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ANNUAL  
REPORT



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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



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# Message from the Minister



The work of the Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence during 2021 reflects its role as the national coordinating body in fostering inter-agency networking and collaboration to ensure gender-based violence and domestic violence are addressed in a holistic manner.

The launch of the second national strategy on gender-based violence and domestic violence in June 2021 highlights the Government's ongoing commitment towards implementing the pillars of the Istanbul Convention. The Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence is tasked with the coordinating role and is thus responsible for monitoring the implementation of the national action plan by regularly meeting with government stakeholders and NGOs to discuss policy development and strengthen service provision.

In 2021, the Commission prioritized awareness-raising through quarterly campaigns which aimed to address the intersectional aspect of domestic violence by collaborating with members of the LGBTIQ+ community and the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability. The Commission once again coordinated the 16 days of activism campaign with the theme 'Your voice can set you free'. During the 16 days, a number of awareness-raising initiatives and activities were organised in

cooperation with government stakeholders and NGOs working in the area.

Throughout the year, the Commission organised several specialised multi-agency training programmes for professionals working in the field based on a training needs analysis carried out with the main stakeholders. The topics included risk assessment tools and child to parent violence and were attended by social workers, counsellors, probation officers, risk assessors, police, lawyers, doctors, nurses and professionals from domestic violence shelters and NGOs.

Important achievements in 2021 included the launch of the *Safe Dates* pilot project, an evidence-based dating violence prevention programme for adolescents, in collaboration with the Ministry for Education. Furthermore, the Commission signed memoranda of understanding with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing within the University of Malta and the Women's Rights Foundation.

The Commission will continue to embark on initiatives to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence including targeted awareness-raising campaigns, training for professionals and strengthening collaboration with governmental and non-governmental service providers through the monitoring and implementation of the national strategy.



# Foreword by the Commissioner

**Ms Audrey Friggieri**



What an eventful year this has been! Looking back at the work of the Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence during 2021, I feel proud and energised to continue with this vital endeavour in our society. Our work is aimed at bringing about a paradigm shift in our culture, such that as individuals we become more open to self-reflection, to walking a mile in each other's shoes to be able to comprehend how others may experience disrespect, discrimination, abuse and violence too. It is our mission to keep stimulating debate and necessary action to prevent gender-based violence and domestic violence in our society.

During 2021 the Commission organised various training courses for different professionals who work in the social sector and come in contact with individuals experiencing abuse and violence. We have led two very important online campaigns with the aim of educating the public and raising awareness in our society: 'Ilkoll Umani/We are all human', and 'Id-Diżabilità' tiegħi ma tti kx dritt tabbużani/My disability does not mean consent for abuse'. The former - spanning March and April - was aimed at raising awareness about how LGBTIQ+ individuals can experience abuse and violence, whereas the goal of the latter campaign, held from August to October, was to draw attention to how living with disability can mean that one is on the receiving end of abusive and even violent behaviours from others surrounding them.

Just as soon as this campaign came to an end, we were already embarking on the annual International 16 days of activism with the theme 'Your voice can set you free', with the myriad activities and events held by the various stakeholders and other entities, all

committed to join forces in the fight against gender-based violence.

During these 16 days of activism the Commission announced its collaboration with the Ministry for Education in introducing the pilot for the 'Safe Dates' evidence-based programme in four different state colleges. This means that gender-based violence and domestic violence will now be tackled at the initial stages of what could evolve into stable relationships in the future of young people - during dating. The main aim in introducing this programme is of course prevention. Evidence shows that participation in this programme will help strengthen core values towards respectful and loving human relationships.

Collaboration with other professional entities that share our vision and commitment towards the wellbeing of society and the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence and domestic violence helps us keep abreast with the current needs in society, ensures that our initiatives are more effective, and enables us to reach more groups in society. It is for these reasons that the Commission has welcomed the signing of MoU's with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta, as well as with the Women's Rights Foundation respectively.

We were pleased to inaugurate our new, more spacious, premises on the occasion of the signing of the MoU with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, and to host here the launching of the Malta Observatory on Femicide later in the year.

The Commission looks forward to continuing with the implementation of the second national strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence that we have launched in June 2021. Together we can achieve great things!

## 01

# The Commission

The Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence was set up in line with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, which article was legally transposed in full to the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act of 2018 (Cap.581). Its main roles include advising the responsible minister on all aspects relating to gender-based violence and domestic violence, promoting zero-tolerance towards such violence and coordinating stakeholders' efforts towards the protection of victims and the prosecution of offenders. The Commission further provides policy recommendations which are grounded in evidence-based research and regular consultations with various stakeholders.



The Commission team at the launch of the second national strategy on gender-based violence and domestic violence

## 1.1 Members of the Commission

The Commission is headed by an acting Commissioner and twelve board members together with a board secretary.

**Commissioner on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence:** Ms Audrey Friggieri

### Board members:

- Dr Cheryl Azzopardi
- Ms Charlene Barbara
- Insp. Louise Calleja
- Mr Christian Camilleri
- Mr Alex Caruana
- Dr Charles Cassar
- Dr Gabriel Farrugia
- Ms Catherine Fenech
- Ms Renee Laiviera
- Mr Chris Micallef
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri
- Ms Joanne Sciberras Edwards

**Secretary:** Dr Marouska Debono

### Employees of the Commission:

- Ms Katya Unah (Assistant Director)
- Ms Sasha Na Jeong Farrugia (Senior Manager)
- Mr Ivan Edward Scicluna (Project Manager)
- Ms Maria Farrugia (Project Manager)
- Mr Nicholas Saliba (ICT Manager)
- Ms Therese Caruana (Research Manager)
- Ms Maria Borg (Research Manager)

# 02

## Commission meetings



Eleven board meetings were held in 2021 and all took place online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



<b>Meeting 1</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Meeting 2</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Meeting 3</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Meeting 4</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Meeting 5</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> May
<b>Meeting 6</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Meeting 7</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Meeting 8</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> September
<b>Meeting 9</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Meeting 10</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Meeting 11</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> December



