

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 20th October, 2010

Promoting Inclusion and Diversity: Combating Racial Discrimination

In view of recent alleged incidents reported in local newspapers, the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) would like to reiterate that all forms of racist attitudes and behaviour are unacceptable. By respecting diversity, the effect of discrimination is minimised and equal treatment is encouraged. NCPE stresses that embracing diversity leads to respecting differences between individuals and combating prejudice.

NCPE emphasises that it is illegal to violate the dignity of a person or treat a person less favourably on the ground of race/ethnic origin. This means that the race/ethnic origin of an individual should not determine their treatment in relation to social security, healthcare, education, financial services and the provision of other goods and services.

Persons who feel discriminated on the grounds of their race in the provision of goods and services can bring this to the attention of NCPE which has the responsibility of investigating such complaints. These complaints should be made in writing and the complainant is assisted in deciding what further action he/she wishes to take. Complaints are then investigated and action is taken accordingly.

NCPE also provides training on diversity, equality and non-discrimination to any entity, department or organisation which requests it. These sessions raise awareness on the subject matter and sensitise the audience for an equal environment.

NCPE encourages anyone who feels discriminated against or who would like more information, to contact the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality on 2590 3850, on www.equality.gov.mt or via email on equality@gov.mt