

The NCPE applauds the gender corrective mechanism law

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) applauds the gender corrective mechanism law through a cross party agreement in the Maltese Parliament. The new law will allocate additional Parliamentary seats to the under-represented sex when one sex obtains less than 40% of the seats.

Along the years, Malta has made great strides in the sphere of gender equality particularly evidenced by the steep increase in the employment rate of women. However, Malta has consistently lagged behind when it comes to the balanced representation of women in positions of power. The law establishing the gender corrective mechanism will leave a direct and tangible effect on improving equality in the domain of power, thus addressing the long-standing democratic deficit whereby half of the country's population has been consistently and heavily underrepresented in the highest institution.

In order to ensure effectiveness of this initiative, the mechanism should apply to all scenarios and not only when two parties are elected to Parliament.

The NCPE augurs that this law is accompanied by other measures needed to increase the participation of women in politics, among which are a family-friendly Parliament, the eradication of gender stereotypes and action by political parties to ensure equal gender representation and participation at all levels within their entity as well as to field more women candidates to contest general elections.

23rd April 2021