# 03

## Research and statistical reporting

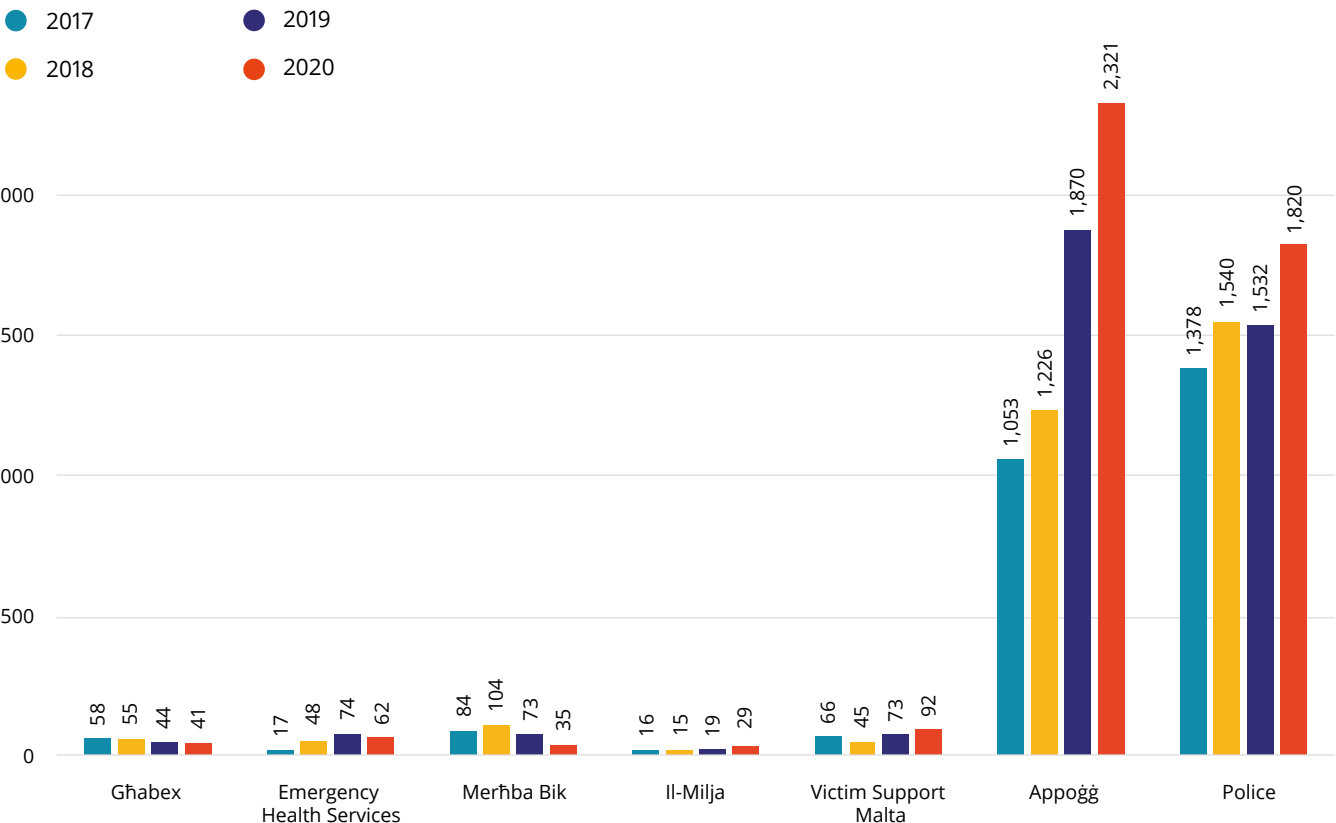


The Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence collects data from the various service providers, both governmental and non-governmental, on an annual basis. Data gathered on gender-based violence and domestic violence is harmonized by the National Statistics Office.

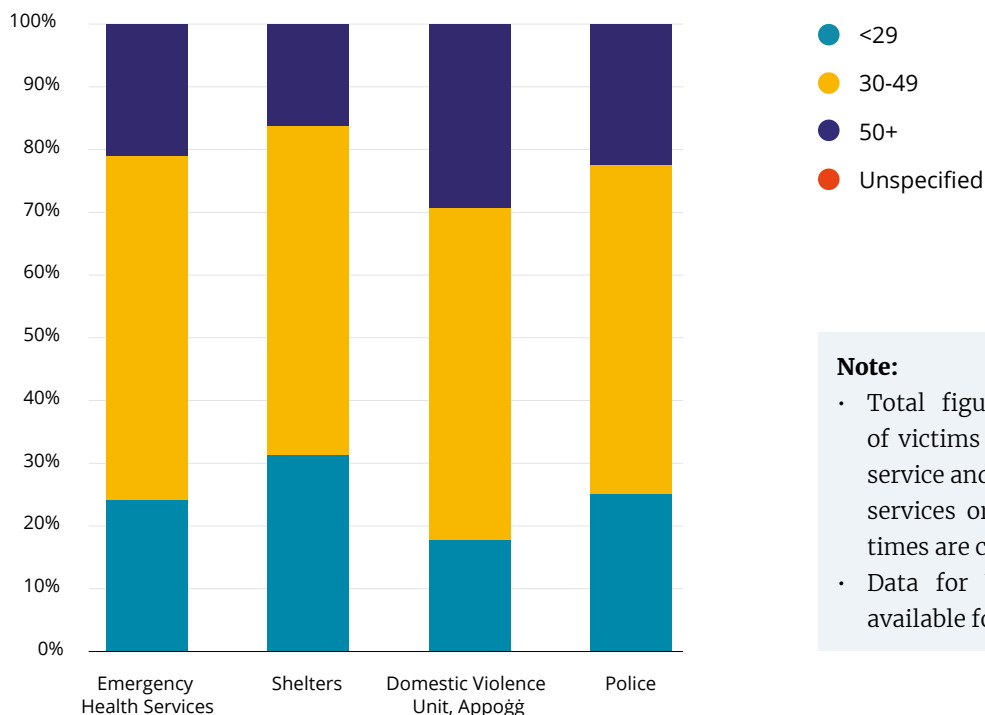
**Note:**

- Total figures represent the number of cases registered at the respective service and persons accessing services multiple times feature more than once.
- Increase attributed to a change in operations and new legal provisions.

