



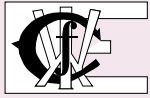
# N-Mara

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*

## Executive Committee Members 2024

<b>President:</b>	Dr Rebecca Janelle Berry Wellman
<b>Hon. Gen. Secretary:</b>	Dr Stephania Maria Attard
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	Mary Gaerty
<b>Vice President:</b>	Marie Demicoli
<b>Vice President:</b>	Therese Cassola
<b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>	Iona Baldacchino
<b>Editor/PRO:</b>	Lara Gail Dougall
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Gertrude Abela MQR
<b>Members:</b>	Sarah Xerri
	Mary Buttigieg Said
	Diane Xuereb
	Grace Attard MQR
	Dr Daniela Cassola
	Tiziana Gatt
	Iolanda Buontempo
<b>Office Secretary:</b>	Sarah Cost Chretien
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Doreen Borg Zammit,
	Immediate Past President
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Doris Bingley, Hon. General Secretary

### Front Cover Photos

NCW President and Executive Committee on a courtesy visit to His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of Malta

### Office Hours

Monday to Friday  
8.30am- 12.30pm

### 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

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Pope Pius XII Flats, Mountbatten Street  
Blata l-Bajda HMR 1579, MALTA

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http://www.ncwmalta.com

## EDITORIAL

### Celebrating 60 Years of Progress: A New Era of Leadership and Empowerment



Dear Members and Supporters,

As we begin this new chapter in the history of The National Council of Women, I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Rebecca Berry Wellman, our newly elected president. Dr. Berry Wellman's dedication, passion, and vision for advancing the rights and empowerment of women make her the ideal leader to guide our organisation forward.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our outgoing president, Ms. Doreen Borg Zammit, for her tireless efforts and steadfast leadership over the years. Her unwavering commitment to our cause has laid a strong foundation upon which we can continue to build and grow.

As we reflect on our rich history spanning six decades, we recognize the significant strides we have made towards advancing gender equality and women's rights in our society. However, amidst our celebration, we cannot ignore the sobering reality of the challenges that persist, such as the challenges that our working mothers face, as well as the limitations that our elderly need to combat daily due to a lack of support for these groups in our social structures. In the face of recent tragedies and injustices, it is clear that our work is more critical now than ever before. The rise in instances of femicide in Malta serves as a sobering reminder of the urgent need to combat gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms.

Now, more than ever, the mission of our council is vital. We must stand united in our commitment to advocating for the rights and empowerment of women across all sectors of society. With the upcoming elections on the horizon, it is imperative that we rally behind female candidates who will champion gender issues and drive meaningful change in our legislative bodies. We must strive for increased representation of women, particularly in the European Parliament, where their voices can amplify our concerns on a broader platform.

We firmly believe that having more women MEPs will provide a powerful platform to address gender issues at the highest levels of decision-making. Through strategic advocacy and collaboration, we aim to ensure that the voices of women are heard, and their concerns are addressed in the corridors of power.

With Dr. Berry Wellman at the helm, I have no doubt that we will see increased momentum in our efforts to elevate women's voices and push for meaningful change on gender issues at the highest levels of decision-making.

As we mark this significant milestone in our Council's history, we are thrilled to announce a series of events and initiatives planned throughout the year to celebrate our diamond anniversary. From educational seminars to community outreach programs, there will be ample opportunities for us to come together and reflect on our past achievements while charting a course for the future.

I invite each and every one of you to join us next month as we kick off our anniversary celebrations with the International Women's Day festivities. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable society where every woman and girl can thrive and fulfil her potential.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your continued support and dedication to our shared mission. Together, we have the power to effect positive change and shape a brighter future for women and girls in Malta and beyond.

