

Construction worker's incident highlights the need to address racism and workers' exploitation

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) is appalled at the alleged mistreatment of a Ghanaian construction worker who was left with agonising injuries on a pavement by his employer after a two-story fall.

Whilst strongly condemning the incident and auguring that justice is served, the NCPE also highlights the importance of addressing racism in society and combatting workers' exploitation in all its forms, so that all workers in Malta can enjoy decent working conditions and fair treatment. The NCPE also notes the many voices that were raised to condemn this behaviour.

Tuesday's incident comes against a backdrop of wider discriminatory attitudes and discourses towards persons hailing from certain cultural and national backgrounds, something that leads to their devaluation and is conducive to their mistreatment. A pro-active effort by politicians, Government authorities, workers' unions and society at large is needed to prevent workers from becoming marginalized and disempowered because of their skin colour, cultural background, ethnicity or nationality.

Moreover, the NCPE emphasises the importance of ensuring that foreign workers in Malta have access to adequate working permits that allow them to work regularly and empower them to report cases of exploitation and mistreatment.

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