



National Council
of Women Malta
Founded 1964.

Il-Mara

Newsletter of the National Council of Women - Malta

National Council of Women Malta
1964-2024



60

YEARS

ANNIVERSARY

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 2025

President:	Dr Rebecca Janelle Berry Wellman
Hon. General Secretary:	Dr Daniela Cassola
1 st Vice President:	Mary Gaerty
Vice President PR Officer:	Lara Gail Dougall
Vice President:	Doreen Borg Zammit
Hon. Treasurer:	Iona Baldacchino
Assistant Hon. Treasurer:	Therese Cassola
Membership Secretary:	Gertrude Abela MQR
Assistant Secretary:	Tiziana Gatt
Members:	Grace Attard MQR Sarah Xerri Mary Buttigieg Said
Ex-Officio:	Doris Bingley, Hon. General Secretary
Office Secretary:	Grace Spiteri

Front Cover

National Council of Women celebrates its 60th Anniversary

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
9.00 - 13.00

Membership Subscription Rates

New Individual Membership	€20.00
Annual Renewal	€15.00
Affiliated Organisations	€25.00
Associated Organisations	€25.00
Life membership	€95.00

Members and Affiliated Organisations are requested to keep their subscription fees up to date.

Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA



National Council of Women Malta
Founded 1964

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EDITORIAL

Summer Edition of *Il-Mara*



Summer is here, and somehow, we're already halfway through the year! I'm delighted to welcome you to this warm and vibrant edition of *Il-Mara*, the newsletter of the National Council of Women Malta. As the sun shines brighter and days grow longer, it's the perfect time to reflect on all that we've accomplished so far, while also looking ahead with fresh energy and renewed purpose.

This season brings more than just sunshine—it also brings new faces, new goals, and ongoing conversations that are shaping our society. I'm especially pleased to introduce and welcome Grace Spiteri, our new office secretary, who joined us a few months ago. Grace has already proven to be an invaluable addition to our team, bringing with her both efficiency and a warm spirit. Her efforts have helped keep the Council running smoothly and organised, and we're truly grateful to have her with us.

As always, the heartbeat of the Council lies in the passion and dedication of its people. To our Executive Council members—thank you. Your tireless work, both visible and behind the scenes, keeps our mission alive and thriving. Whether attending conferences, coordinating initiatives, or engaging in policy dialogue, your presence is making a difference. Several of our members have been representing the Council both locally and abroad, making sure our perspectives and concerns are not only heard but taken seriously.

Among the many pressing topics we've been addressing are the ongoing national discussions on euthanasia, the increasing prevalence of drug use, and the still-unmet need for comprehensive support for women in the workforce. It is deeply frustrating—and frankly, ironic—that while policymakers regularly encourage women to grow their families, the support structures to make that a feasible choice remain basic at best. Compared to many of our European neighbours, Malta continues to lag in offering adequate systems for childcare, parental leave, flexible work arrangements, and general family welfare. We will not stop pushing for change in this area.

Of course, while we continue advocating on critical issues, we are also looking to grow our presence and make our work even more accessible. One of our goals for the coming months is to increase attendance at our events, discussions, and celebrations. We want our initiatives to reach as many women and men as possible. To that end, we are also seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join our efforts. Whether you have a few hours a week or can assist during specific events, your help would mean the world to us. There's always something to do—from helping with communications to supporting logistics and maintaining our cherished community spaces.

The Council is its members, and the more we grow and engage with one another, the stronger our impact. This summer, as we enjoy the light and warmth that this season offers, I encourage all of you to stay connected, get involved, and share our work with those around you. Whether through volunteering, attending a seminar, or simply having conversations about the issues we raise, every action helps build momentum for a better, fairer Malta.

On behalf of the entire *NCW Council*, thank you for reading and supporting our work. Here's to a meaningful, joyful, and productive summer!

Warm regards,

Lara Gail Dougall
Editor – *Il-Mara*
National Council of Women Malta

President's Message

Dear Ladies

Summer has arrived this year with a bang or should I say with a might! The sweltering heat seemed to have put many of us in a holiday mood, lethargic and slow. We are often hearing that this is a result of climate change and so it is, as what we have been constantly reminded about, has slowly been happening- increase in temperatures, drought in certain countries and flash floods in others. And this not without devastating results, loss of life and loss of agricultural land and therefore food and migration due to this factor. We must all do our small part and think twice before putting our airconditioners at 18 degrees rather than on 22 degrees, be smarter about other energy consumption appliances and generally think about our actions. Every little helps!!

The Council has been involved in various discussions at government level about topics and concerns effecting our nation. One particular matter is the increase in drug consumption especially cannabis and its effect on the young population especially when they actually believe that it is harmless or even enhances the brain function. Another subject that is being widely discussed is euthanasia. There are those for and those against the administration of drugs as a means to terminate a life of a terminally ill person. This is not a question of religion, but in reality does life belong to us or was it a gift that we now wish to discard? . The discussion continues and government will listen to both sides and finally decide whether this can be an option or not.

Another very important subject greatly discussed but with majority in agreement, is the miscarriage leave.

All that remains now to be decided, after listening to the advice of doctors, the employers, the unions and the public in general, is what number of days will be allowed post miscarriage. NCW has fully participated in all the fora and given its opinion about this very delicate subject that up till now has been silently accepted as part of life, without consideration that the woman and even the couple need the time both physical and mental to accept the outcome.

It has indeed been a busy and actively engaging first six months of 2025. The assumption is that the diary will be quite full with meetings, seminars and conferences for the next six months. The discussions with regards to subjects here mentioned will continue together with other new ones, such as mental health, pensions, budget proposals and others. One particular factor that keeps being identified is that education and social impact must be the basis of every new law introduced.

It is now time for a break from our normal schedules at least for a short period of time while holidaying, but also the enjoyment of balmy nights having a meal or a refreshing drink with family and friends. Relaxation is a means of regenerating our bodies and minds and time spent together gives us the opportunity to catch up on personal issues.

I sign off this message by wishing you all a wonderful summer, taking care of ourselves and others and simply enjoying ourselves.



Dr Rebecca Berry Wellman
LL. B (Hons.) M. Not. St. (Melit.) M. Adv. (Melit.)
NCW President

Dolci di Mandorle for Charity



As part of its 60th Anniversary celebrations, the National Council of Women came up with the initiative, 'Dolci di Mandorle for Charity'. The charitable organisation that benefited from the proceeds collected from this initiative was the Life Network Foundation.

During our Annual General Meeting in January, we presented Ms. Christie Gellel Zammit from the Life Network Foundation with the proceeds collected from this initiative. The total sum of €1130 was much appreciated by the organisation which strives to support its mission of valuing and protecting human life. The proceeds will be specifically contributing to the project 'Dar Tghanniqa ta' Omm', and its meaningful cause of offering a safe home and essential supplies to pregnant women who are facing unplanned pregnancies and have nowhere to go.

