

**Press Statement – The NCPE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Malta**

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in collaboration with the University of Malta; in the presence of the Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality Rebecca Buttigieg. This Agreement will strengthen the competence in the research work that the Commission will carry out in the coming months in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Well-Being.

This Agreement will lead to a research report on the expectations and attitudes on the roles of women and men in Malta. The prevalence and persistence of stereotypes in Maltese society will be analysed, and recommendations will be made to strengthen equality between women and men further. The results of this research will continue to shed light on the extent to which the patriarchal mentality is still present in society and the impacts it has on the opinions and attitudes of the Maltese population. This study will therefore lead to strengthening the NCPE's knowledge of the current situation so that the Commission's work is more informed and effective.

An awareness-raising campaign will be based on the results of this research that will address the persistent stereotypes and prejudices that hinder equality. This awareness campaign will also be carried out in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Well-Being at the University of Malta.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality Rebecca Buttigieg expressed her satisfaction with the collaboration that is taking place between the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality and the University of Malta, which serves as a basis for creating more measures to eliminate discrimination between women and men in Maltese society. "Research is crucial to have a clear picture of the national context. While extensive international research has been done on the perceptions that arise from the role of gender, this study will help to show the advances made in Maltese society on this theme while we understand more where we need to invest more to ensure that we eliminate prejudices and inequality," said Buttigieg.

Prof. Alfred J. Vella, the Rector of the University of Malta stated that such studies provide valuable knowledge that support policy-makers when developing policies and legislation. The Rector also referred to the first ever Gender Equality Plan adopted by the University.

The NCPE looks forward to this collaboration and more work with the University of Malta to make the NCPE's work more informed and effective for the benefit of the whole society.

**1st December 2022**