



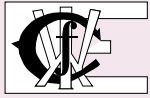
N-CW-Mara

Newsletter of the National Council of Women - Malta

Founded 1964



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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International Women's Day 2023 celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Savio Hon Tai Fai

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Founded 1964

II-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

Greetings to our NCW Members, who join us for another newsletter as we reach the halfway mark of 2023. This June also marks 6 months of me navigating through motherhood and all the challenges that this brings with it.

Being a Mother has instilled in me a new appreciation for all those mothers who not only raise babies but also juggle work and social life. Raising children in this day and age is very challenging. Not that it wasn't previously, however now everyone must work to be able to survive the cost of living. This means that Mothers cannot stay home without big sacrifices, and yet there's significantly less help from family since grandparents are either significantly older or still working. Therefore, we depend on childcare centers to help us raise and shape this new generation of youngsters. This encouraged me to have a wider vision of social elements that I had not yet encountered, making me wonder what else I was not considering.

In the latest census, we have seen that there are more women than men when it comes to Maltese citizens. Which makes our non profit organization as important as ever to ensure that enough pressures are being made on the issues that are near and dear to us.

Another point that came out was that Malta has an aging population, happening at the same time where a lot of daily processes are turning digital. Are we ensuring that the technological progress that we are seeing is not marginalizing our elderly? Are we empowering our elderly through this digital migration or are we leaving them to face this on their own? Is our population being taken care of the way it should be or is the technological advancement not being regulated to cater for that aging population?

Our Council is here to support you in any way you need to be supported. Let us know what difficulties you are facing in your day to day life, and we will work towards doing just that. Whether it's for you, or for someone you know, speak to us! We would also love to see you at our Foundation Day dinner coming up. More details inside this newsletter.

Have a great summer and don't forget your sunblock!



Sincerely

Lara Gail Dougall
Editorial Board

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President's Message

Dear ladies and friends,

It's time for another newsletter which we be issued before another event that the National Council of Women will be celebrating in due course.

This edition of the newsletter will appear during the summer season which is considered a relaxing period. It's usually a time when people wind down their usual routine and enjoy more quality time with family and friends. This summer's weather, however, is slightly different than previous years. The first heat wave has not yet reached our shores, something that normally happens between May and June. Clearly, climate change is already impacting the Mediterranean Region. This may lead to other problems such as the disappearance of wildlife, fewer crops due to drought and greater numbers of people making sea crossings to Europe in a desperate attempt to survive.

NCW continues to work hard on its agenda and especially on the most important issues. The Council has always sought to raise awareness and put pressure on every level of government and other institutions to ensure that laws and legislations are enforced, so that measures will be put in place to protect women and girls throughout their lifetime. We are determined to keep working on this issue.

In effect, in March, the National Council of Women organised a conference, in collaboration with the Malta Bankers Association, to celebrate International Women's Day and European Financial Week, which had the aim to create awareness and address financial problems and uncertainties which women encounter in the financial sector. One of the most essential takeaways from this conference is the fundamental need for women to be financially independent.

During the summer holidays, NCW will be organising a STEM TikTok project for children and parents/legal guardians at our centre in Blata l-Bajda. The goal of this project is to increase awareness about STEM subjects and encourage more girls to enter this sphere which will lay the groundwork for future jobs. There will be two groups for this project. Group One will be for ages four to seven and Group Two is targeted at ages eight to eleven. We strongly encourage anyone with young children to participate in this project.

Education is always at the top of our agenda since this is one of the ways to encourage more people to invest in themselves

and in their community. In fact, our centre has just seen the conclusion of the courses that the NCW organised together with Lifelong Learning and other institutions, ranging from basic information technology, languages and maths to health, food handling, first aid and more. We try to offer a variety of learning opportunities so people can upskill their abilities. Education is one of the most fundamental tools with which to fight poverty and it is a tool which grows and evolves with us as it accompanies us on our lifelong journey. Education knows no limits, age, or gender.

Finally, once again we will be organising the Foundation Day Dinner where we will honour Mrs Vella, the wife of the President of the Republic of Malta. She will be made an honorary life member of NCW. This prestigious honour will be bestowed to recognise her involvement in helping people from all walks of life. She was nominated for this award at the AGM of 2020 by a unanimous vote.

We need more women in leadership positions to stimulate more dialogue, peace, gender equality, and opportunities for all. This need is key in the ongoing fight for gender equality, both now and in the future, in the battle for more women to have a voice and to participate by offering their point of view as equal team members in the decision-making process. NCW has been at the forefront in encouraging women to attain posts in decision-making positions, especially in the political sphere and at workplaces in both the public and private sectors.

