

Press Statement

The NCPE applauds the changes to the police conduct certificate

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) applauds the changes made by the Police to the conduct certificate so that the names of both parents are shown, not only the father's name. The need for this change was highlighted during an investigation by the NCPE Commissioner, Ms Renee Laiviera, of a complainant who felt discriminated against by the fact that only the father's name was being shown on the certificate.

The NCPE Commissioner can investigate complaints of discrimination from the public according to the powers given to her by Chapter 456 of the laws of Malta.

While the Commissioner upheld this complaint based on a violation of Subsidiary Legislation 456.01, which prohibits discrimination between women and men in the provision of services, she praised the action by the Police who updated the system of issuing certificates of conduct to show the name of both parents.

The NCPE notes that with this change the discriminatory practice linked to the certificate of conduct has now been removed, which practice was already found to be discriminatory by the Commissioner in an ex officio investigation carried out in 2016. Despite the fact that, at that time, a commitment was made to change the certificates in order to show both the name of the mother and the father, this change had not yet taken place. In the Opinion issued by the Commissioner it was stated that it is not justifiable to blame the different treatment of women and men on old software, and that all Government departments should take the necessary steps without delay to update their systems and eliminate any type of discrimination.

18th January 2023