Ms Therese Cassola, Assistant Hon. Treasurer presenting the proceeds to Ms Christie Gellel Zammit, representing the Life Network Foundation.



The 37th General Assembly of the International Council of Women in Marrakech

The National Council of Women (Malta), represented by Ms Mary Gaerty (1st Vice President), Ms Doreen Borg Zammit (Vice President) and Ms Therese Cassola (Assistant Hon. Treasurer) attended the International Council of Women and the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW) General Assembly in Marrakech, Morocco.

The 37th General Assembly of the ICW under the theme “Women’s Empowerment: Peace and Sustainable Development” was held from June 23 to 28, 2025.

Held every three years, the ICW General Assembly serves as a platform to evaluate the global progress of women, assess the work of ICW-affiliated National Councils in advancing the triennial theme, as well as set the agenda for 2025-2028. The Regional Councils convene their respective meetings, making this gathering a unique opportunity to strengthen solidarity, foster collaboration, and expand the global network of women leaders.

The hosts of the ICW 37th General Assembly were the National Union of Moroccan Women (UNFM), presided by Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem. Amina Oufroukhi, Vice President, UNFM, did the introductory speech. She is a distinguished magistrate, and she has devoted her career to the fight against human trafficking and the advancement of women’s and children’s rights. Other talks by high-ranking Moroccan Government officials followed, highlighting the Moroccan experience – progress, challenges and innovative practices for women and girls. Other days were dedicated to ICW/ECICW affairs.

International Council of Women is the mother of four Regional Councils: that of Africa, America, Asia and Europe. Malta falls under the European Regional Council which is called the European Centre of International Council of Women. Malta is an affiliated member of both ICW and ECICW. A Maltese delegate, Doreen Borg Zammit, a Board Council member of ICW, is once again re-elected.

The Union Nationale des Femmes du Maroc (UNFM) hosted this event, ensuring that participants not only engage in meaningful discussions but also experience the rich culture and undeniable charm of Morocco.

The conference provided a dynamic forum for sharing best practices in designing and implementing socio-economic policies and programs that enhance women’s empowerment, improve living standards, and drive sustainable, inclusive development.

During the General Assembly several resolutions were passed, including Open Access to Education for Girls Worldwide; Combatting all Forms of Harassment; Advancing Gender Equality and Eliminating Gender-based Violence; Promoting Equitable World Peace with Respect for Cultural and Religious Differences; for Women in Diplomacy: a Weapon for Peace; Climate Change; Empowering Women in the Age of New Technologies. These Resolutions will be passed on to each respective government. Malta suggested that important ICW press releases be published on the same day worldwide to have a positive impact.



NCW Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 25th January 2025, at the Victoria Hotel, Sliema. The National Council of Women members were welcomed by NCW President Dr Rebecca Berry Wellman.

The Annual Report was read by Hon. General Secretary Dr Daniela Cassola, and the Financial Report was read by Hon. Treasurer Iona Baldacchino.

During the Annual General Meeting, Mrs Grace Attard presented six resolutions that were adopted:

Enhancing Fiscal Transparency through Participatory Budgeting in the EU; Investing as a way to improve Gender Equality in the European Union; Equal Pay for Equal Work Between Men and Women (pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms; Artificial Intelligence - The Way Forward; New Legislation - Online Violence Against Women; Industrial Changes in the Health Sector.

Dr Aaron Zammit Apap, CEO of bBrave was invited to give a keynote speech about Bullying, to raise awareness on different forms of bullying, to facilitate assistance for individuals suffering from bullying and for the reform of individuals displaying bullying behaviour in Malta. A new Executive Committee was elected during the assembly.



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NCW Malta Opposes Euthanasia and Calls for National Commitment to Palliative Care

The National Council of Women Malta (NCW) affirms its principled opposition to the legalisation of euthanasia. The Council maintains that the deliberate ending of human life is incompatible with the ethical foundations of medicine, the protection of vulnerable persons, and the responsibilities of a compassionate society.

The debate on euthanasia is often framed around personal choice or autonomy—the belief that a competent individual should have the right to choose the time and manner of their own death. This framing is powerful, but incomplete. Autonomy does not exist in isolation. Every personal decision operates within a broader legal and social context, where the consequences extend beyond the individual. Such framing oversimplifies a complex and deeply consequential issue. True autonomy depends on the availability of alternatives. When access to high-quality palliative care is lacking, the decision to end one's life risks becoming a response to untreated pain, emotional isolation, or a sense of being a burden—not a free and informed choice. A choice made under pressure or in the absence of meaningful support is not a real choice. Human dignity is not contingent on control, and care, not killing, must remain the cornerstone of ethical healthcare.

Legalising euthanasia does not merely permit a private act. It creates a public system that facilitates and legitimises the intentional ending of life. It changes medicine, redefines care, and establishes a new societal message: that in some cases, death is preferable to life. This is not just about choice—it is about what the state should endorse, what healthcare should provide, and what values we choose to protect in common.

NCW Malta believes that law must draw a clear line between relieving suffering and eliminating the sufferer.

Compassion is not found in the administration of death, but in the refusal to abandon people when they are at their most vulnerable. Pain, fear, loneliness, and despair demand response—not with silence, not with exit—but with presence, expertise, and dignity-affirming care.

Palliative care offers a life-affirming and clinically effective approach to end-of-life suffering. It addresses physical pain, emotional distress, spiritual needs, and family support through a multidisciplinary model of care. Properly resourced palliative care enables individuals to live with dignity, comfort, and purpose until natural death. It reflects the values of solidarity, respect, and human dignity.

NCW Malta calls for a national framework that upholds these principles and prioritises:

Universal access to high-quality palliative care in hospitals, homes, and community settings

Increased investment in training healthcare professionals in pain management and end-of-life care

Emotional and practical support for caregivers and family members

Public education to empower citizens to make informed decisions about care options and advance planning

Safeguarding life—particularly when it is most fragile—is not a denial of autonomy; it is the foundation of a just and ethical society. No system should present death as a solution when care, support, and dignity can still be offered. The way we treat those who are most dependent reflects the moral integrity of our nation.

NCW Malta therefore urges lawmakers, healthcare leaders, and the wider public to reject the legalisation of euthanasia and to instead invest in care systems that affirm life, support the vulnerable, and uphold the ethical responsibility to protect.

National Volunteer Award 2024

National Council of Women Malta was invited for the Award Ceremony of the National Volunteer Award 2024. The Malta Council for Voluntary Organisations organize this event in recognition for the very valid work done by volunteers to the community.