I encourage all NCW members and friends to participate in our activities which we organise from time to time. Your support provides us with courage to continue working and it makes all the difference in meeting today's challenges.

On behalf of the National Council of Women Executive Committee, I wish you all a relaxing summer with your family and friends.

Doreen Borg Zammit
President



Congratulations to Mrs Maria Attard

Congratulations to Mrs Maria Attard, this year's recipient of the Faculty of Social Wellbeing - Lifetime Achievement Award. "This year's Lifetime achievement award was given to Maria Attard. She is a stalwart in the social sector and has been involved with Dar Ġuzepa Debono for 37 years when she started getting involved in the social sector at the tender age of 18. Sixty six years ago, when the issues around child birth were still taboo, Maria was already engaging with young girls on these issues. She considers her role to be that of support and accompanying people. Maria offers the most basic of needs that is; care and a shoulder to lean on. She was also involved in projects and initiatives that Dar Ġuzepa Debono were involved in. Maria still believes that what is important is dedication, commitment and focus on the cause. That is what guided her over the years and credits her faith in Jesus Christ and the gospel for the values instilled in her." The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi presented the award to Maria Attard. Mrs Attard also collaborated with NCW and held several one-to-one sessions with single mothers at NCW centre in Blata l-Bajda.



Women and Finance Conference



Governor of the Central Bank of Malta, Mr Edward Scicluna, with NCW Executive Committee members and The Malta Bankers Association at the Women and Finance Conference held in March 2023 at Binja Lapparelli, Central Bank of Malta, Valletta



Women and Finance Conference 24th March 2023 at 8.30am

Laparelli Hall, Central Bank of Malta, Valletta

National Council of Women in collaboration with the Malta Banker's Association (MBA) organised a very successful and interesting conference entitled **Women and Finance** on 24th March at Binja Laparelli within the Central Bank of Malta in Valletta.

Malta Banker's Association's Assistant Secretary General Ms Rita Sammut Buontempo started the conference by introducing Mr Karol Gabaretta, Secretary General of MBA and Ms Doreen Borg Zammit, President of National Council of Women who gave us their introductory speeches.

Mr Gabaretta spoke about **how inclusivity in financial literacy was a must especially in Malta** and that this conference was the fruit of the collaboration between MBA and NCW and how pleased he was that there was such interest in the conference from the general public.

NCW President Doreen Borg Zammit spoke about how this conference was aimed at **how best to assist women with their financial literacy** especially those women who separated from their spouse or whose partner had passed away and how difficult it becomes for the women left behind to navigate their way through the complexities of the banking world; that women face more challenges than men in this regard, but also how **the banks can help women by opening up economic opportunities**. Ms Borg Zammit also thanked MBA and the Central Bank of Malta for their valuable contribution to this conference.

The first speaker to take the stand and offer their advice to the audience was Ms Kamila Lis from Sparkasse Bank. Ms Kis is currently the Deputy Manager leading the Intelligence Analysis & Assessment Team at Sparkasse Bank. She moved to Malta from her native Poland several years ago and therefore could offer first-hand experience of what it is like for a foreigner to open up a bank account in Malta, either personal or business related. She delved into the very basics of establishing a banking relationship, the documentation required and how to communicate effectively with your local bank. Banks need to know where the source of your wealth comes from, if you own your property, proof of residence if you are foreign, how you receive your salary and she advised to be as transparent with the banks as possible, but also not to be afraid to ask as many questions of the bank as they ask of you.

Next on the agenda and presenting together were Ms Gabriella Mangion and Ms Silvana Bugeja, both from APS bank and working in the Cards Department. Their presentation focused on the difference between credit and debit cards, affecting transactions, how VISA card schemes provide the infrastructure to check the processing and communication that occurs when we make a transaction and how intermediaries between customers and banks

control those purchases around the world. When using a **debit card we are using our own money but when we obtain a credit card, we are affectively receiving a loan from the bank which we start repaying immediately**, they also remarked how easy it is to overspend with a credit card so be careful to keep track of your spending. Ms Mangion and Ms Bugeja also spoke about the perks and benefits of using cards, how convenient and secure they are, how one can purchase items from the comfort of their own home thanks to online banking and internet purchases. They also advised **not to keep the card and PIN number in the same place due to theft of your possessions, to hide what you are doing when entering PIN numbers and that only the Card holders themselves should use the card when purchasing**. Having said all this, cards are very safe and convenient to use worldwide.