With warm regards,

**Lara Gail Dougall**  
Editorial Board

### Contents

President's Message .....	3	ICW-CIF .....	10
Request for Membership Renewal 2024 .....	3	The Commonwealth.....	11
NCW Bestows Honorary Life Membership on Mrs Miriam Vella .....	4	Buonamico Award.....	11
Food Handling Course .....	5	Sittin Sena Anniversarju tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa .....	12
Science TicTac Project - Presentation of Certificates .....	6	Nutrition Courses.....	13
NCW Christmas Celebrations.....	6	Resolution on Protecting Children using the Internet.....	14
NCW ushers in a New Executive Council for 2024 .....	7	Diskors Jum il-Hajja 2024 .....	15
NCW Annual General Meeting.....	8		

# President's Message

Dear Members and Colleagues,

As we usher in the new year, it brings me immense pride and honour to address you as the newly elected President of The National Council of Women. First and foremost, I extend my deepest gratitude to our former president, Doreen Borg Zammit, for her unwavering dedication and leadership. Under her guidance, our council has thrived, paving the way for positive change in Malta.

I'd like to highlight three keywords that shall ensure NCW's remarkable journey: Voice, Presence, and Empowerment. First, NCW will consistently voice its viewpoint and share its opinions through diverse channels without hesitation. It will work relentlessly on gender inclusivity in education, promoting gender equality in all spheres, especially in decision-making positions, bridging the gender pay gap, securing the financial independence of women, addressing barriers faced by women and girls, emphasizing the importance of diverse role models in the curriculum, and highlighting the need for policies that support work-life balance for educators and parents.

Secondly, NCW aims to strengthen its presence, acknowledging its responsibility to connect with everyone, particularly the younger generations. It will work towards revitalizing the organization's composition and strive to share insights and perspectives on women's

issues. The organization will identify forms of community engagement to understand their needs and concerns, representing them in broader discussions.

Thirdly, NCW will be synonymous with empowerment, supporting individuals and actively monitoring, overseeing, and evaluating policies, programs, and initiatives related to women's issues. This includes tracking progress, ensuring adherence to gender equality principles, and advocating for necessary changes to promote women's rights and well-being.

In conclusion, NCW extends its main tendue (an extended hand) to all women, the government, NGOs, and its prestigious affiliates to address and monitor women's issues, while continuing to advocate for women's rights in Malta.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our cause. I am honoured to lead this esteemed council, and I look forward to the journey ahead, hand in hand with each of you.

Sincere regards



**Dr Rebecca Berry Wellman**

LL. B (Hons.) M. Not. St. (Melit.) M. Adv. (Melit.)

**NCW President**

## REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024

NCW kindly asks you to settle your membership fee for the year 2024. ***It was decided during the AGM in January that memberships fees will be increased as follows:***

Ordinary Member:	€15.00	Life Membership:	€95.00
Affiliated Organisation:	€25.00	New Members:	€15.00 + €5.00 Registration Fee

Due to the current Central Bank regulations, cheques of €20 or below are no longer permitted after 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022, so we advise ordinary members to either pay their dues for this year by internet banking or if they prefer, they can send a cheque; and to do so by paying their membership fee for two years, ie for year 2024 and 2025. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Payment can be done by cash, cheque (payable to National Council of Women), Revolut on Mobile No. 7970 9727 (Ref: your name + NCW) or by internet banking, in which case the following are NCW's bank account details:

Bank Details:	APS Bank Ltd, APS Centre, Tower Street, B'Kara BKR4012
NCW Details:	National Council of Women, Pope Pius XII Flats No 3, Mountbatten Street, Blata l-Bajda HMR 1579
IBAN:	MT98APSB77046002866912866930013
BIC/SWIFT Code:	APSBMTMT
Payment Ref:	(Your name) Fee 2024

**Please ignore this notice**, if you are a life member or if you have already affected payment.

***Due to postage increases, only fully paid up members will receive a copy of the newsletter in the post.***

# NCW Bestows Honorary Life Membership on Mrs Miriam Vella

National Council of Women Executive Committee Members were invited to San Anton Palace on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, to bestow Honorary Life Membership on Mrs Miriam Vella, for her outstanding contribution to Maltese society as Malta's First Lady and for her constant contribution to the Malta Community Chest Fund and for her continuous commitment towards supporting vulnerable people.



