



Founded 1964

# 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 &  
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**Front Cover Photo**

International Women's Day Celebration  
Mass at St Patrick's Church, Sliema

**Office Hours**

Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 13.30

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Founded 1964

# Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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**EDITORIAL**

Dear Colleagues and friends

The heat of Summer has arrived with a vengeance! We look forward to the local village feasts and the tantalizing smell of the barbecue punctuating our beaches and gardens.

Networking at National Council of Women is a continuous process, we learn and deliver and the results are indeed satisfactory. This issue will manifest the work done in these last three months.

We celebrated NCW's Foundation Day in May where members and friends enjoyed a delicious dinner and a very enjoyable evening. Antoinette Caruana MSc (Trg & Dev), BA (Hons), FCIIPD, who is currently Company Secretary and Group HR Manager of the Farsons' Group and a member of the Group Executive Board, was honoured for her distinguished role and specialised work as NCW member and for her outstanding initiatives in Human Resources for many years. Photos can be viewed in the middle page and also on our facebook page.

During the last week of May, all the winter semester courses came to an end. Many adult students set for the MATSEC Exams and others at lower levels to proceed to upper levels in the coming year. NCW would like to thank all participants for their trust and we hope that the courses satisfied everybody's expectations.

In June we witnessed the State Opening of Parliament and we wish this legislature great success and fruitful work for the benefit of society. The National Council of Women has been



working for many years to see more women parliamentarians, but unfortunately this is still a dream. We need more women to come forward as candidates and perhaps we need more ambitious measurers to enhance women's representation.

For the benefit of our readers, we have dedicated two pages to the ten women parliamentarians that will represent the 208,380 women

in Malta – indeed an under representation. This legislature consists of 57 men and 10 women.

We look forward to a busy summer schedule at NCW Centre. Besides the usual courses this year we are introducing a new course for toddlers and children up to six years. This is a pilot project aimed at teaching young children as prospective future scientists the concept of every day science. All the courses are fully booked.

We would like to inform our members and friends that applications for the Lifelong Learning courses, which will start during the first week of October can be viewed on and the registration for these courses are now open till the beginning of August.. Full list of courses held at NCW Centre can be viewed on page 16.

We wish all our readers a relaxing and enjoyable time during these summer months and end by passing on to you a quote from T.S. Elliot

"What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from".

**Marie Demicoli**  
*Editorial Board*

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## President's Message



**D**ear Ladies,  
Last time I wrote my message it was still cool weather, unlike the present 'Lucifer' that has descended on us with all its might. The sweltering heat is ok for those that are at leisure or can sit in a cool environment watching the world go by while sipping a cold drink, an ice cold beer or a refreshing glass of wine. Cool equal's air conditioners and we often discuss how on earth did we manage without them! But in fact we managed very well because buildings were designed to get the utmost – coolness in summer and warmth in winter. Today buildings are designed with air conditioners in mind. Are we better off? Who knows? For sure many will shiver at the very thought of living without an air conditioning unit. Likewise in other things in life, acceptance of changes gradually creeps in and it is only when we look back that we realize we have embraced new values and ways of life that we would never have accepted a few years back. Are we better off? Who knows?

With the general elections over, we were eager to start meeting the new Ministers to learn more about their respective strategies and discuss with them also our thoughts. One meeting we had and which was of utmost importance was regarding the possibility of legalizing prostitution. Several women organisations met to discuss this option and as anticipated, all were not in favour, but rather more inclined towards the Swedish model where the buyer is criminalized rather than the service provider, who in the majority of situations is the victim of her/his pimp.

Eradicating this disease is an impossible feat, curbing it, is perhaps more attainable and at least we should all work to attaining some results towards reaching these goals.

Empowerment and education will assist a person in accessing a good job ensuring that the person will earn a good living and not become poor in old age. The NCW center offers educational and empowerment courses that will kickstart the journey towards reaching this end. The courses in Maltese, English and Maths will be starting in October. These are apart from other courses that are held. This summer we also launched a new project- Science for toddlers and parents, under the guidance of the Commonwealth and with the wonderful implementation of this project of Nadyanne Mangion, herself a scientist. Although the short course is open to both male and female children, the main aim is to encourage more girls to study the STEM subjects and at the same time instill in the parent an interest in the subject. Many girls opt out of T and University courses to do so. Childcare is free for those parents who are studying /working. Education is never lost time!

We shall be preparing our resolutions in the coming weeks. Those of you who think that change is needed or there is an anomaly in the law, please send us an email on [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt). It is only if you highlight an issue that we can propose for change.

Till we meet again! ar ladies.

**Mary Gaerty, President**

## Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for European Affairs and Equality, visits the National Council of Women Centre

**D**uring the visit to NCW Centre, Minister Dalli announced the setting up of an Advisory Council for Gender Equality and she was invited to the National Council of Women to be the first non-governmental organisation on this council. During this visit the Minister met representatives of NCW's affiliated organisations, the Executive committee and NCW members.



## STEM Summer Activities at NCW



WHAT IS  
STEM?

S	SCIENCE
T	TECHNOLOGY
E	ENGINEERING
M	MATHS

**N**CW Malta, through the Commonwealth Women's Network, has teamed up with the Commonwealth Association for Science Technology and Mathematics Educators (CASTME) to provide a number of STEM summer sessions for pre-schoolers and toddlers. Ms Kathleen Nugent vice-chair at CASTME visited NCW last February and together with Nadya Anne Mangion drew up a programme covering fun STEM activities aimed at this age group. The children accompanied by their parents/guardians; are participating in the CASTME Early Years Project – Talking Science. This project is an initiative developed by Dr. Sue Dale Tunnicliffe. It aims at developing the child's natural intuitive and observational and to guide parents/guardians to include and experience science and technology in their early play activities and everyday tasks.

