

## **The newly adopted EU Directives: Strengthening equality across Europe**

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, a historic milestone was reached as the Council of the European Union announced the adoption of the EU Directives on Standards for Equality Bodies. This significant step signifies a leap forward in enhancing the enforcement of the EU's equal treatment laws.

The newly adopted EU Directives represent a significant stride towards consolidating Equality Bodies by bolstering their independence, empowering them with adequate resources and powers, and expanding their mandates to provide comprehensive protection against discrimination.

These Directives equip Equality Bodies across Europe with the tools and authority needed to combat discrimination effectively. They aim to ensure that every individual - and especially those individuals belonging to social groups that are most at risk of discrimination and harassment - can access justice and enjoy their fundamental rights. This is a crucial milestone in our journey towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

Over the past two years, the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) has been promoting and working towards the adoption of these EU Directives. It notes with satisfaction their approval and commends the efforts of all those involved in achieving this goal. The NCPE looks forward to their transposition in Maltese legislation followed by their implementation since this will enhance the effectiveness of its work in ensuring that equal treatment is truly enjoyed by everyone.

**7<sup>th</sup> May 2024**