



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 2020

President	Mary Gaerty
Hon. Gen. Secretary	Doris Bingley
1st Vice President	Grace Attard
Vice President	Lara Gail Dougall
	Diane Xuereb
Hon. Treasurer	Therese Cassola
Assistant Treasurer	Nadyanne Mangion
Membership Secretary	Gertrude Abela
Members	Doreen Borg Zammit
	Mary Buttigieg Said
	Doris Caruana
	Sarah Scerri
	Jacqueline Giordmania
	Josette Barbara Cardona
	Rebecca Wellman
Legal Advisor	Elizabeth Gaerty
Office Secretary	Marie Demicoli

### Front Cover Photos

Top: NCW Executive Committee 2020

Bottom: Food Handling Certificate Ceremony at NCW Centre with the Chairperson of the Food Safety Commission Dr Karen Mugliett

### 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

# II-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa

Pope Pius XII Flats, Mountbatten Street

Blata l-Bajda HMR 1579, MALTA

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

<http://www.ncwmalta.com>

## EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and friends

I trust that you had a lovely start to the year and decade, and that you were surrounded by love and well wishes during the holidays. On behalf of NCW, I wanted to pass on pleasant greetings and a warm welcome on these chilly days with this first Newsletter of the year.

The NCW year started with an interesting AGM, where Council members presented and discussed resolutions. Our guest speaker Mr Malcolm Galea delivered an interesting presentation on his wife's production of 'Wahda Minna'. We also had our Council elections, with new designations being assigned to the Executive Committee. We welcome the new team and look forward to what they will bring to the Council. It was also a sincere pleasure meeting a few of you at this AGM, and I look forward to the next event where we can discuss further and become better acquainted.

We ended 2019 with a lot of political 'excitement', but more importantly with **hope** for a fresh start as a new decade begins. Alas, soon after our festive celebrations came to an end, we ushered in the new year with a different kind of 'excitement' – Coronavirus COVID-19. Just as loud as family gatherings though less pleasant, our newsfeeds have been taken over by the topic. With so many alerts, updates, and photos of empty shelves at the supermarket, it is not surprising that most of us feel unsettled with this news. I too started growing worried of the situation...

This worry, however, lasted until a French client of mine sent me some funny photos of a Russian newspaper article featuring our supermarket ordeal. That is when it dawned on me that this beautiful, feisty country I call Home has a way of dramatizing situations. Now please do not misinterpret this or quote me out of context with your friends, but the virus hasn't hit Malta yet (\*this statement is true at the time of writing). Yet most of us are giving in to the panic as if it had. So, I thought to address this in my editorial note with a few dramatized words of encouragement, as is the Maltese way.

Fret not, dear friends [pause for dramatic effect]... This too shall pass! We're a strong bunch having overcome many hurdles in our generations and in the generations of our forefathers (and mothers). Many viruses have tried to weaken us (SARS, Bird Flu, Mad-cow disease, Hand-foot-and-mouth disease...). Though we have always managed to overcome and prosper! Mostly through improved hygiene and precautions. So let us not succumb to worry nor panic. Instead, let's invest more energy in washing our hands, wiping surfaces with antibacterial products, keeping hydrated, taking our vitamin Cs, and sprinkling turmeric and ginger shavings in our food and drink.

I hope this will pass quick and be old news that we can chuckle about by our next newsletter. In the meantime, read on for a testament of the hard work our strong network has put towards the betterment of our society. If you want to give us your feedback, learn more about any of our initiatives, or even lend a hand, get in touch with our office. We're always happy to hear from you!

Keep well and wash your hands,



Lara Gail Dougall  
Editorial Board

### Contents

Editorial .....	2	Soroptimist International Malta contributes to	
President's Message .....	3	Inspire Multi-Sensory room .....	11
Congratulations to the National Council of Women of Great Britain .....	3	Soroptimist International Malta works with Norwegian Volunteer network for Migrants .....	11
Think, Learn and Succeed .....	4	Reaching momentum in achieving equality .....	12
And Yet another Victim .....	5	International Council of Women Reports .....	13
Food Handling – Presentation of Certificates .....	5	The People's Forum 2020 .....	13
CASTME .....	5	17 Goals for People, for Planet .....	13
Victim blaming and its consequences .....	6	International Women's Day Message 2020 .....	14
No Different .....	7	ICW-CIF Statement to Commemorate the International Women's Day .....	14
NCW Annual General Meeting 2020 .....	8	Diary of Events .....	15
Trafficking of women for sexual exploitation ... the fight goes on! .....	10	Congratulations to the New Commissioner for Gender and Domestic Violence .....	16
Film Screening and Panel Discussion during the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women .....	11	Forthcoming Events .....	16

# President's Message

Dear Ladies, Dear Friends

A sigh of relief knowing that our Annual General meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January went very well. As in previous years, discussions about the topics raised were healthy and everyone participated. We shall send the approved resolutions in due course.

The Council is running on top gear at present following the recent femicide. It seems that a tragedy needs to occur in order to recall the several grievances that require immediate attention which are continuously raised by different NGOs. We have participated in a number of meetings regarding domestic violence to raise awareness about the gravity of the situation of women, who suffer domestic violence. We hope that the momentum will continue so that victims of violence are not victimised further through delayed justice, get assistance in time and support by the system that should be helping them. I believe that people should be more responsible and report immediately if they witness cases of abuse because many a time the victim cannot do so for several reasons. Let us not forget that there are individuals that are trafficked for prostitution and other reasons. Many a times they are caught in this situation against their will and suffer abuse.

As we celebrate International Women's Day we remember that there are still issues that need to be resolved. Much has been achieved throughout the years, but there are essential changes that need to be tackled in order to increase gender equality. This year's UN theme is – I am Generation Equality; Realising Women's Rights. We shall be hearing more about

this theme in the coming days, as there are various activities and events happening during the month of March. IWD is a very important date for NCW as we celebrate past achievements and look forward to creating a world of equality amongst generations.