### 3.1 Users of victim services registered at domestic violence services: 2017-2020



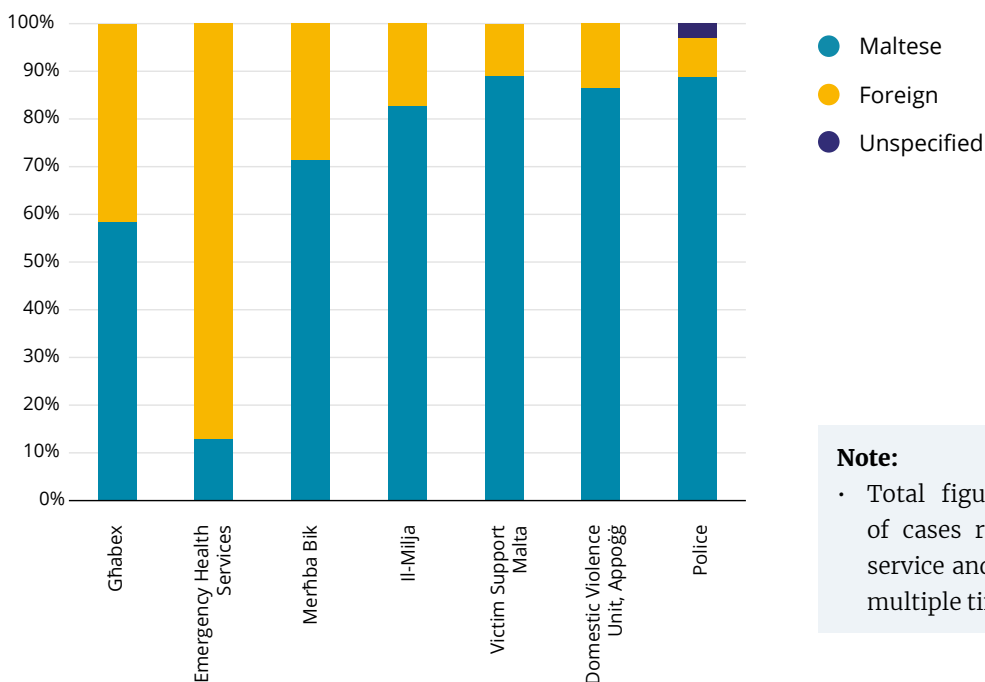
### 3.2 Users of victim services registered at domestic violence service by age of victim: 2020



**Note:**

- Total figures represent the number of victims registered at the respective service and persons accessing different services or the same service multiple times are counted more than once.
- Data for Victim Support Malta not available for 2020.

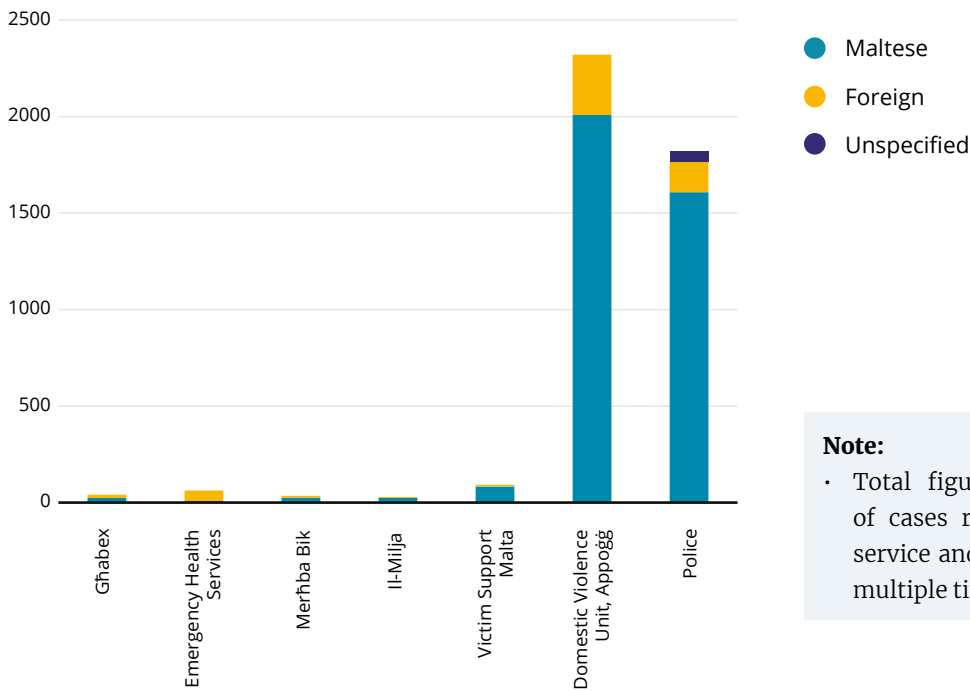
### 3.3 Gender percentage distribution of cases registered using domestic violence services by broad nationality of victim: 2020



**Note:**

- Total figures represent the number of cases registered at the respective service and persons accessing services multiple times feature more than once.