The learning, opportunities and experiences in a child's early years lay down the foundations for later learning and shape a child's future development. It is in this way that STEM awareness is raised in our communities.

## Lady Dr Sue Dale Tunnicliffe

**L**ady (Dr) Sue Dale Tunnicliffe, researcher and lecturer in science education (formal and informal), is truly dedicated in empowering teachers and people across the globe in science education. Dr Sue Dale Tunnicliffe said that we do not realise that science was fun, that everyone could do it in the classroom and did not need sophisticated equipment.

'Science is everywhere' She strongly believes there is a misconception that science only takes place or is only learnt in labs and books. "The public still seems to perceive that a scientist is a person in a white coat, in a laboratory. Science is present in our everyday life and it is everywhere, breathing, eating, the temperature and many







simple things that we take for granted. If you talk about the everyday use, you are actually helping in preparing children to be citizens who have scientific literacy,” she says. “You do not need labs and expensive equipment to teach science. What you need is human resources and low cost equipment, for example plastic water bottles, batteries, cardboards, coat hangers, spoons, among others.”

Lady Tunnicliffe also advocates the encouragement of mothers and carers to talk about the science and engineering experiences of their world to their pre-primary children. “What we want to do in other places through the CASTME, and it would be great if we could do is to help mothers and fathers, grandparents and carers to realise how important it is to talk to their children about science.

For example, to get the children involved in the simple activities like cooking rice. You can question children and trigger their interest in discovering how the rice turned from raw to cooked,” she explains. Also trusts that educators should teach science through hands-on activities instead from textbooks which children can read on their own at home and that the teaching and learning of science should start at a very early age.”

Dr Tunnicliffe argues that children are intuitive scientists but unfortunately they get squashed out. “Children are not empty vessels. They don’t have misconceptions; they have children’s interpretation of the world. The idea is to get them realise what science says. Lady Sue truly believes that both teachers and the community in general have to comprehend that there are new approaches to the teaching and learning of science. “Again, this is a major issue all over the world that parents think that children should be sitting in schools like they were, chanting their tables. They don’t understand that how research and learning has changed the way we know we should work with children. This is what we are trying to do as the Commonwealth is very keen on hearing the community. Many parents also do not understand the



importance of playing through which children learn and develop their creative skills.” She also trusts that failure is also an important learning process. “Children have to learn by trial and error because this is when critical thinking and the problem solving comes in.”

The researcher and the lecturer highlights that the cross-disciplinary approach to learning science is important. “For example you could use what the students have learned in maths to teach science, for example. There are transferable skills. Far too many schools teach in little compartment but they should be doing it across. And all the basic maths equipment you have in a classroom is actually what you need to do the science Lady Sue Dale Tunnicliffe states the teaching of science is a long term investment. She advocates that mothers play a key role in that. “I often say this to mothers, for example in places like Bangladesh, that ‘You are the first and most important teacher of your child’.”

**Nadya Anne Mangion**  
*NCW Malta Talking Science Coordinator*  
*CASTME Early Years Project*



## First Aid Course - *Presentation of Certificates*



Participants that successfully completed a First Aid Course during 2016/2017 were invited to attend a Certificate Giving Ceremony, which took place on Thursday 6th July at 6.30pm at the National Council of Women Learning Centre. The Hon Minister Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment presented the Certificates and highlighted the importance of continuous education. He said that accidents will always happen and properly-trained individuals help ensure better safety for everyone. Without the proper first aid knowledge, a simple injury could turn into something much more severe. Many fatalities resulting from accidents and emergency situations result from lack of immediate medical treatment. First aid doesn't just facilitate

recovery, it helps save lives. The Hon Minister also praised the work of NCW and assured NCW of his full support with regards its educational programme.

Others speakers were Mr Mauro Pace Parascandolo, whose support was vital as without the VO council funds, we could not have organised such courses. Ms Gemma Sirolli, who gave an overview of the course and Ms Mandy Mifsud from the Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Innovation launched the Adult Learning Courses for the Year 2017/2018. A networking reception followed the presentation.

**Marie Demicoli**  
*Office Administrator*

## Integration of migrants in Malta

### *Presentation of "Stepping Up" research project organized by Migrant Women Association Malta and the President's Foundation for the Promotion of Social Inclusion*

An event was held on the 2nd May by Migrant Women Association Malta (MWAM) and the Foundation for the Promotion of Social Inclusion in Malta (FOPSIM).

MWAM was set up as a peer support group in order to help with the integration of this group of people experiencing difficulties in all areas of their lives, educating and empowering them to become productive members of Maltese society.

While policies and agencies strive for holistic integration, it is the attitudes and expectations that Europeans show towards migrants that will endorse or influence a multicultural approach. This point was brought up in the President of Malta's opening speech who stressed the importance of widespread dialogue and consultation at all levels to organise a variety of opportunities for sharing experiences.

Over the past year, MWAM has been conducting research into the lives and experiences of migrant women living in Malta. The project, named "Stepping Up" and funded by the Small Initiative Scheme (SIS) of the Presidents Foundation aimed to broaden our understanding of migrant women's access to the Maltese labour market. This research provides a lens through which authorities and other agencies can make use of to target future projects and initiatives to specifically cater to the needs of the migrant women.

This study focuses on women who have been through the asylum process in Malta. The selection of this sample is formed by the typically implied vulnerability of this population as well as by their high representation among the clients and members of the association.

