



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 &  
Social Council of the UN.**
**Executive Committee Members - 2017**

President	Mary Gaerty
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Grace Attard MQR
Vice President	Lara Tonna B. Ed (Hons) M.A. Youth and Community Studies (Melit)
Hon. Gen. Secretary	Doris Bingley
Hon. Treasurer	Therese Cassola
Assistant Treasurer	Nadya Anna Mangion
Members	Gertrude Abela Lara Gail Dougall B.A. (Master in Creativity and Innovation (Melit) Josette Barbara Cardona Susan Midolo M.A. Pastoral Counselling (Chicago) Fransina Abela LL.D Diane Xuereb Msc.(Occ Psy) B.Psy(Hons), HRM Dip Gestalt Psychotherapy Rebeca Wellman Tamara Gauci Msc.Strategic PR Comm.Mng(Stirl) Mrs Vivien Cassar Dip. Guid. & Couns., MA (Ed)
Legal Adviser	Claudine P Zarb B.A., LL.D.
Office Secretary	Mrs Marie Demicoli

**Front Cover Photo**

Mr John Ellis with the English  
Language Students  
ECICW General Assembly in Pavia

**Office Hours**

Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 13.30

**Membership Subscription Rates**

New individual membership	€14.50
Annual renewal	€12.00
Affiliated Organisations	€20.00
Associated Organisations	€20.00
Life membership	€95.00

Members and affiliated organisations  
are requested to keep their subscription  
fees up to date.



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**

The month of October brings with it a new beginning for many, especially those who decided to follow a course at NCW Learning Centre. It is with great satisfaction that this scholastic year, our centre is buzzing with many adult students. The courses are various from basic to 0' level standard. The learning synergy of the participants is impressive as we are all learning together and the teachers have excellent experience and expertise.

The course "Getting Started: Start your own business" which has received funding from the Malta Community Chest Fund started in October with a number of participants. These business-starters are key players when it comes to fostering economic growth in Malta.

During the summer months we received the shocking news about the sudden demise of our dear English Language teacher Mr. John Ellis. He was greatly mourned by all who knew him. Mr. Ellis was very helpful, optimistic and championed the cause of teaching English to adult learners and children. He had been volunteering at NCW Learning Centre during the summer months to hold a special English Language Course for parents and Children for many years.

In this issue you will find an article by the Hon Minister Justine Caruana Minister for Gozo, who wished to share with our readers her vision of a sustainable environment, economy and social life for a better quality of life in Gozo.



The ECICW Spring meeting took place in Pavia Italy. NCW President Mary Gaerty together with a delegation from NCW, which included NCW Secretary Doris Bingley who is Board member of ICW, NCW Vice-President Grace Attard and Office Secretary Marie Demicoli travelled to Pavia to participate in the conference

which focused on *The Role of Women in Cultural Tourism*.

This year during the International Day of Peace celebrated on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, the United Nations chose the Theme, "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All." (Read the ICW Statement on Page 11)

During the first week of October NCW celebrated the International Day of Girl Child 2017, with the launch of the Girl2Leader campaign. This campaign aims to get more girls involved in political decision-making processes and positions of leadership. Let us remember what Margaret Thatcher, Past Prime Minister of the United Kingdom once said "If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman."

As this is the last issue for the year 2017 we wish our readers and their loved ones: **A Holy, Joyful and Wonderful Christmas.**

We hope to see you all at our Christmas Celebrations, which will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

**Marie Demicoli**  
Editorial Board

## Contents

President's Message .....	3	Statement to mark International Day of Literacy .....	11
The Launch of emPower .....	3	Autumn Session of the ECICW-CECIF .....	12
A tribute to Mr. John Ellis .....	4	Towards a common future .....	13
The Loss of Daphne Caruana Galizia .....	4	EU heads of state or government invited to a Social Summit in Gothenburg .....	14
Get Started MCCF - C3-042-2016 .....	5	Unjustified Geo-Blocking - Geo-blocking Mhux Iggustifikat .....	14
Quality Must Be Gozo's Hallmark .....	6	Diary of Events .....	15
FastTrak .....	7	Forthcoming Events .....	16
End of Summer Barbecue .....	9		
The Unborn Child .....	10		
International Council of Women .....	11		



## President's Message



**D**ear Friends,  
With summer over and preparation for Christmas already starting, one cannot but not think about others that may be in need. The need may not be financial only, but it could also, as happens in most cases, be for friendship and support. Many a time we seem to prefer not to look, but just glance and move on, perhaps afraid or unsure about the commitment that involvement of this nature might bring. On the 27<sup>th</sup> November, NCW in partnership with the Parliamentary Secretariat for Persons with Disability and Active Ageing are holding a Conference entitled "I am Me not my Age: Health and Justice for the Elderly, as part of a series of conferences and events in Malta during the 16 days of Activism on the elimination of Domestic Violence. This subject needs to be addressed in order to create awareness, so that abuse is noticed and curbed.

Malta was rocked on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October by the brutal murder of a female journalist. This journalist had dedicated her life to writing. NCW condemns this heinous murder and hopes that the murderer/s will be brought to justice in a short while. NCW has issued a press release on the loss of Daphne Caruana Galizia and the Council sends its condolences to her family.

I was recently involved with the Foodbank project. It is amazing to know that there are people who actually lack the basic food needs, whilst at the same time stocks

of food are either thrown away because these have reached their best before date or look stale or food is simply surplus to requirement. Growing food, manufacturing it into a product, putting it on a shelf and taking it home or elsewhere to cook or prepare, creates a huge carbon footprint, use of water, energy and human labour. I am certain that most of us do not realize that wasted food is a waste also of other resources that could never be either recycled or recovered.