Recently I was invited by the American Embassy to meet Robert Benjamin, Senior Associate and Regional Director of Central and Eastern European Programs at the National Democratic Institute, who was on a 3-day program in Malta to share best practices in legislative strengthening, political party development, youth and women's political participation, and civil society development. During the discussion Mr Benjamin said that political parties have to address how they function in terms of creating the opportunities and the space for Women's political participation. So while part of it is individual, another part of it is offering the structure, which affords women equal opportunities when it comes to finance, placement on the ballot sheet, leadership positions within the party, where there should be consideration for gender equality.

We have been enjoying glorious weather during the months of January and February and not a drop of rain in sight!! This shall have its repercussions during the rest of the year. Our agriculture will suffer and we need to support our farming community. The change in climate is affecting the world with extreme weather conditions- floods, snow or the lack of it, rising temperatures and drought causing a demographic change in various countries.

Due to war, political instability or economic needs Malta has seen an influx of migrants, which one needs to foster and encourage interaction between members of the host society and newcomers. Every person can start taking a daily action, no matter how small. It all starts with us! Women can bring about the change.

We encourage NCW members and friends to support our activities especially our Foundation Day Dinner which we are very pleased to honour Mrs Mriam Vella spouse of the President of the Republic of Malta Dr George Vella during the evening.

I wish you all health and prosperity throughout the year.

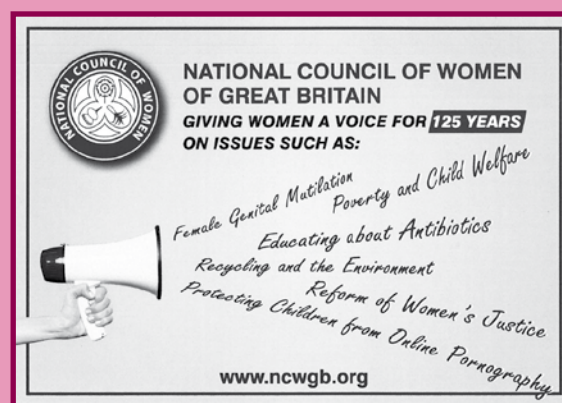
**Mary Gaerty**

*President, National Council of Women*



## Congratulations to the National Council of Women of Great Britain

The National Council of Women of Great Britain was founded in 1895 as a response to the unsatisfactory working conditions faced by many women at the time. Known as the National Union of Women Workers, the organisation quickly developed into a nationwide network of small groups, and within two years had become affiliated to the International Council of Women (ICW) and became the National Council of Women of Great Britain (NCWGB). It has since worked in the UK and internationally on issues of concern to women.



# Think, Learn and Succeed

## *A short digital entrepreneurship course*

HSBC Bank Malta is funding a specific project by the National Council of Women (NCW) entitled “Think, Learn and Succeed – A Short Digital Entrepreneurship Course”. This 40-hour training programme will provide an overview of business for women, including such areas as online security and digital marketing.

Modules include – business planning, online business promotion and digital marketing, the creation of digital content, ICT and online security, as well as e-commerce.

The course is targeted at vulnerable groups such as single women, and females that would like to set up their own business. Business owners seeking to expand their respective sales on a global scale may also find this course useful for them, as well as those persons who would simply like to increase their knowledge on the subject.

The aims and objectives of NCW are geared to combat poverty and social exclusion through education. According to Mary Gaerty, NCW President, “through this course participants can better understand what it takes to sustain an e-commerce business. Unfortunately, some females who are already in business are hesitant to break into e-commerce because of security concerns or they simply lack the knowledge and understanding about this element of business that has become so essential today, and more so in the future. The sustainability of a business project is very important so there will be follow-ups with the participants. Social media and our website will be used to promote the outcomes. A report will be presented once the project ends”.



Margherita Privitera, HSBC's Head of Distribution Risk, who presented the funding on behalf of the HSBC Malta Foundation, said, “It's important that one learns about e-commerce as this has grown by some 300 per cent over the last few years. Because e-commerce tends to carry far lower costs than other setups, adding an online component to an existing business doesn't need to be a high-risk investment and, in fact, in most cases this would be a far better choice, especially for persons from vulnerable groups. In supporting the National Council of Women, the HSBC Malta Foundation's continues to support people regardless of their background or past circumstances to build independent lives and become positive contributors to society.”



# HSBC | Malta Foundation

# And Yet another Victim

No it was not a traffic accident, nor any other type of accident, but yet another murder of a woman who was stabbed to death by her estranged partner and the father of their two children. This act left a murdered woman and aggression on two innocent victims leaving them motherless.

The National Council of Women condemns this heinous act and asks the question as to why there has to be another femicide to start the recycled round of talks, meetings, press releases, Facebook postings and other means of communication between parties, NGOs and government, but which yet again dwindle into nothing, since no real measure is taken to change the present situation. We shall only know that change has happened when no such news appears or is heard in the local media. Then women can be assured that their reports are taken seriously, their cries heard and support is found in time in order to avoid such tragedies. Year after year there seems to be a repeat of the same requests – to ensure safety, prompt intervention and support services. Although these exist, yet femicide still happens.

Malta has ratified the Istanbul Convention in August 2014 – **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.**



## Article 27 – Reporting

Parties shall take the necessary measures to encourage any person witness to the commission of acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention or who has reasonable grounds to believe that such an act may be committed, or that further acts of violence are to be expected, to report this to the competent organisations or authorities.

This places a responsibility on each and every citizen without any distinction!

NCW calls upon the government to intensify educational campaigns in schools, on the media and in places of work to create awareness of what constitutes violence, to have adequate reporting accessibility where the woman or girl will find professional assistance, to give support services and housing to women and children fleeing from domestic violence, justice to be efficient and to assist NGOs who are doing sterling work by providing them with the tools and funds. Likewise to offer immediate financial support and shelter, in case these are required so that the woman will not be constrained to return to the 'home' where violence is predominant.

NCW augurs that real commitments for positive change by the authorities and the government are actioned in the shortest time possible in order to avoid **YET ANOTHER VICTIM.**

**Mary Gaerty**  
NCW President

## FOOD HANDLING *Presentation of Certificates*

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020 a group of Filipino workers received their licenses and certificate to be able to work in the food industry. NCW congratulates all the participants for taking this opportunity and continue enhancing their knowledge besides integrating in the Maltese community.