The ceremony was held on 5th December 2024 at Double Tree by Hilton, St. Paul's Bay.

The National Council of Women Malta proudly received a certificate for its continuous commitment towards gender equality. Mrs Marie Demicoli NCW Vice President and Mrs Doris Bingley Ex-Officio Hon. General Secretary represented NCW Malta at this event.



Women and the Digital World: Closing the Confidence Gap in Digital Entrepreneurship

In a world increasingly driven by digital platforms, women are finding new ways to share their talents, start businesses, and reach customers—but many still face invisible barriers when stepping into the online space. From self-employed artisans and freelance service providers to aspiring entrepreneurs with powerful ideas, the ability to use digital tools effectively is now a prerequisite for success. Yet far too often, the confidence to engage with these tools remains the biggest hurdle.

We often hear that digital transformation is empowering, but empowerment doesn't happen in a vacuum. While technology has opened up new possibilities, women—particularly those outside tech-related fields—are still underrepresented in digital entrepreneurship. This isn't due to lack of ambition or creativity. It's frequently the result of a quiet but persistent confidence gap.

Not Just a Skills Issue: The Confidence Barrier

Digital entrepreneurship involves more than knowing how to use a device. It requires a blend of digital literacy, creativity, business planning, and public visibility. For women who have spent years working in offline roles, caring for families, or stepping in and out of the workforce, the prospect of creating and managing a digital business can feel daunting.

Some hesitate to launch an online project because they don't know where to begin with platforms like Instagram, Canva, or Shopify. Others feel unsure about pricing their work, marketing it digitally, or creating consistent content. The fear of making a mistake—or being judged—can prevent them from even trying.

This lack of digital self-confidence can isolate women from economic opportunities and creative self-expression. And it's not just older women who experience it. Many younger women, especially those who weren't exposed to digital entrepreneurship in education, also report feeling unprepared to build their presence online.

Digital Entrepreneurship Is the Future—And It's for Everyone

Digital entrepreneurship is not limited to tech startups. It includes:

- A mother creating and selling handmade gifts through a Facebook page.
- A food enthusiast developing an online recipe subscription.
- A retired teacher offering paid Zoom tutoring.
- A young woman running an Instagram account for her fitness services.

What they all have in common is using digital platforms to connect value with audience. This new wave of entrepreneurship is reshaping the economic landscape—especially for women seeking flexibility, independence, and purpose.

Why Women-Specific Training Matters

Research shows that women benefit most from learning environments designed with their needs in mind. Courses that assume a high level of prior knowledge—or rush through business models without practical application—can reinforce the very barriers they aim to break.

What's needed instead is an approach that:

- Validates women's lived experience and transferable skills.
- Provides clear, step-by-step instruction on using online platforms.
- Offers space for questions, experimentation, and peer learning.
- Builds not just skills, but belief in one's ability to succeed.

Launching Soon: Think, Learn and Succeed

To support more women in embracing digital entrepreneurship, the National Council of Women Malta will be launching a new course titled Think, Learn and Succeed later this year.

Thanks to funding received from the International Council of Women, this initiative will offer:

- Topics including business planning, content creation, digital marketing, and online safety
- A supportive learning environment
- Hands-on experience in using digital tools for self-employment or small business development

Whether you have a business idea, run a side hustle, or want to professionalise your work, this course will help you think strategically, learn the tools, and succeed confidently in the digital economy.

We are sincerely grateful to the International Council of Women for funding this initiative and helping us empower more women through education and entrepreneurship.

More details will be announced soon via www.ncwmalta.com and our social media channels.

For enquiries, please email info@ncwmalta.com

Dr Daniela Cassola
Honorary General Secretary

Empowering Students with Life Skills for a Thriving Future

As part of our ongoing commitment to youth development, our dedicated Assistant General Secretary, Ms Tiziana Gatt, who is representing the National Council of Women on the Sustainable Development Network Committee, is leading an initiative aimed at equipping university students with vital life skills that extend beyond academic learning. This comprehensive programme blends theoretical foundations with practical experience across areas such as financial literacy, career planning, digital safety, mental wellbeing, civic participation, sustainability, and everyday household management. By addressing the real-world challenges students face during and after university, the programme fosters independence, resilience, and informed decision-making—ensuring our youth are better prepared to thrive in all aspects of life.

Tiziana Gatt
Assistant Secretary

International Women's Day

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2025, the National Council of Women, in conjunction with its affiliated organisations, organised a special Mass celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Savio Hon Tai Fai and Fr Antoine Farrugia SDB in celebration of all Mothers, the first and most important woman in our lives.

The mass was held on Sunday 9th March 2025 at St Patrick's Church, Sliema. It was well attended and the NCW welcomed special guests Mrs Anne Marie Grech (at the time - wife of the leader of the Opposition and Nationalist Party), Hon. Graziella Attard Previ MP, as well as members of the Malta Armed forces, and Police force. Mass was followed by a reception held in the Church's reception hall.

A special thank you goes to H.E. the Apostolic Nuncio for honouring us with his presence and support; Rev. Fr. Antoine Farrugia SDB and the Salesians at St. Patrick's Church, Sliema, for welcoming us so graciously and celebrating this occasion with us; Sherries Estates for their generous donation of a beautiful plant and Mrs Mary Garty's fruit basket as part of our offering during Mass. A heartfelt thank you goes to Hair & Beauty Tech, Attard, for their thoughtful donation of pampering packages, a token offered to all women in attendance on the day, adding an extra touch of care and well-being to the celebration. Final thanks go to Nicholas Cauchi, for capturing the event so beautifully through his photography.

Wishing all women continued strength, joy, and empowerment always!



NCW Malta 60th Anniversary

On Friday 22nd November 2024, the National Council of Women held a special event at the AX Capua Palace Hotel in Sliema, where it welcomed dignitaries and guests in celebration of the NGO's 60th Anniversary.

In her address, NCW Malta's President Dr Rebecca Berry Wellman listed some of the Council's key achievements, "eliminating discrimination, improving pensions for widows and orphans, increasing women's representation on government boards, advocating for equal pay, securing citizenship rights for married women, and supporting the employment of married women, all driving significant progress in gender equality."

At this special event, NCW Malta celebrated its history by remembering its founder members who had the vision and the ethos to act as a pressure group on government policy and improve the quality of life for all, especially women.

NCW Malta launched a new website and hopes to have a strong presence online for the benefit of both our international and national stakeholders, as well as to inspire young people to embrace the importance of gender equality. They urged users to visit the new website: <https://ncwmalta.com>

The event was attended by the European Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli, Dr Lydia Abela, Ms Anne Marie Grech, the Honourable Graziella Galea, Ambassadors and Distinguished guests, as well as colleagues from affiliated organisations. Finally, NCW Malta thanked sponsors who helped with this event which included Confetti Crew, Sherries Estate, and Rita Schembri Florist and décor.

