

ELECTIONS 2022: CREATING A MORE JUST SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2022

aditus
accessing rights



aditus foundation is a non-governmental organisation established in 2011 with a mission to monitor, report and act on access to human rights in Malta. Named for the Latin word for 'access', our work is focused on the attentive analysis of access to human rights recognition and enjoyment. Our objective is to promote a society where all persons are able to access and enjoy all their fundamental human rights. Where this is not possible, we support victims as they seek to access justice.

We adopt a broad perspective for human rights in Malta, from the rights of asylum-seekers and migrants to the rights of LGBTIQ+ couples, whilst also identifying horizontal themes such as non-discrimination and the rule of law. Furthermore, we work towards highlighting the regional and international obligations that Malta has as a signatory to a number of treaties and conventions.

Our main activities include the identification of priority areas, formulating advocacy strategies and working towards improvement in legal and administrative standards in Malta. This includes offering pro bono legal information and advice on specific areas such as asylum, migration, LGBTIQ+ rights and discrimination.

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INTRODUCTION

In view of an upcoming 2022 national elections, we wish to put forward a number of proposals that we feel will contribute to making Malta a fairer and more just society. Our focus remains on supporting the most vulnerable members of our community whilst also strengthening those institutions empowered and tasked to protect our fundamental human rights.

We present these recommendations in light of the declaration in Article 1 of the Constitution, that Malta *“is a democratic republic founded on work and on respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual”*. We therefore urge Parliamentary candidates to be mindful that in a democracy the rule of law, transparency and justice are the fulcrum on which a State rests. These are the guiding principles that should be at the basis of the political commitments made throughout the electoral campaign period.

aditus foundation wishes to see an inclusive electoral campaign based on democratic ideas, vision and human dignity and less on antagonism, harassment and cronyism. We hope all candidates will refrain from discourse and behaviour that is in any way offensive, immature and unbecoming. In particular, we strongly appeal to all candidates and to party leaders to ensure that their campaigns are entirely free from racism, misogyny or other approaches that seek to score political points off the backs of vulnerable or disenfranchised people.

The recommendations are an open invitation to all Parliamentary candidates to pledge their commitment to specific ideas and initiatives. They also confirm our willingness to engage in further discussion and dialogue on these and other human rights issues we are tackling.

THE ELECTIONS

Campaigning

The finances required for the large-scale campaigning the political parties will be engaged in often give rise to donor's making demands, setting expectations and exerting pressure on the receiving party. Despite repeated promises to strengthen legislation regulating political party financing, several gaps exist including under-reporting of donations, use of party-owned private companies to by-pass legislation and lack of enforcement over unpaid taxes and other breaches.

As recommended by the OSCE, we would like to see electoral campaigns that are financed in a transparent manner and in accordance with the legal limits. In particular, donations made to parties and to entities they own should be made subject to the same public disclosure obligations.

We also reiterate our condemnation for any activity that may be interpreted an offer in exchange of a personal vote. This is a criminal offence and we strongly urge the authorities to take extremely seriously all reports received.

Voting

A number of practical recommendations may be made here, recalling recommendations made by the OSCE in 2017:

- ➔ Ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full and equal access to voting in a manner that respects their human dignity;
- ➔ Records of complaints to and decisions of the Electoral Commission should be promptly published;
- ➔ Respect voter privacy and refrain from chasing.

#RULEOFLAW

ĠEJT IPPROVDUT IKEL JEW XORB BIEX TAGĦTI JEW MA TAGĦTIX IL-VOT TIEGĦEK?*

* Mhux permess skond L-Att Dwar L-Elezzjonijiet Ġenerali, l-14-il Skeda, l-Artikolu 54

IRRAPORTA LIL-PULIZIJA!

KIF?

ASAL WASLA SAL-GHASSA, JEW

MIL-KUMDITÁ TA' DAREK, HAWN:

[HTTPS://PULIZIJA.GOV.MT/OPRES/DECLARATION.ASP?RTYP=1](https://pulizija.gov.mt/opres/declaration.asp?rtyp=1)

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LOOKING FORWARD & STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

Constitutional Reform

In recent years Malta witnessed epic democratic failures due to the weaknesses in its key democratic institutions. We have repeatedly flagged the urgent need for the nation to rebuild itself and strengthen its understanding and operation of democracy through dialogue, inclusivity, and, above all, with human rights at its centre.