## CASTME *Commonwealth Association for Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators Visit*

CASTME Chairperson Lady Sue Dale Tunnicliffe and Vice Chair Ms Kathleen Nugent paid a visit to the National Council of Women Centre to discuss the project Talking Science for Toddlers, which is organised by NCW and the Commonwealth Women's Network. Lady Tunnicliffe and Ms Nugent had the opportunity to meet the coordinator of the project in Malta Dr. Daniela Cassola, parents and guardians of the children that participated during the Summer 2019 sessions and the National Council of Women Executive Committee.



# Victim blaming and its consequences

And in the end, I was blamed, I was told that it was my fault and I had to face all the consequences by myself. Many victims of domestic violence experience the phenomenon of victim blaming from the very first day they experience abuse as well as throughout their journey of recovery from abuse. Many times, they are told comments like: *'She deserves it because she provoked him', 'She brought this on herself, she must have done something', 'She should change and be careful who to choose and how to act', 'She should have left long ago, she likes to be beaten up' or 'She is too sensitive, she is exaggerating'*. Unfortunately, patriarchal and misogynistic ideas have been influencing the way violence against women is perceived whereby the victims continue to be blamed for the actions of the perpetrator. This leaves a devastating impact on the victim. In the very initial stages, it reinforces the victim to remain in the abusive situation and place the pressure on her to act submissively in order 'to keep things calm'. It also hinders the victim from reporting abuse since she would come to believe that she is to blame. Eventually, as victim blaming messages continue to be told to the victims' self-concept and self-esteem continue to erode even throughout their attempts to restore stability in their lives.

In view of this, apart from challenging the aspect of victim blaming through its advocacy role, Fondazzjoni Sebh provides several services to women and children who experienced domestic violence and require support to move towards a life free from abuse. This is mainly done through the services delivered by Dar Qalb ta' Ġesù, the second stage shelter. On the contrary to victim blaming, this service supports the victims' recovery from abuse through empowering them to take action against the abuse suffered in a timely and safe manner. This is done in collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental agencies. All referrals are received from the Domestic Violence Services of Agenzija Appoġġ following a stay at the local emergency shelters namely, Fondazzjoni Merħba Bik or Għabex Shelter, Agenzija Appoġġ. Therefore, collaboration with these two shelters is necessary since it enables continuity and consistency in the provision of care for women and children who experience domestic violence. This collaboration is required to be strengthened as indicated by one of the pillars of the Convention on the prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence, coordinated policies. Despite a history of collaboration with the local governmental and non-governmental entities, the needs and context of victims are continuously being characterised by emerging trends which require new ways of assessing and intervening. Thus, a multi-agency approach remains the best way to address domestic violence and its contexts. For instance, in the past years, Fondazzjoni Sebh observed a new trend in the service demand. A number of migrant women approached its services and as a result cultural competence was integrated within the service provision and collaboration with entities like Jesuit Refugee Services and UNHCR became of paramount importance in order to address specific needs pertaining to this specific intersectionality.

Dar Qalb ta' Ġesù supports its service users through a thorough assessment and plan of action which focuses on the major areas of social policy namely, health, education and employment, housing and other necessary aspects of well being such as that of independent living skills, emotional and psychological wellbeing. The plan of action depends on the needs of the service users and its ultimate aim is that of practicing the social work values of justice and active participation in all spheres of lives, always depending on the needs of the service users and the children concerned. Given the fact that the physical environment places a pivotal role in enhancing these aspects of wellbeing, a change of the location of the service is underway. The aim of this change is mainly aimed at ensuring that the physical environment reflects the values of integrity, social justice and rights which are well deserved within this context whereby women's rights are viewed as human rights.

The foundation also provides services for children and young persons in care. The social workers involved with children in care are provided with the necessary training and support to deal with cases of children who witnessed domestic violence as a form of tertiary prevention. In addition, the children in care are also provided with primary prevention related to violence against women. Within these contexts social workers and other professionals entrusted with their care take the roles of educators and enablers whereby they place adequate focus on gender roles and equal opportunities for all.

In conclusion, we do not only oppose victim blaming but we also believe in giving our service users the necessary support being preventive or supportive in order to ensure that they never carry the blame for the abuse suffered. This is also done to ensure that victims are not navigating alone this complex journey towards a life free from abuse. This way of working challenges the discourse initially presented, changing it into phrase such as *'O tolerance to violence', 'Why is he doing it?' and 'Abuse is never justified' and 'Love shouldn't hurt'*. A much needed change in discourse which ensures justice for all.

**Maria Mangion**  
**Family Services Manager**  
**Fondazzjoni Sebh**

**Uffiċċju Ċentrali, 72B, Triq Villambrosa, Hamrun HMR**  
**1127 | +356 22470900**



# No Different

As a nine-year old girl, I was very proud when my mother, who had been a stay-at-home mum till then started teaching again. I was unaware that she was a college-trained teacher and had been forced to stop teaching as was wont at that time for women who got married. This pride soon started turning into perplexion as she started coming home very worried about her students. From what I could gather, the children she was teaching were growing up in very different circumstances, far worse than anything I could ever imagine.

I started catching parts of stories of children who went to school without lunch, with cigarette marks on their small arms and not well looked after. I caught her taking food to give around to the children who had none, and this kept me thinking why this was happening to them and not me. When on occasion she took me to her class, I could not see any difference between them and me. We would do class work together or play.

As I grew older, I heard about children being used to carry drugs in their school bags because the police would not search their bags and of girls that were taken to bars by their own families where men would give them presents for sitting on them. In my teenage years, I remember this particular girl who a couple of years back was one whom I used to play with, being interviewed on the radio because she was pregnant, aged 13. I recall my mum mentioning how this girl's face would light up as her mother picked her up from school, the same parent that took her to bars later in the day, and introduce her to clients aged 9.