# Food Handling Course Presentation of Certificates February 2024



## Food Handling Course at NCW Centre, Blata I-Bajda

**Date:** Sunday (*held throughout the year*)  
**Duration:** 5 hr training programme

**Tutor:** Mr Joseph Cassar, Lecturer ITS  
**Course fee:** €28 per person

The course to be held at NCW Learning Centre, is a one-day course covering the following topics:

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



The cost of the course includes **registration with the Food Safety Commission, Tuition and License to work in the food industry.** For booking and further information kindly phone on 21248881/21246982 or email: [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt) to reserve a place. **Payment must be affected in advance either in cash, cheque or by Revolut on 79709727 to confirm your booking.**

# Science TicTac Project - Presentation of Certificates

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 the National Council of Women organised a Certificate giving ceremony at NCW Learning Centre in Blata l-Bajda. The Hon. Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli presented the certificates to the young participants, who were accompanied by their parents/guardians. The Hon. Minister highlighted the importance of engaging children from early years to the world of science and to instil a lifelong love for exploration and discover.

NCW President thanked the Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli and Mr Mauro Pace Parascandolo CEO of the Malta Council for Voluntary Organisations for the grant received through the Small Initiative Scheme, as without this funding the National Council of Women wouldn't have been able to hold these sessions for the children accompanied by their parents/guardians. The Science TicTac programme was enjoyed by all participants and parents and it was indeed a great success. For this project NCW qualified for the Commonwealth Association of Science and Technology Educators (CASTME) Awards and won the FINDEL CASTME EDUCATION Award jointly with The Tetara Debi Academy.



## NCW Christmas Celebrations

The National Council of Women organised a Christmas buffet dinner on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at the Waterfront Hotel, Gzira for members and friends. The evening proved very enjoyable for all who attended. NCW President thanked Mr George Cassola for preparing a very mind-boggling quiz featuring a variety of questions on general knowledge and the history of the National Council of Women. The quiz was indeed challenging for each team to solve while having a delicious dinner and flowing wine. Other prizes were won through the raffle. The President also thanked the members that donated hampers and gifts for the raffle.



# NCW ushers in a New Executive Council for 2024

The National Council of Women (NCW) ushers in a new Executive Council for 2024 during their Annual General Meeting held last Saturday, January 27, 2024, at the AX The Victoria Hotel in Sliema. The meeting kicked off their 60th Anniversary celebrations and was attended by members and representatives of affiliated organisations.

The outgoing council presented Notary Public Dr Rebecca Berry Wellman as the new president of NCW, along with the other members to make up a new Executive Committee. The AGM was also addressed by Dr Ibtisam Sadegh, an immigration lawyer and a lecturer at the Civil Law Department at the University of Malta. She delivered a speech titled 'Women + so much more! Why is intersectionality important in women's rights?'

During her first address as president, Dr Berry Wellman stated that, while NCW is celebrating its 60th anniversary, it aims to foster a sense of empowerment, belonging, and inclusion to inspire women to unleash their full potential. She emphasised that the new committee will actively promote this message, ensure NCW's presence is acknowledged and empower women across all societal levels.

She identified three keywords that shall guarantee NCW's remarkable journey: Voice, Presence, and Empowerment and explained how the new committee will use these as objectives to strengthen the Council's position.

The outgoing President, Ms. Doreen Borg Zammit, expressed gratitude to all members for their support and collaborative efforts. She emphasized the role of education in equipping women with knowledge, skills, and confidence, enabling them to make informed decisions about their lives. Ms. Borg Zammit also addressed issues such as the

gender pay gap, domestic violence, and the promotion of gender equality.