At the end of their presentation, NCW 2nd Vice President Lara Dougall asked why some merchants in Malta declined payments by card when the transaction amount was very small and Ms Mangion replied that in fact the banks had no control over this as it was the merchants' decision to accept or decline card payments, this usually is because they pay a small percentage on the purchase when acquiring the POS machines in their shops, but that thankfully this practice was changing locally and shops are moving forward in this area, including using mobile phones to pay, since Covid accelerated this switch. Mary Gaerty expressed concern as to why her debit card was declined in Germany recently. Although rare, some **merchants, especially abroad, might not accept debit cards, and this is because they prefer to swipe a credit card since they know the money is coming from the bank rather than directly from the clients' funds**.

A change in topic occurred at this point when a participant raised their concerns that due to their spouse recently passing away, the bank accounts of their spouse were blocked and she remarked how long it takes to unblock and to release the funds – far too long! Ms Rita Sammut Buontempo stepped up to answer this and explained the legal process takes a lot of time and that one needs to make sure the notary is pushing your case with the bank. It is the legal documentation the banks need to reopen those accounts that takes the most time, so it's always a good idea to chase your notary if you feel this process is taking too long.

Mr Karol Gabaretta introduced the next speakers – Ms Jessica Mangion, manager of the Banks Customer Service team and Ms Veronica Barbara, IT Security Manager within the Risk department – both from MeDirect. Ms Mangion spoke about the benefits of online banking, how convenient it is to take control of your finances, like opening new accounts, transferring between accounts and

Special Mass for International Women's Day 2023

Presided by Msgr Savio HON TAI FAI

*The Second Sunday of Lent, 10.15am, March 5th, 2023
St Patrick's Church, Sliema*

Introduction:

Dear brothers and sisters,
I feel pleased and privileged to be here and join all of you in prayer.

Allow me to convey the cordial greetings from His Holiness Francis to each one of you.

Distinguished Guests:

On the occasion of celebrating the forthcoming International Women's Day 2023, I would like to invite this assembly to pray particularly for the education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Homily:

The message of the Word of God today is about the Universal Call to Holiness, that is to say, we are called to be like God, Holy, Glorious, Truthful, Merciful, and Beautiful.

Jesus in his transfiguration in that high mountain allowed three of his disciples to glimpse such eternal holiness.

Holiness is contagious. It is given to one person through whom also to others just like the case of Abraham. He was called by God and became a blessing through whom God showered abundant blessings to many others.

In today's readings, there were several Biblical personages: Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Jesus, Peter, James, and John.

Abraham is the first Patriarch of the chosen People, Moses is the Liberator, Elijah the Prophet. They all are the important figures of the Old Testament that point to Jesus Christ, who as the Son of God became truly human like us, and as the Son of man rose from the dead. Because of His Incarnation we are called to be the children of God, and because of His Resurrection, we are called to share His glorious holiness.

In the event of the transfiguration of Our Lord, the Holy Trinity, the triune God became also manifest. The Son was transfigured with the face shining like the Sun and clothes becoming white as light. The Holy Spirit was in the form of a bright cloud. The Father was the one who requested us to listen to His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

All these human figures appear to be "male", the readings today seem to be suitable for the international day of men which we don't celebrate rather than for International day of Women that soon we celebrate.

However, behind every male figure there is always indispensably a woman. Let me tell you a story.

One day a wife asked her husband to go to Church for confession of sins, because it was Lent. The husband, "I am the head of the family, and I will make the decision where and when to go, not you."

The wife said, "yes, you are the head, but I am the neck that determines where the head should turn to".

Thus, the husband went for the confession. From that day onwards, the Husband started kissing his wife everyday with great affection. The wife enjoyed it because for some time, her husband had not done this. But she was rather curious to know

the reason why. The Husband explained, "I went for confession. The penance given to me is to kiss every day the biggest cross in my house."

In many cases, the male appears to be the head and seems to receive more the spotlight and so much spotlight that there is no need to have an International Day of Men, at least for now.

One day an angel came to Archangel Gabriel.

"Where do you come from?" asked Gabriel.

"From the tomb of Jesus." replied the Angel

"What was your duty?"

"My duty is to spread the news of His Resurrection".

"How did you do that?"

"Well, there was no telephone, nor television, nor telegram, so my way was simply to tell-a-woman."

"Well done! I did the same for the Incarnation of the Lord, just tell-a-woman."

Indeed, the good news of the Incarnation and Resurrection was spread in a way just to tell-a-woman. Coincidentally, all these women share the common name of Mary – Miriam in Hebrew meaning the Sea or the beloved.

Indeed, long before the hi-tec development of the digital world, the Church has been conscious of the important role of women. They were in fact chosen by the Lord to be affectionate and courageous announcers of the good news.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, The theme of the International Women's Day 2023 in Europe is: «education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls».