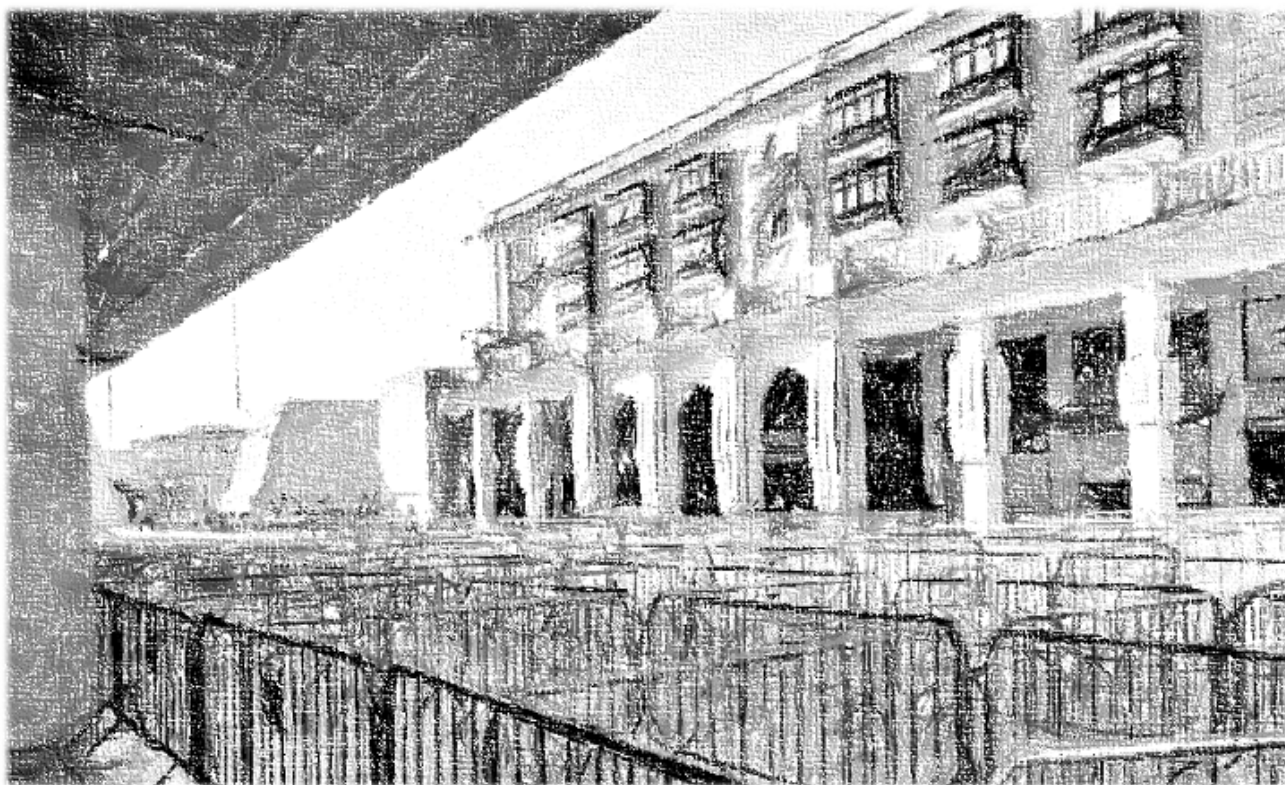
We invite Malta's future Parliamentarians to implement a nation-wide consultation process headed by independent organisations, academics, media entities and civil society actors instead of political parties and representatives. We are convinced that this reflective process will stimulate learning and conversation to shape Malta in a manner that truly reflects where we want to go and where we are going as a nation.

This consultation, leading to a comprehensive reform of the outdated and damaged Constitution, should not be rushed and take multiple forms as it covers various issues ranging in complexity and depth. Ultimately, we need to discuss our national identity and our vision for Malta in the coming years.

For us, the present damage is a direct result of a series of misdirect actions by consecutive legislatures. It is therefore clear that confining discourse to political

parties, without meaningful public consultation, is akin to denying citizens their democratic entitlement to have a say in the shaping of Malta's Constitutional order of Malta.