In the Annual Report presented by the Hon. General Secretary, Ms Marie Demicoli, there was mention of International Women's Day advocating for peace and equality in contemporary society. Additionally, the report highlighted the awarding of an Honorary Life Membership to Mrs. Miriam Vella in recognition of her valuable contributions to society and dedicated work within the Malta Community Chest Fund. Other notable mentions included the Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition and various social and educational initiatives organized by the NCW.

During the Annual General Meeting (AGM), Mrs Grace Attard presented the eight resolutions that were adopted, and Mrs Lara Gail Dougall's dynamic presentation provided insights into the organization's activities since its establishment.

A full report will be published in the next issue of the Council's newsletter *Il-Mara*.

The Executive Committee for 2024 is made up of Dr Rebecca Berry Wellman, President; Mary Gaerty, Marie Demicoli, Therese Cassola, Vice-Presidents; Dr Stephania Marie Attard, Hon. General Secretary; Iona Baldacchino, Treasurer; Lara Gail Dougall, Public Relations Officer; Gertrude Abela, Membership Secretary; Grace Attard, Iolanda Buontempo, Mary Buttigieg Said, Dr Daniela Cassola, Tiziana Gatt, Sarah Xerri, Diane Xuereb Executive Members; Doreen Borg Zammit Immediate Past President; Doris Bingley Ex-Officio Hon. General Secretary.

**Lara Gail Dougall**  
*Public Relations Officer/Editor*



The new NCW Executive Council, from left (sitting): Dr Stephania Marie Attard, Dr Rebecca J. Berry Wellman (President), Mary Gaerty, Iona Baldacchino; (standing): Sarah Cost Chretien, Diane Xuereb, Doris Bingley, Marie Demicoli, Doreen Borg Zammit, Therese Cassola, Grace Attard, Lara Gail Dougall.



# NCW Annual Gala

27th January 2024 at The



# General Meeting

at the Victoria Hotel, Sliema





**Concept Paper for the  
CW-CIF Parallel Event at CSW68<sup>th</sup> Session**

**COMBATING POVERTY: WOMEN'S ACCESS TO  
FINANCE, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING**

**Background**

1. The International Council of Women (ICW), a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, firmly believes that women's access to finance, social protection and quality education and training are gateways to women's empowerment and gender equality as well as being development multipliers that are essential for the eradication of poverty in the world, a major global challenge (SDGs 1, 4, 5).

2. With the view of implementing the strategic objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action's Critical Areas of Concern, United Nations (UN) specialized agencies, a decade ago, had initiated policies and programs to ensure the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in various instruments and frameworks. Furthermore, the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 commits States to ensuring equal access to quality education and training, finance and social protection in efforts to reduce gender inequality and poverty. In addition, the General Assembly underscored the need for sustained action by all stakeholders to eradicate poverty in declaring the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty from 2018–2027. Such action must include increased efforts to address the structural causes of poverty through the implementation and integration of strategies at national and international levels, and with the conviction that each woman and girl, must be aware of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to live in dignity and to benefit from development.

3. Despite the significant efforts of the international community, particularly aid agencies, according to latest UN-Women projections, poverty has further deepened for women and girls, who constitute the majority of people living in extreme poverty. A recent United Nations report, "The Gender Snapshot 2023," warns that "if current trends continue, over 340 million women and girls – an estimated 8% of the world's female population – will live in extreme poverty by 2030, and almost one in four will experience moderate or severe food insecurity..." Furthermore, women and girls, who comprise 55.7% of the world's population aged 65 and over, face a higher risk of living in extreme poverty than men due to lifelong disadvantages from discrimination and inequalities.

4. Many factors contribute to economic insecurity and poverty for women of all ages. Women and girls carry most of the burden of unpaid care work, which can deny them opportunities for education, employment in the formal labour sector and access to social protection benefits. Even when women do have access to education and employment, their care responsibilities often lead to career interruptions, lower wages and savings, inadequate pensions, informal employment, greater economic insecurity and more time spent on unpaid care work. In addition, since 2019, the world has faced a series of crises including a global pandemic, severe natural disasters and armed conflicts which have contributed to rising inflation, tightening financial conditions, greater food insecurity and increasing poverty.