As a result of this concern as I grew up, it became obvious that I had to bring it to our audiences as a theatre piece to reflect back to them, our local situation regarding prostitution, poverty, drug abuse and suicide. It is the first topic I ever wrote about.

As I researched the subject and was developing the script, I came in direct contact with women who are living in these vulnerable life circumstances. I wanted to give voice to those who are overlooked and side-lined by society, in order, in some small way, to help them be heard and possibly to helped out of their predicament, inherited through generations.

This performance was part of a project aimed at giving long due dignity to these forgotten women. I wanted my work, with the help of all involved, to become a platform for the needs of people, especially women and children who are trapped in such a world and cannot see a way out. I strived to relay the difficulties faced by strata within our society who are at a disadvantage.

With the help of the President's Award fund, we also organised drama therapy workshops to help these women start coming to terms with the life they have had to lead and possibly start on



their way to healing gradually, and seeing that they are worth of love and respect, just as much as anybody else.

The performance and discussion after aspired to provide the audience with a glimpse into the lives of the people society is failing. We wanted to start a conversation regarding our society's shortcomings toward people who are most in need in Malta. With focus on the human element of people at risk, we aimed at not letting these people be seen as another statistic; we wanted to highlight the fact that our audience happen not to be in this unlucky predicament by a lucky stroke of fate when they were born. I feel that we cannot keep failing children who start their life at a disadvantage and then punish them for their wrongdoings later on in life, for the rest of society's shortcomings in their respect.

Theatre can give voice to people who are voiceless, can reach where other media cannot as it puts up a 'reality' to the audience who in turn can reflect on how they can provide a better 'safety net' for these people who have been falling through for generations. When these people start being heard, it can help them give more value to themselves so as to lead a more fulfilling life, possibly away from the life they are currently leading. We need them to be seen as the victims they are and not as objects that can be bought.

This script is now being developed into a film, so that we can take this message to an even wider audience. We are currently looking for further support to make sure we do not keep failing our society's poorest.

And you, dear readers, never fail to see the human side of these women and their children. Our world needs women's emotional intelligence so we evolve into more emphatic communities. And smile in their direction. It can change their lives.

**Ms Angele Galea**

*Consultant of the project "Wahda Minna"*



# NCW Annual General Meeting 20



The Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Women, held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020, at The Victoria Hotel, Sliema was indeed a hub of activity. **President Mary Gaerty** spoke about the work which the Council has been carrying out during 2019. This included pensions reform, education, violence against women, work and entrepreneurship, work-life balance, the challenges faced by women on a daily basis and the varied NCW training courses carried out for all women of all ages from a wide range of nationalities

She also highlighted the fact that the National Council of Women is looking ahead at the constant changes at national, EU level and globally, not least in the digital transformation and this is reflected in the 2020 resolutions. Women are under-represented in ICT jobs, top management and academic careers and men are four times more likely than women to be ICT specialists. Mary Gaerty stressed that gender equality is not simply an issue of justice. Gender Equality can contribute to economic growth and sustainable development, and thus to the wellbeing of all European citizens.

Mary Gaerty urged young women to venture further and choose careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Employment in these areas offer highly paid jobs in the diverse and opportunities for promotions and managerial positions. This is crucial for the employment of women in future sectors and which will lead to realistic gender equality. Finally, Mary Gaerty encouraged women to make their choices and decisions based on reliable and researched information. *'The progress on gender equality requires joint efforts by politicians, companies, unions, individuals and families. Actions have to follow on commitments, also with a view to addressing the increasing risk of new gender gaps'* she concluded.



## 20 ... forging ahead for the future

This was followed by the Annual Report presented by **NCW Hon. General Secretary Doris Bingley** highlighting the important initiatives carried out at local, national, EU, International level, UN and Commonwealth reflecting the contribution of NCW, in particular through the participation of Doris Bingley in the global equality scenario.

Guest speaker **Mr Malcolm Galea** gave a presentation about his experience in starring and producing *Wahda Minna*, a local production exposing the real situation of women caught up in life-long exploitative circumstances and the impact of prostitution, poverty and drug abuse. Mr. Galea said that they used theatre in a responsible manner to give the vulnerable a voice to tell their story and used as to mirror reality.

In a highly interactive debate with members of the Assembly, the Meeting discussed and approved a number of resolutions, which will form the basis of NCW's commitments for 2020 which included: *The Digital Gender Gap, The Benefits of Gender Equality for the Economy, Gender Equality in the Classroom, Addressing Violence and Harassment at the Workplace, Young people and Access to Information and Support services, and Addressing Violence and Harassment at the Workplace.*

The NCW Executive Committee for 2020 include President Mary Gaerty, Hon. General Secretary Doris Bingley, Vice Presidents: Grace Attard, Diane Xuereb, Lara Gail Dougall, Hon. Treasurer Therese Cassola, Members: Doreen Borg Zammit, Jacqueline Giordmania, Sarah Xerri, Mary Buttigieg Said Gertrude Abela, Josette Barbara Cardona, Doris Caruana, Rebecca Wellman Nadyanne Mangion, Dr Claudine Zarb, NCW Legal Advisor and Marie Demicoli Office Secretary.



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

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

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

In Malta, although the authorities attach a lot of importance to drug trafficking, they tend to treat trafficking of women differently. Although Catholic Malta condemns prostitution on moral grounds, our society is not really aware of the circumstances that drive Eastern European women into prostitution. These women who come to Malta to earn money are often enticed by the myth that in Western Europe there is a better life. Coming from a life of poverty and no opportunities for employment, often they are offered the choice to make use of their physical appearance to make money fast.

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

Some questions need to be addressed: is there enough evidence to charge individuals of human trafficking? If not, is it because of lack of adequate laws or lack of evidence? What

legal protection is offered to these young women? There is the need for a change of attitude of the Police Force coupled with better investigations of the 'entertainment' industry and the links with trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The United Nations Palermo Protocol, which Malta has signed and ratified clearly states that 'Trafficking in Persons means the "recruitment, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat, use of force, or other forms of coercion, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of vulnerability or of giving or receiving payments of benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation" Moreover it stresses that ***"The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation is irrelevant"***.