A clear commitment on the part of Parliament to follow through with recommendations and suggestions emerging from this consultation is necessary.



Venice Commission & European Commission Rule of Law Report

Although a number of reforms have been implemented in the last years further to the publication of the Venice Commission reports, there is still an urgent need for systematic reforms in order to strengthen Malta's system of checks and balances.

Primarily, the concerns outlined in Opinion No. 993/2020 of the Venice Commission should be addressed, particularly the implementation of anti-deadlock mechanisms and the publication of judicial candidates' names prior to appointment. Secondly, other recommendations should immediately be taken up, such as the *erga omnes* application of Constitutional Court judgments and the transfer of all prosecution authority to the Office of the Attorney General.

We also demand a clear commitment to address the outstanding rule of law issues outlined in the European Commission's Rule of Law report.

Inquiry into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia

The Inquiry Report highlighted the pervading culture of impunity and corruption in Malta. In order to address these serious findings, there is need for not only legislative changes but also a change of attitude and behaviour in the way the nation is governed.

Importantly, the Inquiry also found that the State bore responsibility for creating a culture of impunity as it failed to take action to protect Daphne Caruana Galizia. It is clear that the State needs to shoulder the responsibility for her assassination and not merely publish the Inquiry Report. The public needs to see accountability and action.

For any real change to take place and the recommendations proposed by the Inquiry to be effectively taken on board, the process must be public and transparent. This includes the introduction of legislation that effectively combats bribery and corruption by means of unexplained wealth, criminal or 'mafia' association, abuse of office and obstruction of justice.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

Equality Bodies and Equality Law

Since 2014, we have been strongly advocating for the introduction of national laws that improve Malta's approach to non-discrimination. We repeatedly recommended the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. The recent Bill in Parliament raised several concerns since the proposed Equality Commission did not adhere to principles that would ensure its independence and impartiality.

The current anti-discrimination legal framework is piecemeal and found in various legal instruments, each having a different scope, redress mechanisms and different reporting or equality bodies. This approach also means that discrimination based on certain grounds remains permitted under Maltese law. A comprehensive national framework is crucial to mainstreaming and integrating people belonging to the various minority groups existing within our society.

Furthermore, it is important that the legislation includes measures to ensure that conscientious objection does not jeopardise the rights and freedoms of others.

Ombudsman

Although there have been a number of reforms to the laws regulating the work and power of the Ombudsman a number of concerns remain.

There need to be further legislative amendments to allow for any individual or legal person to file a complaint with the Ombudsman, irrespective of interest. Furthermore, the Ombudsman's right to information must be raised to the Constitutional level.

We also recommend a name change: from Ombudsman to Ombudsperson.

Parliament

A reform of the workings of Parliament was highlighted by the PACE rapporteurs further to a visit to Malta in 2021. We fear that the practice of MPs have secondary jobs and functions in state institutions or agencies they are tasked by the Constitution with overseeing, increases the risk of conflict of interest and corruption. Furthermore, the increasing complexity of the legislative tasks requires a level of expertise and dedication that is simply not possible for part-time Parliamentarians.

We therefore believe Malta needs a full-time Parliament with adequate and autonomous resources in order for it to fulfil its legislative and oversight functions effectively and without inappropriate influence.

Relationship with Civil Society

Engaging with civil society through timely and genuine dialogue ensures accountability and transparency of consultation processes. Keeping an open dialogue with stakeholders, including NGOs, academia and civil society organisations is key in the proper functioning of the rule of law. When space for dialogue and civil society to operate shrinks, it is a sign that the rule of law is at risk.

We firmly believe that only through dialogue based on mutual trust can the nation move forward and realise its potential. We therefore invite Parliamentary candidates to commit to establishing regular, transparent and real dialogue mechanisms with those civil society organisations relevant to their portfolios.

ASYLUM & MIGRATION



Rescue at Sea & Disembarkation

Whilst we recognise that the relative number of asylum-seekers reaching Malta are some of the highest in Europe, we nonetheless reiterate that all decisions and actions adopted by Malta should be primarily based on international human rights law, with a clear commitment to guarantee the right to life and protection from *refoulement*. Libya is not a safe place for migrants and refugees.

In this regard, there have been several worrying reports: delays and non-response by the Maltese authorities in relation to distress calls; restricted disembarkation of people rescued within the Maltese Search and Rescue zone; instructions given to commercial ships to return migrants to Libya; and refusals by the authorities to allow the safe disembarkation of migrants rescued by NGO ships.

Malta may not compromise on saving lives, providing humanitarian assistance and upholding the rights of those who are rescued, including access to international protection.

We would like to see a commitment to ending returns to Libya in violation of the cornerstone principle of *non-refoulement*, which prohibits returns to places where persons would be at risk of serious human rights violations or other irreparable harm. We also urge Malta's future Parliamentarians to initiate a dialogue process with Italy to resolve the outstanding issues of search and rescue responsibilities.

Administrative Detention

Although automatic and mandatory detention was removed from legislation, in recent years all newly arrived asylum-seekers have been placed in detention centres, often for prolonged periods of time, in poor conditions and with limited access to lawyers. These concerns have been amply highlighted by the Maltese Courts, the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture, the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner and the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights.

In a recent Performance Audit by the National Audit Offices estimates that the cost to the national budget of detention is approximately €58.73 per day, whilst the cost of open centres run by the State is €20.06 per person per night (pppn) and those of NGOs is €4.82 pppn.

The audit also flagged serious issues relating to the length of stay in detention, the lack of coordination of the Detention Services, living conditions, support services, privacy and basic needs. The audit highlighted that limited educational and recreational activities are delaying integration opportunities.

It is amply clear that resorting to mandatory detention not only breaches international and national human rights and asylum legislation, but it is not conducive to integration. It is neither cost-effective. The continuation of this practice needs to end.

We therefore invite Parliamentary candidates to commit to explore a reception system that is not based on administrative detention but on a truly individualised assessment leading to community-based models of support and guidance.

Reception

Since Malta started receiving relatively large numbers of asylum-seekers, it has received a substantial amount of European Union funding for their reception, taken to include shelter, sustenance, clothing, information, health and social support.

In 2016 a Ministry for Home Affairs project for the construction of a new open centre at Hal Far was approved, and over €5 million in EU funds were allocated. This centre was never built. The same Ministry received close to €6 million for the period between 2014-2022 to cover the costs of material conditions and support for asylum-seekers in open and closed centres, almost €1 million support for psychosocial intervention services and over €1 million for the provision of security services in centres.



2019 saw 1,937 residents in the open centres, an increase from previous years yet not a surprising and unpredictable amount. The increase in occupancy rates stretched resources at already overstretched centres and negatively impacted the quality of accommodation and available services. The overcrowding also resulted in shortening the maximum time an asylum-seeker may spend in an open centre (from 12 down to 6 months) and resort to systemic detention in lieu of freedom, a policy described by the Maltese Courts as abusive and farcical.

Furthermore, newly introduced policies limited access to employment for categories of asylum-seekers are exacerbating their risk of poverty and exposure to degrading treatment.

After so many years of Malta receiving asylum-seekers, we fail to appreciate why the authorities still operate reception systems through management-by-crisis, without a long-term vision or contingency plans for emergencies. We therefore urge Parliamentary candidates to engage with us and with other NGOs in the sector in order to explore elements of a long-term plan for Malta, including a community-based reception system, policies encouraging self-reliance, support for vulnerable persons.

Family Reunification

Although European Union law does not oblige Malta to grant the right of family reunification to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, we believe that this fact alone cannot justify the current absolute ban on family reunification. The impossibility of reuniting with family members impedes effective integration, has a serious negative impact on mental health and exposes family members to on-going risks to their lives and security. Moreover, in our view, the ban is legally questionable, particularly in the light of recent developments in the field of human rights law.

We urge for there to be review the existing legislative framework and to grant beneficiaries of subsidiary protection the right to be reunited with their families in Malta. We strongly recommend that they will be granted access to this right under the same conditions as refugees, or, as a minimum, under the same conditions as refugees who married post recognition.

Regularisation of Undocumented Migrants

A regularisation route was introduced between 2018 and 2020 for refused asylum-seekers who entered Malta before 2016 and who were unable to be returned, could show at least five years' residence, and efforts to integrate: the Specific Residence Authorisation (SRA). This provided a two-year residence permit with access to a range of socio-economic rights.