5. Financial literacy and financial inclusion are essential for women's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, greater participation in the economy and the accumulation of savings and financial assets. Research shows that women tend to spend most of their income on the welfare of their children and family, thus having greater access to social protection benefits can enable women to provide education for their children, achieve better health outcomes for their family members and acquire greater financial security for themselves after retirement.

6. Combating poverty is therefore critical to the sustainable development of the world. Ensuring equitable access to quality education and training, economic empowerment, financial resources, and social protection for women and girls is crucial for achieving economic security and preventing poverty among them.

**Objectives**

In this Parallel Event, panelists will discuss the importance of integrated policies and approaches to combat poverty through promoting access of women and girls to finance, social protection, and quality education and training. In addition, it will include practical examples and best practices to help design inclusive

programs, schemes and policies to address the gender gap in finance, to promote women's access to education and social protection and to create an enabling environment to promote women's financial empowerment. It will also highlight relevant, formal and non-formal vocational training and gender responsive capacity development programs which are critical for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

**Expected Outcome**

The envisaged outcome of the event will be a summary report of the discussions on the policies, strategies and best practices to promote women and girls' access to quality education and training, finance and social protection to achieve women's economic empowerment and gender equality as part of global efforts to eradicate poverty and to contribute to the achievement of the Development Agenda 2030.



# The Commonwealth

Secretary General

*End of year Message from Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland, sent to readers by Doris Bingley, Commonwealth Women's Network*

**A**s 2023 draws to a close, we reflect on a year of immense change and challenge in our world.

The global economic, environmental and security crises we have witnessed are grave and complex, and their impacts continue to be felt. In every region of our Commonwealth, our nations are exposed to huge economic pressures. They feel the full force of extreme heat, drought, storms, floods, fires and rising seas, and the tremors of conflict and instability reverberate around the world. Yet in the face of these very real threats, the 56 nations, and 2.5 billion people of the Commonwealth have shown extraordinary resolve.

Throughout this Year of Youth, I have been particularly inspired by the hope and energy which drive our young people, as they rise to global challenges not of their making. When our leaders came together ahead of the magnificent coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, the Head of our Commonwealth Family, they were clear in their commitment to build a more resilient, sustainable common future for our 1.5 billion young people.

Again and again, our Commonwealth Family has united to turn their resolve into shared action: to tackle the challenges we face today, and to unleash the benefits of innovation and progress across every sector, from health, education and youth empowerment to energy, infrastructure, and trade.

Next year marks the 75th birthday of the Modern Commonwealth. What started as a group of eight countries, brought together in the shadow of war to bring a touch of healing to kinships which were changing, today connects one-third of humanity through common values and shared action and stands as a beacon within the international system.



As His Majesty said on Commonwealth Day, our near-boundless potential as a force for good demands our highest ambition and challenges us to unite and be bold. That ambition, that unity, and that boldness, will guide us through 2024, as we continue the Commonwealth Year of Youth, and look towards our next Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa.

I fiercely believe that our shared commitment to peace, prosperity and the common good which has served us for more than seven decades, will continue to sustain us through every challenge, and enable us to seize every opportunity.

On behalf of the whole Commonwealth, I wish you all a peaceful, relaxing, and hopeful season of goodwill, and I look with confidence and optimism to a momentous year ahead.

Happy Christmas.

**The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC**



## Buonamico Award

Huge congratulations goes to Mary Gaerty NCW Vice President one of the winners of the seventh edition of the **Buonamico Award**, organised by the ERA – Environment & Resources Authority and presented by His Excellency Dr George Vella, The President of Malta.

Sittin Sena Anniversarju tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa Maltin

Indipendenti, voluntarju, u  
Jigbor fih ghaqdiet benefiċjarji ohra.  
Magħmul min-nisa Maltin ghan-nisa ta' Malta.  
Adulti żgħażaġh u ohrajn anzjani  
Kollha b'rieda wahda  
Li jahdmu ghad-drittijiet tal-Mara.  
Drittijiet ta' ugwaljanza, solidarjeta  
Le għall-vjolenza u Iva ghad-differenza.  
Kullhadd fuq dghajsa wahda li  
Timxi lejn orizzonti godda  
Ta' żmien li jinbidel imma li jgħożż L-għaqda, is-Sliem u l-Ġid.  
Dghajsa b'saħħitha li ilha ssalpa sittin sena  
Ittella' nies godda ohrajn ihalluha.  
Nisa ta' stoffa li laħqu qcaċet għoljin  
Nisa ta' ġieħ u ħabrieċa li  
Għamlu mitqлу deheb ta' ġid lil gżiritna  
Ġo l-oghla istituzzjonijiet bħall-qrati  
Maltin u barranin, kif ukoll  
Membri Parlamentari fl-oqsma tas-Saħħa, inġinerija,....  
Ohrajn nisa umli li hadmu  
F'kull qasam ta' volontarjat, karitajiet li jsostnu sptarijiet u  
ghajnuniet fejjieda kemm għal individwi kif ukoll annimali jew Klima.  
Rota ddrur li ssawwab il-ġid kull fejn tmiss  
Qawsalla ta' kuluri li żzejjen l-arja Maltija.  
Xita ta' ġid umanitarju u ambjentali.  
Katina ta' kwadri mnaqqxa mill-artisti abbli  
Ta' dan il-Moviment tan-Nisa Maltin.  
J'Alla d-dghajsa tibqa' tbahhar  
lejn ibhra dejjem godda u ta' fejda.  
Awguri lill-membri hajjin u  
Ma ninsew qatt lil dawk li hallewna.  
Viva l-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa.

Imelda S.Inglott .

# Nutrition Courses at NCW held throughout the year!



## Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyle Course

*8 sessions from 9.30am – 11.00am on Tuesdays – held throughout the year*

NCW in collaboration with the Nutrition and Dietetics Unit at Primary HealthCare, will be organising another 8-week course entitled 'Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyle Course'.

Topics which will be discussed include:

- The benefits of adopting a healthy lifestyle
- Nutrition basics: Carbohydrates, Proteins and Fats and their role in the body;
- Setting SMART goals for behaviour change;
- Barriers to change and how to overcome them;
- Reading food labels and shopping;
- Meal preparation tips (cooking on a budget and minimising time in the kitchen);
- Easy meal preparation and demos.



The course will be held in a group-setting and the emphasis will not be the scales, or weight loss, but rather the learning and uptake of skills which will result in a healthier lifestyle. The uptake of a healthier lifestyle will in the end result in better weight management, improved blood markers such as better blood sugar control, lower blood pressure and lower cholesterol levels.

Sessions are free of charge. For booking and further information kindly phone on 21248881/21246982 or email: [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt) to reserve a place.

First come, first served as places are limited. Contact us now.

# Resolution on Protecting Children using the Internet

## *NCW is aware*

that children are active users of online technologies, and increasingly so. But, beyond the benefits of interactivity and participation in the online environment, they also face some serious risks:

- a. Direct harm, as victims of sexual abuse documented through photographs, films or audio files and distributed online (child abuse material).
- b. A perpetuation of victims' sexual abuse by the repeated viewing of the records of their abuse due to widespread online distribution and global availability.
- c. Direct contact by predators who will befriend them in order to commit sexual abuse ("grooming").
- d. Victims of bullying in the online environment ("cyber-bullying").

## *also aware*

that recent data suggests that online child sexual abuse content regularly hops host company and host country in order to avoid detection and removal, thereby complicating law enforcement investigation at a solely national level.