However, it must be highlighted that MWAM does not exclude other groups and offers its services to migrants regardless of nationality or legal status.

The report included barriers to employability, skills training, family composition, educational level.

In line with this report, the association will also be officially presenting its cooperation with Microsoft Malta, specifically launching the "Women Back to Work" initiative which is a training course held by Microsoft Philanthropies in helping migrant women to reintegrate into the labour market in Malta.

The research outcomes include:

Estimated composition of the research population per nationality and legal status from Libya, Syria, Eritrea, Somalia.

It was noted that there were many difficulties during the questioning process owing to language barriers

A call for attention was made to the high unemployment among this population. Child-care responsibilities and discrimination are the main causes stopping female asylum-seekers from entering the Maltese labour market.

The research demonstrates the underutilised skill pool that female asylum seekers are.

Results evidence the high qualifications, extensive experience, and entrepreneurial potential of a remarkable percentage of this target group. Hence, social integration efforts should consider the variety of skills and educational levels and cater to them appropriately; from the unqualified to the highly trained, all of them require and deserve support. Furthermore, it cannot be dismissed how high discrimination ranks regarding them.

The publication can be found on the (MWAM) facebook as can all events put up by the association to promote a better understanding of this cultural mix that is contributing to Maltese society.

**Vivien Cassar**  
*Education Committee*

## No to the legalisation of prostitution!

**T**he National Council of Women is very concerned with the proposal that once again is being put forward to debate legalising prostitution and it reiterates its position that such a law would be a confirmation that women are considered a commodity and that women's sexual favours are there for the taking as long as one pays! This worst form of degradation of women is totally unacceptable.

NCW believes that respecting the dignity of women as human beings and respecting their human rights, should be translated in practice through a holistic interministerial approach together with NGOs, who are addressing this issue. The programme should offer the services of professionals including social workers, psychologists, medical practitioners, nurses and legal advisors to reach out to women, taking into account their different

circumstances, providing support, social and health services, education and training and incentives for job opportunities and to assist women to get out of the trap of the 'traditional' prostitution rings.

Many countries are opting for the Swedish model – criminalizing the user, which Malta should adopt effectively.

Both 'traditional' prostitution and trafficking of women for sexual exploitation require different legal measures and law enforcement, the latter also falling under the UN Palermo Protocol on Trafficking of Human Beings, which should have been signed and ratified by Malta years ago. NCW has for years been urging different governments to address these two degrading practices separately. It is a shame that in the case of the latter, so little, if anything has been done in practice. What legal protection is offered to these young women? There is the need

for a change of attitude of the Police Force coupled with better investigations of the 'entertainment' industry and the links with trafficking and sexual exploitation

It is an embarrassment to our political parties, that the Council of Europe has so harshly criticised Malta for the lack of the implementation of the Convention on Trafficking of Women for Sexual Exploitation.

NCW fully supports the positive steps taken in addressing organised crime, the criminalisation of practices of living off immoral earnings, organising prostitution in various places of entertainment or forcing or seducing anyone into prostitution. However, there is still much more to be done. NCW insists on stronger law enforcement measures and condemns any attempt to changes in Malta's legislation to decriminalise the sale of sexual favours.

## Trafficking of women for sexual exploitation... the fight goes on!

**T**he National Council of Women strongly supports and looks forward to the proposed steps to be taken by the Office of the Attorney General and the Malta Police Force to review and propose reforms on current procedures concerning the identification of victims of human trafficking, before the initiation of prosecution proceedings. However, NCW calls for stronger measures to address these issues in a more comprehensive manner

For many years, the Council has been advocating addressing human trafficking seriously and looks forward to reforms in trafficking of women, as there is no doubt that trafficking of young women for sexual exploitation is fast increasing in Malta. Reports in local newspapers of young women from Russia and Eastern European countries to work in the 'entertainment' seem to be simply watering down the real situation.

In Malta, although the authorities attach a lot of importance to drug trafficking, they tend to treat trafficking of women differently. Although Catholic Malta condemns prostitution on moral grounds, our society is not really aware of the circumstances that drive Eastern European women into prostitution. These women who come to Malta to earn money are often enticed by the myth that in Western Europe there is a better life.

Coming from a life of poverty and no opportunities for employment, often they are offered the choice to make use of their physical appearance to make money fast.

The disillusion sets in when it is too late, when they start working and find that they get a very small share of the earnings negotiated in the transactions. They often end up as 'slaves' losing their freedom, sometimes not even allowed to leave the place of accommodation provided for them. Visa permits which expire after six months are taken from them and this makes it easier to get rid of them without leaving any traces.

Some questions need to be addressed: is there enough evidence to charge individuals of human trafficking? If not, is it because of lack of adequate laws or lack of evidence? What legal protection is offered to these young women? There is the need for a change of attitude of the Police Force coupled with better investigations of the 'entertainment' industry and the links with trafficking and sexual exploitation

The United Nations Palermo Protocol, which Malta has signed and ratified clearly states that 'Trafficking in Persons means the "recruitment, transfer, harbouring of receipt of persons by means of threat, use of force, or other forms of coercion, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of vulnerability or of giving or receiving

payments of benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation" Moreover it stress that *"The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation is irrelevant."*

NCW joins its counterparts in Europe, members of the European Network Against trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation (ENATW) from Hungary, France, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Italy. The Council strongly urges government to ensure that measures regarding legal protection as well as all forms of protection through social support structures are in place. It urges government to include in Maltese legislation the buying of sexual favours a crime against human rights. The Council believes that strengthening law enforcement measures and administering heavy penalties for all those involved in the chain of organised crime, including individuals who are financing these activities are the key to the elimination of this form of 'white slavery'

NCW urges government to ensure that civil society organizations, that is representatives of NGOs that have been working in this field are also appointed on the task force, as their experience can result in more effective procedures

**Grace Attard**  
NCW VicePresident







# Foundation Day Celebrations 2017





## ECICW-CECIF General Assembly Spring Session

**M**ary Gaerty and Doris Bingley represented the National Council of Women Malta at the Spring General Assembly of ECICW in Tunis in April 2017.