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



Grace Attard  
NCW Vice President

## National Council of Women meets Representatives of the Police Officers Union

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 the Hon. General Secretary Doris Bingley welcomed representatives of the Police Officers Union at the National Council of Women Centre in Blata l-Bajda. Various issues were discussed. The Secretary of the Union Christopher Ellul said, "As a Police Union our main objective is to represent our members and to improve their working conditions.

A key part of representation is recognizing that whilst some issues affect the members of the Force collectively, there are some issues which affect more or are exclusive to women.

For this reason we are committed to present a number of reforms designed to increase gender mainstreaming in the Force. Meeting the National Council of Women has provided us with a unique opportunity to collaborate with an organization that has a wealth of experience in the field and has been on the Frontline to ensure equality for women. We look forward towards a long relationship with the NCW as we continue working towards more equality in the Force."

The National Council of Women welcomed the initiative of the Police Officers Union and promised full cooperation throughout.



# Film Screening and Panel Discussion during the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women

On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL MALTA organized a film screening of the movie *SOLD* followed by a discussion panel of professionals on the subjects of Sex Trafficking and Mental Health.

Based on true stories, *SOLD* is the story of Lakshmi who journeys from a pastoral, rural village in Nepal to a gritty brothel/prison called Happiness House in Kolkata, India.

Through one extraordinary girl's story, *SOLD* illustrates the brutality of child trafficking, which affects millions of children around the globe every year. Globally the average age of a trafficked girl is thirteen, the same age as the girl in the film. *SOLD* is a call to action, and a testament to the power and resilience of the human spirit.

Hopefully *SOLD* will inspire a global movement to address this crime domestically and internationally. A trailer of the movie is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JSW2briK-Y>

Thanks to ALL who came to watch the film and discuss with us! It was a hard watch. Everybody who thinks prostitution is just another profession should see this movie.

The lively discussion was led by Dr. Helen Burrows, an internationally active Human Rights Lawyer. Other members of the discussion panel were:

- Angele Galea, Activist and Actress,
- Dr John M. Cachia, the Commissioner for Mental Health,
- Lucy Chetcuti, Mental Health Recovery Officer at Richmond Foundation, and
- Umayma Elamin, the Founder of the Migrant Women Association Malta.

Discussion points included but were not limited to

- the necessity for the legal and judiciary systems to be aligned to prevent all forms of human trafficking including sex trafficking



- the need for better funding of NGOs and other organizations working with victims
- the necessity for the justice reform on prostitution to decriminalize the vendor, to offer and support exit strategies to vendors, and to criminalize the buyer
- the necessity to educate and build resilience among youths.

Thanks also for the €140 of donations that were collected in aid of the SIGBI Federation Project "Empowering Girls in Nepal" ([www.empoweringgirlsinnepal.org](http://www.empoweringgirlsinnepal.org)) which aims to protect vulnerable girls, manage their trauma, give them confidence and train them into employment.

Last, but not least, we all sported orange clothes and accessories to #orangetheworld during the #16daysofactivism to eliminate violence against women.

**Thea Rees**

*Soroptimist International Malta*

## Soroptimist International Malta contributes to Inspire Multi-Sensory room

In January, members of Soroptimist International Malta were given a tour of Inspire's Therapy and Leisure Center in Marsaskala and had the pleasure to hand over a cheque of 700€. The amount is an important contribution towards a ball pit cleaning machine for the Multi-Sensory Room helping them not only to free up resources by reducing cleaning and shut-down time but also to improve hygiene standards of the ball pit.

"This will make life so much easier & reduce the closure time of the soft play room ... Usually we take the balls out & clean them one by one by hand – you can imagine how long this takes! It means that we can have the ball pool cleaned much more frequently & improve the overall hygiene standards of the ball pool....We will finance the balance ourselves in this case but with your donation, it has made this purchase possible for us."



## Soroptimist International Malta works with Norwegian Volunteer network for Migrants

In December, a first donation of knitwear for babies, children, and women marked the start of collaboration between Soroptimist International Malta and a network of Norwegian volunteers organized by Kristina Quintano to help migrant families in Malta. The Norwegian volunteers work directly with and in the various migrant centers and distribute the donations directly, without bureaucracy and wait time, to those who need them most. All kinds of warm clothes and shoes, babies to adults, are needed.

Another "instalment" of clothes for the migrants in Malta was given in January to Ena Babic, one of the Norwegian volunteers in Kristina Quintano's network. Our heartfelt thanks go to the club sisters of Soroptimist International Westland in the Netherlands. Upon hearing of our migrant project, they managed to send 4 packages of clothes, mainly warm children's clothes, which are highly appreciated. The remainder of clothes came from various SI Malta members. THANKS to all, and especially to Kristina Quintano, Ena Babic, and all the Norwegian volunteers who spend time and money for the migrants in Malta! We will support projects of Kristina's network of Norwegian volunteers to educate, empower and enable women and girls.



# Reaching momentum in achieving equality

*A crucial step in reaching equality is by changing people's mindset and attitude*

We often hear about the concept of 'gender equality' and the importance of having strong legislation in force against gender discrimination. This is often triggered by harmful activities and incidents occurring in various societies which in turn cause NGO's and parliamentary representatives, as well as society in general, to fight for legislative support and protective measures. That being said one of United Nations Sustainable Goals in line with NCW's resolutions and national objectives is to 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'.

Some may question as to whether such discrimination against females still exist while others may fear that men's rights would be deprived in some sort of way through prioritisation of female rights. In reality, one must understand the source of such importance through worldwide facts and also become aware of the fact that equality is for both men and women alike. Hence, it is not a question of battle of sexes or a debate as to whom is predominant but rather the purpose is to reach equality, peacefully and amicably. One must cherish and respect mutually each others skills, capacity and individuality.



Being put into perspective, how many times we have heard of cases over the news, globally, about women entering into forced marriages at a young age of 18 or countries lacking legislative support to women when it comes to inheritance and rights to work? Locally we have also heard of cases of violence against women or unfair acts in business and domestic relationships which are often discriminatory. These are the main causes which have triggered concern for women empowerment from a very young age.

