



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.**
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**Front Cover Photos**

*General Assembly in Yogyakarta,  
Indonesia*

*Food Handling Certificate Ceremony  
at NCW Learning Centre*

**Office Hours**

Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 13.30

**Membership Subscription Rates**

New individual membership	€14.50
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Affiliated Organisations	€20.00
Associated Organisations	€20.00
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are requested to keep their subscription  
fees up to date.*



Founded 1964

# Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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**EDITORIAL**

Dear Colleagues and Friends

I would like to introduce myself, I am the new Editor of Il-Mara. It is a great pleasure to be asked to help out the National Council in this task. It is always difficult to find articles which would be of interest and also to make sure we try and fit all the work that the National Council of Women does in a mere 16 pages.

We hope that it will be of interest to you and should you be interested in placing any articles for the next upcoming Il-Mara, do not hesitate to get in touch with us directly on ncwmalta@camline.net.mt



**Tamara Gauci**  
*Editorial Board*



Congratulations on the 130th Anniversary of the Founding of the International Council of Women. ICW has a special place in the international feminist movement. Since 1888, it has been present on the international scene, first in the western world and later as a truly worldwide organization.



The National Council of Women Malta would like to congratulate Soroptimist International Malta on their 25th Anniversary. The Executive Committee Members and All NCW members wish SI Malta many more successful years.

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## President's Message

**D**ear Ladies,  
We are fast approaching the end of the year and our thoughts immediately go to what we need to wrap up before the year is over and to plan for the year ahead.

One of the highlights and important events of the Council is the Annual General meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of January, so please block that date, as we hope to see many of you there. During this meeting we present a number of resolutions based on the changes we wish to happen and introduction of good practices that we would like to be introduced in various sectors. For these we are asking all of you to please come forward and speak to us, send an email, a letter, whatever way you feel more comfortable in and discuss I with us or with any of the affiliated organisations. These resolutions have been the motor by which changes happen. It is our responsibility to speak when we feel that there is room for improvement, and making someone aware of it is a good start.

Once again our centre is buzzing with activity and again all the classes for this year are full. One of our recent courses which we presented together with the Malta Communications Authority, went extremely well especially with those who had just finished the STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS course, as this gave them a more in depth knowledge as to how to sell online. An important aspect in today's marketing and selling. We also participated in the EPALE Awards presenting a project as a combination of the two courses and managed to obtain First Runner up in the Digital Award section with the name of Entrepreneurship for Women. We are presently running the second course on entrepreneurship and wonderful to see such a

diverse mix of students, all with different aspirations.

October is pink. Pink October has become part of our yearly activities as a nation and the number of events and awareness raising about breast cancer increases every year. I had the opportunity to attend one of these occasions organised by the Ladies Section of the Pinto Band Club in Qormi. The very informative session was very well attended and in her speech, Mrs Michelle Muscat, Chairperson of The Marigold Foundation and spouse of the Prime Minister, stressed on the fact that fear is the main culprit why several women do not participate in the Breast Screening Programme, or see a doctor to report changes in their breasts, for fear of the unknown and perhaps a negative result and therefore fear of a change in their lives. Support both before and after any intervention was highlighted as a crucial factor and an important aspect towards healing and getting back to normal living. Well done ladies, keep up the good work!

So to conclude may I please remind you about the resolutions. You just need to send us your feedback on issues that require change or introduction of better actions; we will help in the development of these into a resolution. If we do not speak and act, change will not happen and I am certain that we all aspire for a better world, so let us start to make it happen!

On behalf of NCW I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyful Christmas Season

**Mary Gaerty**

*President, National Council of Women*



## Congratulations to Doris Bingley

The National Council of Women would like to congratulate Doris Bingley NCW Hon General Secretary for being elected **Vice President of the International Council of Women** during the General Assembly in Indonesia. NCW Malta is greatly honoured and would like to thank Doris Bingley for her efforts and service for the well-being of society on a National and International level.

## Food Handling Course

The National Council of Women together with the Filipino Community organised a Food Handling Course in August for Filipinos and Nigerians working in Malta. The one day course covered the following topics:

- Food Safety and Hazards - Biological, Chemical and Physical
- Allergens and intolerances
- Prerequisite program - pest control, personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitation, temperature control, etc
- The HACCP system
- Legal requirements
- Other related topics

The Course provided the participants with skills, which are greatly needed in their course of work. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 NCW organized an Certificate Giving Ceremony and Dr Karen Mugliett Chairperson of the Food Safety Commission presented the certificate and the license to all the participants that successfully completed the course.



## 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 which is co-financed by the Malta Community Chest Fund has started its second phase.

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 a familiarization session was held at NCW Centre for all participants that showed interest and wanted to attend the course.

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 the motivation is, this course offers the assistance one requires to get the ball rolling.



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

A good number of applicants attended the first session and were keen to get into the exciting world of entrepreneurship. The course is being held at NCW Learning Centre twice a week till March 2019 and it is free of charge.