The revamp of the logo and website has been funded through the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPS) managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) supported by the Ministry for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (MIV)



Your Voice Matters: Help Shape the Future of NCW

At the National Council of Women, we know that our greatest strength lies in the richness of our members' experiences, ideas, and perspectives. Whether you've been involved for decades or just joined recently, your voice has power—and we want to hear it.

As we continue our work to support, advocate for, and empower women in Malta, we believe this is the right moment to pause, reflect, and ask:

- What matters most to you as a woman in today's world?
- What do you believe NCW should stand for in the coming years?
- How can we do more to include, inspire, and respond to the needs of our members?

These questions are not rhetorical—they are an invitation.

Let's Co-Create the Way Forward

NCW has long been a platform for education, advocacy, and dialogue. But we also know that our membership is wonderfully diverse, with women from different generations, sectors, localities, and backgrounds.

We want to better reflect that diversity in our plans and priorities. Whether you're passionate about climate action, early childhood education, domestic violence prevention, digital inclusion, women in leadership, or simply improving everyday life for our families—your input counts.

We're inviting you to:

- Share your opinions and ideas on topics you care about
- Send in a short reflection, poem, or article for the newsletter
- Recommend a woman you admire who deserves to be profiled
- Let us know what activities, talks, or initiatives you'd like to see next

- Offer your time or expertise in volunteering, mentoring, or leading a project

How to Contribute

You don't need to write a full article or have formal experience—just speak from the heart. You might want to:

- Respond to a single question like “What does equality mean to you?”
- Send in your thoughts on an issue like digital safety, women's health, or work-life balance
- Tell us how NCW has supported you—or how it could support others more effectively

Submissions can be as short as 100 words or as long as 800, and you can write in English or Maltese. If you'd prefer to contribute by audio or video, let us know—we'd love to explore new formats to share via social media platforms.

Because Representation Begins With Listening

As we plan upcoming newsletters, events, and campaigns, your contributions will help us stay grounded in real issues, real lives, and real voices.

This isn't just a request—it's a recognition. NCW is not just its committee or its projects. NCW is all of us.

✉ Please send your contributions, suggestions, or expressions of interest to info@ncwmalta.com

📅 Deadline for the next newsletter edition: [Monday 3rd November]

We can't wait to hear from you.

Let's build the future of NCW—together.

Dr Daniela Cassola
Honorary General Secretary

NCW Certificate Giving Ceremony

On 31st March 2025 NCW organized a Certificate Giving Ceremony for the students who attended the Basic Maltese for Foreigners and the Food Handling courses. The event was held at The Victoria Hotel, Sliema. Following the presentation of the certificates, a buffet lunch was organized.

NCW has been organising these courses for the past few years. The Basic Maltese Course for Foreigners was led by Ms Sandra Degiorgio, who volunteers as a Maltese teacher. It focused on grammar and conversation and was extremely popular with foreigners living in Malta.

The very popular Food Handling Course, which is recognised by the Food Safety Commission, led by Tutor Mr Joseph Cassar, focused on food safety and hazards, allergies and intolerances, among others.

Ms Mary Ann Simon, NCW member



Flimkien naħdmu biex negħlbu d-diskrepanza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi (*gender pay gap*)

General Workers' Union

Mis-sena d-dieħla, permezz ta' ftehim milhuq fost il-pajjiżi fl-Unjoni Ewropea se tidhol fis-seħħ id-Direttiva dwar it-Trasparenza tal-Pagi, indikatur importanti rigward l-ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi.

It-Taqsima Gvern, Entitajiet Pubbliċi u Saħħa fi ħdan il-General Workers' Union tagħmel parti minn proġett bl-isem "Mind the Gap – joint actions of workers' organizations for bridging the gender pay gap (GPG)". Inizjattiva ffinanzjata mill-Unjoni Ewropea mmexxija mill-General Workers' Union u li tghaqqad 11-il organizzazzjoni madwar 10 pajjiżi.

Dan il-proġett importanti qiegħed jiffoka fuq id-differenza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi madwar l-Ewropa, kemm fil-pajjiżi membri tal-UE kif ukoll fil-pajjiżi kandidati. Mind the GAP huwa ffukat fuq diversi għanijiet ewlenin.

Dawn jinkludu: aktar kooperazzjoni bejn il-pajjiżi parteċipanti fil-monitoraġġ tat-traspożizzjoni tad-direttiva tal-UE dwar it-trasparenza tal-pagi, titjib u żvilupp permezz ta' taħriġ online u offline għall-aħjar użu tan-negozjar kollettiv mill-organizzazzjonijiet tal-ħaddiema, titjib fil-kontribut tal-organizzazzjonijiet tal-ħaddiema għat-tfassil tal-politika tal-UE (rakkomandazzjonijiet ibbażati fuq ix-xogħlijiet ta' timijiet ta' monitoraġġ, esperti u rappreżentanti tal-ħaddiema), implimentazzjoni aktar effettiva tal-organizzazzjonijiet tal-UE bħala rappreżentanti. Finalment it-tishih tal-kooperazzjoni tal-organizzazzjonijiet tal-ħaddiema biex jiġu żviluppati l-passi li jmiss u r-rakkomandazzjonijiet biex titnaqqas id-differenza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi.

F'pajjiżna thejja dokument ta' riċerka minn Dr Yana Mintoff u Dr Mary Grace Vella. F'dan id-dokument wieħed isib informazzjoni dwar is-sitwazzjoni preżenti fostna permezz ta' riżultati minn statistiċi, focus groups u intervisti ma' diversi stakeholders, biex tissaħħaħ din id-Direttiva.

Min jixtieq jaċċessa s-sejbiet jista' jidhol fuq: <https://gwu.org/mt/en/mind-the-gap/>

Matul il-laqgħat li saru fil-binja tal-GWU, il-partiċipanti ddiskutew id-diskrepanza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi f'Malta, il-leġislażzjoni Maltija, il-metodoloġija, ir-riċerki u rakkomandazzjonijiet li haġġu.

"Mir-riżultati tar-riċerki li għamilna sibna li aktar ma qed jidhlu nisa fid-dinja tax-xogħol, u għalhekk inqas qed ikun hawn nies qiegħda, madankollu d-diskrepanza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi qed tiżdied. Minkejja li l-liġi Maltija tipprojbixxi li jkun hawn diskrepanza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi," qalet Dr Yana Mintoff.