Promoting gender equality requires not only recognition of women at various aspects of social life but acceptance by society, men and women alike. Women's role and choices largely depends on societal expectations and accessibility to social, health and educational welfare amongst others. Hence, societies need not only to adapt but also work on changing mentality. In Winston Churchill's words "To Improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often".

Thankfully, we have seen advancements in gender equality when it comes to equal access to education, work, healthcare, political presentation, voicing opinion and decision making. Gender equality is a fundamental right which in turn maximises economic growth. The importance of women empowerment and gender equality has been emphasised through 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, despite recognition made via

*"There is no greater pillar of stability than a strong, free and educated woman, and there is no more inspiring role model than a man who respects and cherishes women and champions their leadership."*

**Angelina Jolie**  
Goodwill Ambassador UN

various Local and International Conventions, NGO's and Policymakers, we are still in a position to strive for continuous improvement. NCW aims at working on enhancing awareness and improving legislation through policy making.

Times are changing but likewise mentality is bound to change. Despite significant improvements made in Women's Economic Empowerment and Women's Leadership, society needs to be educated to understand such cause for concern. This can only be achieved through policy making which supports, amongst other:

1. **Flexible Working Arrangements** – Encouraging both men and women to work remotely or working on reduced hours. This facilitates sharing of house chores and parental responsibilities.
2. Recognition of domestic work performed by housewives who were restricted from carrying on work due to parent-hood and/or care-giving services. For instance, this can be done by paying pensions upon the age of retirement. In the past effective work measures were limited and women often stopped paid work entirely to look after family members.
3. Encouraging men to participate in 'Equality Campaigns' – The 'He for She Campaign' is an invitation for men and genders globally to commit in creating a gender equal world.
4. Equal Parental Leave – Finland has recently announced plans to offer men and women equal paid parental leave through a total family allowance.
5. Embracing a culture of **equal responsibility** within the family whereby all family members contribute in house chores.

## Changing your thoughts may change the world

Everyone is a contributor in creating strong societies which embrace everyones believes and enhance a culture of sharing and caring. Strong family values which embrace equality, change overall mentality and create sustainable societies which in turn support generational change for equality.

**Gender Equality**  
*is a fundamental right which in turn maximises economic growth.*

**Tiziana Montanaro**

Source:

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>; <https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality>; <https://www-cnbc-com.cd>

# International Council of Women Reports

## Women, Business and the Law 2020

“Women, Business and the Law 2020” is latest World Bank research that analyzed laws and regulations affecting women’s economic opportunity in 190 economies worldwide. Eight indicators – structured around women’s interactions with the law as they begin, progress through, and end their careers – align with the economic decisions women make at various stages of their lives. The indicators are Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension. Data in Women, Business and the Law 2020 are current as of September 1, 2019. The indicators are used to build evidence of the relationship between legal gender equality and women’s entrepreneurship and employment. By examining the economic decisions women make as they go through different stages of their working lives, as well as the pace of reform over the past two years, Women, Business and the Law makes a contribution to policy discussions about the state of women’s economic opportunities.

The eight indicators used are shown in Figure 1.1:

Key findings are as follows:

- Better performance in the areas measured by the Women, Business and the Law index is associated with more women in the labor force and with higher income and improved development outcomes.
- Since 2017, 40 economies have enacted 62 reforms enhancing gender equality.
- The economies that improved the most are Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal, South Sudan, São Tomé and Príncipe, Bahrain, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Jordan, and Tunisia.
- On average, women have just three-fourths of the legal rights afforded to men.
- With a recent reform to parental leave, Canada joins seven other economies that score 100 on the Women, Business and the Law index: Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Sweden.



All over the world, discriminatory laws continue to threaten women’s economic security, career growth, and work–life balance. Such barriers to employment and entrepreneurship at every stage of life limit equality of opportunity, creating a business environment that does not adequately support working women. In the Middle East and North Africa, women have only half the legal rights of men; worldwide, it is just 75 percent. Although many economies have acted to reduce barriers to women’s economic participation over the last 50 years, the progress made cannot be equated with success. Full report can be found at the following link: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/32639/9781464815324.pdf>

Mae Chang

## The People’s Forum 2020



COMMONWEALTH  
PEOPLE’S FORUM

The Commonwealth People’s Forum convenes every two years, immediately before the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). This unique gathering of civil society actors gives the people of the Commonwealth the chance to have a say in issues and decisions that directly affect their lives. By bringing important – often unheard – voices into CHOGM, the People’s Forum affirms the Commonwealth’s values of democracy, justice, and people-centred governance.

The People’s Forum 2020 will take place in Kigali, Rwanda from 22-24 June. Delegates, speakers, and performers are promoting a radical shift in thinking to address the important questions of our age. How do we harness the best of humanity – the forces of love, compassion, equality, and justice – to advance our common future and protect our planet? How do we work together to build or re-fashion our institutions so that they support a world that leaves no one behind?

Participants will be drawn from all regions and reflect the diversity and richness of the Commonwealth itself. They will be encouraged to engage bravely, to challenge themselves and each other; to generate the energy and ideas needed to lead the transformation of systems and attitudes that are holding us back.

For an updated programme and list of speakers and performers, join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook using #CWpeople

### Commonwealth People’s Forum 2020: Register to Participate

Register to participate via the Commonwealth Foundation’s website from 3 February 2020: <https://commonwealthfoundation.com/peoples-forum/>

Doris Bingley

Commonwealth Women’s Network



## 17 Goals for People, for Planet

The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals.

Today, progress is being made in many places, but, overall, action to meet the Goals is not yet advancing at the speed or scale required. 2020 needs to usher in a decade of ambitious action to deliver the Goals by 2030.

# NCW Malta - International Women's Day Message 2020

Another year has gone by and once again Women's Day is being observed on March 8th. The theme for International Women's Day 2020 is, ***I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights***. The theme is aligned with UN Women's new multigenerational campaign, ***Generation Equality***.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, of what is considered as the most progressive blueprint for Gender Equality- **the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, as well as the first five year milestone of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Goal 5 refers to the achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls.