This October as last year during SME week, NCW has been one of the three NGOs who together with the Ministry for Economy, Investment and Small Businesses, organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference and breakout sessions, entitled Women Mean Business. It was a most interesting conference especially knowing that female entrepreneurs are now branching in sectors generally known to be male dominated. We wish every woman success in their enterprises. In line with this, NCW has just started its own Entrepreneurship course at its own centre. The participants are very enthusiastic about their prospects in becoming entrepreneurs. We encourage them in their new venture and wish them also every success.

As we move towards the end of the year, we start thinking about the resolutions. The NCW's and its Affiliated Organisation's resolutions are taken very seriously by the Ministers, many of whom we have met following their requests for a meeting. We are asking all of you to come forward with a problem, an anomaly, an issue that requires attention or needs to be updated or changed. We will study it and see the possibility of having it as a resolution and therefore highlighting this issue with the right Minister.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members and friends who have given NCW their support throughout 2017 and we wish everyone a joyful and peaceful festive season.

**Mary Gaerty**

*President, National Council of Women*



*NCW President Mary Gaerty with the German Ambassador H.E. Ms Gudrun Sraga*

## The Launch of emPOWer

**T**he National Council of Women was invited to 'Empowering Girls', organized by the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society in collaboration with Kunsill Studenti Universitarji, marking the UN International Day of the Girl Child. The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face, and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of human rights. During the event Girl2Leader campaign was launched. This campaign aims to get more girls involved in political decision-making processes and positions of leadership. An overview was also given of Google's #IamRemarkable workshops held in previous weeks, which encouraged

young women to vocalize their achievements and improve their self-promotion skills. Additionally, the event marked the launch of emPOWer, a Platform of Organizations for Women collectively working to achieve gender equality in Malta in which the National Council of Women Malta gives its contribution. During the event there was a panel discussion on how people can collectively contribute towards the achievement of gender equality, and how more girls can be set on a trajectory towards full and effective participation in political, economic, and public life.

**Mary Gaerty**  
*President*

## A tribute to Mr. John Ellis

**M**r. John Ellis passed away on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 aged 72 years. Mr. Ellis was an English teacher, whose dedication gained him the admiration of all those who knew him.

Mr. Ellis had an innate understanding of teaching. He turned an English lesson into a memorable adventure. The pedagogical aspects of his lessons were that of a true Catholic teacher, which incorporated wisdom, freedom, justice and human dignity. His students at NCW were of different religions and nationalities but they all admired his method of teaching. On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017 the students were waiting for him when the news arrived that he is no longer with us. The shock was so great that everyone couldn't come to terms with reality. We all cried and could not envisage a future without Mr. Ellis.

Mr. Ellis had retired from teaching in mainstream education and joined the department for Lifelong Learning within the Ministry for Education. He was assigned to the National Council of Women Learning



Centre in October 2005. Since then Mr. Ellis admired the work done by the National Council of Women, which is giving opportunities to adults to improve and acquire qualifications in English for a better quality of life. During the summer months he volunteered to give English Grammar lessons to children and adults.

His teaching was not only English Language but he taught everyone how to be successful. He was just an awesome person, who loved teaching and the students loved him dearly.

Although God has called him to eternal life and he has been taken from us too early, we will remember him as a great person and a true gentleman.

Dear Mr. Ellis your passion for teaching will always travel inside many students and you will live in our hearts and minds forever.

**Marie Demicoli**  
*Office Administrator*  
*National Council of Women*



## The Loss of Daphne Caruana Galizia

**I**n 1987 Daphne Caruana Galizia's voice started resonating more than others. It grew into a journalistic force. She was a woman of talent whose art was to write. Her diligence and good work gave her a solid reputation beyond our country.

Her voice was silenced last Monday, 16th October 2017.

There are no words harsh enough to condemn the taking of her life with such violence.

Such a brutal act instills a sense of vengeance within the community. Violence breeds more violence. It is never the answer or the solution. Therefore, we all must make sure that no abuse in whichever manner goes undetected. We should have means and protection to do so with confidence.

NCW believes in freedom of expression. Investigative journalism is essential for democracy. Journalists have a mission which takes them beyond what is accessible, have the courage to expose the facts and the willingness to put themselves out there for everyone else to know what they live to discover.

They, like all others who are carrying out their duty, are to feel safe and protected.

The National Council of Women sends its condolences to Mrs. Daphne Caruana Galizia's family and loved ones.





## Get Started MCCF – C3-042-2016

**S**top for a second. Take a look around you and take note of all those daily *objects* which make a difference in your life. Is it your PC, your mobile phone? Could it be your fridge or microwave? Maybe it's the air conditioner or even your reading glasses. Now just imagine how different your life would be if you didn't have these things.

These daily *objects* make our lives a little bit (or a lot) more comfortable. We manage to do more, be more, because of these *objects*. Inventions which improved our standard of living and welcomed us into modern times.

It's fascinating to think about the process of how some modern inventions came to be, and what inspired these to come about. Some would say that 'necessity is the mother of invention', however we do have a number of other things around us which although not necessary, are nice to have. Think about your favourite pastimes; maybe books, sports equipment, or your camera.

All of these things have one thing in common; someone came up with them. There was a person, who had an idea – something they thought would be useful – and turned it into reality. Though it didn't stop there; these people wanted to share their invention with the rest of society and found a way to produce, promote and profit from their idea. We call these people entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs are people who make a conscious decision to turn their dreams into realities, and apply their skills to become their own bosses. They are willing to take risks for their visions and think outside the box to solve any challenges they may face. They may do it on their own or lead a team to run their businesses, which bring value to their customers' lives.

Entrepreneurship is necessary to aid the development of our society. It is important to celebrate, as well as support, it. In an attempt to support upcoming entrepreneurs, NCW is offering a new course called, **'Getting Started: Start your own Business'**, which is part-financed by **Malta Community Chest Fund**.

This course is for those who want to start their own business but don't know where to start. Given the new economic reality of our time, more people are finding



that the 'job' they thought was waiting for them doesn't exist. Others realise that they would rather create their own business, which they can construct around their goals and lifestyles, than be employed. No matter what your motivation is, this module can offer the assistance you require to get the ball rolling.

**'Getting Started: Start your own Business'** is based on several modules which will help you understand your strengths, identify the right idea for you, and explore your options. It will guide on how to create value and plan your business in the most effective way. Through this course you will gain the tools needed to build a strong support network and to finance your business.

So if you are, or know of, someone who wants to get into the exciting world of entrepreneurship, get in touch! It is important to remember that you are not alone and that we can offer the support you need to get the ball rolling. If you feel stuck, don't hesitate to reach out to NCW and connect with other entrepreneurs who are, or were, in a similar situation. You may be surprised by the invaluable contacts that are available to help.

Don't be afraid to go for it, even if you are not sure whether you can make it or not. After all, just like Mark Twain once said, "The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

**Lara Gail Dougall**



## Quality Must Be Gozo's Hallmark

**T**he Ministry for Gozo is to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of current and future projects in various sectors, scheduling a co-ordinated and effective way of doing things around the island. My major challenge upon taking office, is to neutralize the wrong perception that in Gozo anything goes and to tangibly improve the quality of life of Gozitans, particularly by delivering overdue projects.

I have been personally involved in formulating this Government's electoral proposals for Gozo. We have feasible plans that give incentives for further investment, not only to create more jobs, but also to boost the island's financial and economic standing, utilising all its potential with regards to human capital, resources and skills.

Consultation is a basic requirement, on-site inspections are helpful, but decisions have to be taken. My very first moves in my role as Minister for Gozo were actually taking stock of the situation through various meetings with stakeholders and visits to established business and industrial entities. Being a mother myself and staying among the people on the shop floor is the best way to attain a full picture of daily realities, on which I can adapt the necessary strategies and programmes in a more efficient manner.

For many years Gozo has been bracing itself to face the double insularity problems, particularly those related to industrial development. Most of the Government's proposals are precisely meant to address those issues with a view to create a better economic and infrastructural environment that enhances connectivity and supports the creation of jobs for Gozitan workers in Gozo. I truly believe that this is the way forward to support the island's potential and expose the resilience of its people.

Investing in innovation has proved to be beneficial for Gozo in tackling its endemic challenges, particularly in the tourist industry. The efforts by Gozitan entrepreneurs over the years to help promote innovation in Gozo are indeed most commendable. Traditional sectors should further modernise their practices to be able to adapt themselves to current and future demands. Such projects can actually entwine the promotion of the Gozitan traditional product

with a tourism boost for the island, while supporting local trades and crafts to remain competitive in a sustainable way.

Gozo is a particular island with a rich cultural heritage and the homeland of a resilient and creative community. Our ancient history and culture is such that it is not only inspiring to our own people and attractive to thousands of visitors, but is fast becoming magnetic for international events where artists can exhibit their creative talents in our own historic venues.

The Ministry for Gozo supports such initiatives, hand in hand with various local and national entities. A variety of events enrich our own cultural calendar and ensure all-year-round tourism to the island. During my first 100 days at the Gozo Ministry we have successfully organised our first ever International Film Festival and introduced several other initiatives to add life to the majestic Ċittadella with its imposing architecture. Others include the International Food Festival in Xewkija and the International Jazz Festival in Mgarr, both of which turned out to be a huge success.

Together with the economy and environment, culture is a major pillar that has to work in tandem, seeking sustainability in each pillar through the full respect of the economic and social life of the community. The environment is our major inheritance and its best appraisal is in the balance we manage to strike where progress is a need and sustainability is a must.

Clean air is one of Gozo's major attractions and an important reason for domestic tourism. In turn, the periodical but constant increase in the island's population due to year-round tourism, can be a threat and must therefore be addressed through necessary measures. Although Gozo has its particular needs, we are part of a government committed to national strategies in the energy sector.

It is my duty not to leave any stone unturned to push forward all that sustains and protects the island's ecosystem. I have in fact taken up public cleanliness as a major challenge and introduced special intervention teams to take immediate action wherever needed all year round. This and other initiatives need the full support of residents and visitors alike.

Infrastructure is a major task for this Government and at the Gozo Ministry we have planned a list of priorities, with actual roadworks already completed and restoration projects in hand on historical sites. As a Minister I expect all hands on deck and towards this end I have introduced a special scheme in support of the many voluntary organisations in Gozo. Through this and more I mean to erase the erroneous idea that anything goes here. Whether it is economic, social, infrastructural or cultural, on my book the concept of quality is a must!

**The Hon. Minister Dr Justyne Caruana**  
*Minister for Gozo*



*NCW delegation with the Hon. Minister Justyne Caruana*

## FastTrak

During the past few weeks, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA), with the support of the Malta Employers' Association (MEA) and the Malta Chamber of SMEs (GRTU), offered free practical training sessions on Digital Marketing, with special focus on Email Marketing and Social Media Marketing. The aim of these sessions was to act as a guide, especially to those operating in the retail industry, on how to boost one's business and create an effective online presence on social media. FastTrak complements other initiatives that the MCA has undertaken since the publication of the National eCommerce Strategy in 2014, whose purpose is to pave the Authority's way forward to ensure an eCommerce landscape that is creative, innovative, collaborative and adaptable.

According to the latest survey carried out by the Authority titled *Insights into Consumer Buying Behaviour Attitudes*, 70% of internet users turn to the web before buying a product or booking a service. This indicates that consumers are increasingly searching on the Internet for their shopping. This study also shows that 63% of consumers who use social media follow their favourite brands and retailers on these channels, highlighting how widespread social media has become in today's world. Moreover, the business benefits brought about by social media cannot go unnoticed. The use of social media by businesses not only facilitates administrative practices, but also ensures an efficient channel of communication with the consumer. Social media also facilitates closer proximity between buyer and seller. In fact, a number of micro-business owners are now interacting with their clients through Facebook.

However, it is evident that there still remains room for improvement in this area in order to enhance competitiveness between businesses. In fact, amongst the key points emerging out of the surveys carried out by the MCA on consumers' and businesses' behaviour online, the need for businesses to actively embrace the digital shift was highly prominent. Thus, the Authority recognised the need of ensuring that the ground rules on how to deliver the right message to the right customers through the right channels, are laid out in order to pave the way to prosperity. And it is to this end that the MCA organised the FastTrak training programme.



FastTrak offered participants the opportunity to learn how to enhance communication with customers and adopt an appropriate strategy for their business. Business owners still hesitate to employ social media within their operations as some perceive it as a challenge to their traditional way of doing business. Within such a context, FastTrak will aim to knock down the barriers that are preventing them from using social media in a meaningful way, and help them understand that engaging with customers and leveraging social media tools will drive more leads and prospective buyers to their business. It also sought to help participants appreciate the importance of investing in effective online content that enables them to convey the right message to the right audience, at the right time.

During the sessions, participants had the opportunity to put their newly acquired skills to test by practicing, hands-on, creating their own Facebook business page, and uploading posts and photos. The course was conveniently set up in different areas across Malta in order to accommodate participants hailing from different parts of the island. These included training centres in the Pembroke Local Council, in Inspire at Bulebel in Zejtun, and also at the National Council of Women in Blata l-Bajda. These centres have kindly accepted to collaborate with us on this initiative by offering the Authority their respective computer labs for the hands-on sessions.

**Caryl McKay**

*Malta Communications Authority*

### *NCW welcomes the following new Members*

- Michelle Sultana from Gżira
- Dr. Ghada El Hadad from Luqa
- Maria Christina Montefort from St. Julians
- Maria (May) Abela from Kalkara
- Degna Micallef from B'Kara
- Mandy Mifsud from Haż-Żebbuġ
- Mary Camilleri Cutajar from Safi
- Isabel Cassar from Pembroke
- Michelle Borg from Msida
- Victoria Vella from Mosta
- Maria Pisani from St. Julians



# End of Summer





# ner Barbecue



# The Unborn Child

**E**xamining whether an unborn child is a person or not, or when it becomes so is not an approach which would give any answers which fulfill the scope of such examination. The reason behind this is that you will obtain many answers and not one definite explanation which can give on the peace desired. This is not a question of granting rights and legislation, but a question of natural justice which is what our laws are based on. Natural justice is a concept which has been overlooked in view of the various human rights charter deficiencies, even though it was based on such.

Natural justice is the result not of religious belief or moral standards, it is what nature and humanity has made us evolve as human beings and has brought us to a stage to dignify the person.

The questions asked in this are:

1. What does the unborn life represent at whichever stage it is in the womb?
2. What is nature doing?
3. Does nature have its own ways and means for this?
4. What is the action causing when one performs abortion?

## Protection of Life

As humans we condemn war, because it causes death and destruction, we condemn murders, we condemn animal suffering, we are intrinsically programmed to defend and fight for life.

This has evolved into having a code of natural justice whereby we seek to abolish suffering. It is also true that some people thrive on suffering but we shall agree it is just a question of lack of love. Which is what humans ultimately feel fulfilled with, love and happiness, the battle between good and evil. It might be simplistic to reduce it to this, however this cannot be interpreted in a religious way, but in a manner which constitutes our being, and our being human.

When there is conception there is life, life should be protected, we protect life because it is the right thing to do according to our humanity. The same humanity which makes us look upon death and destruction in disdain.

When a life is not viable, nature destroys it. There is no need for human intervention. It is also why when a child in uterus becomes a real threat to the life of the mother carrying such, it is acceptable to choose. One life over the other.

## Women's rights v the rights of the unborn

Science has given us various ways to plan and choose when to procreate. The law can remove the distinction between a man and a woman however it is true that nature doesn't. Those who are born women, carry the responsibility and ability to carry life. Science has provided various options to aid the woman choose when to carry such through birth control options, and eventually through IVF. This means a woman possesses the ability to responsibly choose when to carry a child.

This does not always happen, and notwithstanding the various claims of women falling pregnant even though they are using some form of birth control, it is also true that many a times the times when this fails is because the person is not using it as instructed. Notwithstanding the efforts and reasons, the moment life is created, whichever form and notwithstanding how advanced or early, that life should be protected. Whether actual or potential, it is a life and it is a potential person, at whichever stage one might want to grant such.

Human beings defend life. Whether such life can eventually be sustained or defended or cared for by the mother or whether the mother wishes at all to carry such child. That life should be defended because it cannot defend itself, and since when do we legislate to destroy those who do not have a voice? Legislation is there above all to protect the weak, in this case the unborn life should be defended, because that is the greater good.

The right's to one's body is was brought about in order to protect humans from having organs removed involuntarily. It has nothing to do with destroying life, but protecting it. Rights should be given to that life, whether or not it is a person or in whichever way one wants to see that life, because that is the humane thing to do. Whether or not one wishes to see it or not, when woman destroys a life within her, she is destroying life. Just because that life cannot be seen or touched, or cannot survive outside the womb doesn't mean that that life is not feeling.

The shallowness and selfishness in believing that one's own plans or whims are more important than a life is just another reflection of degrading society. Such lack of respect towards nature and losing touch with our intrinsic being will

just lead to an uncivilised society. It is not a matter of freedom or rights. It is a matter of natural justice in its pure form, which is protecting life. And if seen from a right's perspective, the right of one stops whether the right of the other begins, and such OBLIGATION for the protection of the other right commences.

## Social Repercussions

The sense of guilt or unrest one woman feels after undergoing an abortion, has severe psychological consequences which stem from the inherent and unnatural act of ending the life, and even worse the life of one's own blood.

This is the lowest act a human can perform.

Legalising abortion, will ease access to the performance of such an act, which will create a new kind of unrest within a part of society or more specifically the women who undergo such treatment. Legalisation will not ease the natural inherent disdain caused by choosing to undergo such a procedure.

The long term effect of this will be a negative one. While it is agreed that not all are the same, at the end of the day it is a choice legislators have in deciding what kind society or basis for society they want to create. By creating rights we create obligations.

When one creates a society where having a child is a burden, this means the society is failing. There have been throughout history cycles of oppression, liberalism, finding the proper balance is the key and the role of legislators, it is unfortunate that this responsibility is many a times overlooked.

I can keep writing and expanding on this forever. the truth is the right thing to do is generally difficult. Life is not easy, but it is what gives us exhilarations. Every up has an equivalent down we may not always see it but it is there. Turning our heads doesn't make it better especially in this case.

Maltese love their children, parents teach love and love. Those women who do not have this love will undergo an abortion, feel bad about it, but just brag it is their right to ease their conscience. That's the untold truth.

Instead of following the decaying way, maybe its time Malta showed the right way, many may follow.

**NCW Member**



## International Council of Women Conseil International Des Femmes (Founded 1888)

### *Statement to mark the International Day of Peace 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017*

**“Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All”.** This theme - declared by the United Nations for 2017 - presents intrinsic values which are amongst those at the forefront of women’s organizations all over the world. Day after day indeed, through educational programs and activities, we disseminate this set of norms in the complex society in which each one of us live.

In every small community, one can see how women try to preserve these values; women from diverse population groups try to work together, supporting one another, tackling challenges, and marching forward toward justice and rights for women and girls and for marginalized populations such as migrants and refugees, building bridges, transforming fear and despair into hope.

This year, as the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized, “The International Day of Peace will highlight solidarity with refugees and migrants, bringing people together and reminding them of their common humanity”.

ICW – through its affiliates activism and policy advocacy responds to the challenges that arise in diverse societies: to take on issues, to aid weak communities and to focus on rights of women and children, migrants and refugees in order to secure a better life for all.

However, despite the recognition of the role of women in educating for respect, safety and dignity for all, women continue to be under-represented in the processes dealing

with peacebuilding. It is imperative that lessons should be learned from actual experiences to better identify and overcome barriers to women’s equal participation. To achieve sustainable and durable peace, it is notably essential to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention and in conflict resolution.

There is obviously a need for women’s organizations to make their voices heard in their own national spheres, propose solutions to remove obstacles to gender equality, analyse the existing policy for promoting women’s and girls’ rights, and serve as local “gatekeepers”. They clearly need to be provided with an opportunity for a local discourse and for raising awareness of issues related to the connection between gender, security and peace.

On the International Day of Peace, it is accordingly a must to repeat, again and again, that women and girls should be protected from sexual and gender violence. In such context, it is necessary to expand the policy of enforcement and punishment of perpetrators, to broaden the array of services provided to women and girls in all spheres of life, especially to maintain their personal and economic security. Without that daily battle, we cannot ensure a life of respect, safety and dignity.

As has been rightly emphasized by the poet and writer Francisco Gomes de Matos (IFLAC): “Let us help promote peace; a challenge never to cease”.

## Statement to mark International Day of Literacy

**S**ustainable Development Goal 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all, particularly for vulnerable people, or those with disabilities as well as refugee children, indigenous people and people living in poverty.

The International Council of Women (ICW-CIF) promotes literacy not only as an inalienable right, but also as an indispensable door to quality education and lifelong learning. However, this view is by no means unique to our Council. Great minds from around the world have long recognized the importance of literacy, not only to the individual and the quality of her life, but also to the larger community as well.

Katherine Patterson, a writer of children’s books, expressed it at the level of the individual: “It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations -- something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own.”

Literacy can be seen as a kind of seed which allows the human organism to grow. S.I. Hayakawa, a former U.S senator, put it this way: “It is not true we have only one life to live, if we can read, we can live as many lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish.”

At the level of international organizations, UNESCO’s Institute for Education rightly claimed: “Literacy arouses hopes, not only in society as a whole but also in the individual who is striving for fulfillment, happiness and personal benefit by learning

how to read and write. Literacy... means far more than learning how to read and write... The aim is to transmit... knowledge and promote social participation.”

Literacy opens doors to opportunities in life. Literacy can be seen as a bridge from misery to hope. It can also be viewed as a critical tool for daily life in modern society. Literacy is a platform for democratization and a road to the widespread establishment of basic human rights.

Clearly, the ability to read and write empowers us to alter attitudes, win hearts and minds and educate others in good health and social practices. Spirits can be raised through writing, reading, responding, recognizing, relating, representing, recommending and recording the pulse and the heartbeat of the world around us.

The International Council of Women vigorously supports literacy in all walks of life, in all corners of the world. Literacy is not a luxury, it is a necessity; without it, life would be at a standstill.

Literacy This book is old and yellowed By tears, time, the tannin of tea. It is golden rich with human history Ideas, truths and ideology. This book celebrates freedom; decries Reversal of cultural and ethical values. Poet, pre-purge, a ‘proscribed person’ Never compromising the less credible. Is there a system of beliefs and values Running counter to current dominant ones? Who is distinguished by her/his immunity To the beguilement - of now? This book, old, yellowed by tears, time and tea Perhaps grants us some fresh immunity? Poem by Jennifer Ann Davies 2017. International Day of Literacy 8 September 2017

# Autumn Session of the ECICW-CECIF

## General Assembly – Pavia Italy

### 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017

The Autumn Session of the European Council of the International Council of Women (ECICW) was held in Pavia Italy from the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. NCW President Mary Gaerty, Hon. General Secretary Doris Bingley, Vice President Grace Attard and Office Administrator Marie Demicoli attended the meeting, where they met other representatives from European and Euromed Women Councils.

Participants were welcomed by Mrs. Daniela Monaco, President of the National Council of Women of Italy, Mrs. Anna Maria Castelfranchi, International Secretary and Maria Teresa Spagnoetti, Treasurer.

The programme, which was prepared by the Council of Women of Italy, was intense and very interesting.



#### Saturday 7 October 2017: Seminar “The specific role of Women in Setting up a model of Cultural Tourism in Small Towns”

The various speakers highlighted the contribution of Women in the history of Pavia dating back from the Middle Ages and the development of the female presence in the artistic profile of the city and at the University of Pavia

A very enlightening presentation was given by Prof. Giovanna Gabetta, entitled, “Sustainable Economy and Tourism: Women contribution in Oltrepo’ Pavese” The presentation was about Women’s Contribution in the region of Oltrepo Pavese located south of Milan in the Lombardy region, just across the river from Pavia. Oltrepo Pavese is one of the largest wine producing regions in Italy. Prof Gabetta said that for a Sustainable World there is the need for a stronger feminine approach.



Women Entrepreneurs in Oltrepo make use of what the region offers such as making and selling wine, making and selling crafts, own farms and are owners of Bed & Breakfast hotels. Their activities all support tourism.

Maria Chiara Onida, a former mathematician, studied the genetics of goats and recognized a certified strain called Camosciatia dell Alpi, which she breeds and which produce a range of pure creamy cheese including ricotta, cheese with herbs, blue cheese and cheese wrapped in walnut leaves.

During the lunch break two guided tours of the city were organized. Our group chose the panoramic tour on a touristic train, which gave us an overall taste of the rich history of Pavia.

#### Afternoon Session

The afternoon session of the conference, gave us the opportunity to meet a representative of the European Federalist Movement who gave a presentation on the history of the “Movimento”. The European Federalist Movement was founded in Milan in 1943 by Arturo Spinelli together

with a group of anti-fascists with the aim to affirm peace, freedom, democracy and social justice. The movement is in favour of European unity and believes in the fundamental rights of European citizens especially in a deeper European Integration of European states.

#### Sunday 8 October 2017: The ECICW General Assembly

On the following day, The European Centre of the International Council of Women General (ECICW) Assembly was held at the Campus Aquae General Assembly Hall. Reports of the last six months were read from various Councils’ representatives. The reports manifested the immense work not only to promote the situation of women but also their involvement in the socio-economic development of their respective countries, in spite of the difficulties that still exist. Colleagues from different European and Euromed countries including Switzerland, Luxembourg, Ukraine, Turkey, Spain, France, Lebanon, Palestine, Lithuania, Monaco, Russia, Greece, Israel, Tunisia, Germany, Great Britain, Italy and Malta presented their reports. NCW Malta President, Mary Gaerty gave an overview of the initiatives that the Council has been working on during the last six months. Rosa Maria Artigas Norat from Spain read the report of the European Women’s Lobby activities as she is the alternate representative of ECICW. The UN report was read by Birgitt Purschke and Emma Galema.

The President of the International Council of Women, (ICW), Yungsook Kim travelled all the way from South Korea to join ECICW members at the Autumn Meeting in Pavia Italy. She spoke about the need to be pro-active and to ensure that with current technological developments, women will not lag behind. Another important issue raised was about women refugees, as this is becoming a global problem. As President of the International Council of Women she will be drafting policies for the future to share with the ECICW representatives also. The session was very interactive with members sharing views on the various activities, which can be adapted to their own country, as well as the challenges they face, especially in the Euromed region

In the evening, participants were also invited to a gala dinner at the Tennis Club in Pavia. Our special thanks go to our Italian colleagues, who organized such a lovely and interesting ECICW Autumn meeting in Pavia for so many representatives of different Women Councils across Europe and the Euromed Region.

#### Monday 9 October 2017: Follow-up and conclusions of the ECICW General Assembly

This session set the agenda for the next six months and the venue of the next ECICW Spring General Assembly 2018. During this session the Board members also outlined the important events in the different EU and Euromed countries and plans for each country in collaboration with the representatives of the ECICW.

**Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli**  
National Council of Women Malta





# COMMONWEALTH NEWS

Prime Minister May, together with Prime Minister Muscat and the Secretary-General, announced formally the theme and priorities for the 2018 CHOGM: **'Towards a Common Future'**. They were joined by young people from across the Commonwealth to hear directly from them about their hopes and aspirations, and what the modern Commonwealth means to them.

The event also marked the unveiling of the official logo which we are delighted to share with you today, alongside our new website ([www.CHOGM2018.org.uk](http://www.CHOGM2018.org.uk)).

The logo incorporates 52 hexagons, representing each member state, and the six continents they come from. Its colours are influenced by the palette of each of our countries' flags to celebrate the vibrancy of our Commonwealth family.



## Towards a common future

In April 2018, for the first time in over twenty years, the leaders of the Commonwealth's 52 member countries will gather in the UK for their biennial summit.

The Round Table: the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, together with the Royal Over-Seas League, the Commonwealth Association, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (International) and other Commonwealth partners, organised a two-day conference focusing on the aims and likely outcomes of the summit.

The Summit will address common challenges and focus on delivering:

- A more prosperous future: boosting intra-Commonwealth trade and investment and maximising the opportunities offered by the 'Commonwealth Advantage'
- A more secure future: increasing cooperation across security challenges including global terrorism, organised crime and cyber attacks
- A more sustainable future: building the resilience of small and vulnerable states to deal with the effects of climate change and other global crises
- A fairer future: promoting democracy, fundamental freedoms and good governance across the Commonwealth. We want a Commonwealth with a strong and vibrant future, built on deep partnerships that embrace its unique and diverse membership.



*Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK  
Minister for the Commonwealth*



*Amelia Kinahoi Siamoumua, Head of Gender,  
Commonwealth Secretariat*

The Summit will take place from Monday 16 to Saturday 21 April.

The week will begin from April 16th-18th: with four Commonwealth Forums themed: Business, Women, Youth and People with many participants attending from across the Commonwealth.

The Forums offer an opportunity for Commonwealth dialogue and provide a platform for wider debate of some of the key issues and challenges, in advance of discussions by leaders at CHOGM. All the forums will come as one during the Cross-Forum day. They Forums will take place in London at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and in Guildhall.

These will be followed by formal Heads of Government Meeting with accompanying Spouses' Programme and Foreign Ministers Programme from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April, The venues will be Lancaster House, Marlborough House, Buckingham Palace and the retreat at Windsor Palace.

This is going to be a great event and as Lord Howell of Guildford said the Commonwealth has the potential of becoming 'the mother of all networks'

**Doris Bingley**  
*Commonwealth Women's Network*



*Mrs Doris Bingley with Ms Kathleen Nugent*

## EU heads of state or government invited to a Social Summit in Gothenburg

Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, together with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, has invited heads of state or government from EU Member States, as well as over 30 different organisations and actors, to attend the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017. More than 180 participants have been invited to the summit.

The Social Summit in Gothenburg is an opportunity for key actors to discuss common challenges, political priorities and how the European Union, the Member States and the social partners can use exchange of experience to achieve better results on issues concerning labour markets and welfare systems in the future.

"We must become better at talking about issues that make a difference in people's everyday lives. In a more social Europe, fair working conditions, efficient labour markets and a strong social dialogue will contribute to increased growth and prosperity. And I am convinced that this Social Summit will help us create a stronger focus on these issues, both at national level in the Member States and at EU level," says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The invitation has just gone out to the 27 other EU heads of state or government and to the other participants. European Council President Donald Tusk and European Parliament President Antonio Tajani are also among those invited.

The Swedish social partners have been invited to attend. European social partners have also been invited, as good cooperation between employee organisations and employer



organisations is key to improving the labour market and its conditions.

Other civil society actors that have been invited include Social Platform as a representative of many different civil society organisations in the EU, and the European Youth Forum representing a large number of youth organisations in the EU. Representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions have also received invitations. Other invited participants include representatives of the International Labour Organisation, the Council of Europe and Eurofound.

In addition, members of the parties represented in the Swedish Riksdag will be invited to the Summit.

As large parts of the Social Summit will be webcast, citizens around Europe will have the opportunity to follow the discussions on issues concerning citizens in their everyday lives, such as new job opportunities, decent work and access to skills development.

Read more about the summit on the website: [www.socialsummit17.se](http://www.socialsummit17.se).

## Unjustified Geo-Blocking – Geo-blocking Mhux Iggustifikat

Wahda mid-Direttivi li l-Prezidenza tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa ta' Malta qiegħda tindirizza hi *geoblocking* mhux iggustifikat. Illum nafu li permezz tal-Internet u l-Medja Soċjali qed jiżviluppaw forom godda ta' bejgħ u xiri minn fuq l-Internet, mhux biss fuq livell Nazzjonali imma anki bejn pajjiż ewropew u ieħor (*crossborder*)

Għalhekk ahna bħala Assoċjazzjoni għad-Drittijiet tal-Konsumatur (ACR) qed nishqu li l-ligijiet u d-direttivi tal-UE dwar xiri u bejgħ *online* għandhom jiġu aġġornati biex jindirizzaw din il-forma ta' diskriminazzjoni fejn teżisti, partikolarment f'pajjiżi bħal Malta li minhabba d-daqs limitat tas-suq, Malta qed tkun żvantaġġjata sew fejn jidhlu l-SMEs kif ukoll il-konsumaturi li qiegħdin ikunu mcaħħda mis-Suq Uniku Ewropew minhabba l-limitazzjoni ta' għażla ta' prodotti u servizzi minn xi kumpaniji f'pajjiżi ewropej li jiddeciedu li ma joffrux s-servizzi tagħhom lil Malta għal diversi raġunijiet

Fost l-ilmenti nsibu l-bżonn li jiġu indirizzati:

- Il-ligijiet differenti dwar Is-Suq Uniku f'pajjiżi differenti
- Il-policies differenti minn pajjiż għall-ieħor dwar ix-xiri u bejgħ minn fuq l-Internet
- L-informazzjoni li qed tingħata qabel isir il-kuntratt f'lingwi differenti li ma jiftiehemx mill-konsumaturi ta' hafna pajjiżi ewropej
- Ir-riżultati li hargu minn konsultazzjoni li saret fl-2015 juru numru ta' ilmenti oħra fosthom

- Prezzijiet different minn pajjiż għall-ieħor
- Nuqqas ta' ġustifikazzjoni għaliex servizzi jew prodotti ġew irrifjutati li jintbagħtu Malta u xi pajjiżi oħra Ewropej
- Xi '*credit cards*' ma ġewx aċċettati mingħajr ma nġhatat raġuni
- Il-hlas għoli esagerat għas-servizz ta' trasport (*delivery*) tal-oġġetti
- Kumpaniji li ma jipprovdux is-servizz ta' trasport ta' oġġetti, qed jagħmlu arrangamenti ma' kumpaniji oħra biex jagħtu dan is-servizz (*rerouting*) li qed jgħolli l-hlas b'mod esagerat
- Il-hlas tat-trasport bil-baħar qed ikun għoli, hafna drabi minhabba policies differenti bejn pajjiż u ieħor
- Id-direttivi ta' UE mhux dejjem qed jiġu implementati kif suppost
- Il-bżonn ta' aktar infurzar tal-ligijiet
- Għalhekk hemm bżonn li l-Kummissjoni Ewropeja u l-Kunsill ifasslu ligijiet biex jindirizzaw b'mod trasparenti u mingħajr diskriminazzjoni applikabbli għall-pajjiżi kollha tal-UE speċjalment minhabba l-fatt li l-Ewropa qatt ma tista' tkun kompettitiva fuq livell globali jekk dan ma' jsirx

Grace Attard  
ACR General Secretary



# DIARY OF EVENTS

## July

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Start of the English Conversation Course
- 4<sup>th</sup> Start of the English Language Grammar Course for the family MCCF project meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> Presentation of Certificates to the First Aid Participants by the Hon. Minister Evarist Bartolo Minister for Education and Employment
- 6<sup>th</sup> American Independence Celebrations at the USA Embassy. Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended. Information Session on Waste Statistics and their Quality Mary Gaerty attended
- 10<sup>th</sup> Inauguration the therapeutic Area and the Secure entrance of within Dar Merhba Bik
- 11<sup>th</sup> NGO network on Domestic Violence at Dar L-Ewropa
- 11<sup>th</sup> MCVS Council Meeting. Doris Bingley attended
- 13<sup>th</sup> Start of the Maltese Conversation course
- 13<sup>th</sup> Start of the STEM course for toddlers
- 13<sup>th</sup> Start of the First Aid course
- 20<sup>th</sup> POW meeting on Prostitution at San Anton
- 20<sup>th</sup> Egyptian Embassy Reception – Farewell to HE Dr Magda Baraka
- 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting with the Minister for Energy and Water management
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Relations Malta – Tunisia Doris Bingley and Gertrude Abela attended
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Mary Gaerty left for Ghana with the President of Malta Delegation
- 27<sup>th</sup> Doris Bingley and Grace Attard attended the Soroptimists International function
- 28<sup>th</sup> Doris Bingley and Mary Demicoli on Ms Maistre's radio programme to encourage women to attend the LLL courses

- 31<sup>th</sup> The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society the showing of a video Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended.

## August

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister Helena Dalli visits NCW Centre and launches the Gender Equality Advisory Council
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Short Film festival at Malta Postal Museum
- 2<sup>nd</sup> LGBTIQ Film at San Anton Palace
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Consultation Session for promoting social inclusion and shared values at the Fortress Builders Fortifications Interpretation Centre Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli meet the Phillipino Group at Mary's residence
- 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Minister Falzon Ministry for the family, Children's right and social solidarity Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 21<sup>st</sup> Doris Bingley and Therese Cassola given the news that Mr John Ellis passed away. Students unconsolable
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Mr Ellis Funeral at St Joseph Parish Birkirkara. Doris Bingley and his students attended.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Minister Chris Cardona at MEIB on the SME week. Mary Gaerty attended
- 29<sup>th</sup> POW meeting at San Anton
- 31<sup>st</sup> NCW Executive Committee
- 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting on Micro Finance

## September

- 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Councils Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended

- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting with the Minister for Gozo Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley Vivien Cassar, Margaret Formosa and Marie Demicoli attended
- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Sean Mangion at the Department of the Parliamentary Secretary for the Disabled and Active Ageing
- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NGO network on Domestic Violence Doris Bingley, Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli attended
- 6<sup>th</sup> Jum il-Vittorja Serata Kommemorattiva Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 7<sup>th</sup> Quddiesa Pontifikali l-Isla biex jigu mfakkra z-zewg assedji 1565, 1943. Mary Gaerty attended
- 11<sup>th</sup> Nominations for MEUSAC
- 12<sup>th</sup> MCVS Meeting at the new centre in Rabat
- 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Dr Elena Grech at Dar l-Ewropa
- 14<sup>th</sup> MEUSAC Elections at Dar l-Ewropa
- 15<sup>th</sup> BBQ at Cavalieri Hotel
- 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Ian Borg Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects
- 20<sup>th</sup> Pre Budget Consultation Breakfast Meeting at Casino Maltese – Doris Bingley participated
- 21<sup>st</sup> Independence Day Concert Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 25<sup>th</sup> Seminar about the Arabic language course and the development and creativity innovation
- 27<sup>th</sup> NCW Central committee at NCW Centre
- 29<sup>th</sup> Chinese 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Chinese Garden in Santa Lucija Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended

# Forthcoming Events

## Conference: I am Me not my Age: Health and Justice for the Elderly

The National Council of Women Malta in partnership with the Parliamentary Secretariat for Persons with Disability and Active Ageing are organizing a conference entitled, "I am Me not my Age: Health and Justice for the Elderly"

**Date:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Time:** Registration 8.30 am

**Venue:** Dar l-Ewropa St Paul's Street, Valletta

The aim of the conference is to discuss the abuse of the elderly and to create more awareness during the 16 days of activism on the elimination of Domestic Violence.

For registration and more information kindly phone NCW office on 21248881 / 21246982 or send email on [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt) by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

## Interactive information Session with Malta Communications Authority (MCA)

**Venue:** National Council of Women, Blata l-Bajda

**Date:** Tuesday 5 December 2017

**Time:** 5.30pm

The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) has published its report on the complaints and enquiries received during the first six months of 2017. This report provides an analysis of the complaints received by the Authority during this period.

The Association for Consumer Rights in collaboration with the National Council of Women is holding an information session with representatives of MCA to discuss key aspects of the complaints, including quality of service, billing issues on mobile telephony, fixed line, TV and Post among others

The session will also provide clarification as to which aspects fall under MCA. This will be followed by an interactive discussion with the participants who will be able to raise their concerns

For more information and registration kindly contact us on ACR or NCW on 99225445 / 21248881 email: [associationforconsumerrights@gmail.com](mailto:associationforconsumerrights@gmail.com) or [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt)

## Christmas Celebrations

Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 at 7.30pm

At NCW Centre

Mountbatten Street, Blata l-Bajda

*Come and join the fun!*

A donation of €15 will be appreciated



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