I believe that the Republic of Malta being elected to hold a seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the next two years must have a good deal to contribute to the empowerment of women in the digital age.

The messages of God's Word today are clear. Our human dignity is rooted in God who created us, male and female, in God's image, and saved in Jesus Christ. Because of the love of God, we, men and women are equally called to a holy glorious life.

However, today all the humans are threatened and wounded by the cruel war and different sorts of injustice. There has spread widely a terrible hatred among people, paradoxically, it is the hatred against human greatness. Humans themselves have become their own enemies against life, against peace, against women, against the balance of creation. We are consoled by the powerful grace of holiness given unto us through Jesus Christ.

On the journey towards the glorious holiness, we endeavour to keep strenuously the faith in Him, and in this regard Mary, the Star of the Sea, the Star of Evangelization, is our guide that indicates the right path, and our heavenly Mother who nurtures our faith, love, and hope.

Għeżież huti,

Nawguralkom kull suċċess.

Grazzi hafna!

International Women's Day



Celebration Mass 5th March 2023



trading. **Banks are moving away from lots of paperwork and making it much easier for clients to organise their finances.** Ms Barbara discussed online and cyber security and how important it is to follow the right steps during your online banking experience. **Stick to strong password requirements and use multifactor authentication when possible.** Only download a mobile banking app from a reliable source to ensure safety.

Never re-use a password that was used for other apps. Do not use dictionary words, replace the letter /a/ with the @ sign or use an exclamation mark instead of an /i/. When compiling your password, **stay away from birthdays or names of your children and use as many characters as possible** – Ms Barbara mentioned a **password consisting of 20 characters with a combination of letters and numbers would be ideal.** Always apply the latest security options to your devices to protect against hackers. Install antivirus on your smartphone. **Don't use public WIFI and always remember to log out,** even though the banks all apply a time-out system whereby their site will automatically log off, it is wise to always be careful.

Ms Barbara also touched on “phishing”, that this is an external threat and usually comes through an email or an SMS. **A bank will never ask you for your personal details in an email or over the phone or in a text message.** Be wary of those emails that claim they noticed suspicious activity – these do not come from the banks but from the hackers who are intent on accessing your accounts; so do not click on any attachments, never enter your credentials from just any search engine as it might not be an official website and do not reply to any suspicious emails or share your details over the phone.

After all this valuable information it was time for a coffee-break where participants were able to network and find out more information from various speakers.

Next on the agenda was NCW's very own Mary Gaerty – mother of four, grandmother of six and successful entrepreneur who engaged the audience with the story of how, together with her sister, they started their own business, Green Skip Services Ltd. When Mary first embarked on this roller coaster of a journey, she had a 5 year old child and was a full time Mum who was helping her husband with his business. However, entrepreneurship ran in her blood and after her father passed away and left her and her sister some money, they were able to start up their business idea with the help of the banks. Initially, the first bank that Mary approached to start up the business, asked Mary to speak to her husband instead! Suffice it to say, that particular bank was dropped like a proverbial stone and Mary developed a successful banking relationship elsewhere. Banks used to treat women differently in those days but thankfully that has all changed for the better.

The last presenter of the conference was Maria Vella, another entrepreneur who embarked on her journey with a business model which aims to promote sustainability and is eco-friendly. In 2019, after her first child was born, her company IKKULURITI was launched. This company is an eco-family store, promoting sustainable items for all the family, including cloth nappies and eco-period products,. Ms Vella had a mission – to keep sustainable baby products mainstream. **It is estimated that each baby, over a period of 3 years uses 7000 nappies in this time-frame and every nappy takes over 500 years to decompose!** Ms Vella noticed that in Malta it is not mainstream to use cloth nappies. Nevertheless, a small community did exist on the island and therefore Ms Vella capitalized on this by constantly promoting and educating the public, building her own website, appearing on television, offering free consultations online, organising monthly workshops and keeping effective communication with her clients. Sustainability is the way forward and so her company also collaborated with Wave of Change and the BOV Initiative – Go ECO Loan.

IKKULURITI was also part of the tender for the Sustainable Baby Box with the support of Dr Miriam Dalli where Maltese citizens were provided with a free baby box. This also helped push forward Ms Vella's business. She finished up by urging other young entrepreneurs to take opportunities and just go for their dreams.

At the close of the conference the Governor of the Central Bank of Malta, Professor Edward Scicluna gave concluding remarks. He spoke about how in banking and finance, **gender equality is an uphill road, that diversity was so much needed, that women belong in top positions because they bring diverse topics to the table.** He remembered that it was the women in banking who steered them out of the banking crisis in 2008 and that despite the fact that currently all governors of national central banks in the EU are all male, the two top banking positions are held by women, Christine Lagarde, the President of the European Central Bank (ECB) and Kristalina Georgieva, the chief of the International Monetary Fund.