The National Council of Women has adopted the objective as in **Goal 5 of the SDGs**, since its inception in 1964. Achieving equality between men and women, boys and girls from the classroom right up to seats of decision makers, is proving difficult. One may ask why is there such poor progress or even regression in certain aspects, when there is so much discussion about gender equality. It is not a question of negativity because the reality hits you in the face. Still there is femicide and violence against women in the home, harassment at the place of work, inequality in career advancement, due to various reasons, including the assumption that the woman should be the traditional care giver, resulting in gender pay gaps.

Several women have taken up the option of working remotely or from home especially when they wish to stay and care for young children; however they must still feel part of the work team and not be excluded from any self-development opportunities offered at the place of work.

NCW recommends that the government must take stock of the situation and spearhead a drive towards gender equality through various actions, starting from young girls at schools encouraging them towards studies of the STEM subjects, entrepreneurship, the jobs of the future in Artificial Intelligence and empowerment. On the other hand respect towards each other should be instilled in both girls and boys from a young age, so they will grow up embracing this attitude as a way of life.

It is time to take stock of what has been achieved, what was achieved and lost, and why it was lost. What strategy is to be adopted so that more women present themselves as election candidates for parliament, what political parties can offer. Women must be present on equal basis at the highest echelons of decision taking. Women need or rather must be in a position to be able to take a well informed and drastic decision in order to move away from a toxic relationship and to be financially independent to be able to do so without being submitted to threats, violence or femicide. Speaking of issues such as gender equality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when there has been so much advancement in education, wellbeing, healthcare and other aspects, just does not make sense!

NCW is optimistic that with a great deal of goodwill, roping in NGOs that work for the advancement of women and planning, gender equality may be achieved not in a hundred years, not in 50 years but in the shortest time possible.

Mary Gaerty  
President NCW

## ICW-CIF Statement to Commemorate the International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The International Council of Women (ICW-CIF), an international women's organization, fully endorses the UN Women's theme for International Women's Day, "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights."

Although undeniable progress has been made since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted a quarter of a century ago, we remain a long way from fully realizing the progressive roadmap for the empowerment of women and girls which governments committed to in 1995. Instead of celebrating such achievement, we are still fighting for gender equality and for advancing the rights of women and girls!

Despite measured progress in some areas, we continue to face critical challenges in closing the gender gaps through effective, broad-reaching socio-economic policies. In short, key trends in gender equality, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, education, access to justice, women's representation in decision-making, as well as women's involvement in climate resilience remain at the forefront of our struggles.

Furthermore, in several parts of the world, as was shown at the CSO Forum held prior to the official UNECE Beijing + 25 review in October 2019 in Geneva, women and girls are facing real challenges that threaten to roll-back the achievements gained over the last 25 years. Women and girls continue to live in a world in which stereotypes, patriarchy and sexism fuel the oppression and inequality they face on a daily basis.

Although awareness of violence against women and girls (VAWG) around the world has increased, it remains a major obstacle to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. A whole-of-government approach is crucial to addressing this problem with new strategies including a radical re-think of how to educate males to ensure they respect and do not harm women and girls.

Looking beyond the Beijing + 25 review, the main areas of concern that require more focus are:

1. Greater inclusion and participation of women in politics and decision-making;

2. More enforcement mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of laws affecting gender equality;
3. Greater investment in educational programs including those which facilitate the advancement of vulnerable groups of women, particularly in rural areas;
4. Greater pressure on governments to prioritize and implement policies to combat all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, femicide, female genital mutilation, child marriage, trafficking of women for the purpose of exploitation, prostitution and/or forced labour and online violence;
5. Appropriate measures to guarantee support and protection for all victims of VAWG;
6. Increase women's leadership and economic empowerment around the world to ensure greater parity in all spheres of life through promotion and protection of their rights from affirmative measures, legislation and regulations; and
7. Free education from preschool to higher educational levels, as education is a critical variable for escaping poverty, and for transforming the lives of women and girls.

In conclusion, ICW-CIF calls for the adoption, implementation and enforcement of an effective political strategy to achieve gender equality in line with the CEDAW goals and the SDG's 2030 Agenda. We strongly believe that "financing for gender equality is a smart investment," and urge governments to ensure that national budgets earmark adequate funding to implement international and national commitments on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

In moving beyond Beijing + 25, let us work together, with renewed vigor and urgency, to ensure that we will not have to wait another quarter of a century before we are able to fully realize the 12 critical areas of concern adopted in the Beijing Declaration of 1995! Clear thought and strategic action have the potential to yield the bountiful result we seek: gender equality.

# DIARY OF EVENTS

## October 2019

- 1<sup>st</sup> Commencement of Lifelong Learning Courses at NCW Learning Centre
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Unification of Germany Reception Mary Gaerty attended Hilda Schembri Memorial Lecture Gertrude Abela attended
- 4<sup>th</sup> Launch of Artificial Humanities at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry
- 7<sup>th</sup> Women Empowerment Information Session at the Ministry for Education and Employment
- 9<sup>th</sup> The Business Today Breakfast Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel Floriana Doris Bingley and Mary Gaerty attended Commonwealth Women's network meeting at Marlborough House London. Doris Bingley attended
- 10<sup>th</sup> Climate Diplomacy week Launch at St James Cavalier Valletta
- 12<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Volunteering at the Excelsior Hotel Mary Gaerty and Grace Attard attended
- 15<sup>th</sup> National Day of Spain Reception Mary Gaerty, Diane Xuereb, Gertrude Abela and Marie Demicoli attended
- 16<sup>th</sup> Training Seminar on Patients and Civil Society
- 17<sup>th</sup> Launch of the Gender based Violence Project
- 18<sup>th</sup> IOM Seminar Sexual and Gender based Violence at Dar l-Ewropa  
MEA SMEs Forum Today's Opportunities and Challenges in Employment Dolmen Hotel Qawra
- 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Wellbeing at the Fortress Builders Valletta
- 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting  
emPOWER meeting
- 22<sup>nd</sup> United States of America reception to welcome Sports personalities
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Food and Mental Health Talk at NCW Centre
- 24<sup>th</sup> Breast Cancer Awareness Talk at Pinto Band Club
- 25<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> NCW delegation in Geneva for ECICW meeting, Civil Society Forum and UN Beijing + 25
- 28<sup>th</sup> Conference on Work-life Balance at the Luzzu Complex Seashells Resort
- 29<sup>th</sup> Reception to celebration Turkey's Day Mary Gaerty attended