## *and*

lack of international efforts by domain name registries to de-register domains advocating the sexual abuse of children or providing access to such content

## *also aware*

of the valid work of the Commissioner for Children in dealing with the protection of children using the internet

## *recommends*

- recognition of the very young age of child victims and the extreme severity of the sexual abuse they are suffering
- clarification of the scale of the problem as regards publicly available websites depicting the sexual abuse of children, that is, a concrete "manageable" target of around 3,000 websites per year hosted around the world facilitating access to many hundreds of thousands of child sexual abuse images
- the reduction of public exposure to child sexual abuse material by voluntary industry blocking of individual URLs by service providers
- national recommendations regarding online tools, such as filtering products, search engine security preferences and the like
- collecting of data regarding the regional hosting of child sexual abuse networks, in particular identification of sources by country

## *NCW also recommends*

that the legislative harmonisation across Member States is implemented and enforced at National level and includes the following as minimum as set out in the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention:

- What constitutes child sexual abuse material;
- That the age of a child for the purposes of the victims of child sexual abuse material is 18;
- That the possession and viewing/downloading of online child sexual abuse is an offence and warrants severe custodial penalties;
- That Malta participates in the EU Commission new programme **Safer Internet for Children** which will have the following four actions encouraging international cooperation as an integral part of each of them;
- Reducing illegal content and tackling harmful conducts online;
- Promoting a safer online environment, ensuring public awareness;
- Establishing a knowledge base.

## *NCW further recommends*

The involvement of the Commissioner for Children with young people and the dissemination of information to social networks utilised by those most vulnerable. Youth have their own language and are often reluctant to listen to authority but welcome advice from their peers within their social environment. The "Rights of the Child" must be taken into account and therefore young people must be involved in the process.



# Diskors Jum il-Ħajja 2024

Tafu, dal-aħħar erba' snin, liema kienet il-kawża tal-iktar imwiet fid-dinja? Kienet l-abort. Ftit ilu, wiehed editur qalli li spiss jgħidulu, li min hu kontra l-abort ma għandux kompassjoni.

Nghiduha kif inhi, kif tista' ma thennx għall-omm bitfal li thoss li la l-finanzi u lanqas saħħitha ma jifilhu aktar piż? Kif ma thossx għat-tfajla li tibza' li tqala tharbitilha l-istudji u l-karriera? X'itgħid għat-tfajla li taqqalha raġel li jahqarha? Jew il-mara li taf li iktar sa tgħaddiha lixxa mill-ilsna tal-ohrajn, jekk tagħmel abort baxx baxx, milli jekk tagħti t-tarbija għall-adozzjoni.

Il-kompassjoni hi meta thoss għal dak jew dik li tkun. Il-kompassjoni hi qariba tal-empatija: meta int thoss fik innifsek x'ihoss xihadd ieħor. L-empatija hi spiss dik li gġegħelna nhennu u ngħinu lil min hu muġuġh jew magħfus, irrabjat jew frustrat.

Imma kif tista' ma jkollokx kompassjoni wkoll lejn it-tarbija li ġejja? Meta xihadd imut żgħir, nithassruh mhux biss jekk kien muġuġh, imma wkoll għas-snin ta' ħajja li tilef, jew li tilfet. U jekk din il- mewt ikun ġabha haddieħor, inqis li, dan il-haddieħor, dawn is-snin ta' ħajja, ikun seraqhomlha. U l-abort dan li jġib lit-tarbija: jisirqilha s-snin ta' ħajja li kienu lesti għaliha.

Għaliex dawkta' favur l-abort spiss ifahħrul-kompassjoni lejn l-omm u ma jridux jisimġhu b'kompassjoni għat-tarbija? Għaliex jgħidu li favur id-drittijiet tal-bendmin, imma ma jridux jisimġhu bit-dritt tal-bnedmin qabel ma jitwiellu? Għaliex jaççettaw li hu reat meta tagħmel att li hemm iè-çans li joqtol lil xihadd, imma jcaħħdu lil min għad ma twelidx minn dil-protezzjoni? Kif l-ewwel jippridkaw l-inkluzjoni, u mbagħad jeskludu lil min hu l-iktar dgħajjef? Għaliex jitkażaw b'min jichad li l-klima qed tinbidel, u mbagħad jichdu li fit-tqala hemm individwu uman, qed jizviluppa quddiemhom?