Cosima Schenk, ECICW President opened the meeting by expressing her gratitude to the NCW Tunisian President Radhia Jerbi for hosting the event. The ECICW President also expressed her gratitude to ICW President Jungsook Kim who came from Korea to attend this regional meeting.

President Kim conveyed her appreciation to have the opportunity to speak about the achievements of ICW around the world. She praised the Taiwanese government together with the NCW Taiwan Linda Liu who organised a very successful Executive Committee event in November 2016. Besides she spoke about the participation of ICW in the CSW 61 in New York last March.

In her report Cosima Schenk recalled the meeting we had in Moscow last May 2016, the seminar hosted by the NCW Northern Cyprus, the General Assembly of ECICW presided by Fatos Inal in Taipei. Besides she mentioned the rather difficult issue of getting new affiliations.

The Council of Europe Representative Brigitte Le Gouis was thanked for sending regularly CoE reports on the women's issues dealt with at this important international Council in the field of Human Rights.

National reports were circulated among members produced by 15 National Councils. Reports are important for us all in recognizing specific problems in different countries.

For the Board it is the only way to identify priorities and to make up its policy. The highlights of each one will be later on evaluated and circulated. In the meeting some important issues were raised, such as the relationship between violence and lack of education, the benefit women can experience from the micro-credit and the intercultural trends in the Euro-Med region.

Members stressed that investments in youth-led initiatives and education are perceived as the best response to conflicts and radicalization of terrorist movements.

Elected to the new Board 2017-2019 were: Cosima Schenk, President, Joëlle Letsch, Rosa Artigas, Fatos Inal, VicePresidents, Jamal Herès, General Secretary, Ludovina Moreira, Treasurer while Martine Marandel and Radhia Jerbi were co-opted as Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.

"The Role of Women in the Democratic Transition" was the theme of the seminar hosted by the National Council of Women in Tunisia (Union Nationale del la Femme Tunisienne)

In her introduction the President of the NCW Tunisia, Radhia Jerbi said that women are in the Centre of the political confrontation in Tunisia. Women as Agents of Change have the duty to promote themselves in the society by a better level of education.

In her presentation the Minister of Women and Family, The Hon. Nazila Labidi mentioned that she concentrates her activity on the ground level by providing help to raped women as well as legal assistance to all needy women.

Saida Zniber, active member of the NCW Morocco described the work of her association by the decentralization of the 63 Centres in urban and rural areas. Thanks to the support of King Mohammed VI, the family law is progressively modernized.

Leila Kayat, Vice President of the Arab Council of Women and former President of the International Association of Women Entrepreneurs insisted on the fact that maternity should not be a fatality. She also said that women's leadership has a real transformative effect if two conditions are realized: women should definitely vote for women and they should act to encourage others or themselves in politics. Her slogan: Alone a woman is invisible, together women are invincible.

In her speech Cosima Schenk stated that a real democracy should be evaluated according to the place and the rights granted to women. Besides facing the uncertainty of the world political situation women's issues have lost importance.

One of the main objectives of ECICW is to reinforce its network and support to the rather new women's organizations around the Mediterranean and to the ones in Eastern European countries.

No country in the world has achieved complete equality. The democratic process remains a challenge for women and depends on the degree of integration of them in the societies, which was in the past and is nowadays still so often denied.

**ECICW-CECIF 2017**





## Transforming Young Lives – Youth Mainstreaming in Development Planning

The *Commonwealth Women's Network* would like to raise awareness on the New policy guidance from the Commonwealth Secretariat which will help governments to place young people's needs and aspirations at the heart of national policy-making.

The publication, *Transforming Young Lives: Youth Mainstreaming in Development Planning*, will enable ministers and senior officials to create more 'youth-centric' institutions and planning processes, in which young people actively participate in decisions that affect them.

Launched at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in Uganda, the policy guidance is intended to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by involving young people in finding solutions to global challenges – from ending poverty to combating climate change.

The lead author, Dharshini Seneviratne, Programme Manager at the Commonwealth Secretariat, said: "Young people are passionate about injustice and inequality and want to play a meaningful part in policy decisions that affect them and the communities they represent."

"The goal of this guide is to make development planning and policy-making more youth-focused so that young people and society benefit from better social, economic and political outcomes".

The publication was developed with a research grant awarded by the government of Malaysia. It offers guidance on programme design, operational planning and budgeting, achieving political buy-in for youth development, as well as monitoring and evaluating outcomes.

Commonwealth Secretariat Director of Youth Katherine Ellis, writing in the foreword, says the publication will address a "gap in guidance" by presenting tools and techniques to make young people and their interests visible in government decision-making.

"It is intended to trigger dialogue and mobilise consensus around visions and strategies for youth mainstreaming," she said. "This work with, and for young people, will further strengthen young people's opportunities for living in dignity, good health, peace and economic security, in a society that respects and values intergenerational equality and justice."

Nikolai Edwards, Vice Chairperson of the Commonwealth Youth Council, commented: "The CYC sees the handbook as a useful resource to engage with governments and other stakeholders working with young people, to better inform policy decisions and the quality of engagement, and to ensure that we achieve tangible outcomes and real change in the lives of young people."

During the opening ceremony of the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland stressed the importance of strengthening policy environments and regulatory frameworks and scaling up the capacity of people responsible for effecting change.

She said: "Our job is to deliver concrete policy recommendations and practical commitments to action that will transform the life chances of the young man who is wondering whether he will be able to find the finances to start that business he has been dreaming of since he was 15 years old, or of the young woman who is uncertain if her new university degree will help her find a decent job in her chosen field or profession."

Find out more about the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting: [www.thecommonwealth.org/cymm](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/cymm)

Social Development Youth Uganda

## EESC/CCMI Conference in Malta

The European Economic and Social Committee's Consultative Commission on Industrial Change, (CCMI) Conference on **Digital Europe and Industrial Change** took place in collaboration with the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Enterprise at the latter's premises in Republic Street, Valletta on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at 9 a.m.

The Consultative Commission on Industrial Change, has drawn up several opinions on the paradigm of industrial digitalisation. These opinions put forward recommendations to the European Institutions and public authorities in general. The Conference in Malta provided an opportunity to discuss ideas and exchange views on future challenges, good practices and practical implementation. The Conference dealt with:

- Digitalisation and Industrial Change
- The impact of digitalization on Health and medical care
- Emerging Technologies in automotive sector
- Digitalisation of Financial Services
- Impact of digitalization on employment and skills

CCMI delegates Grace Attard and Edwin Calleja assisted the CCMI Secretariat in the discussion on the main areas to be addressed in organising this event, identifying speakers and working on logistics.



## NCW Members visit Farsons Brewery

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017, NCW members and friends were invited to tour Farsons Brewery in Mriehel. It was indeed a lovely experience to witness at first hand the making of beer and to listen to an introductory talk about the history, the marketing strategy and the success of Farsons Group of Companies.

Mr Michael Cilia, who has worked with Farsons Group of Companies for many years, went into detail to explain how the brewery evolved through the years and expertly explained the whole process of making beer and soft drinks.

The group was welcomed by the Company Secretary Mrs Antoniette Caruana and ended at the bar for a taste of the refreshing local beer and soft drink.

NCW would like to thank Ms Antoniette Caruana and Mr Michael Cilia for this great opportunity which was indeed a wonderful experience.



# National Council of Women congratulates Women Parliamentarians

## Minister Dr Helena Dalli B(HONS), MPHIL, PHD, MP (Ministry for European Affairs and Equality)

Dr Helena Dalli is the Minister for European Affairs and Equality of Malta.

She was elected to the Maltese Parliament for the first time in 1996 and served as Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister between 1996 and 1988. Dr Dalli was re-elected to Parliament in all subsequent national elections. Between 1998 and 2013 she served as shadow minister for public administration, public investment and gender equality. Following a change in government in March 2013, Dr Dalli was appointed Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

Dr Dalli was re-elected to Parliament in the 2017 elections and was appointed Minister for European Affairs and Equality.

Dr Dalli holds a Ph.D in Sociology and lectures in the areas of sociology of law, public policy and economic sociology.



## The Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana B.A LL.D, ATEM

I have always believed that being in politics is being of service to others. Although I have pursued my professional career as a lawyer, I had been dreaming since childhood that each person can be a useful part of society through their skills and knowledge within the human solidarity framework. Politics also involves good listening skills towards becoming a leader among those we represent.

Being a woman and mother of two has been a challenge for me but I managed to blend a way of life that essentially includes the wider family of a constituency that suffers from its double insularity. Challenging as it may have been, my fourteen years in parliament, have proved that determination and hard work are the main keys to any success. Public recognition, such as being chosen as ambassador for the Women In Politics Global Forum, is as significant as the public trust attained through being elected for a fourth consecutive time. My political life has been enriched while serving as Parliamentary Secretary for the elderly and disability sectors in recent years, with further experience through my active involvement within the Mediterranean Parliamentary Association and Commonwealth fora.

With my current appointment as Minister for Gozo, I am committed to realise my childhood dream of serving as a leader among my own fellow Gozitans. With the feasible electoral projects I have penned for Government, I am confident to bring Gozo's rightful aspirations at a centre stage of the country's national wellbeing.



## The Hon. Julia Portelli Farrugia

Hon. Julia Farrugia Portelli is a former journalist, with 20 years' experience under her belt. She has worked both for radio and television as well as in the print medium, serving as the first female editor of a Maltese newspaper.

She has also recently worked at Projects Malta, striving to facilitate Public Private Partnerships in order to develop exciting new opportunities for Malta. The Maltese political scene is not new to Hon. Farrugia Portelli due to her journalistic background, however she is now experiencing it from the other side of the fence.

The portfolio she has been entrusted with is an exciting, albeit challenging one. Nonetheless, nothing compares to the excitement and satisfaction of balancing these new duties as Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms, Citizenship and Simplification, with those of being a mother of a 4-year old daughter. Eliza's enthusiasm and eagerness to learn about what being a Member of Parliament entails, are a welcome conclusion to each working day.



## The Hon. Rosianne Cutajar

Rosianne Cutajar was born on the 4th of September 1988. She started her education at Qormi's primary school followed by Maria Assunta Girls secondary and Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School. In 2010 she graduated from the University of Malta and started her teaching career teaching Italian, a profession she had always dreamt to embark on from a very young age.

During this period she was also offered the opportunity to work as a journalist and newscaster at One News. In 2011 she submitted her candidature for the Qormi Local Council elections, a decision she took after being approached by Dr Joseph Muscat himself.

On the 10th of March 2012 Rosianne was elected mayor of Qormi with the highest amount of votes at the very young age of 23. She was not only the youngest female mayor to be elected at such an age in Malta but the first female mayor to be elected in Qormi. She was re-elected Mayor in 2015 after obtaining the majority of votes. Rosianne Cutajar obtained 1820 first count votes which is the highest amount of votes from all female candidates during this round of elections.

Rosianne Cutajar contested the 2017 general elections and made it to Parliament. Aged 28, she is the youngest MP in this legislature and the 2nd youngest woman in Parliament after the late President Agatha Barbara. She was appointed Head of Delegation of the OSCEPA, Chairperson of the Family Affairs Committee, member of the Council of Europe and she is also Chairperson for Education at NL (Nisa Laburisti).



## Marlene Farrugia

I was Born in 1966 in my parents' home in Żurriq. Graduated in Dentistry at the age of 20 from the University of Malta. Been in private dental practice ever since, while also running a small chain of group dental practices.

Passionate about Maltese Historical Heritage and Traditions. Even more passionate about preserving and nurturing our natural environment. Built up my own little business of converting historical houses and antique furniture collecting and recycling. Have been in public politics since 1996 when I was elected as PN local Councillor for Żebbuġ. Was elected in the National Parliament on Labour ticket in 2008. Officially Set up my own Democratic Party on 22nd October 2016. This is my third legislature as a people's representative, this time elected as democratic party leader on PN ticket.

I am a proud mother of three delightful people.





# mentarians for their success in the recent General Elections

## The Hon. Dr. Marthese Portelli

Marthese Portelli has been re-elected president of the Nationalist Party Executive Committee for a second two-year term, winning double the number of votes she received when she was first elected.

Dr Marthese Portelli is 32 years old. She lives in Birkirkara with her husband Jes and their son Miguel. She attended the Salesians Primary. When at University, she managed to juggle lectures, her responsibilities as GUG President and her responsibilities as KSU Vice-President. At the moment she occupies the posts of a lawyer by profession specialising in IT and commercial law and she is a lecturer with 2 leading companies in Business Strategy and Development and Occupational Health and Safety, she is also the representative on the Council for Children on behalf of the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs.

Dr Portelli was a general election candidate in March 2008 and was the first woman to occupy the post of President of the PN Executive Committee.



## The Hon. Kristy Debono

Kristy Debono is a Member of Parliament representing the Nationalist Party. Debono is serving her second consecutive legislature in the House of Parliament. In the 2017 General Elections, Debono was the only female MP in the House of Parliament who got elected with a quota on the first count whilst obtaining more than a third of the Nationalist Party votes on the 9th District. Historically she is the second ever Nationalist female MP who exceeded the quota on first count vote.

Kristy Debono is an economist and is the Shadow Minister of Financial Services, IT, Gaming and the Services sector. Kristy Debono has been involved in politics since 2008 where she served as International Secretary in the Youth's Movement of the Nationalist Party and was an elected member in the Party's Executive Committee.

At 35 years of age, Kristy Debono is the youngest female MP with the Nationalist Party. She is married to Jean Pierre and have a two year old daughter Serena Dawn.



## The Hon. Therese Comodini Cachia

Therese Comodini Cachia holds a Ph.D. in Human Rights Law and is a lawyer by profession. Comodini Cachia presented several legal briefs related to violations of human rights before both the national courts and the European Court of Human Rights. She served as a national expert on European Union networks authoring reports analysing the national situation on the implementation of human rights in Malta. She joined the Partit Nazzjonalista in 2012 and has served as the first Chairperson for the party's policy fora and a member of the Committee proposing structural and statutory amendments. Following the general election of 2013, she represented the party in the Constitutional proceedings against the Electoral Commission obtaining as a remedy for the party two additional seats in Parliament. Comodini Cachia was elected a member of the European Parliament in 2013 and was appointed rapporteur for the EPP group for several reports related to the digital economy, the creative industry, company law and education. She is currently serving as an elected member of Parliament and is spokesperson for the Opposition on education and employment.



## The Hon. Dr Maria Deguara

Maria Deguara iggradwat mill-Università ta' Malta f-1973 u ilha tipprattika l-professjoni bħala tabiba tal-familja għal snin twal. Hadmet f'numru ta' speċjalitajiet u sptarjiet tal-Gvern uħud minnhom f'karigi amministrattivi. Għandha post graduate Diploma fl-Ultrasound u hija għalliem u eżaminatur fl-ispeċjalità tat-tobba tal-familja. Bħala rikonoxximent ta' din il-hidma fil-kamp mediku hija wahda mil-ftit li inharet *Fellow* tal-Malta College of Family Doctors.

Għal sbatax-il sena kienet Sindku tan-Naxxar u għal sitt snin kienet viċi president tar-reġun tat-tramuntana. Ikkontestat l-ewwel darba l-aħħar elezzjoni ġenerali mal-Partit Nazzjonalista u giet eletta fil-Parlament Malti. Giet maħtura *shadow spokesperson* għall-Anzjani u Persuni b'Disabilità u nħaret membru fil-kumitat tas-Saħħa.

Il-ftit hin liberu li jkollha tqattgħu mat-tlett neputijiet li għandha, taqra, jew tmur xi passigġata ma' żewġha fil-kampanja fejn jkun jistgħu jgawdu l-kwiet u n-natura. Thobb issiefer, tisma' l-mużika klassika jew tmur tara film fiċ-ċinema.

Dr Maria Deguara hi miżżewġa lil Dr. Louis Deguara, ex ministru tas-Saħħa, u għandha żewġ itfal, Christine, tabiba speċjalista tal-Obstetrija u Ġinokologija f'St Bart's Hospital, Londra, u Christopher, li speċjalizza bħala tabib tal-familja.



## The Hon. Claudette Buttigieg

Claudette Buttigieg is the current Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta. She is the first woman to be elected to this prestigious post.

Claudette Buttigieg took her educational formation at St Dorothy's Convent in Mdina and Tal-Virtù. She then went to the New Lyceum (now Junior College) in Msida. Claudette furthered her studies at the University of Malta with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree in Theatre Studies, English and Italian. After winning a scholarship offered by the Italian Government, Claudette continued her academic specialisation at the University of Bologna (Italy) where she studied at the renowned D.A.M.S – Discipline dell'Arte, Musica e Spettacolo obtaining her Doctor of Letters (D.Lit) under the guidance of the late Fabrizio Cruciani.

After a long and illustrious career as an actress, singer and TV producer and presenter for over 16 years, Claudette contested the 2013 General Elections where she was elected on the 8th district. In 2017 she once again got elected, this time on the 12th District.

Claudette's political work focused mainly on health when she was the Shadow Minister but she also worked in Civil Liberties and Social Dialogue. She is very happy with her current work as Deputy Speaker and she will be using her position to give a voice to the issues which are most close to her heart including Violence Against Women, Diabetes and Mental Health.

Claudette Buttigieg is married to David and they have a daughter, Kristina.



## Consumers' Page



**ANEC** has long campaigned for a strong and ambitious European Accessibility Act (EAA) as we believe the EAA has the potential to improve people's everyday lives as well as to increase business competitiveness and innovation.

Following the EP Internal Market & Consumer Protection Committee's (IMCO) adoption of a disappointing report on the EAA in April, and the concerns voiced by some Member States about its potential financial impact, ANEC thought it important to invite decision makers and journalists for 'eCoffee' to discuss the Act and achieving a more accessible Europe.

Hence, on 6 June, ahead of the adoption of the IMCO report by the EP plenary and the Council, ANEC, AGE and EDF hosted a well-attended webinar to debate the EAA and its implications.

Presentation is available at NCW on request. For electronic info see the presentation here and be kept informed on the #AccessibilityAct by following us on Twitter, @anectweet.

## A barbecue grill can kill: don't use it indoors

**O**n the occasion of today's 6th Carbon Monoxide (CO) Round Table, hosted by MEPs Linda McAvan and Marian Harkin, ANEC – the European Consumer Voice in Standardisation – urges consumers never to take a charcoal barbecue inside because of the risk of lethal CO poisoning. During the summer holidays, many consumers go camping and take their barbecue grills with them. Some people take the barbecue inside or indoors, either to heat the tent or caravan, or to cook in case of rain. However, indoor use of charcoal barbecue grills creates an accumulation of carbon monoxide which can lead to fatal accidents. Stephen Russell, ANEC Secretary-General, commented, "As a barbecue cools, it emits a large volume of carbon monoxide, a highly lethal odourless and colourless gas. Carbon monoxide from indoor barbecues has killed. We urge consumers to use barbecues well away from habitable spaces and never to use one as a heat source indoors". CEN, the European Committee for Standardization<sup>1</sup>, is working on an amendment to the European standard EN 1860-12 to introduce a pictogram on the barbecue to warn consumers that it should not be used indoors. ANEC takes part in this work

"Many people are not aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide", Stephen Russell continued. "High level exposure is fatal. Low level exposure can cause irreversible brain damage. Tell your friends and families not to use barbecues inside. You will help save lives by spreading the word". Find out more about carbon monoxide in the ANEC-CSI leaflet, 'Carbon monoxide, the silent killer'

## Further standards on child protective products

**ANEC** commissioned a technical study to determine whether children are at increased risk of serious injury as a result of domestic products being used in non-domestic settings. AIJU, the contractor of the study, concluded that high chairs, baby prams and pushchairs, changing tables, cots, bunk beds and baby beds are more frequently involved in incidents than others, considering the data consulted.

Falls were the most common accident and the leading cause of injury to children using child care articles in non-domestic settings.

Hence aspects such as stability, structural integrity and durability should be addressed to improve safety. After the grouping of hazards not now covered by the European standards for these products, the study proposes further safety requirements and test methods to be considered in the revision of the standards.

The full report is available at <https://goo.gl/dv4Vhv>



# DIARY OF EVENTS

## April

- 4<sup>th</sup> Women's Organisation Platform 1st Round table discussion, Representation of Women in Parliament – Mary Gaerty & Doris Bingley Attended
- 5<sup>th</sup> 2nd National Conference on Wellbeing Environment Health & Wellbeing
- 8<sup>th</sup> Malta Girl Guides National Conference 2017
- 11<sup>th</sup> Domestic Violence NGO Network Meeting
- 12<sup>th</sup> Half Day of Recollection at NCW Centre
- 14<sup>th</sup> Good Friday
- 18<sup>th</sup> USA exhibition Memories from Pearl Harbour. Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Grace Attard attended.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Partit Laburista Konferenza bitema Is-Suq tal-Kera – Mary Gaerty attended
- 20<sup>th</sup> ALF Anna Lindh Foundation Intercultural Trends Survey Platform for Organisations for Women meeting Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 21<sup>st</sup> EESC/ CCMI Conference on Digital Europe and Industrial Change – Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 26<sup>th</sup> Follow up meeting with Participants of the Empowerment course  
NCPE Annual Conference  
Seminar by Gender issues Committee "Gender in Education"
- 27<sup>th</sup> Launch of the Intercultural Trends Sur Anna Lindh Foundation – Doris Bingley, Marie Demicoli and Hilal attended  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands- Reception to celebrate King's Birthday at – Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Grace Attard invited.  
Presentation / event by AZAD Foundation *L-Ghasafar u l-Bniedem fil-Gzejjer Maltin*
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley left for Tunis to attend the ECICW Spring General Assembly