## November 2019

- 11<sup>th</sup> Women Peace and Security event at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Doreen Borg Zammit attended
- 12<sup>th</sup> Women mean Business at Salini Resort. Mary Gaerty, Grace Attard and Sarah Scerri attended  
Monitoring OP1 meeting and MCVS meeting Doris Bingley attended
- 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting to discuss various areas of economic and social policy with EU delegates at Casino Maltese Valletta  
MEUSAC Presentation on the EU Funds in Malta
- 14<sup>th</sup> Monitoring OP11 meeting Therese Cassola attended  
APS Conference on Sustainability Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 18<sup>th</sup> NCPE Seminar Gender Pay Gap in Activity and the Gender Pension Gap at Villa Arrigo Mary Gaerty attended  
CHOGM Women's Forum preparation at Commonwealth Secretariat Doris Bingley attended
- 21<sup>st</sup> CEV General Assembly in Brussels

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Training Seminars Patient and Health Policy
- 25<sup>th</sup> MCVS Awards at San Anton Palace
- 26<sup>th</sup> MEUSAC information Session
- 27<sup>th</sup> CCWR Meeting at Busy Bee, Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended  
Soroptimist International Event Movie called SOLD Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 28<sup>th</sup> Dar Hosea event – discussing the repercussions of prostitution
- 29<sup>th</sup> ODA Ministry for Foreign Affairs

## December 2019

- 2<sup>nd</sup> GEMMA at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Enterprise
- 5<sup>th</sup> Civil Society Funds event at the Excelsior. Therese Cassola attended
- 9<sup>th</sup> MEUSAC event Conversation with the President of Malta
- 10<sup>th</sup> Central and Executive Committee meeting followed by Christmas drinks

## January 2020

- 8<sup>th</sup> CORE Workshop 2 Understanding inclusive Processes to Develop inclusive Structures
- 14<sup>th</sup> Weight Management Programme at NCW Centre
- 20<sup>th</sup> Start of the Digital Entrepreneurship Course. Presentation of donation by HSBC
- 22<sup>nd</sup> CORE Workshop 3 Maintaining collaboration Keeping Cross-Sector collaboration Sustainable.  
Learn to work together Cohesion Building Seminar
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Reception to commemorate Australia Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> Reception to commemorate India Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> National Council of Women Annual General Meeting at the Victoria Hotel Sliema
- 27<sup>th</sup> emPOWER meeting Mary Gaerty attended

## February 2020

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jum il-Hajja Mary Gaerty attended
- 4<sup>th</sup> The First Executive Committee Meeting for 2020
- 5<sup>th</sup> USA Embassy invitation to NCW President Mary Gaerty to meet Mr. Robert Benjamin
- 9<sup>th</sup> Presentation of Certificates to the Food Handling Course Participants at NCW Centre
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dr Sue Dale Tunnicliffe and Ms Kathleen Nugent form CASTME visit NCW Centre  
Meeting to discuss Domestic Violence in Malta with the Hon Minister Zammit Lewis, Parliamentary Secretary Rosianne Cutajar and the Hon. Minister Bryon Camilleri
- 17<sup>th</sup> GREVIO Meeting with NGOs working in the field of Domestic Violence Mary Gaerty attended
- 19<sup>th</sup> CCWR meets the Prime Minister and Hon. Rosianne Cutajar Parliamentary Secretary for Gender to discuss Gender Issues  
CORE Workshop Final session Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 20<sup>th</sup> Roundtable discussion organized by the Well Being of Society
- 26<sup>th</sup> /27<sup>th</sup> MCESD CSC voting for representatives on the Civil Society Committee
- 28<sup>th</sup> Celebrating St Brigid Irish Patron Female Saint at the Archeology Museum

## ***Congratulations to the New Commissioner for Gender and Domestic Violence***

Ms Audrey Friggieri is the new commissioner for Gender and Domestic Violence, Ms Friggieri is a teacher and graduate of systemic family psychotherapy and holds a masters in Adult Education also lectures in the faculty of Social Welfare and has written several books in Maltese for both children and adults.



## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **International Women's Day Celebrations 2020** ***Peace and Equality in the Today's Society***

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2020, the National Council of Women, in conjunction with its affiliated organisations, are organising a special Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Eric Cachia SDB at **St. Patrick's Church St. John Bosco Street, Sliema on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 10.15am.**

### **Half Day of Recollection and Mass** ***Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at 9.30am***

Half-day of recollection followed by Holy Mass will be held at the National Council of Women Centre Mountbatten Street Blata l-Bajda on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at 9.30 am. Fr Alfred Vella will conduct the Lenten morning service.

### **Weight Management Programme at the National Council of Women Centre** ***Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 at 9.30am***

Due to popular demand the National Council of Women in collaboration with the department for Primary Health Care are organising two more Weight Management Programme to help overweight and obese individuals lose weight, prevent weight regain and avoid further weight gain for life. The programme consists of eleven sessions of 2 hours duration each. Here, various topics relating to healthy nutrition and weight loss are presented and discussions take place in a group setting. For registration please phone NCW Malta office on 21248881 or send an email to [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt)



### **Gozo Outing** ***Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020***

The National Council of women will be organizing a cultural tour to Gozo on Saturday 9th May 2020 visiting various places of interest. The bus will leave Blata l-Bajda at 7.15am in time for the 9.00am ferry boat.

### **Foundation Day Dinner** ***19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Keep the date Free***

This year the National Council of Women will be honouring Mrs Miriam Vella, Spouse of the President of the Republic of Malta. Booking form will be sent to you soon. For booking and further information kindly phone NCW Office on 21248881/21246982 or send an email to [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt)