



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

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Founded 1964

Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa

Pope Pius XII Flats, Mountbatten Street

Blata l-Bajda HMR 1579, MALTA

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

<http://www.ncwmalta.com>

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and friends

Welcome to the latest issue of Il-Mara, in which we present to you news about the work that NCW has been carrying out in the last three months. The Malta Presidency provided many exciting events and lots of networking with our counterparts from other European countries. At the end of January, NCW's most important annual event was the Annual General Meeting which showcased the work done by our organization during 2016. A set of resolutions were approved, sent to relevant authorities and will be published in this issue of our newsletter.

One of the highlights of these last three months was the very successful Round Table Conference entitled, "Role of Women in Today's Society" commemorating IWD held at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry organized by NCW with the collaboration of Her Excellency the Australian High Commissioner and the Anna Lindh Foundation. This year International Women's Day was celebrated with many activities by various organizations in different ways. The NCW IWD traditional Mass at St Patrick's was an event which addressed not only the situation of women today, but also the need to respect equality for all. NCW was honoured with the presence of H. E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta in an exceptionally international congregation!



At the end of the Mass, Fr Joe Cini, who celebrated Mass, presented a memento of the occasion to the President of Malta Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and to NCW President Mary Gaerty. He also sent us a copy of the homily to include in this issue of Il-Mara for the benefit of our readers.

This year's motto for IWD is "Be Bold for Change,

a notion that goes back to the the concept of change that NCW has been pushing for many years and will continue through its various education programmes, projects and international connections. NCW has embarked on building a more inclusive, gender-equal Malta, as it has always done, to encourage more women in decision-making and especially during the coming months to ensure that measures are in place so that Maltese women are given effective opportunities to stand for elections in the forthcoming general elections.

We hope that this issue of our newsletter will provide you with the latest news, information and reports of our activities, which will keep you in touch with the most crucial current issues in Malta, in Europe and internationally through the Council's vast network

We look forward to an active Spring schedule and we wish our readers a Happy and Holy Easter with your families and loved ones.

Marie Demicoli
Editor

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President's Message



Dear Ladies,
I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter and that the spring weather has brought sunshine in your lives. As always the NCW Centre is buzzing with activities with the latest addition to our educational programmes being the use of smartphones. Some of us utilise only a few of the device capabilities. Most important for many however is to stay connected, which gives a sense of security knowing that someone is only a call away.

This year the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) Civil Society Committee, discussed the various important and relevant issues that are raising debates amongst the social partners and the unions. One of these topics is the increase of the minimum wage. This concern has generated arguments both in favour and against or even suggestions for a different compensation rather than increase. The talks have been long and drawn out with so far no definite conclusion, so we remain anxious awaiting the outcome which we might or might not finally agree with.

NCW has been in the forefront in promoting women to attain posts in decision making positions especially in the political sphere, however after fifty years the situation has remained practically the same. Presently only a mere 14% of the House of Representatives are women. A 14% representation of a 50% population is not acceptable. What, many ask, are keeping women away from politics, when the percentages of women at community politics are more encouraging! The list of reasons is not so short but perhaps we can pin it down to two or three main factors- support, financial means and family responsibilities. H.E. The President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca has initiated a Platform with the name of POWER that will launch the initiative of a collaboration of female NGOs to assess why

and what needs to be done to encourage more female participation in politics. This will be the first time that so many female NGOs are joining forces to empower more women towards taking a decision to launch a political career. We thank H.E. for this initiative, which we all envisage shall yield the desired results.

NCW, shall in the coming weeks, be starting a new project which will be funded by the National Council of Women and the Malta Community Chest Fund. The previous project also funded by MCCF was an empowerment course and several of the participants revealed their wish to start their own business. This venture seemed more than daunting to all participants and having identified the need for 'handholding' in starting a business venture, NCW with the available funds shall start this project. Those interested please contact the office for more information.

As an entrepreneur myself, I am meeting more and more women managers and business owners and this gives me immense satisfaction to know that finally women are slowly but steadily reaching the higher posts that until a few years ago seemed unattainable. This I believe is an important achievement that will gradually give the results of more women in politics and government and corporate boards. We need to keep this momentum of change and I believe it lies with each and every one of us, to encourage and support women who feel that they must contribute to the nation. It is certainly not an easy task being at the top, what makes it easier is the support that we can all give.

My kind regards to all.

Mary Gaerty
President



Business Creation for Women from Vulnerable Groups through Personal Development and Growth Support with Special Emphasis on Social Enterprise Project

The National Council of Women is proud to announce that the project entitled Business Creation for Women from Vulnerable Groups through Personal Development and Growth Support with Special Emphasis on Social Enterprise was granted funding by the Malta Community Chest Fund.

The project aims to set up a business creation programme that will combine enterprise training with individual counselling and the development of personal skills. A call for tutors and participants will soon be published.

NCW AGM 2017 ... addressing the challenges ahead

The Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Women was held on Saturday 28th January 2017, at the Royal Hall, The Palace Hotel, Sliema. President Mary Gaerty spoke about the work which the Council has embarked on during 2016. This included pensions, education, violence against women, work and entrepreneurship, work life balance and the challenges faced by women on a daily basis.

She also highlighted the fact that the National Council of Women is looking ahead at the constant changes happening at national, EU level and globally and this is reflected in the 2017 resolutions. Mary Gaerty stressed the need to address poverty and the means to overcome it through education, knowledge about financial independence and financial capability. The means to obtain the necessary skills and the enhancement of existing skills could be the initial steps. The possibilities of education through Lifelong Learning are reachable by those who wish to tap this resource. She said that the introduction of skill cards qualifying a person's competences will serve as a ticket, either to continue with the development of skills or for employment. Many women, especially those seeking first employment after raising a family, would be better equipped when applying for a job.

Mary Gaerty urged young women to venture further and choose careers in Science, Engineering, R&D and ICT. Employment in these areas offer highly paid jobs in the diverse and related sectors and opportunities for promotions and managerial positions. This is crucial to the employment

of women in future sectors and which will lead to realistic gender equality. Finally Mary Gaerty encouraged women to make their choices and decisions based on reliable and researched information.

