



Resolutions

NCW Annual General Meeting

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National Council of Women

Affiliated to the International Council of Women

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Resolution 1: Combatting All Forms of Harassment

Preamble

Considering that harassment, in all its forms, constitutes a violation of human rights and an obstacle to personal fulfilment and social participation;

Recognising that online harassment, facilitated by the use of digital technologies, has devastating effects on the mental and physical health of individuals, in particular young people and vulnerable groups;

Noting the urgent need to adopt coordinated measures to prevent and combat all forms of harassment, including physical, psychological, verbal and online harassment, while respecting fundamental rights, including freedom of expression;

The National Council of Women Malta, in adopting this resolution, calls on all relevant stakeholders to:

- Urge the strengthening of existing legislation and regulations, or the adoption of new measures, to prevent and sanction harassment (including online harassment), with specific provisions for the protection of children and young women;
- Advocate for educational programmes and awareness-raising campaigns in schools, communities and online to inform the public about the consequences of harassment and to promote respectful and caring behaviour;
- Develop and strengthen support services for victims of harassment, including helplines, online reporting platforms, and psychological support services;
- Call on technology companies, social networks and online platforms to assume responsibility for preventing and combatting online harassment, including by implementing clear anti-harassment policies, improving content moderation tools, and cooperating with relevant authorities;

- Promote international cooperation to address cross-border challenges of online harassment, encouraging exchange of best practice, joint research, and coordination of legislative and regulatory efforts;
- Advocate for national and international mechanisms to monitor and evaluate anti-harassment initiatives, to measure effectiveness and propose improvements;
- Invite governments, international organisations, civil society, the private sector and individuals to engage actively in the fight against harassment, both online and offline, to create a safe and respectful environment for all.



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Resolution 2: Promoting Equitable World Peace with Respect for Cultural and Religious Differences

Preamble

Recognising that world peace is a fundamental objective of the United Nations and an essential condition for the well-being and development of humanity;

Considering that cultural and religious diversity is an asset for humanity and must be respected and protected;

Acknowledging the existing tensions and conflicts that often arise from intolerance, discrimination and the lack of intercultural and interreligious dialogue;

Convinced that sustainable peace is based on respect for human rights, inclusion, equity and social justice;

The National Council of Women Malta, in adopting this resolution, calls on all relevant stakeholders to:

- Promote intercultural and inter-religious dialogue at all levels of society to strengthen mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for differences;
- Recommend the integration of education for peace, human rights and diversity into school and university curricula, including training teachers and educators on these issues;
- Take action to strongly condemn all forms of discrimination, hate speech and violence based on culture, religion, ethnic origin or any other criterion, and call for legislative and educational action to prevent and combat such behaviour;
- Urge the inclusion and equitable participation of all groups of people in political, social and economic decision-making processes;

- Urge strengthened international cooperation in promoting peace and intercultural understanding, including support for mediation, conflict resolution and reconciliation initiatives in regions affected by inter-community tensions;
- Call for the protection of the world's cultural and religious heritage, in particular against destruction and vandalism, as a means of preserving the identity and history of peoples;
- Encourage support for civil society organisations working for peace, intercultural understanding and inclusion, recognising their crucial role in building peaceful and resilient societies;
- Work together with all stakeholders to promote a global and equitable peace based on mutual respect, inclusion and the celebration of cultural and religious diversity, cultivating a culture of peace for a more harmonious and prosperous future for all.



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Resolution 3: Empowering Women in the Age of New Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities

Preamble

Noting that new technologies and digital technologies in particular are an innovation that has spread very rapidly, affecting almost every country in the world;

Taking into account the growing importance of these technologies and their impact on changing the world;

Also taking into account the role of these new technologies, their positive and negative effects and their impact on the world, particularly on women and young girls;

Specifying that these new technologies must be developed in such a way as to protect the world, and in particular women and young girls;

Noting that artificial intelligence (AI) is at the heart of the digital revolution;

Noting also that AI is a scientific, technical, cultural, economic and social revolution that is being adopted in all aspects of life;

Stressing that the empowerment of women in the era of new digital AI technologies is a challenge for equality and socio-economic development;

Aware of the global situation of women in the face of these new technologies and each emerging change;

Aware that AI has changed the labour market and is placing new demands on the skills of tomorrow's workers;

Concerned about the impact of AI systems on women's working lives, on their empowerment and on their protection against cybercrime;