The Malta Banker's association Chair, Mr Marcel Cassar wrapped things up by saying education is key to empowerment and that **quality education leads to gender equality.** He remarked that when the idea for this conference came up, he did not hesitate to collaborate with National Council of Women in this regard and he thanked NCW and the Central Bank of Malta for hosting and supporting this very successful event.

Sarah Cost Chretien
NCW Office Secretary

Statement to Mark International Women's Day – International Council of Women

March 8th, 2023

The International Council of Women – ICW-CIF, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, has been committed to advancing women's equal rights and empowerment since its inception in 1888. ICW-CIF firmly believes that the attainment of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are indispensable keys to facilitating progress toward sustainable global development. The International Council of Women applauds UN Women for choosing the theme: “**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**”, to mark International Women's Day 2023 in order to highlight the importance of inclusive and transformative technology and digital education for the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment in the current Digital Age.

Over the years, different approaches have been implemented in both the public and private sectors to help improve the participation of women in innovation and technology. However, according to UNESCO reports and to UN Women's “The Gender Snapshot 2022”, studies have shown that... **women still account for just 26% of professionals working in artificial intelligence and 28% of engineering graduates; and when they found their own start-ups, women receive less than 3% of total venture capital compared to men...**”

It is evident that as societies become more digital-oriented, **the digital gender divide must be closed and women must be equipped with the necessary digital skills** to participate fully in the digital economies on the same footing as men.

Therefore, working directly on the promotion of technology education for girls in primary and secondary schools, is one way to further ensure and increase the number of women studying innovation and technology in tertiary institutions, and entering the workforce in engineering and related sectors. Women represent an

important pool of talent, and foregoing their contribution means giving up on innovation itself. We all know that education and appropriate training are gateways to the empowerment of women and girls. Indeed

education is a fundamental human right, a force for equity and equality, and is also a development multiplier, providing societies with the necessary tools to respond to change and to innovation in the digital era.

The International Council of Women and its affiliate members around the world, strongly believe that there are no immovable barriers to gender equality in innovation and technology.

Therefore, ICW-CIF calls for the following actions:

- Eliminating the digital gender gap by providing women and girls with critical digital skills
- Countering gender-stereotypes related to women in scientific and technological fields and careers
- Adapting technological knowledge and innovation to the realities and needs of women in order to further the eradication of poverty, and to promote economic and social development
- Integrating gender into the analysis of scientific research and technological innovation and development
- Taking appropriate measures to support the recruitment, advancement and retention of women and girls in innovation and technology fields through transparent criteria leading to their inclusion in the market-force.

Through such actions, the International Council of Women stands up with UN Women towards the achievement of its important goals, and joins the “**Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality**”, which aims to double by 2026, the proportion of women working in these vital fields, thus reducing the current digital gender divide.



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Commonwealth Youth Exchange Participants convene in Malta

At the beginning of 2023, six participants from across the UK, passionate about social action, came to Malta on a residential programme as part of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Programme (a partnership between the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) and Clarion Futures). Clarion Housing Group's charitable foundation, Clarion Futures, is transforming lives and improving communities delivering one of the UK's biggest social investment programmes.

As part of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Programme (CYEP) this organisation has been working closely with counterparts in Malta (another six young leaders) to deliver projects that will positively impact the Commonwealth environment and strengthen communities. The groups project is seeking to influence public policies and regulations around eco-friendly sustainable travel and greener housing. The CYEP is an important opportunity towards learning and displaying that working on a small, local scale can influence global and national policies.

On arrival in Malta, the UK group met Nathan McKenzie, RCS Chief Operating Officer and Geraldine Noel, RCS Malta Branch who reminded these youngsters of the importance of this journey.

The programme began at the Malta Youth Council where CYEP participants and Youth Council Members, Jacob Callus (Advocacy Officer) and Yacopo Baldacchino (President) outlined the aims, work and some the campaigns that the Council had recently been involved in. At the University of Malta and a lecture from Dr Rachael Scicluna on social housing and urban planning was particularly helpful in light of the group's green housing project, Sows Seeds Urban.

Day two began at the Pembroke nature reserve. This was an opportunity to visit and discuss the green landscape of Malta with Vincent Attard CEO of Nature Trust, FEE Malta. The dedicated volunteers there are working on habitat restoration projects and are seeking to grow more local protected trees. They are also delivering a series of educational workshops for young students; this helps local families understand the damage of litter and vandalism. On this visit, a few participants took part in an impromptu litter pick-up at the nature reserve and we all hope to support with this in the future.