Since 2020, Malta is no longer accepting new applications for this regularisation route. This change has resulted in people in Malta, many of whom have been living here for

more than 5 years, remaining undocumented and being denied access to the most basic rights and services. In several cases, potential beneficiaries have been contributing to Malta economically and socially, and have also established families here.

It is unacceptable that undocumented migrants, particularly those who have remained here through no fault of their own, spend years living in a legal and social limbo marked by social exclusion, poverty and on-going struggles. Malta should not adopt a policy with the ultimate aim of driving persons into destitution and desperation.

It is also relevant to flag the economic implications of a 'sleeping workforce' that, instead of being encouraged to further contribute, is being actively pushed towards poverty.

We therefore recommend Parliamentary candidates to discuss the possibility of regularisation schemes, as in most other EU Member States.

Statelessness Determination Procedure

In 2019 Malta acceded to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. However, a procedure accessible by stateless persons, or persons believing to be stateless, in order for their status to be determined has not yet established.

We recommend that Malta's statelessness regime be enshrined in a specialised act of Parliament, such as a Statelessness Act. This Act would regulate all aspects of statelessness in Malta, including a definition that conforms to the Convention, the designation of a determining authority, the statelessness determination procedure and the status of stateless persons.

Decriminalisation of illegal entry for refugees and asylum seekers

There is an understanding that refugees will frequently be unable to legally leave their countries, travel and enter a safe country to exercise their fundamental human rights to seek and enjoy asylum. Article 31(1) of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees stipulates that States should not impose penalties on refugees on account of their illegal entry or presence.

The inclusion of this article in the Convention is a recognition of the fact that frequently refugees make use of illegal means in order to leave their country of origin and enter a country to seek safety.

We have been seeing an increasing number of asylum-seekers, including children, who have been imprisoned for months after being found guilty or pleading guilty to entering or being present in Malta with false documentation.

We recommend the inclusion of an exception from prosecution for refugees using false documentation to enter Malta.

CITIZENSHIP & THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

Clear rules & facilitated pathways

The lack of clarity and consistency in granting citizenship by naturalisation, a restrictive approach in the interpretation of the legislative provisions and strict internal policies have been flagged repeatedly. The lack of any procedural guarantees and the prohibition of the right of appeal goes against well-established principles of natural justice.

Far-reaching reforms are needed for the process of citizenship by naturalisation to be in line with human rights standards and to be more humane. There is a need for clear and specific criteria which applicants are required to fulfil in order to be eligible for naturalisation. Furthermore, the unfettered discretionary power of the Minister responsible for citizenship needs to be removed in order to make the process more transparent, fairer and less at risk of undue influence.

In addition, and most importantly, the Maltese Citizenship Act needs to be amended to include procedural guarantees that provide for clear timeframes within which a decision must be taken, reasons for refusal of an application based on clear provisions at law, and possibility to appeal any such decision in the Court.

Protection of Children

We have seen situations where, on the withdrawal of Maltese citizenship of one of the parents, the children risked losing their Maltese citizenship and thus risking

repatriation or statelessness. Although we know of situations where the children were indeed protect, it is unclear whether the protection was a result of *ad hoc* decisions or a clear protective policy.

Furthermore, children who reside in Malta on the basis of their parents' residence permits lose their right to reside in Malta when they attain majority. Malta requires them to apply for a residence permit based on employment or study, when they may not readily be in the situation to do this. This has led to a number of young people being asked to return to their countries of origin alone, despite having lived in Malta for all or most of their childhood.

There needs to be a clear commitment to protect the rights of children who were born and resided here for a long period of time. There is a need to protect children from being torn away from the social and familial ties that they have created in Malta.

Non-Maltese Parents of EU-nationals

In order to protect the rights of children who are EU nationals, including Maltese, Malta is required to grant third-country national parents of such children the right to work and reside in Malta in accordance with EU law (so-called 'Zambrano permit'). This right has been confirmed by the Maltese Courts and also the Court of Justice of the European Union, and should be recognised irrespectively of the entry or status of the third country national parent. The best interests of the child should be the primary consideration.

