Press Statement: No place for sexist discourse in a democratic society

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) deems that persons holding public office as well as public figures should desist from using sexist language and stereotypes and be fully aware of their important role in promoting gender equality in society.

Statistics have repeatedly shown that gender inequality persists across different areas such as those of power and resources. Research also finds that gender segregation in education and the labour market remains a reality which negatively affects women's economic independence throughout their life cycle. Furthermore, women and girls are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence and sexual harassment. One of the root causes of these inequalities are antiquated and erroneous, but deep-seated, beliefs concerning the different roles and characteristics of women and men. Historically, such beliefs have led to unequal power relations in society, where women and girls become confined to specific roles and sectors, impeding their full participation in different spheres and placing them into a dependent position.

It is the role of persons holding public office and public figures to uphold the foundations of a democratic society based on equality by refraining from using sexist discourse and by pro-actively working for the achievement of equality between women and men. As former UN-Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated "*Removing the barriers that keep women and girls on the margins of economic, social, cultural, and political life must be a top priority for us all*." Education is key to ensuring a society that strives towards equality and removes those barriers that foster inequality.

9th January 2018

Stqarrija Stampa: M'hemmx post għal diskors sessist f'soċjetà demokratika

Il-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali għall-Promozzjoni tal-Ugwaljanza (NCPE) temmen li persuni f'karigi uffiċjali kif ukoll persuni pubbliċi m'għandhomx jużaw lingwaġġ sessist u sterjotipi, u għandhom ikunu konxji tal-irwol importanti tagħhom fil-promozzjoni tal-ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi fis-soċjetà.

L-istatistika ripetutament turi li l-inugwaljanza bejn is-sessi tibqa' teżisti fi sferi differenti bħal dawk tal-poter u r-riżorsi. Ir-riċerka ssib ukoll li s-segregazzjoni bejn is-sessi fl-edukazzjoni u fis-suq tax-xogħol tibqa' realtà li taffettwa b'mod negattiv l-indipendenza ekonomika tan-nisa tul ħajjithom. Nafu wkoll li n-nisa u l-bniet huma affettwati b'mod sproporzjonat mill-vjolenza abbażi tal-ġeneru u mill-fastidju sesswali. Waħda mir-raġunijiet ewlenin għal dawn l-inugwaljanzi huma ideat antikwati u żbaljati, iżda b'għeruq fondi, dwar l-irwoli u l-karatteristiċi differenti tan-nisa u l-irġiel. Storikament, dawn l-ideat wasslu għal żbilanċ fir-relazzjonijiet ta' poter fis-soċjetà, fejn il-parteċipazzjoni tan-nisa u l-bniet tkun limitata għal

irwoli u setturi speċifiċi, u għalhekk tixxekkel il-parteċipazzjoni sħiħa tagħhom fl-isferi differenti u jsibu ruħhom f'pożizzjoni ta' dipendenza.

Huwa l-irwol ta' persuni f'karigi uffiċjali u persuni pubbliċi li jħaddnu l-valuri fundamentali ta' soċjetà demokratika bbażata fuq l-ugwaljanza billi ma jużawx diskors sessist u pro-attivament jaħdmu sabiex tintlaħaq l-ugwaljanza bejn in-nisa u l-irġiel. Kif qal is-Segretarju tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti Ban-Ki-moon *"It-tneħħija tal-ostakli li jżommu lin-nisa u l-bniet fil-marġini tal-ħajja ekonomika, soċjali, kulturali u politika għandha tkun prijorità għalina lkoll."* L-edukazzjoni hija essenzjali sabiex tkun żgurata soċjetà li taħdem għall-ugwaljanza u li tneħħi dawk l-ostjakli kollha li jwasslu għall-inugwaljanza.

9 ta' Jannar 2018