The Group then went to the British High Commission, where they had the opportunity to meet with Tristan Gilchrist, Deputy High Commissioner and other members of his team to discuss their social action, learn about the work of the High Commissioner and also had the chance to hear from a representative of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Malta. After a fantastic morning, they met His Excellency Dr George Vella KOM KCMG, President of the Republic of Malta at the San Anton Palace. They were enlightened to discuss the President's political journey, background and receive empowering advice about maintaining hope and a strong work



ethic. Their collective aim remains to raise awareness of climate and environmental issues locally, support changes in individual action and highlight implications of high-carbon lifestyles and carbon intensive activities.

The contribution of local people is indispensable; this was a key theme throughout their entire trip. A dedicated team gave a tour of the Verdala Palace, a 16th century building overlooking the island. The interior of the palace is very ornate, with frescoes and an example of renaissance architecture. The team also showed them around the Verdala Palace rehabilitation project, Malta's commitment to The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, where they are working to rehabilitate and preserve the existing woodland area of approximately 6.8 hectares.

On Saturday, they embarked on a tour of the megalithic stone temples at UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The prehistoric monumental buildings constructed during the 4th millennium BC and the 3rd millennium BC rank amongst the earliest free-standing stone buildings in the world and are incredibly remarkable. Each monument is believed to be prearranged and built using sophisticated construction techniques. This led to many insightful conversations about geology, prehistoric culture and historic preservation. As part of their cultural visit programme to the island of Gozo, arranged by the Malta Tourism Authority they were also treated to a Maltese lunch feast!

On the last day of their trip they visited Valletta, the capital city of Malta. Some of them were left stunned by the history and cultural and architectural influences from Sicilian, Arabic, and Baroque customs. Many of them dispersed eagerly trying to capture and document the beauty of the entire city. They experienced a traditional boat ride and local residents shared that a diverse group of Maltese people from socio-economic backgrounds live and access the waterfront. Some residents attend science school and public ceremonial events between the Three Fortified Cities of Malta: Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua.

The six UK Youngsters considered it a privilege to come together, learn and organise to advance their social action efforts with the support of the Royal Commonwealth Society and Clarion Futures.



Malta Girl Guides celebrates 100 Years of Girl Guiding in Malta

Malta Girl Guides (MGG), the largest Association for girls in Malta, is celebrating its momentous centennial anniversary. For a century, MGG has been dedicated to empowering girls and women, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of individuals. With a rich history spanning 100 years, MGG has been a catalyst for positive change, providing girls and women with opportunities to develop their skills, leadership abilities, and self-confidence through a varied programme and a diverse range of activities.

Right from the beginning in 1923, they have been a subtle impact on Maltese society that saw girls emerge and gradually influence positively as catalysts of change wherever life took them. Always ready to serve, Guides did not just sit back during WWII, but were always prepared to help wherever needed, for example nursing the wounded. They truly deserved the Bronze Cross awarded to them!

To commemorate this special year, the theme “100 Years of Stories” was chosen, symbolising a century of transforming lives by embracing MGG’s mission and vision. These stories represent the countless experiences, remarkable individuals, and pivotal moments that have not only written history but have also made it possible for MGG to reach this significant landmark.

As part of the celebrations, MGG is organising a series of events catering to each Section within MGG, with the highlight being the Centenary Camp held this April. This historic event brought together all Sections of MGG - Dolphins, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, and Adult Volunteers - creating a vibrant atmosphere with over 700 members eagerly participating in various activities. The electric atmosphere and cherished memories created during this event will undoubtedly last a lifetime and add to the myriad of stories already lived.

Recognising the rich history of the Association, MGG embarked on two captivating social media campaigns throughout this year. The first campaign “#100FactsOfMGG”, focuses on sharing fascinating facts about MGG, highlighting different commemorations and milestones achieved during the past 100 years. The second campaign, “100 Girls and Women of MGG”, aims to gather insights and experiences from our members, ranging from the youngest to the most experienced, shedding light on their unique perspectives and journeys within the world of Girl Guiding.

This centennial celebration is a testament to the dedication and resilience of MGG and its members over the years. It is a tribute to the



countless women who dedicated their lives voluntarily to empower countless girls and women to grow, learn and thrive. We take immense pride in MGG’s impactful history and, as we commemorate this remarkable moment in time, we eagerly anticipate continuing our mission of nurturing the next generation of leaders and change-makers, by remaining steadfast in our commitment to core values and continuing to create an inclusive and nurturing environment for girls and women to realise their full potential.

