

NCPE seriously concerned at the alleged assault of foreign nationals by police officers

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) expresses its serious concern at the fact that three police officers are being accused of abducting and assaulting foreign nationals. It appears that the alleged victims were chosen by the alleged perpetrators on the basis of their skin colour and nationality.

The NCPE commends the Malta Police Force for taking immediate action after receiving reports of this abuse and acknowledges the reforms that have been undertaken by the Force to prevent and address such gross misconduct. These incidents are not only deplorable in themselves but they also mar the reputation of the Police Force in its entirety.

It reiterates that cases of violent racism, wherever they happen, are never isolated incidents but always connected to a context of social inequality and normalized behaviour of hatred. All cases of racism, discrimination and intolerance are an affront to a democratic society and as such they should be treated with the utmost seriousness. The NCPE calls on all public institutions to audit their structures in order to identify systemic racism and take the necessary action to ensure that all social groups in Malta are considered and treated as equally valuable members of society. Moreover, persons in the public sphere have a responsibility to promote values of equality and social inclusion, and to refrain from spreading hostility towards groups based on their nationality or skin colour.

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