"Permezz tar-riċerki smajna diversi esperjenzi, rakkomandazzjonijiet, ngħatajna aktar informazzjoni, smajna liema setturi għandhom l-ogħla jew l-inqas rata ta' diskrepanzi, il-vantaġġi li jista' jkun hemm meta tkun implimentata id-Direttiva u/jew l-isfidi/żvantaġġi f'pajjiżna," ziedet tghid Dr Mary Grace Vella.

Spjegat li mir-riżultati jidher fiċ-ċar li hemm problema strutturali. Qalet li forsi fuq il-karti jkun hemm immiżżel li n-nisa fuq il-post tax-xogħol qiegħdin jaqilgħu daqs l-irġiel iżda ġieli jkun hemm id-diskrepanzi minhabba kawżi sottostanti bħal kuntratti personali, leave tal-maternità, nuqqas ta' team work u fastidju sesswali. Kif ukoll minhabba attitudnijiet patrijarkali u sterjotipi tas-sessi. Dawn id-diskrepanzi jkunu diffiċli biex wieħed jikkwantifikahom jew jiġġildilhom fuq bażi legali, minkejja li jkunu qiegħdin hemm.

Mir-riċerki li saru nstab li f'Malta fl-2022 id-diskrepanza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi kienet dik ta' 10.2%, kienet tvarja fost setturi differenti pero kienet l-ogħla fis-settur finanzjarju u fir-real estate bi 24.1%.

"Sikkina taqta' minn żewġ naħat hekk kif dak li hu hażin għan-nisa huwa wkoll hażin għall-bqija tal-ħaddiema, hekk kif jimpatta l-kundizzjonijiet tax-xogħol għal kulhadd," qalet Dr Mintoff.

Għalhekk ġie rakkomandat li ssir aktar riċerka, tingħata definizzjoni aktar dettaljata, jiġu indirizzati l-kawżi sottostanti kawżati minn diversi fatturi, jiġi introdott minimum living income, jiżdied l-investment fil-benefiċċi soċjali u protezzjoni kif ukoll miżuri edukattivi u aktar inċentivi. Kif ukoll jiġu indirizzati r-realtajiet nazzjonali hekk kif id-Direttiva jrid ikollha għarfien ta' realtjiet speċifiċi fl-Istati Membri.

Ingħad li għandu jkun hemm bidla fl-attitudnijiet patrijarkali, approċċ ibbażat fuq id-dritt għall-impjieg, rabta bejn ix-xogħol u l-hajja personali, nikkumbattu s-segregazzjoni bejn is-sessi fl-edukazzjoni u s-suq tax-xogħol, prattiki organizzattivi aktar trasparenti u responsabbli u aktar monitoraġġ u infurzar tal-prinċipju ta' paga indaqs għall-istess xogħol u xogħol tal-istess valur.

Jehtieg ukoll li jkun hemm aktar kollaborazzjoni u networking bejn entitajiet nazzjonali biex jindirizzaw id-diskrepanzi u jaħdmu flimkien għad-drittijiet tal-ħaddiema. Ġie rakkomandat ukoll, kif ilha tishaq proprju l-GWU li kull haddiem jingħaqad fi trejd unjin tal-għażla tiegħu biex ikollu protezzjoni b'saħħitha. Kif ukoll li jinholoq Pay Transparency Unit li jaħdem fuq l-implimentazzjoni ta' din id-Direttiva.

Il-partiċipanti qablu li permezz ta' għaqda bejn in-nisa fuq il-postijiet tax-xogħol, haddiema li jinkludu dawk femminili jagħmlu parti mill-Pay Transparency Directive Unit, azzjonijiet kongunti, diskussjonijiet, focus groups u training, negozjar kollettiv u assessor kollettiv dwar il-GPG fost oħrajn, ikollna anqas diskrepanza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi u aktar ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi.

Huwa importanti li tingħeleb id-diskrepanza fil-pagi bejn is-sessi. Minbarra li din hija indikatur importanti ta' ugwaljanza, tffisser ukoll investment fil-benessere tal-poplu fejn tidhol is-saħħa, housing, is-soċjal kif ukoll l-edukazzjoni. FL-aħħar mill-aħħar għall-ġid tal-ekonomija globali.

Ms Riccarda Darmanin, GWU Representative

Appointment of New Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey has been appointed the 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. She is the first woman from Africa to hold this office. Hon. Shirley Botchwey was appointed to this role at CHOGM 2024 held in Apia, Samoa in October 2024. She assumed office on 1st April 2025.



Commonwealth Secretary-General marks 80th anniversary of VE Day

The Commonwealth Secretary-General paid tribute to the sacrifice and service of the people of the Commonwealth during the Second World War at the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

In a service broadcast around the world from Westminster Abbey in London the Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey delivered a prayer which honoured the courage and bravery of Commonwealth countries and the significant role they played in defeating fascism in Europe.

More than 2,000 people attended the service at the Abbey, including the Head of the Commonwealth, His Majesty King Charles III, surviving veterans of the Second World War, and dignitaries from around the world.

In her prayer, Secretary-General Botchwey said:

“We give thanks for all nations who shared with us the trials of war in the pursuit of peace; for the grace of reconciliation and friendship between former enemies.

“Let us pray for the Commonwealth, and all our allies and partners today; for unity in diversity; for the healing and flourishing of all.”

During the Second World War, approximately six million men and women from across the Commonwealth served alongside British forces. More than five million originated from the British

Isles, with 1,440,500 from India, 629,000 from Canada, 413,000 from Australia, 136,000 from South Africa, 128,500 from New Zealand, and more than 134,000 from other Commonwealth countries.

An estimated 580,000 Commonwealth soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the conflict.

Their legacy lives on in the Commonwealth’s shared commitment to uphold these values for future generations.

While VE Day on 8 May 1945 signalled the end of the war in Europe, many troops from across the Commonwealth continued fighting in the Far East and the Pacific.

The Fourteenth Army, Britain and the Commonwealth’s principal fighting force in these regions, remains one of the most diverse in history, with soldiers speaking over 40 languages and representing all major world religions. Today, the descendants of these veterans are an integral part of communities across the UK, reflecting the lasting legacy of their sacrifice and camaraderie.

Their legacy was remembered at the Memorial Gates ceremony on Commonwealth Day on 10 March this year.

These articles were contributed to NCW Malta by the Commonwealth Women’s Network.



CSW69 in New York

The 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) was held between March 10 to 21, 2025, under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia. Held annually at the United Nations headquarters in New York, this session marked the 30th anniversary of the 1995 World Conference on Women (“Beijing +30”). With five years remaining until the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals deadline, the international community convened this year to conduct “an assessment of current challenges affecting the implementation of the Platform of Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.”