## May

- 2<sup>nd</sup> National Commission for the Promotion of Equality 13th Annual Conference – Grace Attard and Vivien Cassar attended
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley return back from Tunis

- 4<sup>th</sup> Presentation "Building your customer base"
- 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Interga about funding
- 8<sup>th</sup> MCESD Meeting – Mary Gaerty attended  
NCW Project Meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> Talk by NCW President Mary Gaerty to the members of the Dingli Ladies Circle  
MCVS Council and Training Meeting  
Environment Committee Meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> Domestic Violence NGO Network Meeting Doris Bingley and Grace Attard attended  
DPR – FWS Prof. Susan Hirsch – Lecture  
No Justice, No peace. Can Protest save us in these times? Prof. Susan Hirsch
- 11<sup>th</sup> European commission – League of Arab States  
Euro-Arab Relations looking Ahead – Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Doris Bingley Commonwealth Women's Network Skype meeting with Commonwealth Secretariat  
Women Directors conference Mary Gaerty attended
- 13<sup>th</sup> Funding One Stop Shop  
Presentation by World Expert on Coeliac disease Prof Ciacci – The Palace
- 15<sup>th</sup> Launch of book "Stejjer mid Dar Taghna" World Family Day at San Anton Palace  
Women in World War11 at Hilltops
- 17<sup>th</sup> Seminar Adult Education Life Long Learning & Disadvantage Groups – Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli Attended  
Executive Committee Meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Dinner at the Corinthia Palace Hotel
- 20<sup>th</sup> Funding One Stop Shop – Volunteer Centre North Hub in Rabat
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attend POW Meeting at San Anton
- 25<sup>th</sup> Multiplier Event – Intercontinental Hotel St. Julian's
- 26<sup>th</sup> Multiplier Event – Volunteer Centre  
Effective Education for People working with Vulnerable persons – V.O Centre
- 27<sup>th</sup> Multiplier Event – Volunteer Centre
- 31<sup>st</sup> Domestic Violence network meeting

## June

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Italian Embassy  
Concert on the occasion of the celebrations of the Italian Republica – Mary Gaerty & Mr. Gaerty invited
- 6<sup>th</sup> Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley meet HE Mr Stuart Gill British High Commissioner to Malta  
Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attend the Sette Guigno Ceremony in Valletta  
Meeting with Dr. Mushaben about Migrants, Women, Children, unaccompanied minors – National Council of Women
- 8<sup>th</sup> Europeans Pain Federation Symposium
- 9<sup>th</sup> Europeans Pain Federation Symposium
- 10<sup>th</sup> Visit to Farsons Brewery by NCW members
- 13<sup>th</sup> OP1 Monitoring meeting in Gozo  
Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley invited to the opening ceremony of the Conference on Modern Slavery at Verdala Palace
- 14<sup>th</sup> Modern Slavery Conference at San Anton Palace – Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley participated
- 16<sup>th</sup> Core Group Event at San Anton Palace – Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley  
The President's Forum Corporate Social Responsibility – Antione De Paule Hall, San Anton Palace, Attard
- 18<sup>th</sup> International Council of Women (ICW) meeting Youth Conference
- 20<sup>th</sup> US Ambassador invited Mary Gaerty for an Iftar Event  
Doris Bingley participated in an ICW Board Meeting in Ottawa Canada via Skype
- 21<sup>st</sup> Doris Bingley & Marie Demicoli were guests on Familja Wahda Radio Malta hosted by Lilian Maistre  
Executive Committee Meeting
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Doris Bingley and Representatives of the Domestic Violence Commission attend a meeting at the US Embassy with Dr Susan Ross
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Queen's Birthday Reception – Mary Gaerty & Doris Bingley invited
- 26<sup>th</sup> Iftar Reception by Duonia attended by NCW representatives
- 28<sup>th</sup> DV NGO meeting

## **Lifelong Learning Programme at NCW Centre**

The National Council of Women in collaboration with the Department for Research, Lifelong Learning and Innovation within the Ministry for Education and Employment are pleased to announce the following courses for the year 2017/2018, which will be held at the National Council of Women Learning Centre in Blata l-Bajda.

Mathematics MQF 1 Level – starting Thursday 5th October 2017

Maltese MQF 1 Level – starting Wednesday 4th October 2017

English Language SEC Level – starting Tuesday 2nd October 2017

English Language MQF 2 Level – starting Friday 6th October 2017

Italian Language SEC Level – starting Monday 2nd October 2017

Italian Conversation Course – starting Thursday 5th October 2017

ICT for Beginners – starting Monday 2nd October 2017

ECDL Computer Course Morning – starting Wednesday 4th October 2017

ECDL Computer Course Evening – starting Wednesday 4th October 2017

## **Entrepreneurial Business Creation starting in October 2017**

The National Council of Women is organizing an Entrepreneurial Business Creation Course addressed for adults of various ages. The programmes, which will be run by professional trainers, cover a variety of essential skills to start a business.

The course is free of charge and open to persons over 18 years.

Certificates of participation will be presented at the end of the course in an Award-giving Ceremony. This project has received funding from MCCF.

## **NCW End of Summer Barbecue *Barbecue Friday 15th September***

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