Cynthia Duncan
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Malta Girl Guides Association

Nadyanne Mangion’s Works of Art

“I have been working in ceramics for the past 18 years, participating with my work in collective exhibitions since 2011 locally and abroad. In 2019 I ventured on my first solo exhibition, my works being met with very positive reviews. This June saw my second solo exhibition Pots at the Malta Postal Museum & Arts Hub in Valletta. This brought together around 30 hand-built sculptural vessels, inspired by the sea and nature’s patterns exhibiting a biomorphic aesthetic. These vessels are fired in the western raku alternative techniques to achieve captivating variations of the coloured glazes and surface texturing.

Being a woman first and a feminist at heart and also a NCW member for the past 20 odd years undoubtedly affects my work. My vessels have bodies, shoulders, necks; one cannot help but see femininity in them.

More information and images of my work may be found on:

<http://www.facebook.com/RakuElements> and http://www.instagram.com/raku_elements”



Sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women – Report for the National Council of Women Australia and the National Council of Women Malta

From 6-17 March 2023, I was fortunate enough to attend the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. My attendance was very kindly facilitated by A/Prof Magdalena Simonis and the Australian Federation of Medical Women, Ms Elisabeth Newman and National Council of Women Australia, and Ms Doris Bingley and National Council of Women Malta.

The 67th CSW priority theme was innovation and technical change and providing education in the digital age. For the first time, the UN CSW included a youth session allowing us to provide recommendations on how young women and girls are engaged in digital transformation. As part of this experience, I spent International Women's Day (8 March) in the UN General Assembly, a truly amazing moment, which included hearing Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, speaking about the importance of closing the digital divide and improving representation of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) who currently make up less than one-third of the workforce.

I was able to attend the 'Getting it right from the start: empowering women in green STEM through the education pipeline' at the Australian Consulate-General, which centered around removing barriers to promote gender equality in STEM careers and leadership. This included remarks from the Honorable Malarndirri McCarthy, the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health, and a panel including Dr Christina Kwauk (Unbounded Associates), Florence Drummond (Indigenous Women in Mining and Resources Australia) and Virisila Buadromo (Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights Asia and Pacific).

COMMISSION *on the*
STATUS OF WOMEN



One of the most impactful sessions I attended was 'Breaking the silence on femicide: end gender based violence against women and girls' which was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Cyprus, the Permanent Mission of Malta, UN Women and UNODC. This session explored ways to respond to gender related killings and gender based violence on local, national and an international level.

During the UN CSW week, I co-hosted an online parallel session with A/Prof Simonis titled 'Leading through the digital revolution to empower woman and girls, no matter how far the distance' on 15 March. Our speakers included Dr Amandeep Hansra, Professor Wendy Chapman, Dr Kimberly Humphrey, Dr Jennifer Green, Associate Professor Vanessa Morgan, Dr Marjorie Cross, Dr Sumaiya Sayed and Dr Natasha Abeyssekera.

I've been excited at the prospect of attending a UN Commission on the Status of Women (having participated online during the Coronavirus pandemic!) for many years. I am incredibly thankful to the Australian Federation of Medical Women, National Council of Women Australia and the National Council of Women Malta for kindly facilitating my attendance to the sixty-seventh session of CSW in New York. It was a truly the most wonderful experience!

Helena Franco

CASTME and STEM Education

The Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators (CASTME) was established in 1974 as an NGO recognised by the Commonwealth Secretariat. It links science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educators across the Commonwealth with members from all over the world. CASTME supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG4 (Education) and SDG5 (Gender).

The National Council of Women was very pleased to welcome to Malta, Lady Sue Dale Tunnicliffe, CASTME's chair and Kathleen Nugent CASTME's Vice Chair in March 2023, where they met with NCW President Doreen Borg Zammit and members of the Executive Committee where they discussed NCW's upcoming STEM project ScienceTicTac which will start in July with sessions once a week throughout this summer for two groups of children accompanied by their parents/guardians. This project aims to inspire young children and their caregivers to delve into the world of STEM subjects, and to promote a love of science, technology, maths and engineering from a young age.

As new research shows, many people believe that "real" science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning doesn't occur until children are older, and that exposure to STEM concepts in early childhood (birth to 8 years) is only about laying a foundation for the serious STEM learning that takes place later (McClure et al. 2017). This couldn't be further from the truth.

A recent two-year research analysis found that young children are capable of engaging in, at developmentally appropriate levels, the scientific practices that high school students carry out (McClure et al. 2017). As one researcher explained, young children "can make observations and predictions, carry out simple experiments and investigations, collect data, and begin to make sense of what they found" (16). Even in the first year of life, babies systematically test physical hypotheses when they see something that doesn't conform to their expectations (McClure et al. 2017).