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the world’s leading intergovernmental body and the largest annual gathering dedicated exclusively to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

It was established in 1946 by a resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its secretariat is provided by UN Women, the United Nations agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The main objective of the CSW is to promote gender equality and empower women. To this end, it reviews progress made, identifies challenges to be met, and draws up policy recommendations on women’s rights in general. The CSW is a unique opportunity for representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, international organizations, and worldwide representatives of civil society to meet and exchange.

This year, as is the case every five years, the CSW adopted two documents: a political declaration on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, thirty years after its adoption, and a multi-year programme of work that will determine the themes for the next four CSW sessions.

Based on this multi-year programme of work, Member States adopt agreed conclusions on an annual theme targeting a specific priority, outlining their common positions and recommendations on the annual theme, and more broadly on gender equality issues. These conclusions are intended to encourage governments, intergovernmental bodies, civil society, and other stakeholders to take action to promote and uphold women’s rights.



Appreciations

The National Council of Women would like to express deep sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of NCW members Dr Mercedes Schembri Wismayer and Ms Agnes Mellilo, who passed away earlier this year.

Dr Mercedes Schembri Wismayer

Dr Mercedes Schembri Wismayer was an exemplary wife, mother, doctor and an active member of the National Council of Women Malta.

NCW was fortunate to have Dr. Mercedes Schembri Wismayer on the Executive Committee for many years, holding various roles. She was President of NCW from January 1998 to January 2000.

Mercedes chaired the Health Committee and organised many conferences and seminars to promote sexual education. She also co-authored a book entitled, "Lejn Maturita Sesswali".

She lobbied for free cervical cancer vaccination to all young girls aged between twelve and sixteen years. She worked endlessly towards sustainable educational and preventive measures against the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

She also organised and chaired a seminar on Women and Cancer. Her belief was in the need to improve the quality of life by preventive measures to reduce the risk of cancer, the importance of a healthy lifestyle and most important the need for the correct information that every woman should receive about their health issues.

Dr Mercedes Schembri Wismayer with her gentle demeanor achieved significant results in her role as President of the National Council of Women Malta. She was a remarkable doctor and a mother, who dedicated quality time to her family and her loved ones. She upheld Christian values that were so close to her heart. To her husband Roy and her loving family, we at the National Council of Women send our deepest sympathy. Mercedes will remain an icon in our memory as her advocacy in health education for Women and girls has brought health issues to the forefront of public consciousness.



Mrs Agnes Mellilo

Agnes Mellilo, who went to meet the Risen Lord on 15th May 2025 was a life member of the National Council of Women Malta. She was a banker by profession but also the National Council of Women treasurer for a number of years

Agnes was part of the team, when Jane Spiteri had the brilliant idea that the National Council of Women needed a new premises and that the organisation should buy their own premises and it should be used as a Centre and an educational hub for women. It was a time, when the majority of women had to renounce to their job and became full time housewives as men were considered head of the family and the breadwinner. Women had few rights, if not none at all. Times were changing and the National Council of Women was playing a major role to empowering women to continue their education and to embrace equality.

It was indeed a very risky move that the organisation should buy its own premises with the support, the determination and foresight of the members especially Agnes Mellilo, who was then treasurer, the dream came through. Enough funds were collected and NCW was the proud owner of its own premises situated at an excellent location, easily reached by members, friends and anyone, who seek NCW'S services.

Agnes Mellilo was a very meticulous person, she kept NCW accounts impeccable. Her unwavering dedication and her loyalty to the National Council of Women will never be forgotten, she attended NCW's Annual General Meeting last January. We will forever remember her passion, her kindness and her dedication for voluntary work whether it was at NCW, the floral Club or her local parish. Rest in peace dear Agnes- you will always remain an inspiration to us and especially to your dear daughters, your son and all your family and friends.

Marie Demicoli - NCW Past Vice President



Europa Donna Malta Walk for Hope

In April 2025, Europa Donna Malta brought people together once again for the annual Walk for Hope - a heartfelt event dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer and reminding everyone of the importance of early detection. This year's walk took place on Sunday, 27 April, with participants setting off from Zonqor Point in Marsaskala and making their way to St Thomas Bay under clear skies and a strong sense of unity.

The Walk for Hope is more than just a fundraiser or awareness campaign - it's a celebration of strength, resilience, and community. Survivors, families, healthcare workers, and supporters of all ages walked side by side, each step filled with purpose. Whether walking in honor of a loved one, in support of someone currently battling breast cancer, or simply to raise awareness, everyone was there with a shared message: you are not alone. Europa Donna Malta works year-round to shine a light on breast cancer awareness, and events like this keep the conversation going beyond October. The walk offered a space not only for connection but also for education, with information shared about breast health, screening, and support services available across the island.



This moving event reminds us all how powerful a community can be when it comes together for a cause. By walking in hope, we walk toward a future where more people catch breast cancer early - and more lives are saved.

To learn more, get involved, or find support, visit Europa Donna Malta Facebook Every step counts. For more information, please contact: info@europadonnamalta.org.mt or call on 99994666/99330330.



L-effett tal-AI fuq is-suq tax-xogħol

Il-GWU thegħeg li din it-trasformazzjoni digitali tkun waħda inklussiva u ċentrata fuq il-bniedem

Riccarda Darmanin, Segretarju tat-Taqsima Professionisti, Finanzi u Servizzi fi hdan il-General Workers' Union, ipparteċipat f'diskussjoni mtella' minn The Malta Chamber, General Workers' Union u l-Malta Business Bureau, li ffokat fuq "L-effett tal-AI fuq is-suq tax-xogħol." Dan l-avveniment jifforma parti mit-tieni fażi tal-proġett TransFormWork II "Imsieħba Soċjali Flimkien għal Immanigġjar Aħjar u Aktar Effettiv tal-Intelliġenza Artifiċjali għal Tranżizzjoni Ġusta għall-Futur tax-Xogħol".

L-inizjattiva TransFormWork II hija mmexxija mill-KNSB – Konfederazzjoni tat-Trade Unions Indipendenti fil-Bulgarija u hija ffinanzjata mill-Kummissjoni Ewropea. Il-proġett għandu l-għan li jappoġġa lill-imsieħba soċjali madwar l-Ewropa fl-isfidi u l-opportunitajiet ipprezentati mill-AI, u jiżgura tranżizzjoni ġusta u inklussiva għall-futur tax-xogħol.

Hekk kif l-intelliġenza artifiċjali qed tkompli tfassal mill-ġdid l-industriji u tiddefinixxi mill-ġdid id-dinja tax-xogħol, il-proġett Transformwork2, immexxi minn konsultazzjoni estensiva tal-membri, żvela qasma dejjem tikber fil-kapaċitajiet tal-haddiem li jimpenjaw ruħhom għal din it-trasformazzjoni.

Filwaqt li hafna impjegati integraw b'suċċess l-ghodod tal-AI fil-hidma tagħhom ta' kuljum, u saħħew il-produttività, issimplifikaw l-operazzjonijiet, u holqu opportunitajiet li qabel ma kinux jeżistu, oħrajn għadhom incerti jew maqtugħin minn dawn l-avvanzi. Xi wħud mhumiex ċerti kif l-AI se tiġi applikata fil-post tax-xogħol tagħhom, filwaqt li oħrajn qed jiffaċċjaw sfidi biex jadattaw għal sistemi godda, huma mħassbin dwar is-sigurtà tax-xogħol tagħhom, jew qed isibuha diffiċli biex jagħmlu tranżizzjoni mill-metodi tradizzjonali li mdorrijin bihom.

"Din il-qasma digitali tippreżenta sfida li rridu nitrattaw b'urġenza," qalet is-Segretarju Riccarda Darmanin. "Irridu niżguraw li l-benefiċċji tal-AI huma maqsuma b'mod ekwu fis-setturi kollha tax-xogħol. Huwa importanti li mhux biss inħaddnu l-innovazzjoni, iżda ma rridu nħallu lil hadd jaqa' lura fil-process."

Il-GWU qed tenfasizza l-hteġa għal integrazzjoni inklussiva u ċentrata fuq il-bniedem fejn tidhol l-AI. Fost l-istrategiji enfasizzati hemm inizjattivi ta' upskilling u reskilling biex il-haddiema jitgħallmu l-hiliet digitali u tekniċi, tfassil mill-ġdid tar-rwoli tax-xogħol biex jinkorporaw l-AI b'mod li jżidu aktar milli jnaqqsu l-haddiema. Tippetromwovi wkoll il-kollaborazzjoni bejn il-bniedem u l-AI u thegħeg it-tranżizzjoni għal rwoli godda relatati.

Huwa vitali li jiġi stabbilit qafas etiku ta' governanza tal-AI li jagħtu prijorità lill-benesseri tal-haddiema u jibnu l-fiducia permezz tat-trasparenza u l-involvement tal-haddiema b'mod attiv fid-deċizzjonijiet tal-integrazzjoni tal-AI biex titnaqqas l-incertezza u titrawwem l-inkluzjoni.

"L-AI mhix theddida, hija għodda," ziedet tgħid. "Izda kif nagħzlu li nimplimentawha se tiddetermina jekk taqsamx jew tgħaqqadx il-haddiema tagħna. Huwa għalhekk li qed insejhu lil min iħaddem, lil dawk li jfasslu l-politika, u lill-iżviluppaturi tat-teknoloġija biex iżommu f'moħħhom li l-haddiema jiġu fl-ewwel post."

Il-GWU se tkompli taħdem ma' min iħaddem biex tinkorpora strategiji ta' taħriġ u sigurtà tax-xogħol fil-Ftehim Kollettivi, tiżgura li l-haddiema jkunu ppreparati għas-suq tax-xogħol li qed jevolvi u titnaqqas id-dipendenza fuq ħiliet importati.

Hekk kif il-futur tax-xogħol huwa mfassal mid-deċizzjonijiet tal-lum, il-GWU thegħeg lill-partijiet interessati kollha biex jikkollaboraw biex joħolqu postijiet tax-xogħol fejn it-teknoloġija ssahħaħ, mhux tissostitwixxi, il-potenzjal uman.

"Ejja nibnu pontijiet, mhux ostakli. Ejja niżguraw li l-AI taħdem għal kulhadd," temmet tgħid Riccarda Darmanin.

Riccarda Darmanin, GWU Affiliated Representative



The 15th Edition of the Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition

The Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition Committee and the National Council of Women would like to announce the 15th edition of the Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition. The competition features two instrumental sections: the Pianoforte section and the Strings section. There will be two categories in each section, namely the Budding Performers Category for participants under the age of 16, and the Senior Category for participants under the age of 25. The preliminary session will be held on 11th October, while the final session will be held on the 18th October 2025, at Sala Isouard, Manoel Theatre, Valletta.



Jane Spiteri mfakkra f'Lejla Letterarja f'kollaborazzjoni mal-Kunsill tal-Ħamrun

Zewġ generazzjonijiet mit-twaqqif tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa, hekk kif il-Kunsill qed jifakkra is-sittin anniversarju mit-twaqqif tiegħu hija haġa ferm xierqa li n-nisa tal-lum isiru jafu aktar mill-qrib il-pijunieri li għamlu possibli, lill-mara Maltija, li illum infexxha tant bibien li għal tant żmien kienu magħluqin għalihom. Fost dawn żgur li tibqa' tissemma Jane Spiteri, li tant hadmet biex permezz tal-Kunsill dawn il-bibien setgħu jinfexxu.

Jane Spiteri twieldet l-Amerika fl-1922. Missierha u ommha kienu t-tnejn Maltin u ġew lura Malta fis-snin tletin. Fil-1943 hija dahlet bħala għalliema mad-Dipartiment ta' l-Edukazzjoni f'Malta u hames snin wara laqgħet Kap ta' l-iskola u baqgħet isservi f'dan il-grad għal għaxar snin. Għalkemm ma baqgħetx fl-iskejjel l-interess tagħha fl-edukazzjoni baqa' dejjem magħha, għax kienet temmen li permezz ta' edukazzjoni fis-sens l-aktar wiesgħa tagħha, pajjizna seta jgħanna.

Jane kellha nteress ieħor li forsi kien aktar qawwi minn dan: l-interess soċjali. Fil-fatt bejn il-1958 u l-1959 waqt li kienet l-Ingilterra fuq kors ta' għalliema fl-Universita ta' Birmingham hija għamlet ukoll kors ta' *probation officer* f'Londra u kors intensiv fix-xogħol soċjali. Meta għet lura Malta kienet strumentali biex jitwaqqaf id-Dipartiment tas-Servizzi soċjali u fil-1958 hija għet appuntata bħala *welfare officer* fi hdan u hames snin wara laqgħet bħala Welfare Officer Ewlenija għal familja.

Dak iż-żmien il-qagħda tal-mara f'pajjizna ma tantx kien felici. Tista' tgħid f'kull qasam tal-ħajja x-xejra kienet għal kollox patrijarkali fejn il-mara kellha f'it jew xejn drittijiet: dawn kienu kollha f'idejn ir-raġel jekk kienet mizzewġa jew f'idejn il-missier jekk ma kenitx. Għalhekk hija meta f'Jannar tal-1944 twaqqfet l-ewwel Assoċjazzjoni biex taħdem favur id-drittijiet tan-nisa mill-ewwel ingħaqdet magħha. Ma tantx kellha suċċessi kbar din l-Għaqda, forsi wiehed mill-aktar importanti kien li fil-1947 għall-ewwel darba in-nisa Maltin ivvutaw fl-elezzjoni tal-Gvern.

Izda żgur li bdiet tqajjem kuxjenza fuq dak li kellu isir. Imbagħad meta fil-1964 Malta hadet l-Indipendenza hi flimkien ma' grupp żgħir ta' nisa waqqfet il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa li tiegħu servit bħala President u għal żmien twil bħala Segretarja. Baqgħet dejjem fuq il-Bord Ezekuttiv u anke meta ma kellha ebda kariga uffiċjali kienet *d-driving force* fil-Kunsill sa l-aħħar ta' hajjitha. Kellha mohħ penetranti u d-dehen li tiġbed lejn il-Kunsill l-aħjar nisa tal-ġurnata, u kienet tispiralhom l-istess entużajzmu tagħha għall-Kunsill u l-għanijiet tiegħu. Fil-fatt spiss konna niċċajjaw magħha u nsejnhulha "*the king maker*".

B'Jane fl-Ezekuttiv ma kien hemm ebda ċans li l-Kunsill jinqata' minn dak li kien ikun għaddej f'pajjizna u l-hidma tal-Kunsill tul dawn l-aħħar sittin sena kellu nfluwenza kbira mhux biss fuq il-qagħda tal-mara iżda tista' tgħid f'kull ferġha tal-ħajja – politika, reliġjuza, kulturali, medika, soċjali eċċ.

"*Pijuniera fil-hidma favur l-avvanz tal-mara u l-hidma soċjali f'pajjizna*"; "*battle-axe*"; "*tenaci u energetica*"; "*it-tmiem ta' era meta nisa li kellhom spirtu publiku għamlu għażla bejn li jiddedikaw rwiehom biex jaqdu lill-ohrajn fuq li jkollhom familja*"; "*mudell li fi żmien meta kienet kważi anatema li xbejba tħares lejha nnifisha bħala ċittadina sħiħa bl-istess responsabilitajiet u drittijiet soċjali u politici u nazzjonali ta' l-irġiel*"; "*manjiera bruska li kienet taħbi qalb ta' omm u hanina*"; "*Is-soċjeta in generali u speċjalment in-nisa Maltin għandhom hafna għalxiex jizzu hajr lil Jane Spiteri*".

Dawn kienu xi f'it mill-kummenti li dehru fil-media meta mietet fil-2008 fl-eta ta' 86 u bla ebda dubju kienu kollha misthoqqa.

Jiena sirt naf lil Jane fil-1985. Ma kienx seta' jonqos li nkun smajt biha iżda qatt ma kont l-tqajm magħha. Dak inhar inżertajna konna hdejn xulxin fil-knisja ta' San Pawl il-Belt waqt il-funeral ta' Bice Mizzi, mart Nerik Mizzi.

Meta s-sid tal-post li l-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa kien jikri l-Belt bħala *headquarters* ried ikeċċina Jane mill-ewwel qalet: "Kollox sew nixtru post li jkun tagħna." "Imma Jane dan kif nistgħu nagħmluh? Fondi m'għandnix.", konna għednilha. "Tibżax il-fondi nsibuhom", wegħbitna. U l-fondi nstabu u saħansitra wara xi snin il-post tkabbar bix-xiri ta'appartament ieħor li kien imiss miegħu u li illum qed iservi għal hafna skopijiet mhux biss tal-Kunsill, iżda wkoll bħala ċentru edukattiv. L-entuzajzmu tagħha kien iġorr warajh lil kulhadd. Kienet persważiva wkoll ma' dawk li forsi kien jibqgħalhom xi dubji. U niehu pjaċir nara li dan l-istess spirtu għadu jirrenja fil-Kunsill illum.

Il-Kunsill għaraf il-kontribut tagħha lejha meta fil-2002 għet nominata President Onorarju tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa għal kontribut li ma qata' qatt tul it-38 sena minn mindu twaqqaf, unur li tul is-sittin sena kemm ilu mwaqqaf il-Kunsill ngħata biss lil erba' nisa oħra.

Id-dinja ta' Jane kienet waħda mill-aktar wesgħin. Barra mill-hidma tagħha fi hdan il-Kunsill isimha jibqa' marbut ma hafna mill-izvilupp soċjali li sar mill-Indipendenza l-hawn. Il-Gvern irrikonoxxa dan il-fatt fil-1992 meta għet maħtura membru ta' l-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Mertu.

U għalhekk huwa ferm xieraq li illum qegħdin infakkruha, fil-preżenza tas-sindku, hawnhekk fil-Ħamrun fejn hija għexet u hadmet tista' tgħid hajjitha kollha u fejn qattgħet tant hin taħdem fi hdan il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa u isimha se jsib postu fuq plakka fi triq hawnhekk fil-Ħamrun.



Cecilia Xuereb
NCW Hon. Life Member

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NCW End of Summer Quiz Night

Our popular End of Summer Quiz Night will be held on **Friday 19th September**. More information about this event and how to join us will be published shortly!



Think, Learn and Succeed – a short Digital Entrepreneurship Course starting in September

NCW in collaboration with ICW will be organising a 40hour training programme on entrepreneurship skills. **The course will be offered for free.** Sessions will be held in the evenings between September and December, at the NCW Learning Centre.

The course will cover the following areas:

- Planning your business
- ICT and online security
- Promoting your business online – digital marketing
- Creating digital content
- E-Commerce

For more information please email info@ncwmalta.com or call on 21248881 / 21246982.



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:** €32 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
- Allergens and intolerances
- Legal requirements
- Pre requisite program- pest control, personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitation, temperature control, etc.
- The HACCP system
- Other related topics



The cost of the course includes **registration with the Food Safety Commission, Tuition and License to work in the food industry.** For further information you may call on 21248881/21246982 or email: info@ncwmalta.com. Payment must be affected in advance either in cash, by cheque or via Revolut on 79709727.



Courses at NCW in collaboration with the Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Employability

The following courses will be held at NCW Centre starting in October:

- Digital Skills: Learn to use online services and online shopping
Starting Tuesday 7th October – 09:00am – 11:30am
- Health, Wellbeing and Successful Aging MQF Level 1
Starting Wednesday 1st October – 09:00am – 12:00pm
- Maths SEC Level
Starting Tuesday 7th October - 09:00am - 12:00pm
- English MQF1
Starting Monday 6th October - 09:00am - 12:00pm

When choosing a course, please select NCW as the Learning Centre so as to support the Council.

For bookings and further information kindly phone on 21248881 / 21246982 or email info@ncwmalta.com