Guest speaker Andre Bonello, Head of Community Outreach Caritas Malta, gave a presentation highlighting various aspects of establishing the minimum income required for low-income families and issues of poverty and to be able to achieve an acceptable and a decent standard of living

The General Assembly also discussed and approved a number of resolutions, including those submitted by the affiliated organisations dealing with: Promoting Women in the Digital Society; Long-term care in ageing societies; Addressing the challenges of work-life balance for working parents; Precarious work in current socio-economic changes, Links between gender equality, economic growth and employment rate; The European Accessibility Act - A new strategy for persons with disabilities; Fighting obesity by promoting breastfeeding in the work place and community Environment; Women and transport and A fairer agro-food supply chain in Malta

The NCW Executive Committee for 2017 include President Mary Gaerty, Hon. General Secretary Doris Bingley, Vice Presidents: Grace Attard, Amy Camilleri Zahra, Lara Tonna., Hon. Treasurer Therese Cassola, Members: Gertrude Abela, Josette Barbara Cardona, Lara Gail Dougall, Susan Midolo, Nadyanne Mangion, Fransina Abela, Diane Xuereb, Rebecca Wellman and Dr Claudine Zarb, NCW Legal Advisor



Finally the members approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to bestow Honorary Life Membership on Antoinette Caruana for her very valid contribution towards the National Council of Women.

Mary Gaerty
NCW President

'Working together to combat Domestic Violence'

The Commissioner for Domestic Violence in October 2016 set up a Network of NGOs working in this field. The Network aims to bring together the various professionals and NGOs who have direct contact with people experiencing domestic violence. During the last meeting the National Council of Women mentioned the Commonwealth initiative entitled, "Peace in the Home – ending Domestic Violence together". The Commonwealth Secretary General Baroness Patricia Scotland launched this initiative on International Women's Day 2017. "Unless there is peace in the home, there can never be peace in our communities" said the Secretary General.

According to the World Bank, one in three women will experience violence in their lifetime and as many as 38 per cent of women murdered globally were killed by an intimate partner. But it is an issue that affects everyone; around 15 per cent of domestic violence victims are men. Achieving gender equality, empowering women and girls and ending the epidemic of domestic violence are urgent priorities

The network members headed by the Commissioner for Domestic Violence Mr Joe Gerada agreed that this was a very positive focus to end all forms of violence.

NCW Malta



International Women's Day Homily

"Be Bold For Change"

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent is always the Temptation of Christ in the Desert. ...different perspectives of Matthew, Mark and Luke. This year we have St Matthew's version.

Dostoyevsky writes that the three Gospel temptations govern human history and underline the contradictions in us.

The temptation of the bread speaks of the desire of our bodies to be pampered. The amount of food discarded, the shopping for the sake of having things, the problem of obesity - all fit comfortably into our daily thoughts.

1. The leap from the temple suggests we are anxious to forget our human condition. So, we want to take off and fly. Adults leave the ground with drink; young 20's use drugs; children sail away through daydreaming. We may be living in a false reality which others have created for us.
2. The temptation to call the world one's own speaks to our Orwellian Big Brother. We want to dominate those who are weaker. How else does one explain husband baiting, wife beating, child abuse, inhuman conditions meted out to immigrants?
3. Everyone of us has the seeds of these temptations within us. We want everything... but we give away so little. We seldom fast; we shun effort; we seldom stop to examine our life; we seldom pray. Is it surprising that we feel we live in a spiritual/ moral/ ethical desert?

AND do we want to remain like this?

1977 UN General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace

Motto for this year's Inter Women's Day is: **Be bold for change.**

To be bold means to feel empowered; it means to be ready to undertake a battle against whatever is keeping me subjected, marginalised, lacking from my God-given dignity (1st Reading - before the fall); it means to look for and use means that will further my just cause; it means also getting out of my ego and widening my vision as to include others.

We do not have to be victims in the battle against evil. We can be victors. We can join so many others, who are already fighting, by doing good! Many people are convinced that they are victims of immorality/ of falsehood spread by the medias/ of poor remuneration... They claim that they are powerless. **They are wrong.** None of us have lost our free will. None of us have lost our humanity. Yes, we are often tempted. But we are **not** too weak, powerless or alone. **We can** all be the best version of ourselves. We can all

find healthy ways of approaching a problem from different angles. This is not easy; of course it is not easy. We are engaged in a war against evil, not a minor skirmish. We need to have courage. We have to fight. And if we are knocked down, we have to get up and fight again.

What our weapons?

- A. **Try** to use the resilience you have in you. Believe in yourselves.
- B. **Try** to take time to review your daily actions and think of ways to correct any wrong.
- C. **Try** to take ten minutes every day to sit in silence and find God in that silence; and then ask God, 'What do you think I should do?'
- D. **Try** to be positive.

A story: A famous writer was in his study room. He picked up his pen and started writing:

- Last year, I had a surgery and my gallbladder was removed. I had

to stay stuck to the bed due to this surgery for a long time. *The same year I reached the age of 60 years and had to give up my favourite job. I had spent 30 years of my life in this publishing company.* The same year I experienced the sorrow of the death of my father. *And in the same year my son failed in his medical exam because he had a car accident. He had to stay in bed at hospital with the cast on for several days. The destruction of car was another loss.

At the end he wrote: *Alas! It was such bad year!*

The wife entered the room, found her husband looking sad and lost. She read what was written on the paper. She left the room silently and came back with another paper, placed it on the side of her husband's writing. When the writer saw this paper, he found this written on it: *Last year I finally got rid of my gall bladder due to which I had spent years in pain. *I turned 60 with sound health and got retired from my job. Now I can utilize my time to write something better with more focus and peace. *The same year my father, at the age of 95, without depending on anyone or without any critical condition met his Creator.* The same year, God blessed my son with a new life. My car was destroyed but my son stayed alive without getting any disability.

At the end she wrote: *This year was an immense blessing of God and it passed well!*

Rev. Fr. Joe Cini
St Patrick's Church Chaplain



International Women's Day 2017 - Be Bold For Change

March 8th has become synonymous with the celebration of International Women's Day, a day established as such by the United Nations in 1975. The first marches for Women's rights can however be traced back to 1908 when 15,000 women marched in New York City demanding better working hours, pay and having voting rights like men. Although the marches and celebrations started at the turn of the 20th Century, it took nearly 70 years for the realization that something concrete must be done to start the uphill climb of gender equality. Today more than 45 years later from that day, themes for IWD remain basically the same, with many predicting that full gender equality will not be achieved before another 170 years, and although the intentions to move to gender equality are present, yet a regression to 2008 levels has been registered in several countries. Can businesses and politics afford to wait that long to reap the benefits of gender equality in leadership positions.

The world's fast advancement in technology has created new challenges for both businesses and employment. Female-run businesses may be acutely affected because of the pervading gender-based skills gap with regards to digital knowledge. The lack of digital skills will also have a long term repercussion on employment in the

technology sector for women. Although 60% of university students are women and there is also a high percentage present at MCAST, how many of the female students are following Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and mobbing into post graduate levels. What will the outcome be women are absent from the highly paid jobs of an ever-increasing digital now and in the future? Will this skills gap further increase the gender pay gap, because women will be in the lower paid jobs and therefore with a lesser possibility of achieving managerial and decision-making positions at their place of work? Will this affect their financial situation and eventually their pensions, their actual employment and careers?

The National Council of Women has been advocating for a national guidance structure that will steer girls in continuing their interest in STEM subjects throughout their academic or vocational education. It is a fact that girls are as interested as boys in STEM subjects till early secondary school years, but shift to more traditional and stereotyped subjects at choice of subjects stage. Action must be taken immediately in order to limit the damage in the skills gap and hence in employment.

This year's theme for International



Women's Day is BE BOLD FOR CHANGE. What can be done to accelerate this change? Women must be present at decision making levels-on boards as leaders and in the political scene in order for gender equality to be reached. Men on the other hand have an important part to play and they too can champion for gender equality. Both men and women leaders can promote females through mentoring and creating an environment that is inclusive and welcome. Bringing about gender balance in all spheres requires a real culture change and a change of mindset. Above all there must be the commitment by all leaders, CEOs and the political parties, to make this change happen.

Mary Gaerty
President

National Council of Women

Statement in recognition of International Women's Day, March 8, 2017

The International Council of Women (ICW-CIF) enthusiastically supports the theme of this year's International Women's Day (IWD) as set out by UN Women, "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030." ICW-CIF unwaveringly reaffirms its commitment to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women. We believe in gender equality in all spheres of life, and view a balanced and comprehensive approach to be the best path leading to the empowerment of women.

ICW-CIF applauds the Commission on the Status of Women for its outstanding work on identifying comprehensive policies and measures to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment in the changing workplace. Clearly, women's economic empowerment is an essential component leading to true gender equality.

Through its affiliated Councils the ICW-CIF works to:

Appeal to Governments which have not yet mustered the political will to establish gender equality commissions, to do so expeditiously in order to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in their respective countries.

1. Encourage both private and public sectors to adopt initiatives that increase the number of women in leadership positions on boards, in executive management positions and within the higher echelons of civil society. Such leadership is extremely important in the process of transforming the workplace and the socio-cultural environment

for the achievement of women's empowerment and equality.

2. Ensure that women of all ages, paying special attention to rural, migrant and indigenous women, enjoy the same opportunities as their male counterparts in obtaining quality education and training. Such training should equip them with the technical skills necessary to compete for employment with men and to be successful in a changing workplace.
3. Ensure parity in wages: "Equal pay for equal work".
4. Finally, it is incumbent upon Governments to adopt policies that eliminate gender-based violence. Employers should be compelled to provide a swift and just response to all forms of violence inflicted upon women in the workplace, thereby removing an impediment to women's employment while creating a safer and more productive workplace.
5. We strongly encourage governments everywhere to pick up the gauntlet and exercise the political will needed, through legislation, through adoption of a wide variety of policies and measures and through budgetary appropriation to promote women's economic empowerment. This will contribute substantially to gender equality in society. It will also stimulate greater economic growth and sustainable development for the benefit of all. In doing so it will help to ensure nobody, particularly women, are left behind. Only with full gender equality can we progress toward a more peaceful and prosperous world.



Addressing Precarious Work

Name of organisation submitting the resolution: General Workers Union
Justification

One of the General Workers Union's aims is to ensure that precarious work is eradicated. Precarious work institutionalizes unequal treatment and corrodes effective access to rights at work. Precariousness is not only affecting the workers but also the future of young people in the labour market, since precariousness is creating uncertainty among them.

Precariousness is one of the main problems in Malta, although some steps have been taken to address this situation. (This was discussed during a seminar held on the 20th October 2016 on how Precarious Work may lead to Poverty, in which NCW had participated and raised issues on how women are being negatively affected by this practice).

The GWU-Equal Opportunities Committee would like to forward its proposals which are in line with GWU's Budget Proposals for 2017.

Issues to be addressed

Discrimination on Subcontractor workers

Subcontractors' workers are often paid less than their colleagues who work directly with the employer of the enterprise. This is a type of discriminatory precarious work, because social security contributions will one day impact employees' pensions entitlement.

Currently workers' social security contributions are only paid for hours worked under their main contractor, but not for those worked under subcontractors. Government and Social partners need to find solutions to eliminate this discrepancy

Equal treatment of temporary workers and those employed directly at their workplace

Many employers use temporary workers to save on costs. Temporary workers, of which the majority are women, should enjoy the same working conditions as other employees doing the same job in the same workplace.

More and more women are entering the labour market and returning to work after years of staying at home. Unfortunately, very often they are employed with subcontractors and therefore do not benefit from the same benefits as other full-time employees who are directly employed with the enterprise.

Furthermore many are being employed on part-time basis and some cannot work on shift basis because they do not find accessible childcare facilities at night.

Recommendations

- The GWU calls for an investigation into the contractual status of temporary workers and other new forms of work and employment relationships including subcontractual workers taking into account the ability of such workers to negotiate or determine pay, hours and conditions, holidays, pensions, maternity rights, employer-paid health insurance and other employment rights.
- Guidelines are also necessary to clarify possible grey zones linked to employment status in relation to taxation and social insurance.

Developing and professionalising domestic work is of strategic importance to achieving equality at work, because it is mainly women who carry out such work and who need childcare services, care for the elderly and home-cleaning in order to reach an equal footing with men in their career. These services benefit not only individuals, but also society as a whole. They create new jobs, meet the needs of an ageing society and help people reconcile their private and professional lives. They improve quality of life and social inclusion and make it easier for the elderly to remain in their own homes.

Recommendations

- **Unions, employers' organisations and direct employment of employees by families**, as well as **works councils**, need to



take the necessary measures to promote professional equality, for services which create jobs and negotiate a financial contribution from businesses in order to promote a better work-life balance for all and to:

- promote the image of services to the family and upgrade jobs in this field
- promote training for those involved and certification of the skills acquired
- work towards setting up structures to bring services to the family together and organise them, while respecting traditions and differences between countries
- organise domestic worker and employer representation

At national level, social partners need to collaborate with government to

- legalise undeclared and/or precarious domestic work by means of fiscal aid measures and simple declaration schemes to make family-work a job like any other
- combat stereotypes to ensure that care work and household tasks are seen as activities for both men and women
- establish a general framework to encourage the emergence and development of a professionalised sector for services to the family, in accordance with the specific features and cultural practices of each Member State
- eliminate the legal barriers that are currently significantly reducing the declared, direct employment of employees by families.

The European Commission, the OECD and the ILO need work together with the social partners to further develop appropriate provisions on decent working conditions and protection for workers under other new working relationships, in particular to maximise quality employment opportunities that can arise from the digitalisation of our economies for both men and women.

New forms of employment are developing so rapidly that contractual relationships cannot keep pace, which is why we need to look at their legal status. Clarification of the status of labour market intermediaries and online platforms is urgently required to enable them to be identified in the official statistics, to track their growth and establish which standards, obligations, liabilities and rules of operation should apply and which regulatory bodies should be responsible for inspection and enforcement.

The investigation should aim to give guidance for Member States to clarify, according to their national practices, the tax, social insurance and employment status of workers and the obligations of these platforms in relation to working hours, pay, holidays, pensions, maternity rights, employer-paid health insurance and other employment rights.

Although an EU level approach would be beneficial, most actions will need to be carried out at national, sectoral or workplace level.

*NCW 2017 Resolutions
to be continued in the next issue*

Round Table Discussion: The Role of Women in Leadership

Venue: Malta Chamber of Commerce, Entrepreneurship Centre

The event was organised by the National Council of Women in collaboration with H.E. Ms Julienne Patricia Hince, Australian High Commissioner and Mrs Elizabeth Guigou, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation to mark International Women's Day

In her welcome speech, NCW President Mary Gaerty spoke about women in political leadership positions, as entrepreneurs and the increasing number of women in social enterprise. She referred to the various courses that are being organised for women at NCW Centre, in particular leading to female empowerment and employment



Panel presentations: **H.E. Australian High Commissioner Ms Julienne Patricia Hince** who is a career officer with the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has been appointed as Australia's High Commissioner to Malta with the accreditation as Ambassador to Tunisia. She spoke about a number of barriers that women

face in realistically reaching financial empowerment which is crucial for women to fulfill their aspirations. She highlighted the increase in the number of women in business and financial services. While statistics show that women are still lacking in politics, she spoke about the difficulty for mothers to take up roles in Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, even though women are very capable for these roles



Madame Guigou, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation and also President of the European Affairs Commission of the French National Assembly, with a vast experience as previous Minister of Justice and Minister of Employment and Solidarity addressed in particular the importance of cultural dialogue in the Mediterranean Region. She

referred to the rise in populism which is resulting in the decline of solidarity. Among other critical aspects she spoke about the importance of integration, the need for progress and adaptation to different cultures, the problems women are facing in refugee camps and the role of civil society among others. She strongly believes that the role of the Anna Lindh Foundation has the potential to address these issues in practice. *"Change is fast, but our adaption to it is too slow"*

Madame Guigou concluded.

The next speaker was **The Hon. Madam Justice Lorraine Schembri Orland**, who presides over the First Hall of the Civil Court and over the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction and specialised in matrimonial and family law as well as Past President of NCW critically questioned if there is still the need for commemorating Women's



Role of Women in Today's Society

Enterprise and Industry Date: 8 March 2017



Day. What we actually need is partnership between men and women – equality but making a difference, in particular when it comes to taking hard decisions. She spoke of the importance of women being accountable for what they do without accepting favours. She listed a number of key skills for women to forge ahead, based on self-confidence as well as ethical considerations. In conclusion she spoke about Human Rights, in particular the right to life and the protection of life and the State to fulfill its obligations.

The next speaker was **Dr Elizabeth Gaerty**, a lawyer by profession and business consultant with experience in Belgium and Malta and the United Arab Emirates. Eventually she started her own practice as EC legal, a boutique law firm which specializes in legal audits promoting business ethics and good corporate governance. Dr Gaerty spoke of the challenges women face in the EU, not least stereotyping which conditions both men and women. Statistics show that more men believe in women than women do. However women are more challenged than men in many ways when it comes to key positions. Self-respect and self-worth and belief in oneself are important, but having at least one person believing in you as a working mother can make a difference. She also highlighted the economic situation in different Mediterranean countries and the potential for economic development in the region, where women entrepreneurship is high and on the increase.



The *Roundtable Discussion*, facilitated by **NCW Vice-President Grace Attard** was a lively interactive sharing of ideas from the floor and response from the panelists. Grace Attard introduced the discussion questioning '(Women) Be Bold for Change – what change do women need and how can women be part of the solutions? Issues raised from the floor were integration through education, addressing the needs of migrant women taking into consideration the challenges of moving from one place to another, giving visibility to disabled women, migrant women with family responsibilities seeking a job; shelters for women going through domestic violence, NCW young women expressing their ideals and initiatives through the NCW Youth Committee, the responsibilities of the Community, and the Anna Lindh Foundation on addressing domestic violence.

A pleasant surprise was the arrival of Hon Minister Helena Dalli, who although with a very tight and busy schedule found time to address the event and enthusiastically present a number of initiatives on equality that she is spearheading.

NCW would like to thank General Secretary Doris Bingley who through her efforts the event was indeed a success!

Grace Attard
NCW Vice-President



Soroptimist International Malta

Soroptimist International (SI) is a women's global volunteer movement, working together to transform the lives of women and girls. We are around 80,000 club members in 132 countries, working at a local, national and international level to educate, empower, and enable. Soroptimist International has consultative status at the United Nations and regularly contributes to the CSW meeting held annually in New York.

Globally we have four federations, with Malta falling under the Federation of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI).

Through international relationships and a global network of members we inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls.

- We advocate for equity and quality, creating safe and healthy environments
- Increase access to education
- Develop leadership and practical skills for a sustainable future.

Soroptimist International Malta was chartered in 1993, and our members have, for nearly 25 years, worked to achieve our aims both locally and internationally. Although our club is small, with a current membership of 14, we work together to make that positive difference to the life opportunities of women and girls. Networking with other

like-minded organisations is an effective way of achieving our aims as opportunities for working together are increased in this way.

Internationally, our organisation has supported projects in the developing world, such as providing water for villages and school toilets so that girls can continue education after the age of 12. We have actively campaigned for the abolition of land mines and cluster bombs and worked to ensure women are represented in post war conflict situations.

Locally, we support various charities and organisations offering service, as well as fundraising to enable them to continue the work they do. Through our networking we have provided vulnerable groups with opportunities to visit other countries, supported women who are in abusive relationships and have also been involved in working party discussions promoting gender equality.

Our group meets at the Hospice in Balzan on the 4th Monday of the month and anyone interested in more information can find us on facebook @soroptimistmalta or phone the secretary, Thea Rees, on 79200457.

Joint statement on the occasion of International Women's Day 2017.



European Commission - Statement Brussels, 7 March 2017

The European Union stands by women in Europe and around the globe today, as it did at the time of its foundation.

Sixty years ago, equality between women and men was embedded in the Rome Treaty as one of the European Union's fundamental values. At that time, Europe's commitment to the principle of equal pay for equal work was unique in the world. Since then, the EU has continued to lead and has made visible progress on all fronts. We work tirelessly to defend women's rights and empower them in the fight against discrimination and gender-based violence.

In 2017, there are more women in work, more women graduating from universities, and more women active in politics or in top positions at European companies than ever before. Within the Commission, women represent 55% of the total workforce. And yet, too many women, especially single mothers, are still struggling to reach economic independence in the European Union. The rate of women's employment in the European Union reached an all-time high of 65.5% in 2016 and yet there is still a big difference with the 77% rate of men.

Much more must be done both inside and outside of Europe. Women are often among the most vulnerable, in conflicts, in situations of migration and displacement, and where poverty and climate change hit the hardest. In addition, there is an exponential growth in the numbers of female victims of trafficking arriving in the EU in the current migration context.

Intolerance against women and misogyny manifest themselves in the public sphere as well as behind the cowardly anonymity of

the Internet. Attacks on women's rights are on the rise. Too many Europeans still think sexual intercourse without consent can be justifiable. Women are also on the frontline of discrimination and violence, especially in conflict areas around the world.



However, women are often also the first ones to seek solutions, to look for resilience in times of challenge and those with a vision for the future of their countries. That is why the EU continues to engage with women's groups throughout the world, including in the most challenging circumstances, like Afghanistan or Syria.

We will continue to take action both at home and abroad. In particular:

Through its 2016-2019 Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality, the European Commission tackles inequalities in key areas such as work, pay, decision making and violence.

The European Commission has dedicated 2017 to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls.

The Commission will present this year a new work-life balance initiative for parents and carers.

Through our proposed reform of the Common European Asylum System, migrant women coming to Europe to seek protection and who have experienced harm will be provided with medical care, legal support, trauma counselling and psycho-social care.

The Commission will continue monitoring the gender dimension of preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in the implementation of its anti-trafficking policy and legislation.

In its external relations, through the 2016-2020 EU Gender Action Plan, the Commission will particularly focus on assisting women and girls across the world who are excluded from education, from equal access to health and family planning services, the labour market, as well as political life while facing discriminatory rules and laws on inheritance, citizenship or land-ownership.

To ensure that assistance reaches the most vulnerable around the world, the Commission will continue to systematically apply gender-sensitive approach to humanitarian aid.

The Commission will continue to lead the way on implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including on Gender Equality.

We must not and we will not stop fighting for gender equality, to keep women and girls safe, and to empower them to fully realise their potential. The European Union is committed, as it was 60 years ago, to ensuring equality for women around the world.

The Network of Young Women Leaders (NYWL)

The Network of Young Women Leaders (NYWL) responds to the Prime Minister's statement about putting gender quotas in place, as proposed.

Political parties select a list of candidates that the electorate can vote for. Furthermore, it is the parties' responsibility to seek and put forward competent male and female candidates whose primary interest should be that of the country and its citizens.

NYWL took the liberty of analyzing the balance between male and female candidates district by district in the 2013 general elections¹. Statistics show that from the previous election, the maximum percentage of female candidates in a district was of 24% in District 12, while the minimum was of no female candidates in District 7. The latter is unacceptable, and we are certain competent female candidates could have been found if gender equality was truly being prioritized by the political parties.

Our analysis shows that in most districts where there was female candidature, at least one of those women was elected to Parliament.

Article 23 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Human Rights² states that "equality between women and men must be ensured in all areas"; hence it is the duty of those seeking to govern the country to safeguard such this human right.

Consequently, the NYWL believes that political parties should establish balanced representation of men and women in the list of candidates for the upcoming general



NETWORK OF YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS

election. This gender balance should be represented across all districts. This could lead to more women being elected by the public, thus fair representation in decision-making positions can have a ripple effect and lead to more equality across the board, and beyond politics.

Therefore, while we appreciate the Prime Minister's proposal and intention to directly and exponentially increase the number of women in Parliament, we believe that our proposal could offer a long-sighted alternative that should be considered.

NYWL is pleased that this issue is being discussed, as it would offer more young women the opportunity to contest elections, something that they are more than capable of doing, irrespective of age and gender.

Additionally, we believe that there are other measures that need to be taken into consideration to enhance the participation

of women in elections, and decision-making in the highest institution in our country. The NYWL recommends the following;

1. The abolishment of structural barriers in Parliament which include:
 - Late hours – realistically this can only be overcome if we have full-time MPs.
 - Lack of childminding and caring facilities - should be introduced to better fit the needs of women and men who have young children.
2. Access and Awareness which include:
 - Access to parental leave for men
 - Awareness raising and incentives to encourage men to engage in household and child-bearing responsibilities.
3. Challenging economic gender inequalities which includes:
 - Addressing the issue of gender pay gap
 - Lack of economic independence which may hinder some women from running for office.

These recommendations hold as a reply to the political parties which are calling for gender equality and fair representation and therefore present an opportunity to the parties to prove that they truly care about the voice and contribution of women in society.

Notes

¹ Statistics found on the Electoral Commission's website

² EU Charter of Fundamental Human Rights, Article 23

AGM Association for Consumer Rights (ACR) focuses on a National Digitalisation Strategy

The Annual General Meeting of the Association for Consumer Rights held on Saturday 1 April 2017 was an interactive and a keenly debated morning during which the various aspects of Digitalisation, embedded in the European Digital Agenda were presented from a national perspective.

The topic, which is high on the Malta Presidency agenda addressed different sectors of society, the Business sector, SMEs, consumers of all ages including children, youth and the elderly. Specific topics such as Unjustified Geo-blocking, Cross-border Parcel-delivery Services, as well as Retail Payment Services for the Elderly and the Disabled were debated, amended and approved.

The Assembly also discussed a general approach to a national strategy with a holistic approach to Digitalisation and how the strategy needs to ensure that any possible negative impact, in particular on consumers should be addressed. The role



of education for all ages and ensuring the acquisition of skills is paramount so that Malta's social and economic development would not be handicapped by another digital divide as the future Digital Revolution develops.

Other consumer resolutions discussed included Medicines and the Consumer-

Patient and Awareness Amongst Consumers about Benefits of Consuming Local Produce in line with the Rural Development Plan for Malta 2014 – 2020.

The members were also provided with latest EU information on The Risks of Internet-connected Toys, The European Accessibility Act, Service Standards by Supervising Authorities, Window Covering Cord Safety and Risks of Charcoal Barbecue inside – the risk of lethal CO Poisoning (a case was recently in the local news)

The ACR Executive Committee team for 2017 includes Mary Mangion, President, Barbara Buttigieg, Vice-President, Grace Attard, Hon General Secretary, Anna Dalli, Hon Treasurer and members Pauline Azzopardi, Marie Demicoli, Lina Caruana, Magda Magri Naudi and Dr Fransina Abela. The ACR GA also took this opportunity to launch the new website: www.acrmalta.com

Grace Attard

ACR General Secretary

The National Council of Women and The Commonwealth Women's Network Commonwealth Day - Monday 13 March 2017

The Commonwealth Day started with the launch of the Gold Coast 2018 Queen's Baton Relay at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The Queen's message to the Commonwealth and its athletes was placed inside the Baton ready to begin a long and extraordinary journey from Buckingham Palace. Over the next twelve months, the Baton will visit people living in the nations and territories of the Commonwealth in every continent and ocean. It will be carried on its way by thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds. By the time it reaches its final destination, The Queen's Baton will have brought together through its route and symbolism, almost 2.5 billion people who share the special connection of being Commonwealth citizens.

Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill was the first person on Monday 13 March 2017 to carry the Baton to Westminster Abbey for the Commonwealth Service and together with other athletes from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland they formed the Procession of The Queen's Baton. Immediately after this there was the Procession of the Flags of the member countries followed by the Procession of the Representatives of the Faith Communities and the Representatives of the Christian Churches.

The Commonwealth Service is held in the Presence of Her Majesty The

Queen, Head of the Commonwealth and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. Also present Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Henry of Wales, The Duke of York and The Earl of Wessex.



High Commissioners, the Commonwealth Secretary General and Dignitaries from across the United Kingdom and from the Commonwealth as well as Senior Politicians and 800 children gathered at Westminster Abbey for The Commonwealth Service

This year the Service focused on the Commonwealth Theme "A Peace – building Commonwealth" which reaffirms the Commonwealth Charter that "international peace and security, sustainable economic growth and development and the rule of law are essential to the progress and prosperity of all"

At Westminster Abbey two Maltese songs – *L-Aħħar Bidwi f'Wied il-Għasel*

and *Il-Bajja tal-Mellieha* were played by the Commonwealth Festival Choir and Orchestra. Dr Immanuel Mifsud read his poem entitled *The Book* and The Prime Minister of Malta The Honourable Dr Joseph Muscat who is also Commonwealth Chair-in-Office presented *A Reflection* from the Great Pulpit. This was followed by the Commonwealth Secretary General The Right Honourable The Baroness Scotland of Asthal who led the congregation with *The Act of Affirmation to the Commonwealth* with the congregation responding by affirming their belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world, and pledged themselves to its service, now and for the future.

Later that evening The Commonwealth Secretary General The Right Honourable The Baroness Scotland of Asthal hosted a Reception at Marlborough House in the presence of HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. The Prime Minister of Malta and Commonwealth Chair-in-Office The Honourable Dr Joseph Muscat and Mrs Muscat and most of the Dignitaries who were at Westminster Abbey were present for this function.

Doris Bingley attended the Westminster Abbey Service and the Marlborough House reception where she was presented to HRH Prince Charles.

Launch of the Project for Migrant Women

Migrant Women Association Malta, together with The National Council for Women launched a 'Communication Sessions' project, an initiative which is funded by the US Embassy and kicked off in March.

The project offers free English lessons to migrant women. Lessons and activities will run once a week, initially between March and September. The sessions will include the expertise of cultural mediators, hoping to help overcome language and cultural barriers for people who speak Arabic, Eritrean and Somali amongst others.

The idea of the project is to improve the conversation skills of migrant women, in order to encourage self-esteem and empowerment, and ultimately to help them integrate and communicate within the Maltese community.

President of the National Council for Women, Mary Gaerty applauded the initiative, believing that integration and inclusion starts with knowing the language. "If there is no communication then you feel a bit isolated," Ms Gaerty said.

During the launch of the project, Joan Flynn, a representative from the US embassy, insisted that "an education, particularly English language education, builds the foundation for opportunities for further education and for employment, it is key to integration"



Migrant Women and Social Impacts

Over time, women have been exposed to a lot of Social, psychological and survival stress, which forced them to leave their native countries in order to search for a safe and decent life.

Although war is one of the main factors behind migration of women, whether legal or illegal migration, women usually have their own personal motives that lead them to migrate including family reunification, educational opportunities and socioeconomic problems such as poverty and unemployment. Women also often escape from gender discrimination and political conflicts or violence and even from natural disasters. These are all common factors leading to migration.

Political conflicts such as recent revolutions have led to lack of country stability and loss of safety where women are often the main victims of slavery, torture, racism, kidnapping and so on. These lead many women and families to seek refuge or migrate to any other country.

However, living in a new society presents enormous challenges for migrant and refugee women. Migration does not necessarily make these women's status better, and they have to navigate through new social systems, a new culture and possibly a new language. Actually, language is the precious key to women's communication and integration into the host community. Besides having to establish themselves, they also have to meet the basic necessities of life such as employment, housing, food and shelter. All these circumstances in general have a negative effect on the role of women in the host community. This leads to a decrease in women's activity and to unemployment. At the same time, the difficulty in social integration can influence women's health in general and their mental health in particular and renders women desperate and helpless, stuck at home rather than engaged in fulfilling activities. These factors lead to loss of hope,

which consequently leads to depression or any other psychological diseases and social or migrant stigma.

All these affect social reintegration among migrants who possess legal residence. However, migrant women should know how to deal or cope with increasing stigmatization both individually and collectively and to avoid the effect of stigma on their mental health.

In this case, the migrant's psychological adaptation and communication have to be improved by improving their communication skills, especially the language.



We all know that English is the most widely used language in the world. So learning English will surely provide an effective role, which can solve the challenges of integration of migrant women.

And here the role of social institutions in the host country has to be recognized. They need to help migrant women to overcome social stigma or social issues and encourage them to integrate with their new community and to contribute to the economy and development by valuing their previous experience.

Women make up half the population of a country. In Libya women have succeeded in recent decades to achieve the best scientific levels, acquire a lot of rights and establish an important role in both legislative and executive institutions as well as contribute to socioeconomic

and cultural development. However, war and conflict have left their toll on the motivation and achievement of women.

Coming now to my own experience, I was one of the doctors who were working in a government hospital as well as continuing their higher studies to obtain a fellowship in family medicine. After I had finished my rotations in practising medicine as part of my postgraduate study and was about to do the final exam, the war and conflict started and prevented me from sitting for this final exam because my supervisors, trainees, as well as my husband had to flee and I found myself obliged to travel with him too. But this did not make me lose hope I decided to travel to Egypt where I stayed for approximately 5 years. Meanwhile, my husband had to finish his PHD in sociology. At the same time, I was a student in American University of Cairo since I was eager to improve my English. Besides, I enlisted my kids in language schools to give them a chance to learn English. Then we decided to come to Malta where I found great opportunities for education in different fields and where a lot of courses are held through *The Lifelong Learning Directorate* and *MCAST* yearly. All these provide a great opportunity to people with different levels of education to improve their level of education and seek a chance in employment.

Moreover, I discovered the National Council of Women Learning Centre and right now I am one of the students in the English classes. The English teacher is one of the most proficient teachers I have ever met his name is **John Ellis** and he teaches at **The National Council of Women**. I am really impressed with his teaching methods and now I feel my English is much better than before and is improving. At **The National Council of Women**, I have also met **Marie Demicoli** and **Doris Bingley** the Council ladies who work so hard for the council. I will never forget their help and support. They invited me to attend the Annual meeting of the NCW and they encouraged me to become a member and instilled in me confidence to continue with my studies especially in public speaking.

Dr. Ghada Hasn Elhadad
Libya



EPALE and Adult Learning in Malta

The Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Early School Leavers within the Ministry for Education and Employment has the mission to increase participation in adult learning and to address the imbalances in participation to achieve a more equitable state of affairs. Towards this goal Malta through the Directorate is an active member of the *Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe* (EPALE).

EPALE is a European Commission initiative which aims to become the main reference point for adult education in Europe; it is a multilingual open membership community for teachers, trainers, researchers, academics, policy makers and anyone else with a professional role in adult learning across Europe. EPALE is set up around the sharing of content related to adult learning, including news, blog posts, resources, events and courses.

The Directorate for Lifelong Learning within the Ministry for Education and Employment is Malta's National Support Service for EPALE which was officially launched in September 2015.

This event provided opportunities to discuss:

- EPALE
- Open Education Resources
- Innovative online methods
- ERASMUS+

In the meantime a number of events and conferences have taken place since the launch.

On 1st March 2017 - EU Agenda working group meeting on digital education; Discussions were held to make note of the ongoing initiatives and programmes which promote lifelong learning in Malta. Moreover, the EPALE 2017-18 programme for the National Support Service in Malta was launched.

The Lifelong Learning Strategy for Malta – Connected Learning Measures was presented by Daniela Blagojevic Vella, Assistant Director, Directorate for Lifelong Learning. She thanked those present who represented ministries, agencies NGOs and trade unions. Ms Vella commented on how the objective of the focus groups was to improve adult basic skills.

These being: community learning spaces, work placed learning, quality and education, connected learning, adult learning and disadvantaged groups, implementation of LLL strategy.

In January 2017 a pilot project was inaugurated at Valletta primary school to create a community space where parents are invited to attend. An employers' programme to build awareness about adult education is being coordinated together with research as another aspect of the platform for long life learning initiatives.

According to Dr. Alex Grech, Consultant, Ministry for Education and Employment, the education system should contribute to 21st century skills that build competencies related to today's

needs, those that revolve around critical thinking, problem solving, communicating, collaborating and technical literacy among others.. We need to move away from just passing on information which is easily accessible digitally.

He stressed the need to get away from examination oriented teaching. Challenges that educators are faced with are connected to assessment especially formative; open education and copyright to make it available to all; connected learning that is social, participatory, interest driven, relative to the opportunities of our time. Commonwealth of learning was mentioned, a platform that Malta is involved in owing to historical ties.

Statistics were given by Mr. Adrian Galea, Adult Educator Coordinator ICT, Directorate for Lifelong Learning re ICT courses for Adults with over 670 applicants for courses from beginners that deal with 21 competencies for everyday life situations such as shopping online, travel, healthy living etc., upwards EDCL and specialized courses for various entities. Projects that stimulate participation in adult learning, have a learner-centred approach, improve skill sets, or promote inclusion and community learning are encouraged.

Dr. Jean Paul De Lucca, Director of the Centre for the Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), UoM talked about the Programme in the Liberal Arts that offers flexible content clusters that can lead to a Bachelors in liberal studies when the required ECTS credits are acquired. Games based learning was mentioned as Ms Vanessa explained her work with university students.

Malta and the European Platform for Adult Learning in Europe was delivered by Ms. Mahira S. Mifsud, National Support Service for EPALE in Malta. She gave an overview of the implementation aspects during the last year and that funding has been extended for the next two years

EPALE Community in Europe was discussed by Mr. Richard Medic, EPALE Community Manager, Central Support Service UK based in Brussels. He continued to stress the importance of digital literacy giving many examples and contexts of the different platforms of social media that include face book, tweeting, live streaming, skype.

Ms. Christianne Fenech, Project Manager, EU Agenda for Adult Learning in Malta, DLL gave the concluding comments reminding those present of forthcoming events such as training sessions for adult trainers and educators, national and international conferences.

Vivien Cassar



Business and Professional Women - Careers Day



DIARY OF EVENTS

January

- 1st New Year's Day
- 9th Partit Laburista Festive Season Drinks at PL Headquarters – Mary Gaerty attended
- 11th Domestic Violence Network Meeting - Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 18th NCW Executive Committee Meeting at NCW Centre
- 23rd MCESD CS meeting – Mary Gaerty attended
- 24th The City of God Seminar Theresa Spinelli Hall Gzira. Augustinian sisters – Mary Gaerty attended
- 25th Launch of the Strategy for Retirement & financial capability at The Palace – Mary Gaerty participate
- Department of Gender Studies at University meeting – Amy Camilleri Zahra attended
- 27th 45th Anniversary Diplomatic Relations between the people of China & Malta – Doris Bingley and Mary Gaerty attended
- 28th NCW Annual General Meeting at The Palace Hotel Sliema
- 30th Interview on ELLE TV to be screened on Women's Day – Mary Gaerty attended
- 31st Meeting at the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector on the Protection of Children. Doris Bingley participated

February

- 2nd A meeting and dinner at Xara Lodge organised by EIGE for the EU Presidency on Gender Based Violence – Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 3rd Conference on Gender Based Violence at Le Meridien - Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley, Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli participated
- 3rd FEMM Meeting Holocaust Memorial Day
- 4th FEMM Meeting
- 9th Reception to celebrate Australia Day – Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley Attended
- 13th MCESD meeting – Mary Gaerty attended
- NGO Capacity Building workshop at Le Meridien Hotel
- 14th Billion Rising Solidarity against exploitation of Women
- MCVO Council meeting – Doris Bingley participated
- Meeting with the Migrant Women's Association – Doris Bingley and Mary Gaerty attended

- 15th MCVO Council Training Committee meeting – Doris Bingley
- 15th Women Directors Breakfast Meeting at Sky Park – Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 15th NCW to host the President of the Anna Lindh Foundation Ms Elisabeth Guigou at the International Women's Day Conference
- 20th Executive meeting
- 22nd GWU Conference "Are Female Employees Better Off at Work" – Mary Gaerty was one of the speakers.
- Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli held a meeting with Dept. of Life Long Learning at NCW Centre – Kathleen Attard attended
- 23rd Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley had a meeting with the Australian High Commissioner
- 24th Migrant Women launch the Communication and Conversation Project at the Fortress Builders. Mary Gaerty was one of the main speakers together with Ms Joan Flynn from the American Embassy. Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli participated
- 25th Carnival
- 27th MCVO presented the SIS and VOPs award at Dar Qalb ta Gesu. Doris Bingley attended.
- 28th Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley, Nadyanne Mangion and Marie Demicoli held a meeting with Ms Kathleen Nugent from CASTME to start the Mother and Child Science project

March

- 1st Ash Wednesday
- 2nd Ghaqda Nisa Giljainizi Women's day seminar Mary Gaerty participated
- 3rd BPW Career's Day Doris Bingley, Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli participated
- Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended the launch of the film Burning Bikinis at St James Cavalier prepared by ADITUS
- 5th NCW - IWD Mass at St. Patrick's in the presence of HE Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta and Mr Preca
- 6th Women in Politics & Leadership conference by NCPE
- Meeting at San Anton Palace
- 8th International Women's Day – NCW Round Table Discussion "Role of Women in today's Society" at Chamber of Commerce with speakers

Mrs Elisabeth Guigou President of Anna Lindh Foundation; .E. Ms. Julianne Patricia Hince ; The Honorable Judge Lorraine Schembri Orland; Dr Elizabeth Gaerty Business and Legal Consultant chaired by Mary Gaerty NCW President and closing speech by Hon Minister Helena Dalli

- Art Exhibition Face to Face at St James Cavalier
- 9th Mary Gaerty meeting at Vodafone Malta
- 11th Celebration: Women in all their Diversity - Mary Gaerty participated and Lara Gail Douglas represented NCW in the video promo.
- 12th
- 13th World Kidney Day Fun Walk
- Commonwealth Day – Doris Bingley invited to represent NCW Malta and the commonwealth Women's Network at Westminster Abbey and Marlborough House.
- 17th Business Transfer Conference at Grand Hotel Excelsior - Mary Gaerty attended
- 20th Mary Gaerty meeting with Barbara Fisher at NCW
- Tunisia National Day Reception – Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- Maternal Health & Refugee Women conference Reception at SAN Anton – Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 21st Women in Parliament Global Forum Meeting on Maternal Health Refugee Women
- Consumers Day Conference at the Le Meridien Doris Bingley, Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli attended
- OP11 Monitoring meeting - Therese Cassola represented NCW
- 23rd EESC Group three meeting in Malta.
- EU Presidency "Achievements and Challenges Ahead" at Westin Dragonara Hotel – Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley, Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli attended
- OP1 Monitoring Meeting in Gozo
- 60th Anniversary of Signing of the Treaty of Rome – Ever Closer to Europe
- 27th Inauguration Ceremony of Silk Road Culture Tour - Female Art Exhibition – Mary Gaerty attended
- 28th Central and Executive Committee meeting
- 29th Public Dialogue "The Future & Europe" at the Archeological Museum with Jean Claude Juncklr & Prime Minister Joseph Muscat – Doris Bingley participated

Foundation Day Dinner

Date: Friday 19th May 2017
Time: 19.30hrs

Venue: Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard
Price: €35 per person

Members, spouses and friends are encouraged to attend the traditional Foundation Day Dinner. This is being held at The Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard on Friday 19th May at 19.30hrs. This year the council is honouring Mrs. Antoinette Caruana with Hon. Life Membership.

Please contact our Secretariat office on telephone nos. 21248881/21246982 at the very earliest of your intention if you wish to join us.

Summer Courses at NCW Learning Centre

English Language for the Family

Children who have reached the 4th 5th and 6th year of Primary and the 1st and 2nd of Secondary may accompany the adults.

Starting on **Tuesday 4th July 2017 till Tuesday 19th September 2017**. The course is for duration of 10 weeks. Classes are held **once a week from 9.00am to 12.00pm** *The course is free of charge with a donation of €2 per adult for photocopies, drinks and biscuits.*

Young Scientists Course

Tomorrow's inventors & scientists are today's curious infants and toddlers. STEM teaching starts early.

Join in the fun of the brand new **summer programme of educational activities for toddlers and their accompanying adult** aimed at breaking down educational stereotypes.

Starting mid-July and running for 5 one and a half hourly sessions.

Dates of Sessions: 13th, 20th, 27th July & 3rd, 10th, 24th August.

The sessions are free of charge.