

Press Statement

Dance with Pride – there is no equality without visibility

In the context of comments misrepresenting the Dance with Pride event, held in the run-up to EuroPride 2023, the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) states that such misrepresentation highlights how far we are from achieving true equality in society. Equality entails the genuine acceptance, inclusion and visibility of all social groups, including LGBTIQ persons.

Malta has made great strides in recognising equal rights for persons of different sexual orientations and gender identities. However, the fact that some people expressed condemnation at the presence of children during a collective dance - an age-appropriate event that saw the participation of people from all walks of life – shows that some still perceive the identities of LGBTIQ persons as deviant and not equally valuable to straight and cisgender identities.

Children are constantly exposed to straight and cisgender expressions of sexual orientation and gender identity. Why, then, should the existence of LGBTIQ persons be hidden from them? Expecting LGBTIQ persons to become invisible has nothing to do with protecting children; it's all about perpetuating social inequality and marginalization.

Historically, Pride has been a celebration of LGBTIQ identities in a context of inequality that devalues such identities. Disparaging comments against a collective dance that gives visibility to LGBTIQ persons serve as a stark reminder of the need for Pride.

14th July 2023