

## **Press Statement – Violence against women and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention**

Violence against women is a human rights violation and a form of discrimination against women. This is clearly stated in Article 3 (a) of the *Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* (Istanbul Convention) that Malta ratified on 29th July 2014. All forms of violence against women, including online statements that perpetuate violent behaviour, inhibit the achievement of equal treatment between women and men in society at large, and propagate inequality.

The ratification of the Istanbul Convention will bring about a review, with the intention of strengthening where necessary, current legal and administrative provisions as well as the services that address violence against women. This will contribute to ensure that violence against women is prevented, combated and prosecuted wherever it occurs in Maltese society.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) is committed to raise further awareness on zero tolerance to violence against women and girls through a set of initiatives that are being undertaken. In particular, NCPE will carry out research studies, awareness raising campaigns and training to disseminate further information on zero tolerance to violence against women and empower victims to speak up and ask for support.

In this regard, NCPE strongly condemns all forms of violence against women. NCPE deplores statements that perpetuate violent behaviour or acts and denounces comments that promote violence against women, which are offensive and unacceptable.

For more information, please contact NCPE on 25903850 or [equality@gov.mt](mailto:equality@gov.mt) or on our Facebook page 'National Commission for the Promotion of Equality'.