Noting that we must prepare for the future, which means that everyone must understand the challenges and opportunities presented by the new Artificial Intelligence technologies;

The National Council of Women Malta, in adopting this resolution, calls on governments and relevant stakeholders to:

- Put in place policies and practices that ensure an ethical approach to AI;
- Ensure equitable representation of women in the development of AI technologies;
- Support the education of women and girls, particularly in STEM fields;
- Ensure that AI is used in a fair and ethical manner while protecting women's fundamental rights;
- Create significant policies and measures for combatting cyber-violence, online harassment and for the protection of women and girls;
- Use AI responsibly, ethically and inclusively, while protecting women's fundamental rights;
- Provide support for women, particularly in terms of training, digital security and promoting their participation in technological creation, so that empowerment becomes a reality for all;
- Strengthen the protection of women's privacy and security on digital platforms;
- Create a legal framework to balance technological innovation with the protection of fundamental rights, particularly those of women, and public safety.



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Resolution 4: Supporting Parents of Young Children in a Digital World and Strengthening Protections from Online Harms

Preamble

Considering that the early years are critical for children’s emotional, social, language and cognitive development, and that relationship-based parenting support can strengthen family wellbeing and child outcomes;

Recognising that electronic tablets, smartphones and other digital devices can offer educational and practical benefits, yet excessive or unsupervised use may negatively affect children’s wellbeing, development, attention and social interaction, and can increase stress and conflict within families;

Noting that many parents of young children experience increasing pressure in managing children’s screen use and require accessible, timely and skilled support to set healthy boundaries; Recognising that online harms—including technology-facilitated harassment, exposure to inappropriate content, bullying, exploitation, misogynistic and violent material, and other forms of abuse—disproportionately affect women and children and can cause significant harm beyond the digital sphere;

Acknowledging that what is illegal offline should be illegal online, and that effective protections require robust regulation, education, safeguarding, and cross-border cooperation;

Welcoming investment in family support services as a positive step, while noting that provision must be sufficiently resourced, equitable and nationwide, with well-trained staff capable of delivering evidence-based, relationship-focused support;

The National Council of Women Malta, in adopting this resolution, calls on all relevant stakeholders to:

- Strengthen and enforce legal and regulatory protections to prevent and address online harms and technology-facilitated abuse, ensuring that offences and safeguards apply equally online and offline, with specific protections for women and children;
- Expand and sustain funding for family support services to ensure nationwide, equitable access to relationship-based parenting support—particularly for families most at risk—and integrate this

support within community and primary services;

- Invest in the training, retention and supervision of skilled professionals (including early years, safeguarding and family-support practitioners) to deliver evidence-based, relationship-focused parenting support and guidance on children's developmentally appropriate screen use;
- Provide public information and practical guidance for parents and caregivers on balanced, age-appropriate screen use, digital wellbeing, and strategies for setting boundaries, including resources that support co-viewing, active mediation, and healthy routines;
- Strengthen school- and community-based education programmes for children, young people and caregivers on online safety, respectful relationships, digital citizenship, and recognising/reporting online harms;
- Require technology companies and online platforms to assume responsibility for preventing and reducing online harms through transparent safety-by-design measures, robust content moderation, effective reporting and rapid response mechanisms, age-appropriate design and protections, and cooperation with competent authorities;
- Support victims and families affected by online harms by developing and strengthening accessible services, including helplines, reporting pathways, psychosocial support, and referral systems appropriate for both adults and minors;
- Promote national and international cooperation to address cross-border online harms, including sharing best practice, improving data collection, and coordinating legislative and regulatory approaches;
- Establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate parenting support initiatives and online safety measures, to assess effectiveness, identify gaps, and strengthen policy and practice over time.



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Resolution 5: Reducing Exposure to Endocrine Disruptors to Protect Health in Malta

Preamble

Considering that endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) are substances that may interfere with the hormonal (endocrine) system and are increasingly associated with adverse health outcomes across the life course;

Recognising that exposure may occur through everyday products and environments, including certain plastics and food contact materials, personal care and beauty products, household cleaning products, pesticides, and industrial pollutants;

Noting that pregnancy, infancy, childhood and adolescence are particularly sensitive periods of development, and that repeated exposure—even at low levels—may pose risks to reproductive health, growth and development, neurodevelopment and metabolic health;

Recognising that women and girls may face disproportionate exposure and impacts due to biological factors, reproductive life stages, and patterns of product use;

Acknowledging the importance of the precautionary principle, and the need for clear regulation, effective enforcement, transparent information, and access to safer alternatives;

The National Council of Women Malta, in adopting this resolution, calls on all relevant stakeholders to:

- Strengthen national oversight and enforcement to reduce exposure to endocrine disruptors in Malta, including through stronger controls on substances of concern in consumer products, food contact materials, and environmental emissions, aligned with updated EU standards and guidance;
- Introduce and implement safer public procurement by adopting EDC-aware purchasing policies in public services—particularly in childcare centres, schools, healthcare settings and public offices—favouring lower-risk alternatives for items such as food containers, kitchenware, cleaning products and personal care supplies;
- Improve transparency for consumers by advocating for clearer labelling and ingredient disclosure (including for fragrances and mixtures) and supporting retail practices that make safer

choices easier to identify;

- Reduce risk in early years and school environments by promoting practical measures such as safer food storage and reheating practices, reducing unnecessary plastic food contact, and supporting school/community guidance on choosing lower-risk products;
- Support health and education professionals by providing training and simple evidence-informed guidance so that GPs, midwives, nurses, pharmacists, educators and community workers can offer consistent advice—especially to people planning pregnancy, pregnant women and parents of young children;
- Strengthen national monitoring and research capacity by supporting environmental surveillance and, where feasible, biomonitoring initiatives, with sex- and age-disaggregated data to better understand local exposure patterns and guide targeted interventions;
- Promote safer substitution in industry and retail by encouraging the replacement of substances of concern with demonstrably safer alternatives and preventing “regrettable substitution” through robust safety assessment;
- Raise public awareness through national campaigns delivered via primary healthcare, schools and community platforms, focusing on practical, affordable steps to reduce exposure without placing undue burden or blame on families;
- Ensure health equity in risk reduction by prioritising protections for groups more likely to experience higher exposure, including low-income households and workers in higher-exposure occupations, and ensuring that safer options are accessible and affordable.



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Resolution 6: Ethical Media Portrayal of Victims of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence

Preamble

Considering that sexual harassment and sexual violence are serious violations of human rights and dignity, and that victims/survivors are entitled to respect, safety, privacy, and access to justice;

Recognising that the way victims/survivors are portrayed in public commentary—including podcasts, social media, and other media platforms—can either encourage reporting and support or cause further harm through victim-blaming, humiliation, minimisation, and re-traumatisation;

Noting that public narratives which question credibility, imply responsibility, ridicule, or disclose identifying details can deter victims from seeking help, undermine trust in institutions, and normalise harmful attitudes;

Acknowledging the essential role of free expression and open public discussion, while affirming that freedom of expression carries responsibilities and must not be used to perpetuate abuse, harassment, intimidation, or discrimination;

Convinced that trauma-informed, survivor-centred communication is crucial to protecting victims/survivors, promoting respectful public discourse, and strengthening prevention efforts;

The National Council of Women Malta, in adopting this resolution, calls on all relevant stakeholders to:

- Promote trauma-informed, survivor-centred standards for any public discussion of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including clear guidance on language, tone, and the avoidance of victim-blaming and minimisation;
- Strengthen ethical and professional media guidance (including for broadcasters, publishers, and podcast producers) to ensure reporting and commentary uphold dignity, accuracy, fairness, and safeguarding—especially where victims/survivors may be identifiable;
- Ensure robust complaints, correction, and accountability mechanisms, including accessible pathways for individuals to report harmful portrayals, request corrections or removals, and seek redress where appropriate;

- Encourage regulators and relevant authorities to review and enforce safeguards for harmful content, including content that amounts to harassment, intimidation, defamation, or the disclosure of sensitive personal information;
- Call on digital platforms and hosting services to apply and enforce clear policies against harassment and doxxing, strengthen moderation processes, and provide rapid response channels for harmful content related to sexual harassment and sexual violence;
- Support training and capacity building for journalists, editors, presenters, influencers, and content creators on trauma-informed interviewing, victim/survivor safeguarding, and responsible communication on gender-based violence;
- Promote public education and awareness to challenge rape myths, victim-blaming attitudes, and harmful stereotypes, and to foster a culture of respect, consent, and accountability;
- Strengthen support pathways by ensuring that public communications on sexual harassment and sexual violence signpost available services (including helplines and professional support) and encourage safe reporting and help-seeking;
- Encourage institutions and organisations to adopt internal communication protocols for handling allegations and public commentary in ways that protect victims/survivors and avoid prejudice, intimidation, or retaliation.