Il-kompassjoni tfisser ħniena lejn il-bżonnijiet ta' kulhadd, bla esklużjoni. U m'ħijjex kompassjoni dik li ççedi għal li thoss issa u tgħammad għajnejk għall-uġieġh li se gġib għada, jew tinjora x'se tisaq mingħand haddieħor. Il-kuxjenza ma għandhiex thallik taqa' fid-diskriminazzjoni, jew toħroġ b'argumenti li jinqalbu rashom 'l isfel meta ssib l-iebes. Il-kuxjenza, kemm jekk inti Nisrani kemm jekk m'intix, ma għandhiex thallik l-ewwel tiftahar li inti r-realta' tiffaççjaha, biex imbagħad, tara li xihadd se jinħaqar, u thares in-naha l-ohra.

Mela kif nipprattikkaw kompassjoni bilançjata, bla diskriminazzjoni u sinciera? L-ewwel, bebdna mod ma nabbandunaw il-liġi li thares il-ħajja. Imma min jinforza l-liġi għandu jifhem id-diffikultajiet, u jagħraf il-każi fejn għandu jressaq iktar lejn ir-riabilitazzjoni milli lejn il-piena. Irridu ngħallmu u naħdmu biex niffrankaw minn qabel it-tqaliet li mhux żmienhom. U l-ommijiet u l-familji iffaççjati minn tqala diffiçli, irridu naghmlu dmirna magħhom. Mhux sew li l-mara titgħabba bil-piż u r-raġel le, u s-soçjeta le'. Mhux sew li s-soçjeta' l-ewwel twebbel li s-sess hu pjaçir ħafif bi ftit responsabbiltà, u mbagħad, lill-omm li tinqabad, thalliha għal rihha, tistigmattizzaha jew toffrilha l-abort, rimedju bla kompassjoni.

B'xorti tajba ġa għandna min qed jgħin b'servizzi li jgħannqu l-omm, u jgħannqu t-tarbija. Dawn niringrazzjawhom mill-qalb, bħalma niringrazzjaw lil kull min jaħdem f'dan il-qasam. Imma kulhadd għandu d-dmir li jgħin u jsaħħaħ kull servizzi u protezzjoni favur l-omm u t-tarbija, kemm min hu Nisrani, kemm min mhuiwix. Għax il-kompassjoni, bilançjata, bla diskriminazzjoni u ġenwina, hi marka ta' çiviltà umana, çiviltà li lkoll huwa dmirna li nħarsuha u nsahħuha.

**Dr Charles Pace**

*Lettur l-Università ta' Malta u membru tal-Core Group tal-Malta Unborn Child Platform*

HAPPY

Easter

*May the Holy Spirit of Easter  
fill your home with hope, love and peace!*

NCW is  
60!

## Celebrating 60 Years of Empowerment!

Join Us in Honoring the National Council of Women's Diamond Jubilee in 2024!

Let's commemorate six decades of progress and empowerment together! The Executive Committee is thrilled to announce a series of special events to mark this significant milestone.

We warmly invite all affiliated organisations, esteemed members, and dear friends to partake in these forthcoming celebrations. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success, and we eagerly anticipate your continued presence as we embark on this journey of commemoration and gratitude.

Together, let's make history and pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future!

#NCW60 #EmpoweringCommunities  
#CelebratingMilestones

Join us for Mass

10th March 2024 at 10.15am

St Patrick's Church,  
St John Bosco Street, Sliema

**International  
Woman's  
Day 2024**

# Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress

Join NCW President,  
Executive Committee  
Members, Affiliated  
Organisations and members  
of the public to celebrate this  
special event.

We look forward to  
welcoming you all there.