Although Malta regularly recognises this right, it is nowhere included in law or publicly available policy. We recommend that this right to be formalised so as to ensure it is implemented in practice, consistently and in a transparent manner.

JUSTICE

Efficiency of the Justice System

As also identified in the [EU Justice Scoreboard 2021](#), and the EU Commission's recommendations in the context of the EU Semester, Malta's administration of justice remains problematic. Length of proceedings remains an area of serious concern and there seems to be an overall lack of efficiency also with regard to money laundering and corruption cases, which have proven to be lengthy and with a low conviction rate.

This institutional lack of efficiency, a quite small judiciary (at present Malta has one of the lowest number of judges per capita in the European Union), challenges within the legal aid system, as well as other structural obstacles, must be immediately addressed since these are measures which are indispensable to a functioning rule of law.

We challenge Malta's new Parliament to engage to undertake a [comprehensive reform](#) of our justice system, in close consultation with all relevant entities.

Independence of Tribunals and Quasi-Judicial Bodies

A high number of specialised tribunals and quasi-judicial bodies continue to operate in Malta in specific areas, such as the Environment and Planning Review Body, the International Protection Appeals Tribunal, the Immigration Appeals Board, the Social Security Umpire and the Industrial Tribunal.

Many of these tribunals are appointed through specialised procedures involving the Executive, usually the Prime Minister or a Minister empowered under a specific act. These bodies have been found to lack the independence and impartiality of the ordinary judiciary, and not all of these tribunals provide access to the ordinary courts in terms of an appeal on matters of fact and law.

An institutional reform is required, with a view to ensuring that mechanisms of appointment, composition and tenure secure independence, fairness and the right to an effective remedy.

GENDER

Fighting against stereotypes and equality

Malta maintains discriminatory socio-cultural views of women, based on ideas of their inferiority and gender stereotypes. This results in relatively high levels of prejudice and violence, also preventing women and girls from realising their full potential and rights.

A number of measures are recommended:

- ➔ Statutory parental, and not merely maternal, leave after the child's birth;
- ➔ Gender quota for political parties contesting the National elections;
- ➔ Fiscal incentives for the employers to introduce flexible work arrangements and work-life balance measures;
- ➔ Address the gender imbalance in specific sectors, such as education;
- ➔ Thorough review of all text-books to combat stereotyping.

Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights

As members of the VoiceforChoice Coalition, we are concerned at the lack of openness and discussion about sex, sexual health and reproductive rights. Public debate remains aggressive, and it is the State's democratic duty to support discussions wherein every individual or organisation has the possibility of expressing their views without fearing stigma or negative repercussions.

We urge Parliamentary candidates to commit to decriminalising abortion, in order to bring it in line with international human rights standards. Together with a normative approach, a reform should also introduce appropriate abortion care on a woman's

request in early pregnancy and thereafter throughout pregnancy, to protect women's health and life and ensure freedom from ill-treatment.

In order to ensure the availability and affordability of modern contraceptive services, contraception should be provided for free for all women and girls on the national health service. The authorities should also ensure that medical professionals' refusals of care on grounds of conscience or religion do not jeopardise women's access to sexual and reproductive health care, including contraception.

Furthermore, there is the need to provide evidence-based information and mandatory comprehensive sex education in all schools.



LGBTIQ+

Blood Donations

Malta maintains a discriminatory approach in relation to LGBTIQ+ persons wishing to donate blood.

We urge Parliamentary candidates to commit to removing this barrier.

Family Reunification for LGBTIQ+ Refugees

Because 'family member' is defined in terms of a spouse or a long-term partner in a country where the law or practice recognises such relationships, LGBTIQ+ persons fleeing their countries of origin are unable to benefit from this right following recognition of their refugee status. They are therefore unable to reunite with their loved ones.

We recommend a revision to the law, broadening the definition of 'family member' to include LGBTIQ+ partners in a stable relationship.

Legal Gender Recognition for Third-Country Nationals

Malta's excellent legislation on the rights of transgender persons is not open to third-country nationals living here, unless they are beneficiaries of international/national protection. Transgender persons working here are therefore unable to enjoy the right to their gender identity.

It is recommended that a policy be introduced whereby Identity Malta is enabled to issue amended/updated residence permits to third-country nationals.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs)

Recent events in Malta, and indeed all over Europe, have underlined the need to address the risks posed by Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs), particularly when these are instituted against Maltese journalists or rights defenders.

We therefore wish to see Malta's support for a strong EU anti-SLAPP law, necessary to protect the democratic values of freedom of expression and the right to protest across the EU.

International Instruments

Although Malta enjoys a robust human rights framework, we are not signatory to a number of key international human rights instruments. In particular, we would like to see Malta's commitments to its international obligations strengthened through its accession to various international human right complaints procedures:

- ➔ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC-OP-IC);
- ➔ Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR-OP);
- ➔ Individual complaints procedure under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- ➔ Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints (ETS No. 158).

PLEDGES

1. Donations made to parties and to entities they own should be made subject to the same public disclosure obligations.
2. Refrain from engaging in any activity that may be interpreted as an offer in exchange of a personal vote.
3. Ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full and equal access to voting in a manner that respects their dignity.
4. Records of complaints to and decisions of the Electoral Commission should be promptly published.
5. Respect voter privacy and refrain from chasing.
6. Commit to a thorough and inclusive Constitutional reform process.
7. Establish and publish an action plan, with clear responsibilities and timelines, for implementing the outstanding recommendations made by the Venice Commission, the European Commission's Rule of Law report and the Daphne Caruana Galizia Inquiry Report.
8. Commit to table anti-discrimination legislation that protects all persons in all spheres of life.
9. Confirm that no conscientious objection clause will be entered into Maltese law, having the effect of depriving anyone of access to their fundamental human rights.
10. Broaden the scope of complaints of the Office of the Ombudsperson to remove the interest requirement. Enshrine the Ombudsperson's right to information in the Constitution. Adopt the term 'Ombudsperson'.
11. Pledge to move from a part-time to a full-time Parliament in the next legislature.

12. Commit to establishing regular, transparent and real dialogue mechanisms with civil society organisations.
13. Stand by the statement: *“Libya is not a safe place for migrants and refugees.”* Commit to ensuring that persons in distress in Malta’s Search and Rescue Zone will be swiftly rescued and allowed to disembark.
14. End the detention of children, in law and in practice.
15. Introduce an initial reception regime that is based on individual assessments, with community-based models preferred over administrative detention.
16. Grant NGO service-providers effective access to all detention centres.
17. Formulate a long-term asylum management strategy in close cooperation with civil society organisations.
18. Extend family reunification rights, under clear and fair conditions, to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.
19. Introduce a regularisation scheme for those migrants who have not been returned to their countries of origin and who, whilst here, have effectively made Malta their homes.
20. Establish a Statelessness Determination Procedure.
21. Decriminalise the use of false documents in situations involved refugees attempting to enter Malta to seek safety.
22. Revise the Maltese Citizenship Act with the aim of clarifying access to nationality and introducing procedural guarantees.
23. Protect the status of non-Maltese children who have lived in Malt for all or most of their lives.
24. Incorporate into law the right to residence and employment for third-country national parents of children who are European Union nationals.

25. Implement a Justice Reform, along the recommendations of the 2013 Commission for the Holistic Reform in the Field of Justice. Include in this Reform a review of the mechanisms governing quasi-judicial bodies.
26. Statutory parental, and not merely maternal, leave after the child's birth.
27. Gender quota for political parties contesting the National elections.
28. Introduce fiscal incentives for the employers to introduce flexible work arrangements and work-life balance measures.
29. Address the gender imbalance in specific sectors, such as education and conduct a thorough review of all text-books to combat stereotyping.
30. Decriminalise abortion and introduce abortion support services.
31. Provide free contraception to all persons, particularly women and girls.
32. Commit to introducing comprehensive sex education in schools.
33. Remove discriminatory barriers preventing LGBTIQ+ persons from donating blood.
34. Grant LGBTIQ+ refugees the possibility of reuniting with their long-term partners, in Malta.
35. Implement guidelines enabling Identity Malta to reflect on official documentation the affirmed gender identity of third-country nationals.
36. Actively support EU anti-SLAPP legislation efforts.
37. Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Also, the individual complaints procedure under the anti-racism Convention and the Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter.