collaboration with the department for Adult Education will be organising the following course starting in October.

- Mathematics SEC & MQF 1 Level,
- Italian MQF 2 Level,
- English SEC & MQF 1 Level
- ECDL
- Starting a Small Business

For booking and further information kindly contact the office.

Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting (11WAMM)

This meeting will take place in Apia Samoa from the 5 to the 8 September 2016. The theme of the meeting is 'Gender Equality through Sustainable Development in an inclusive Commonwealth.' Side events on 5th September will focus on 'Women's Corporate Leadership' and 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls'

International Council of Women - Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) Taiwan

The meeting is being held in Taipei Taiwan from **14th November 2016 to 17th November 2016.**

Those wishing to join NCW Malta delegation, kindly contact NCW office for further information.

SME Week – October 2016**Female Business Conference**

The Minister for Economy, Investment and Business, on the initiative of NCW and in collaboration with two other women organisations, shall be organizing an interesting and informative seminar/workshops on **October 6th. Do keep the date free.**

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