## The National Council of Women Summer Barbecue August 2018 at the Victoria Hotel, Sliema





## Czech delegation working on an EU project on Work/Life Balance and address Gender Pay Gap

A delegation representing the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic (SP) has been working on a EU project with EU member states on a programme 'Capacity building of the Employers and Employees organisations to collect information on how the new forms of work are or can be used by employees - parents with children, particularly women, for better reconciliation of their family, private and work life.

EESC Employers Group representative Vladimira Drbalova, leading the delegation, who is also International Organisations and EU Affairs Senior Advisor contacted EESC/CCMI delegate Grace Attard to invite Malta as one of the EU member states to participate in this project. The Malta Employers Association and Simonds Farsons Cisk Brewery participated in the project

The project focuses on the EC proposal on WLB – On balance for Parents and Carers, COM (2017) 253 and the EU Action Plan: Tackling the Gender Pay Gap, COM (2017) 678.

Meeting at MEA was held on Thursday 6 September 2018 where MEA President Doris Sammut Bonnici, introduced the meeting giving an overview of the role of the employers within MEA which carries with it many responsibilities emanating from employer-worker relationships within a company, relationships with government bodies and interpretation of legislation among others.

The meeting focused on general exchange of information on the economic and social situation of both countries, current priorities of MEA and SP and expectations in the changing Europe, which are very similar to both countries. Education and employment relations were also discussed with particular emphasis on WLB, new forms of work and working time arrangements. Family-friendly measures and the provision of free childcare facilities were key factors in particular the latter, since in the Czech Republic childcare facilities are still against payment.

Mr Farrugia spoke about the importance of looking towards the future and ensuring that the education system prepares young people for future jobs and new forms of work. He also spoke about the increasing number of foreign workers. Grace Attard spoke about the importance of education for a digitalized world especially for women. It is crucial for women on maternity or parental leave to remain in touch with changes and developments at the workplace, through training programs. The need to extend the hours of childcare facilities to meet the needs of women and men who work on shift basis and other forms of flexible working hours was also discussed



Grace Attard coordinated a meeting with the Czech delegation at NCW Centre in Blata l-Bajda. Present for the meeting were NCW President Mary Gaerty, General Secretary, Doris Bingley, Vice President Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli, Course Coordinator. NCW President Mary Gaerty welcomed the Czech delegation and Vladimira Drbalova introduced the members of the Czech delegation and spoke about the situation in the Czech Republic. NCW President gave an overview of the work of NCW. The meeting was an opportunity for an exchange of information on various measures that are being taken in the respective countries: reducing the pay gap, work-life balance and women in new forms of work.

The Czech delegation was also welcomed by Antoinette Caruana, Sigmonds Farsons Cisk Brewery, Company Secretary/Group Human Resources Manager.

The meeting focused on practical measures related to new forms of work and working time arrangements at company level and their further developments in the light of rapid changes in the world of work. Areas discussed included the individualisation of work and diversification of work contracts; benefits of WLB for employers and employees; costs and administrative burdens connected with more flexible work arrangements, working time and different types of leave; how the digitalization and new technologies can facilitate the process at company level; the 'male/female structure of workers in the company and the activities carried out by the Brewery under the theme 'Wellbeing' in the field of CSR.

Vladimira Drbalova, on behalf of the Czech delegation, sent messages of thanks and appreciation for the welcome they received and for the cooperation from all participants, making the visit pleasant and very successful.

**Grace Attard**  
*NCW Vice-President*

## Smart Women Course

The National Council of Women in collaboration with the Malta Communications Authority organized a training programme on Entrepreneurship and E-Commerce at the National Council of Women Centre. This course provided aspiring female entrepreneurs with the necessary tools to transform a business idea into a successful enterprise, with the ultimate aim being that of improving the employment prospects or business opportunities of the participants and to sell online. This course took place during the summer months and twenty participants successfully completed the course. An Award giving ceremony took place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Haywharf Clubhouse.



## EPALE Malta Awards

The National Council of Malta participated in the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE) awards. This year NCW submitted its project on Entrepreneurship combining both the Getting Started: Start your Own Business Course which is co funded by MCCF and the Digital Entrepreneurship Course, which was held in collaboration with MCA under the heading of “The Training Programme on Entrepreneurship for Women”

The aim of the EPAL Awards is to raise the profile of adult education in Malta and to celebrate adult learning in Malta. There were a number of categories, which were: Adult Learning Project award, Adult Educator award, Volunteer in Adult Education award, Recognition of 45+ years in teaching award and Digital Learning Project award.

The Awards Ceremony took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at Villa Arrigo. The programme included speeches from Sir Alan Tuckett OBE, who is professor of education at the University Of Wolverhampton, Honorary Fellow of UNESCO's Institute of Lifelong Learning and Past President of the International Council for Adult Education; Mr Andrew McCoshan, Thematic Coordinator UK; Dr Francis Fabri, Permanent Secretary; Mr Stephen Cachia, Director General and Mr. Alexander Farrugia, Director for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability.

The National Council of Women's project was shortlisted and received the first runner up award for its entry. This recognition is indeed appreciated as NCW is determined to continue its efforts to identify good practices to promote women's employment in information and communications technology jobs, to promote a positive work-life balance and to promote female entrepreneurship in the digital world.

NCW also congratulates Mr William Pace who has been teaching Mathematics for a number of years at the National Council of Women Learning Centre for receiving the 45+ years in teaching Award.





# International Council of Women - 35<sup>th</sup>

## Yogyakarta Indonesia – September 13<sup>th</sup> – September 18<sup>th</sup>

**T**ransforming Society Through Women's Empowerment" was the chosen theme for the 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Over 200 delegates travelled from different parts of the World and Malta was represented by Doris Bingley, Gertrude Abela and Marie Demicoli.

For the ICW Women's Forum and the Opening Ceremony, ICW delegates were joined by 1000 Women Organisation from Indonesia.

The National Council of Indonesia (KOWANI) managed to bring representatives of different countries together in the wonderful city of Yogyakarta and organised the General Assembly to perfection.

Dr Ir. Giwo Rubianto Wiyogo, chairperson of NCW Indonesia welcomed all delegates to Yogyakarta, the Great City of Education, Culture and History

Madame Hadriani Uli T I Silalahi, chairperson of the Organising Committee made huge efforts to make sure that everyone had a great time. It was indeed a herculean task and she definitely succeeded. Uli as we dearly called her was the first person to welcome us on our arrival and she was always eager to help us whenever the need arose.

Below is brief account of the General Assembly from the 13<sup>th</sup> September to the 18<sup>th</sup> September courtesy of ICW/CIF

The 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICW was held from September 13 to 18, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This year, 1500 Indonesian delegates and 200 ICW participants from over 40 countries gathered to attend the General Assembly.

During the General Assembly, we examined and evaluated women's status from a global perspective, while assessing ongoing activities of ICW members and organizations. Through the event, our ICW sisters have shared their ideas and understanding, creating a basis for strengthened solidarity and global friendship.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the registration started in the morning and the Women's Forum was held at an outdoor venue of the Grand Inna Malioboro Hotel. The Women's Forum was held under the triennial theme of 2015-2018, "Transforming Society through Women's Empowerment." During the first panel discussion,

speakers gave their speeches on the topic of "Empower A Woman, Transform A Society." The second panel discussion focused on various forms of violence and infringement of basic human rights that women face and ways to protect women against such violence and discrimination.

After the panel discussions, there was a celebration ceremony of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICW. 8 marchers representing KOWANI and ICW entered the venue with the birthday cake and *Tum-peung*, incorporating elements of Indonesian tradition in commemoration of ICW's long legacy of activism and solidarity among women.

The celebration of 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary was followed by five workshop sessions with titles of "Women and transformative politics," "Women and economic empowerment", "Eliminating violence against women", "Women's empowerment through education", and "The role of Indonesian women in economic development/sector." The Welcome Dinner was held in the same evening at the Grand Inna Malioboro Hotel.

On September 14, the Opening Ceremony was attended by key guests such as President of the Republic of Indonesia, ministers of Indonesian governments, ambassadors, and various NGO leaders. After the welcoming speech by the ICW President Jungsook Kim and KOWANI President, Giwo Rubianto, H.E. IR. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia gave a congratulatory speech on women's empowerment in Indonesia. The ceremony closed with the beating of *lesung*, a traditional Indonesian ceremony performed in many official events.

The business meeting was also held on the same day. President Kim presented the presidential and administrative report on behalf of ICW Board. The constitution was also amended by the unanimous approval of the General Assembly. The Finance report for the last triennium was also approved by the General Assembly. In the evening, all the GA participants attended Prambanan Night to watch Ramayana Royal Ballet performance while enjoying traditional Indonesian cuisine.

On September 15, the second day of business meeting, all the National Councils reported on their activities for the last triennium





# th General Assembly

## ber 18<sup>th</sup> 2018

to implement the ICW's triennial theme of "Transformation of Society through Women's Empowerment." The elections for various leadership positions such as ICW Board members and Standing Committee members were also held. In the evening, GA participants took a trip to Kraton, Sultan's Palace and enjoyed their dinner events in the company of Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, the current Sultan of Yogyakarta Sultanate.

On September 16, the third day of the business meeting, interfaith service was held. The meeting was followed by the reports of the national councils, reports of UN representatives, presentation of LELAF Mechta van den Bogert Award, and various reports of ICW-funded projects. In the evening, APRC hosted a fundraising event to mark its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In the morning of September 17, Regional Council meetings were held. ECICW, APRC, RCA, and African Regional Councils gathered to discuss and evaluate the activities within each regional council. In the afternoon session, reports of the workshops held on September 13 were presented. The Standing Committees' Resolutions and Plans of Actions were also discussed. Main topics of the resolutions included "Alerting Young People to the Dangers of the Internet," "Addressing Abuse on the Elderly for a Better Quality of Life," "Sub-Saharan Women Migrants in a Precarious Situation: "Challenges and Empowerment," "Mental Health Support Following a Natural Disaster," "Access to Environmental Information and Education," "Availability of Safe Water," "Combating and Eliminating All Forms of Sexual Harassment."

On September 18, the GA was concluded with introduction of new triennial theme "Social protection for women and girls: Sustainable development for the world" and introduction of new life and individual members. The closing ceremony comprised of presentation of the next venue for ICW ECM, farewell to outgoing board, speech of the president re-elected, and the introduction of the newly elected Board. The photo session for newly elected Standing Committee members and Board took place after the GA.



The newly elected **ICW-CIF Board**:

<b>President:</b>	Jung Sook Kim
<b>Vice President:</b>	Linda Liu, Doris Bingley, Jamal Hermes, Fatos Inal, Giwo Rubianto
<b>Member:</b>	Isin Atala, Pushpa Hegde
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Martine Marandel
<b>Ass. Treasurer:</b>	Marie-Claude Bertrand

During this General Assembly, NCW Malta was pleased that the resolution it presented on addressing the abuse of the elderly for a better quality of life was unanimously approved.

NCW Malta Representatives would like to thank KOWANI for giving them the opportunity to appreciate the Balkondes at the end of the General Assembly. The Balkondes is one of the State-Owned Enterprises programmes in partnership with Corporate Social Responsibility, which is useful to improve the quality of life of the Villagers. It was indeed a lovely experience getting to know the local people, their crafts, their arts and their music. NCW Malta representatives Doris Bingley, Marie Demicoli and Gertrude Abela were hosted in different villages and they planted a tree in their respective village and spoke about the Maltese Islands during their school visits.

The ICW G.A, programme also included a visit to the Hindu Prambanan Temple, the Sultan Palace and the Buddhist Borobudur temple.

NCW Malta would like to congratulate ICW President Jung Sook Kim for a very fruitful 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Dr. Ir. Giwo Rubianto Wiyogo and all the members of the organizing committee for a very successful and memorable ICW General Assembly in Indonesia.

**Marie Demicoli**  
*Environment Committee Coordinator*



## Dar Regina Pacis – Balzan

In April 2017, Pope Francis, during the Congress organised to celebrate the 150 year Anniversary of the Catholic Action said; *“It is essential that Catholic Action be present in prisons and hospitals, in the streets, in slums, in factories. Otherwise, it will be an elitist institution with nothing to say to anyone, including the Church herself. I desire a Catholic Action present among people: in the parish, in the diocese, in towns and in neighbourhoods, in the family, in offices and workplaces, in the countryside, in all spheres of life.”*

This is the reason why the Maltese Catholic Action (AKM) felt the need, more than ever before, to make better use of the property it is responsible for, and which are not being used to their full potential. One social project which has just been launched is Dar Regina Pacis in Balzan. In the past, this property was used for the formation of adults and is now in dire need of maintenance. AKM studied the possibility of adapting the premises and explored alternative ideas and dreams.

This property consists of 2 rooms and a bathroom at ground level and a further 3 rooms on the first floor. The Maltese Catholic Action will be developing a space at ground level which can continue to be used for pastoral work in the community, and also restructure the first floor level, so it can be used as a temporary shelter for a family or a small group of people in need. Due to the services being offered through AKM, we are aware that the number of people who, for some reason or another, find themselves in a situation where they do not have a place to sleep, is increasing. Therefore, it is envisaged that the first floor will consist of a kitchen, bathroom and

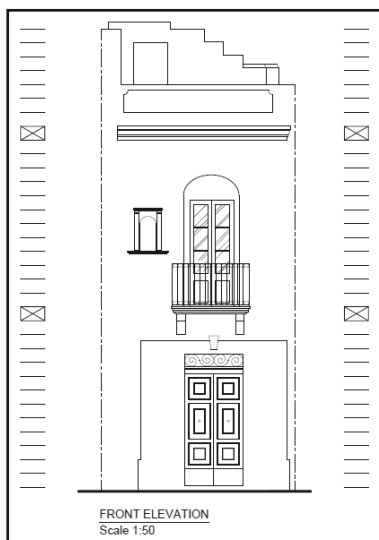
bedrooms which can sleep up to 4 people. The people who will be using the premises will be doing so on a temporary basis, and will also be assisted in improving their situation and to find a more permanent residence and live independently.

This project is calculated to cost around €50,000. This includes changing

parts of the ceiling, installing roof membrane and installing new water and electricity systems. Then the premises would need to be finished and furnished accordingly. AKM has already been approached by a private company; Hotjar, who has contributed €15,000 for this project. We believe that by God’s providence and the contributions of many others, financially or otherwise, we will reap the fruit of such work.

For those who would like to contribute, do not hesitate to contact AKM on [info@akmalta.org](mailto:info@akmalta.org) or 2122 2239. You can also donate to Azzjoni Kattolika Maltija, at the Catholic Institute in Floriana or deposit in our BOV account: MT27VALL22013000000040023865211.