For these reasons, NCW strongly encourages all parents with young children to book for these free sessions and bring their children to NCW's learning centre this summer for the ScienceTicTac project 2023.



Science TicTac

The National Council of Women has the pleasure to announce the interactive STEM courses for children. Bring your child to NCW for these fun and stimulating sessions where children, parents/guardians will be introduced to the exciting world of STEM.

Give your children the chance to discover their talents and stimulate their creativity during educational and fun courses! **Light refreshments will be served.**

Science TICTAC sessions will be held during July – August – September 2023 at NCW Learning Centre in Blata l – Bajda.

Courses which are **FREE OF CHARGE** will be 7 sessions of 90 minutes each session.

Courses for ages 8 – 11 yrs starting on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 8.30am till 10.00am and for ages 4 -7 yrs starting at 10.30am – 12.00pm

For registration and further information please contact the NCW office on tel: 21248881/ 21246982 or email: ncwmalta@camline.net.mt

This project has been funded by the Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) and supported by the Ministry for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights (MIVC).



Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR



Small Initiatives
Support Scheme



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR INCLUSION,
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

This project has been funded by the Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) supported by the Ministry for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights (MIVC)

My Maltese Friends

I grew up in a small sugar cane town **MACKAY in Queensland, Australia**. I was born in 1948 and in the early 1950s my parents moved from a new town house to a farm several miles out of the township. In those years we did not cite 'multiculturalism' or think of people as 'other' – we were just all kids together and were lucky and blessed!! I grew up with many Maltese kids, but also Kanaka kids, Dutch kids and kids from both Eastern and Western European backgrounds, some of whom had changed their Surnames, as we were all post-war babies. We had to walk several miles to school – **St Joseph's North Mackay** – and had lots of laughs, tears, fun, fears – but always deep Friendship, which I have valued all my life! Gradually, through the years of our primary schooling, Aunties and Uncles would migrate from Malta and I would help teach them Language English, using newspapers mostly, as we were all poor, and books were rare but treasures and Language English is difficult for everyone, but particularly those who have another language family as their mother tongue. Our friends, the Pisanis, gave me olive oil and onion sandwiches wrapped in newspaper as a thank you gift! Family names were: **Caruana, Pisani, Mifsud, Muscat, Bezzina, Bartolo, Zarb, Gauci, Gatti, Baretta, Borg, Vella, Agius, Schembri, Camilleri, Zammit and more**. Some of you have either visited or lived in Australia, in different parts. Most of my friends had migrated here by ship and many made their way to the Mackay area and further north to cut cane, as this provided a living for families and sometimes also housing. Some brought new skills and industries. Life, work and learning a new language and new ways was hard, but we shared pastizzis, life, laughter and learned lots about sharing and caring in our post-war world, far, far across the sea! There are a million stories, all different, all heart touching and there are now large groups connected by the past and now current social media, remembering, so many wonderful adventures and memories! Photo is of my dear Friend, **Violet Caruana and I**, taken at a school reunion in Mackay some years ago, a happy time and a happy photo. We laughed a lot and I would sometimes sleep over with Violet's very large family of siblings in town and she with mine on the farm...Treasured times! Grazzi hafna u l-isbah xewqat!



Jennifer Ann Davies
Arts Council

National Council of Women, Australia



FOUNDATION DAY DINNER

Once again, the time has come for our popular Foundation Day Celebration!

Date: **Friday 21st July 2023**
Place: **The Palace Hotel, High Street, Sliema**
Time: **7.30pm**
Price: **€ 40**
Dress: **Smart**

The Council will be bestowing Honorary Life Membership on Mrs Miriam Vella, spouse of H.E. President of Malta, on the night.

Members and friends are invited to attend.

*Kindly fill in the slip below and send remittance to:
NCW Centre, Pope Pius XII Flats, Mountbatten Street, Blata L-Bajda HMR 1579
by not later than the Monday 17th July 2023*

✂-----

Names: _____ Mobile: _____

Please find enclosed: € _____ No. of Persons _____

For further information please phone NCW Office on 21248881/ 21246982 or email: ncwmalta@camline.net.mt

Welcome Drink and Canapes		
First Course <i>Please tick the dish of your choice</i>	Wild Mushroom Risotto	
	Strozzapreti in pancetta and sundried tomato cream, finished with Parmesan shavings	
Main Course <i>Please tick the dish of your choice</i>	Sea Bream, smoked aubergine, fondant potato, confit cherry tomato, micro herb salad	
	Chicken supreme, roast garlic and rosemary pommes puree, peas	
Dessert	Milk Chocolate delice, forrest fruit cremeux, berry sauce, mint, pistachio	
Coffee		
Flowing wine and water included		