We must be aware that what counts in life is what we actually do to show our love and compassion towards others, especially to the most vulnerable. Let us be a Church that is truly like the beacon of a lighthouse in a port, or a torch carried among the people to enlighten those who have lost their way or who are in the midst of a storm. (ref. *Amoris Laetitia*).





## Soroptimist International Malta 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference

Soroptimist International Malta invited international and local guests to participate in the celebrations of their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Conference officially opened with a Welcome Reception in the Roman Hall of the National Museum of Archaeology on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> September and ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September with a Closing Ceremony on the terrace of Msida Bastion Historic Garden. The Conference theme – *Friendship in Diversity* – was aptly chosen not only for the number of diverse participants and events but also due to our island often being seen as a bridge between continents where, from earliest times, people of diverse nationalities, languages and cultures have travelled and found friendship. Indeed, the island's heritage has been shaped in no small part by the many groups which have come to this island and, for a time, made it their own. Interested participants were able to explore some of the history during tours of the National Museum of Archaeology, San Anton Palace and Msida Bastion Historic Garden.

The integral seminar "Friendship and Diversity" taking place in San Anton Palace on Friday morning featured a thought provoking discussion by three panellists, Maria Pisani, Mario Gerada and Angela Kerins, moderated by Karen Xuereb, and subsequent group reflection on this theme. General tenor of the seminar is that the importance of embracing multiculturalism and human rights can no longer be ignored. By unleashing our thinking we will realize that there is richness in diversity.

Following up on the 2017-2019 Soroptimist International President's Appeal, 'Women, Water & Leadership' that will fund transformative projects in various countries, Soroptimist International Malta has collaborated with Girl Guides of Gozo to raise awareness around the topic through a photo exhibition put up in San Anton Palace for the day.

The International Day of Peace on 21 September devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and amongst all nations and peoples, could not be ignored in a Conference "Friendship in Diversity". Thus, a Peace Event under the motto "Peace – let it begin with me" was celebrated on Friday evening with members of various women-related NGOs, church and council dignitaries and international delegates sharing their unique message for peace. Though we enjoyed good weather throughout the 4 days, the wind on Friday night made us retreat from our initially planned venue at the Siege Bell Memorial to St. Andrew's Scots Church who welcomed us graciously at short notice. The event was rounded off by a standing reception with catering from the Migrant Women Association Food Truck.

At the heart of all Soroptimism are the elimination of violence against women and the education, empowerment and enablement of women and girls to fulfil their potential. In this line, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project of Soroptimist International consists of creating an Olive Grove in the grounds of the women shelter Dar Merhba Bik.

This project is sustainable in several ways: It involved clearing and regenerating an overgrown field, rebuilding a wall to protect the land from erosion and repairing a well to provide a natural source of water. The residents will eventually harvest the olives, use them in their cooking and sell any surplus to provide much needed funds for the shelter. A future picnic area with orchard and scented plants will provide a retreat in nature to help overcome the trauma experienced by the residents.

Thanks to the support of the Directorate for Parks, Afforestation and Countryside Restoration, P.A.R.K.S., everything was ready on inauguration day, Saturday morning of the Conference.

The olive grove was inaugurated by Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta, who also helped SI Malta President Dot Hunter plant the first tree before invited international delegates and various local sponsors planted the additional 24 trees to mark our Club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

A Conference wouldn't be complete without a Gala Dinner. This one was held on Saturday evening in the ballroom of the Corinthia Palace Hotel and ended with ballroom and line dancing accompanied by DJ Etienne Borg.

The feedback of delegates was overwhelmingly positive and a note of THANKS goes to all the people involved at the various venues and events to make this Conference a success!



## European Commission's Economic Agenda

A Seminar for Civil Society Representatives in EU Member States was held at the European Commission Building Charlemagne in Brussels on 17 and 18 October 2018.

The Seminar was organised by the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs.

The Seminar focused on the current issues of the European Commission's Economic Agenda and the European Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights

The new multi-annual financial framework proposal dealt with social inequalities, sustainability of public finances and the Ageing Report among others. These were explored during the two days.

The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) is looking how to reform the euro-area governance to ensure more jobs, growth, investment, social convergence and microeconomic stability by strengthening the EMU architecture and anchoring democratic accountability.

Most of the speakers dealt with the above proposals and programmes to support reform, investment and stabilisation.

Other speakers spoke on the social inequalities like the threat to European integration and whether excessive inequalities have negative impact on growth.

The participants noted that close links between economic and social policy need to be strengthened especially in the economic and monetary union with the financial architecture of the union targeting social investment, social protection and social rights.

The National Council of Women Malta was represented by Doris Bingley, Hon. General Secretary.



## Meeting with MEP David Casa on Work Life Balance and the Gender Pay Gap

*19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at NCW Centre, Blata l-Bajda*

President Mary Gaerty and Vice-President Grace Attard were invited to a meeting with MEP David Casa, currently rapporteur for the European Parliament on

1. Report of the European Parliament and of the Council on *Work-Life Balance for Parents and Carers* COM (2017) 253 and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/ EU (COM (2017) 0253–C80137/2017–2017/0085(COD))
2. Commission Proposal to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for a directive on the *EU Action Plan 2017-2019 Tackling the Gender Pay Gap*, COM (2017) 678 and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU

The meeting was held with Rebecca Grima, member, Secretariat, MEP David Casa who introduced both proposals. Mary Gaerty and Grace Attard, who had prepared a document with the position of NCW on both proposed directives shared their views and concerns on these two very important areas, crucial in ensuring a fair and balanced legal document with regards to work-life balance and closing the gender pay gap

The following are a number of proposals that were submitted:

Work-Life Balance (WLB) proposed directive should have a wider perspective addressing "The Family" and not just women's needs. It is a family issue as it affects mothers, fathers, children of all ages and elderly relatives

Work-Life balance cannot be addressed in isolation. Work-Life balance should address the economic, social and environmental impact on the family members separately, including individual entitlement to leave. Addressing the responsibilities of men of all ages is crucial to bringing about a change of mentality. The contribution of men as employers, workers or partners/fathers must be encouraged through adequate incentives

At National Level an inter-ministerial policy should be designed to ensure a fair and just as well as accessible work-life balance. Impact assessments are necessary to formulate adequate policies, reflecting the needs of different sectors and income of society.

Some other topics of discussion where:

- Addressing Malta's demographic changes and new forms of work
- Childcare Services
- Positive and negative impact of free/ paid childcare facilities
- The role of Social Partners and Civil Society
- Women and Global Digitalisation
- Costs and the financial impact to support other measures

Should you want more information get in touch with NCW Malta on [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt)

**Grace Attard**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Vice President)



# Launch of the National Centre for Family Research 2019 Calendar

*Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018, San Anton Palace, Attard*

**T**he National Centre for Family Research within The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society has been conducting research about family life since its inception in 2014.

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October the Centre for Family Research launched the 2019 Calendar.

H.E. Marie Louse Coleiro Preca introduced the event in a spirit of appreciation for the work the National Centre for Family Research has been carrying out. She argued that the Calendar would be constantly beside us at all times to remind us of the values of the family and to be inspired by its thoughts so that each one of us can do their utmost in practice to ensure stronger family ties in Malta.

Dr Suzanne Piscopo made a powerpoint presentation explaining how the Calendar 2019 is aimed at providing in an exceptional and attractive way the valuable insights on family relationships by the participants who were interviewed as part of the research programme, giving their thoughts on how they nurture and sustain family relationships at all times. A selection of their insights is 'quoted' in each page, marking every month of the year 2019.

Although the photographers are credited for their contribution, the quotations are anonymous and do not belong to the persons in the photos. The Calendar can be a faithful companion to members of all types of families, who need support or who can offer support to family members who are going through difficult times. It is also a helpful guide for further developing stronger family relations in a fast changing society.

Guests were then invited to express their views on this initiative and offer their suggestions. The launch came to an end with a presentation of Certificates for the photographers and media professionals who contributed to the different aspects of the process in the production of this Calendar.

The Calendar can be obtained from The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society against a donation in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund.

**Grace Attard**  
*NCW Vice-President*

## Statement to mark the International Day of Peace

*21<sup>st</sup> September 2018*

**"THE RIGHT TO PEACE – THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT 70"**  
**(UN theme for 2018)**

**T**his year, the International community is celebrating 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which declaration specifies that "the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world".

70 years after such a Declaration which brought hope to the world, how can we, individually, promote the ideals of peace? It should be remembered that women helped make the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Universal", by shaping the narrative of the Declaration through their influence on the language used. Women stood up for this declaration, which was intended to become the international "Magna Carta", empowering us all.

It should also be remembered that in 1948, ICW proudly supported the UN adoption of the UDHR, and, since then, keeping in mind that women's rights are human rights, ICW has constantly urged governments and international organizations to accelerate their steps to protect the human rights of all women. Such steps include the achievement of gender equality in all spheres. However, unfortunately, we are still facing the results of ongoing wars, conflicts and displacement in several parts of the world – to the detriment of peace.

Again, it should be emphasized that everything in the matter starts with education. The Declaration article 26 proclaims that everyone has the right to education, regardless of sex, and states that fundamental education for women and girls is not a privilege but is a right that must be distributed equally. This article has been a principle for our ICW advocacy campaigns and initiatives.

Guided accordingly by the belief that every person in every place deserves the chance to live in peace, ICW calls upon its members to strengthen their efforts in working with governments, civil society, and the media, so as to prevent and reduce violent conflicts, and to be committed overall to the aim of essential equal and inalienable human rights. These rights are today more important than ever, since nearly a quarter of the globe's population still lives in fragile states, in which the social contract between society and government is frayed, and where individuals and communities continue to suffer deprivations and abuses, particularly women.

**The ICW calls on all governments to ensure that all peoples enjoy THE RIGHT TO PEACE.**

## Nobel Peace Prize 2018

The Nobel Peace Prize 2018 was awarded jointly to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad “for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.”

*Below is an extract from the Guardian about Nadia Murad.*

The slave market opened at night. We could hear the commotion downstairs where militants were registering and organising, and when the first man entered the room, all the girls started screaming. It was like the scene of an explosion. We moaned as though wounded, doubling over and vomiting on the floor, but none of it stopped the militants. They paced around the room, staring at us, while we screamed and begged. They gravitated toward the most beautiful girls first, asking, “How old are you?” and examining their hair and mouths. “They are virgins, right?” they asked a guard, who nodded and said, “Of course!” like a shopkeeper taking pride in his product. Now the militants touched us anywhere they wanted, running their hands over our breasts and our legs, as if we were animals.

It was chaos while the militants paced the room, scanning girls and asking questions in Arabic or the Turkmen language. “Calm down!” militants kept shouting at us. “Be quiet!” But their orders only made us scream louder. If it was inevitable that a militant would take me, I wouldn’t make it easy for him. I howled and screamed, slapping away hands that reached out to grope me. Other girls were doing the same, curling their bodies into balls on the floor or throwing themselves across their sisters and friends to try to protect them.

While I lay there, another militant stopped in front of us. He was a high-ranking militant named Salwan who had come with another girl, another young Yazidi from Hardan, who he planned to drop off at the house while he shopped for her replacement. “Stand up,” he said. When I didn’t, he kicked me. “You! The girl with the pink jacket! I said, stand up!”

His eyes were sunk deep into the flesh of his wide face, which seemed to be nearly entirely covered in hair. He didn’t look like a man – he looked like a monster.

Attacking Sinjar [in northern Iraq] and taking girls to use as sex slaves wasn’t a spontaneous decision made on the battlefield by a greedy soldier. Islamic State planned it all: how they would come into our homes, what made a girl more or less valuable, which militants deserved a sabaya [sex slave] as incentive and which should pay. They even discussed sabaya in their glossy propaganda magazine, Dabiq, in an attempt to draw new recruits. But Isis is not as original as its members think it is. Rape has been used throughout history as a weapon of war. I never thought I would have something in common with women in Rwanda – before all this, I didn’t know that a country called Rwanda existed – and now I am linked to them in the worst possible way, as a victim of a war crime that is so hard to talk about that no one in the world was prosecuted for committing it until just 16 years before Isis came to Sinjar.

On the lower floor, a militant was registering the transactions in a book, writing down our names and the names of the militants who took us. I thought about being taken by Salwan, how strong he looked and how easily he could crush me with his bare hands. No matter what he did, and no matter how much I resisted, I would never be able to fight him off. He smelled of rotten eggs and cologne.

I was looking at the floor, at the feet and ankles of the militants and girls who walked by me. In the crowd, I saw a pair of men’s sandals and ankles that were skinny, almost womanly, and before I could think about what I was doing, I flung myself toward those feet. I started begging. “Please, take me with you,” I said. “Do whatever you want, I just can’t go with this giant.” I don’t know why the thin guy agreed, but taking one look at me, he turned to Salwan and said, “She’s mine.” Salwan didn’t argue. The skinny man was a judge in Mosul, and no one disobeyed him. I followed the thin man to the desk. “What’s your name?” he asked me. He spoke in a soft but unkind voice. “Nadia,” I said, and he turned to the registrar. The man seemed to recognise the militant right away and began recording our information.

He said our names as he wrote them down – “Nadia, Hajji Salman” – and when he spoke the name of my captor, I thought I heard his voice waver a bit, as if he were scared, and I wondered if I had made a huge mistake.

Nadia Murad eventually escaped her Isis captors. She was smuggled out of Iraq and in early 2015 went as a refugee to Germany. Later that year she began to campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking.



“Female migrants in Europe end up in prostitution not because they “like” or “choose” this “profession”, but because of the lack of legal protection and limitations imposed on their social and economic rights. Prostitution is not a women’s problem. It is the problem of men and a result of their sexist behaviour and attitudes towards women.

~ Khedi Alieva  
Chechen Women’s Rights Activist, Refugee  
Poland



# DIARY OF EVENTS

## July

- 1<sup>st</sup> ECICW Meeting in London Doris Bingley and Therese Cassola attended
- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Dr Clifton Grima at MEDE. Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 9<sup>th</sup> MCESD Civil Society Committee Meeting Mary Gaerty attended  
Executive Committee Meeting at NCW Centre  
Domestic Violence Networking Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> Consultative Council on Women's Rights meeting on the Equality Bill. Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 12<sup>th</sup> NCW courtesy call and presentation of Certificates by Her Excellency the President of Malta Marie Louise Coleiro Preca
- 16<sup>th</sup> DV NGO meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> Access to Healthy Clean and Fair Food. An Exploratory study of the Maltese Scenario at San Anton Palace
- 26<sup>th</sup> CCWR Meeting at Corinthia Palace Attard. Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley participated.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Dr James Calleja and Mr Richard Curmi at MCAST Mary Gaerty and Marie Demicoli Attended.
- 30<sup>th</sup> emPOWER Meeting at San Anton Palace. Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley participated

## August

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting with Mr Curmi, MCAST Representative at NCW Centre.  
Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley, Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli
- 6<sup>th</sup> MCESD Civil Society Committee Meeting Mary Gaerty attended
- 8<sup>th</sup> Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli took part on Liliane Maistre's Radio Programme to promote the Life Long Learning Courses being held at NCW Learning Centre.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting with the Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability at Floriana Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended.
- 25<sup>th</sup> NCW Summer Barbecue at the Victoria Hotel Sliema

- 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting with the Hon Dr Fearnie Minister for Health. Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Mary Cutajar attended
- 29<sup>th</sup> emPOWER Meeting at San Anton Palace. Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley participated

## September

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive and Central Committee Meeting at NCW Centre
- 6<sup>th</sup> EPALE Presentation Mary Gaerty attended  
Serata Kommemorattiva Jum il-Vitoriaj Valletta Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 7<sup>th</sup> Czech delegation working on an EU project on Work/Life Balance visit NCW Centre  
Commemorative Mass at Naxxar to celebrate Victory Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> Fostering Equality Culture Business Breakfast Mary Gaerty attended
- 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> ICW-CIF Board Meeting in Indonesia Doris Bingley participated
- 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> ICW-CIF 35<sup>th</sup> Triennial General Assembly in Indonesia Doris Bingley, Marie Demicoli and Gertrude Abela participated
- 20<sup>th</sup> People's Republic of China HE Ambassador Hang Jiang Reception Mary Gaerty attended.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 15th Anniversary of China Cultural Centre in Malta
- 25<sup>th</sup> Financial Management for VOs Good Practices and Risk Mitigation at the Aula Magna Valletta Doris Bingley attended
- 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference of Soroptimist International Friendship in Diversity
- 27<sup>th</sup> US Ambassador Hill Farewell Reception Doris Bingley and Mary Gaerty attended
- 28<sup>th</sup> Combating Human Trafficking Today Conference at the University of Malta Doris Bingley attended  
Soroptimist International Seminar Friendship in Diversity at San Anton  
SI Peace Celebrations and Reception Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 30<sup>th</sup> Doris Bingley interviewed by One News on the amendments of the Voluntary Sector's Law.

## Request for Membership Renewal 2019

We would like to remind our members to pay their yearly membership fee, if possible before the end of January, and thus be eligible to vote at the AGM.

Ordinary membership:	€12
Affiliated membership:	€20
Life Membership:	€95

Payment can be done by cash, cheque (addressed to The Treasurer, NCW) or via NCW's bank account mentioned below:

Bank Details: APS Bank Ltd, APS Centre, Tower Street, B'Kara BKR4012

NCW Details: National Council of Women, Pope Pius XII Flats No 3,  
Mountbatten Street, Blata l-Bajda HMR 1579

IBAN: MT98APSB77046002866912866930013

BIC/SWIFT Code: APSBMTMT

Payment Ref: (Your name/*Affiliated Organisation*) Fee 2019

# Forthcoming Events

## Food Handling Course

A second Food Handling Course will be held at NCW Centre on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The course will cover the following topics:

- Food Safety and Hazards
- Biological, Chemical and Physical
- Allergens and intolerances
- The HACCP system
- Legal requirements
- Prerequisite program - pest control, personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitation,
- Temperature control, etc
- Other related topics

## Talk on Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrency

### Get Smart: What is Blockchain

Mr Steve Tendon, adviser to Government on developing and implementing Malta's National Blockchain Strategy will deliver a talk on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 6.00pm at the National Council of Women Centre Pope Pius X11 Flats Mountbatten Street Blata l-Bajda.

For booking and other details kindly contact NCW Office on 2124881 or email: [newmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:newmalta@camline.net.mt)

## Sale of Homemade Christmas Logs

The National Council of Women is organising a fundraising activity to upgrade the Computer Labs. We will be making delicious 25cm Christmas Logs.

One log for €10 and Three logs for €25.

Place your orders by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 by phoning NCW Office on 21248881.

## Literary Evening and Christmas Drinks

The National Council of Women is organizing a literary evening with a Christmas theme followed by mulled wine, savouries, mince pies and other goodies.

**Date:** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018      **Time:** 6.30pm      **Price:** €15.00

Come and join the fun with your family and friends.

## NCW Annual General Meeting

The following announcement gives notice that the National Council of Women Annual General Meeting will be held at the **Victoria Hotel, Ġorġ Borg Olivier Street, Sliema** on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. The meeting starts with registration and coffee at 8.30am.

As always your vote is very important. All the resolutions considered at the meeting will need your approval but only paid up members are entitled to vote.

Subscriptions should be renewed during the month of January or paid before the start of the AGM.

Kindly save the date. This is a very important event in NCW calendar. Further information relating to the AGM will be announced in due course.