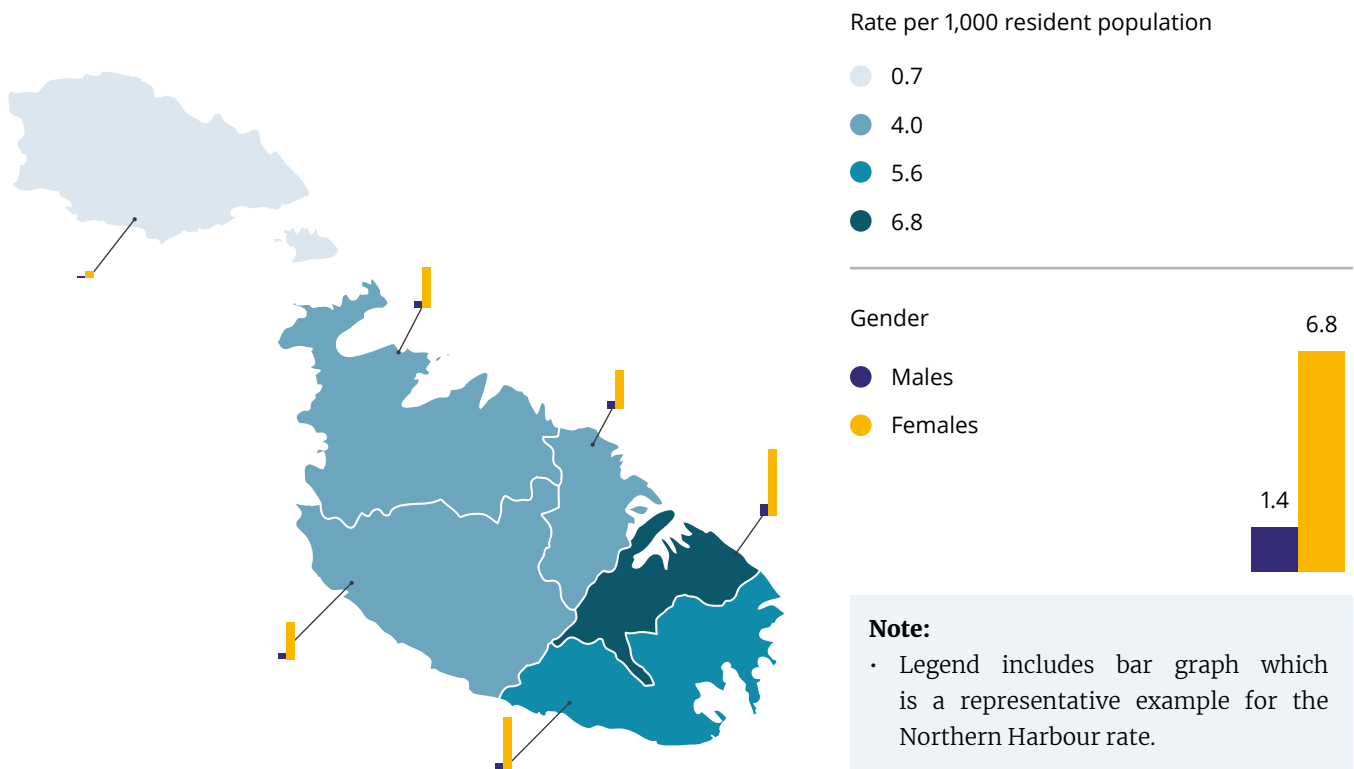
### 3.4 Cases registered using domestic violence services by broad nationality of victim: 2020



**Note:**

- Total figures represent the number of cases registered at the respective service and persons accessing services multiple times feature more than once.

### 3.5 Number of cases registered with the Domestic Violence Unit at Appogg by district of residence (rate per 1,000 resident population): 2020



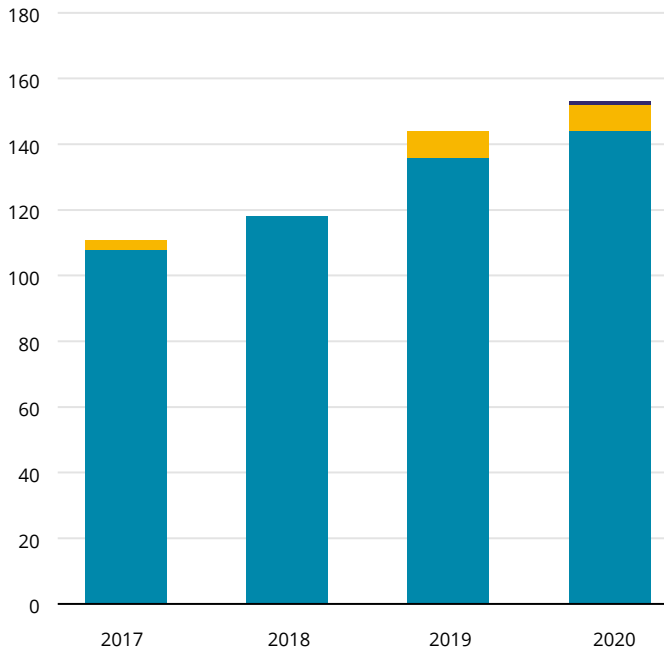
**Note:**

- Legend includes bar graph which is a representative example for the Northern Harbour rate.



### 3.8 Total number of perpetrators using domestic violence services by gender of perpetrator: 2017-2020

- Male
- Female
- Other

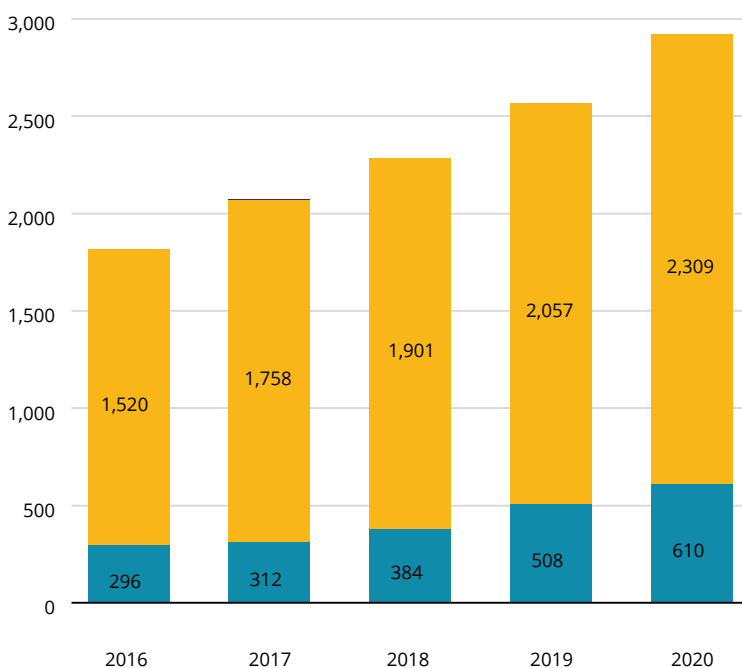


**Notes:**

- Domestic violence services targeting perpetrators includes the ‘Stop!’ programme and the Department of Probation and Parole.
- Information from the Department of Probation and Parole is only available from 2019 onwards.
- This table does not tally with the tables on services since it is based on total number of individual persons and not on the number of cases/reports across services.

### 3.9 Total number of victims using domestic violence services by gender of victim: 2016-2020

- Male
- Female
- Unspecified



**Note:**

- This table does not tally with the previous tables since it is based on the total number of individual persons and not on the number of cases/reports across services.
- Aggregate data for 2016 does not include Il-Milja.
- Service: Merħba Bik, Il-Milja (2017-2020), Domestic Violence Unit (Appogg), Victim Support Malta (2016-2019), Police, Għabex and the Emergency Health services.

## 04

## Stakeholder meetings and training

### 4.1 Meeting with EU Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms. Dunja Mijatovic, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe met with the Commissioner on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence, Ms Audrey Friggieri at the Commission's offices on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021. They discussed the extensive work of the Commission, including the role of education and the media in eliminating abuse and violence against women and girls from all walks of life in Maltese society.



Commissioner with Ms Dunja Mijatovic

### 4.2 Courtesy visits

The Commissioner and team members visited Dar Emmaus (18<sup>th</sup> August), Dar Hosea (17<sup>th</sup> September), Ghabex (8<sup>th</sup> October) and Dar il-Milja (15<sup>th</sup> December), in recognition of their invaluable work with victims, both adults and children, of gender-based and domestic violence. These courtesy visits helped establish or strengthen the Commission's ties with civil society organisations, as well as enable insight into the realities being faced first-handedly by service providers and the victims they support.



Visit to Dar Ghabex





Visit to Dar il-Milja



Visit to Dar Ghabex



Visit to Dar il-Milja



Visit to Dar Emmaus



Visit to Dar Emmaus



### 4.3 Training for professionals

A training needs analysis was carried out with the Inter-Ministerial Committee at the beginning of the year. This exercise led to the coordination and delivery of three multi-agency training for professionals in 2021.

#### 4.3.1 Training on DASH risk assessment

In May 2021, three separate online training sessions on the DASH risk assessment were organised and delivered by Ms Beverley Gilbert and Ms Rachel Wilde. The DASH is the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence Risk Identification Checklist which is used in Malta to assess and manage cases of domestic violence. Participants included social workers, risk assessors, counsellors, psychologists, probation officers, police from the GBDV Unit, lawyers, doctors, nurses and representatives from domestic violence shelters and NGOs. The training was held on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of May and a total of 80 professionals were trained.

#### 4.3.2 Training on SARA risk assessment

A two-day training course on the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment was organised on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July. The sessions were held online and delivered by Dr Ruth Tully<sup>1</sup>. Since the SARA is a tool used with perpetrators, professionals working within the Stop the Violence and Abuse service at Aġenzija Appoġġ, the GBDV Unit within the Malta Police Force and the Department of Probation and Parole were invited to attend. A total of 46 professionals were trained.

#### 4.3.3 Training on child to parent violence

The training needs analysis revealed the need for training on the topic of child to parent violence. The Commission engaged in the necessary research to identify a trainer with expertise in this area.

Dr Ceryl Davies<sup>2</sup> delivered two separate multi-agency training sessions on the 26<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The training aimed to help professionals better understand child to parent abuse as a whole family issue and how to identify signs, symptoms and impact of this form of abuse. The training was held online, and 84 professionals participated, including counsellors, social workers, police from the GBDV Unit, risk assessors, probation officers and representatives from domestic violence shelters and NGOs. Through case studies and small group discussions, the different professionals were able to explore strategies and good practices when working with families experiencing this form of violence.

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The training needs analysis revealed the need for training on the topic of child to parent violence.

1 <http://tullyforensicpsychology.com/>

2 <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/health-sciences/staff/ceryl-davies/en>

## 05

## Implementation of the National Action Plan and Monitoring of GREVIO recommendations



Commissioner Audrey Friggieri at strategy launch

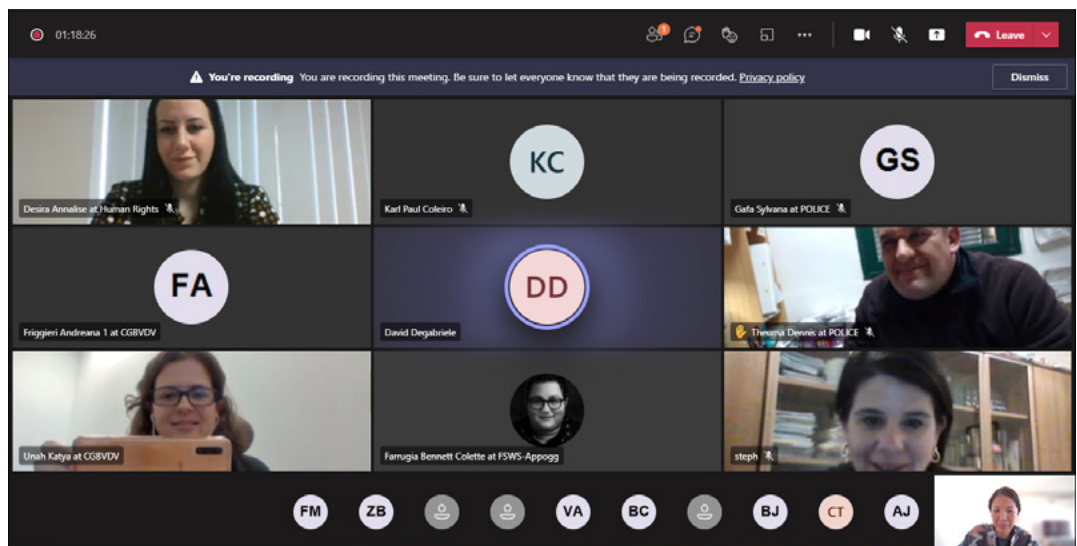


Minister Edward Zammit Lewis at strategy launch

### 5.1 Launch of second national strategy

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June, Malta's second national strategy on gender-based violence and domestic violence<sup>3</sup> was launched. The launch event was held at Limestone Heritage in Siggiewi and speeches were delivered by Commissioner Audrey Friggieri, Minister for Justice, Equality and Governance, Dr Edward Zammit Lewis and Dr Lydia Abela. The strategy is a continuation of Malta's previous strategy to address gender-based violence and domestic violence and was developed in collaboration with the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

<sup>3</sup> [https://stopviolence.gov.mt/en/Documents/Docs/20524%20-%20Second%20Strategy%20\(another%20duplicate\).pdf](https://stopviolence.gov.mt/en/Documents/Docs/20524%20-%20Second%20Strategy%20(another%20duplicate).pdf)



IMC-NGO meeting on 25th March 2021

### 5.2 Implementation of the National Action Plan

During 2021, the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) met regularly to monitor the implementation of the policy measures included in the second national strategy. The focal points from the Ministries and entities were requested to report on the progress of the implementation of their respective policy measures on a quarterly basis.

Throughout the year, the Commission chaired a total of nine Inter-Ministerial Committee meetings (three of which were held with NGOs). All meetings were held online:

- 21<sup>st</sup> January
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- 29<sup>th</sup> April
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- 19<sup>th</sup> October

In addition, the Commission invited representatives from NGOs who work in the area of gender-based violence and domestic violence to attend three IMC meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to foster collaboration between government stakeholders and civil society and discuss concerns aimed at strengthening service provision. These meetings took place virtually on the below dates.

- 25<sup>th</sup> March
- 13<sup>th</sup> July
- 22<sup>nd</sup> November

### 5.3 Monitoring of GREVIO recommendations

Following last year’s GREVIO country monitoring exercise, as coordinating body under Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, the Commission disseminated the GREVIO recommendations not directly addressed in the second national strategy to each entity. Requests for updates on work being done to address these recommendations were sent in May and December.

Achieved	In Process	Pending	Total number of outcomes
8	2	3	13

The table above highlights the progress of the implementation of the expected outcomes of the national action plan during 2021.



## 06

## Inauguration of new offices



*Hon. Bonnici at inauguration ceremony*

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, Minister Owen Bonnici inaugurated the new Commission offices at the Zentrum Business Center, Triq l-Imdina, Qormi. Various stakeholders working in the sector were invited to attend the inauguration ceremony.

## 07

## Memorandum of Understanding with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing



*Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing within the University of Malta*

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, the Commission and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding which solidified the ties between the two organisations and their mutual recognition that the fight against gender-based violence and domestic violence is an interdisciplinary effort. With this agreement, the Commission is able to access academic support and research on all areas under its mandate and ensure that the policies it promotes are evidence-based. The stronger link between knowledge and policymaking is ultimately meant to benefit society's chances of winning over gender-based violence and domestic violence. The Memorandum will be immediately put into effect with the commissioning of a prevalence study on children's experiences of abuse and witnessing violence.

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The stronger link between knowledge and policymaking is ultimately meant to benefit society's chances of winning over gender-based violence and domestic violence.

## 08

# Community awareness

## 8.1 Social media campaigns

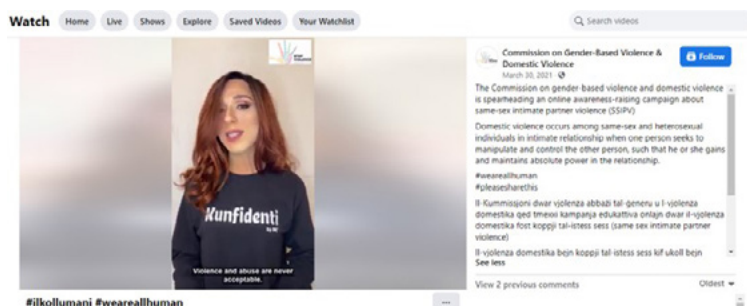
### 8.1.1 'We Are All Human' – Awareness Raising Campaign on Same Sex Intimate Partner Violence

'We Are All Human' ('*Ilkoll Umani*') was an online awareness-raising campaign which focused on same-sex intimate partner violence. The main aim was to increase more awareness on the existence of intimate partner violence within the LGBTIQ+ community.

The Commission invited a number of volunteers from the LGBTIQ+ community to

record messages against violence on LGBTIQ+ members, to express solidarity with LGBTIQ+ survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence and to overcome myths and stereotypes which limit domestic violence to heterosexual couples. The video-clips included contact details of service providers which assist and guide gender-based and domestic violence survivors.

This awareness-raising campaign took place online via the Commission's social media pages over five weeks.



A post on social media featuring a participant's message on same-sex intimate partner violence

Date Published	Post Title	People Reached	Likes, Comments & Shares	Avg. Minutes Viewed	Post Clicks
23/03/2021	Video #1	3140	180	00:09	229
26/03/2021	Video #2	1867	59	00:07	117
09/04/2021	Video #3	2228	113	00:10	204
13/04/2021	Video #4	1029	35	00:06	53
16/04/2021	Video #5	980	37	00:07	54
20/04/2021	Video #6	1243	74	00:10	164
23/04/2021	Video #7	264	7	00:06	29

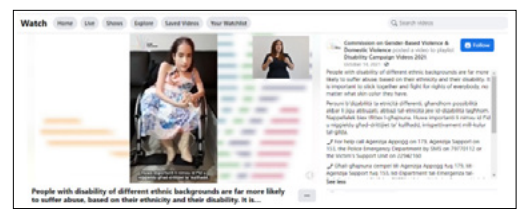
The above table shows Facebook statistics for the seven videos which were shared between March and April.



The slogan for the campaign on violence against people with disabilities

**8.1.2 ‘My Disability Does Not Mean Consent for Abuse’ – Awareness-Raising Campaign on Violence Against People with Disabilities**

The online campaign on violence against people with disabilities, in collaboration with the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, sought to raise awareness on the various forms of violence against people living with disabilities, particularly forms of violence which are exclusive to such individuals.



A post on social media featuring a participant’s message on violence against persons with disabilities

For this campaign, the Commission invited several individuals with disabilities to deliver messages in short video-clips which addressed the different and specific forms of violence on people with disabilities, the sexual stereotypes on persons with disabilities, and the intersectional identities which lead to persons with disabilities to be doubly discriminated and abused.

The video-clips were shared on the Commission’s social media pages to raise awareness on the various dimensions of violence against people with disabilities and to encourage survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence to seek help from the support services mentioned in the video-clips of this campaign.

Date Published	Post Title	People Impressions	Post Reach	Post Engagement
29/07/2021	Video #1	1,268	1,074	78
05/08/2021	Video #2	306	255	53
12/08/2021	Video #3	655	597	50
19/08/2021	Video #4	720	649	66
26/08/2021	Video #5	216	191	16
02/09/2021	Video #6	2,817	2,467	447
09/09/2021	Video #7	145	117	12
16/09/2021	Video #8	994	898	58
23/09/2021	Video #9	573	488	29
30/09/2021	Video #10	607	551	37
14/10/2021	Video #11	4,584	4,315	275
21/10/2021	Video #12	362	335	46
28/10/2021	Video #13	202	197	20
04/11/2021	Video #14	53	53	6
11/11/2021	Video #15	261	234	8
18/11/2021	Video #16	48	24	3

The table above highlights statistics for the sixteen videos which were shared on the Commission’s Facebook page during this online campaign which spanned between July and November 2021.

## 8.2 Awareness-raising campaigns

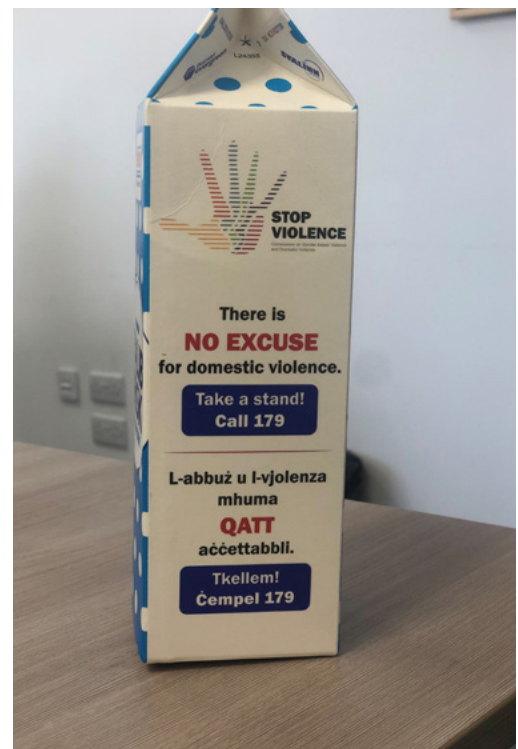
### 8.2.1 Campaign with Benna

The Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence in collaboration with Malta Dairy Products launched an awareness raising campaign with the aim of encouraging people to report abuse. An empowering message was placed on the Light Blue (2.5% fat) milk cartons.

The campaign was officially launched on 20<sup>th</sup> May. A total of 209,000 light blue milk cartons were distributed across Malta and Gozo over a period of two weeks, until 5<sup>th</sup> June. In this manner, the Commission was able to deliver this message to several families through the Benna product.



Message on Benna milk carton



The Commission... in collaboration with Malta Dairy Products launched an awareness raising campaign with the aim of encouraging people to report abuse.

### 8.2.2 International Days

The United Nations designates specific days throughout the year as occasions to mark particular events or topics, in order to promote the objectives of the organisation through awareness raising.

Some of these international days are in line with the remit of the Commission and so these are promoted on the official Facebook page and Instagram account to raise awareness on several issues relating to gender-based violence and domestic violence.

## International Days

### 6th February

International day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

### 9th February

International Safer Internet Day

### 11th February

International Day of Women & Girls in Science

### 8th March

International Women's Day

### 22nd April

International Girls in ICT Day

### 4th June

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

### 15th June

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

### 19th June

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in conflict

### 30th July

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

### 11th October

International Day of Girl Child

### 20th November

World Children's Day

### 25th November

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

### 2nd December

International Day for Abolition of Slavery

### 3rd December

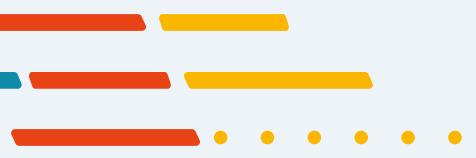
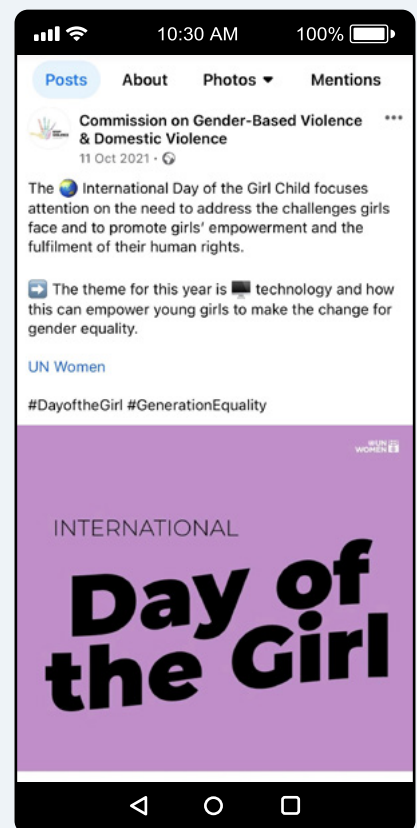
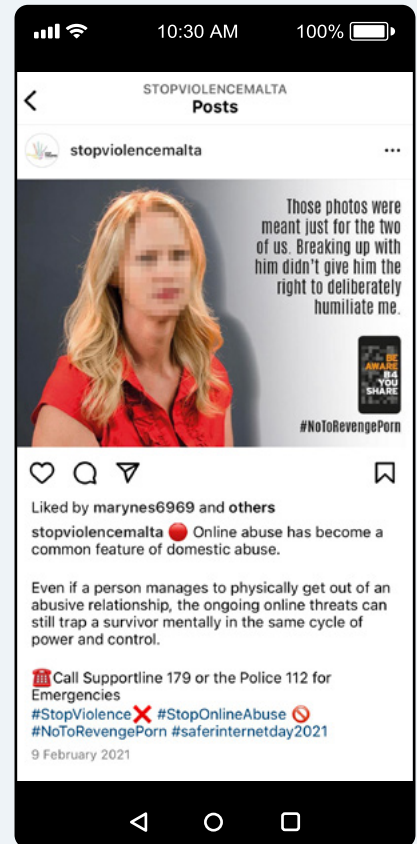
International Day of Persons with Disabilities

### 10th December

Human Rights Day

### 18th December

International Migrants Day

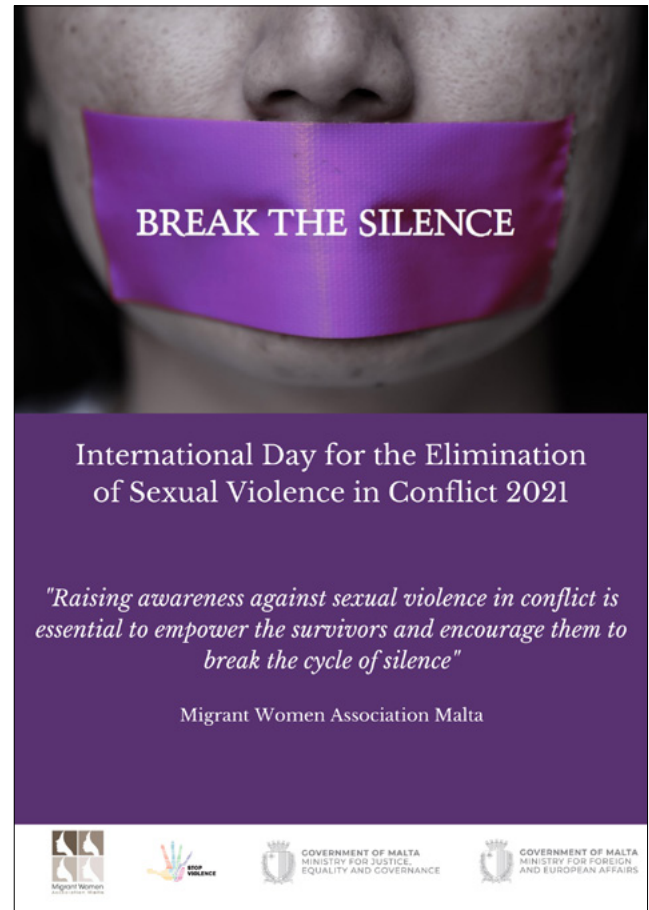
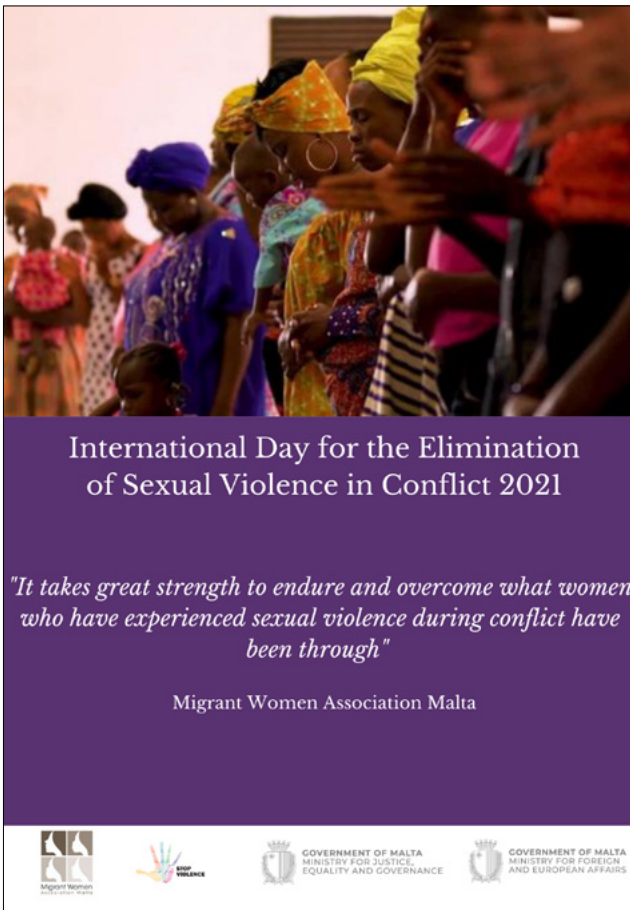






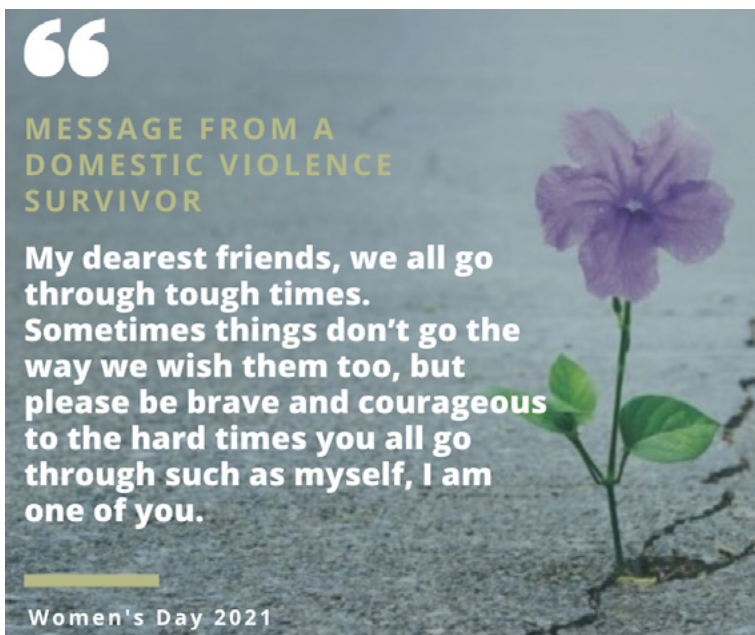
Post for World Day Against Trafficking Persons (30th July) – in collaboration with Human Rights Directorate

Throughout the year, the Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence collaborated with other government entities, Ministries and NGOs which also commemorate certain international days.



Posts for International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (19th June) – in collaboration with Human Rights Directorate, Migrant Women Association and Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs

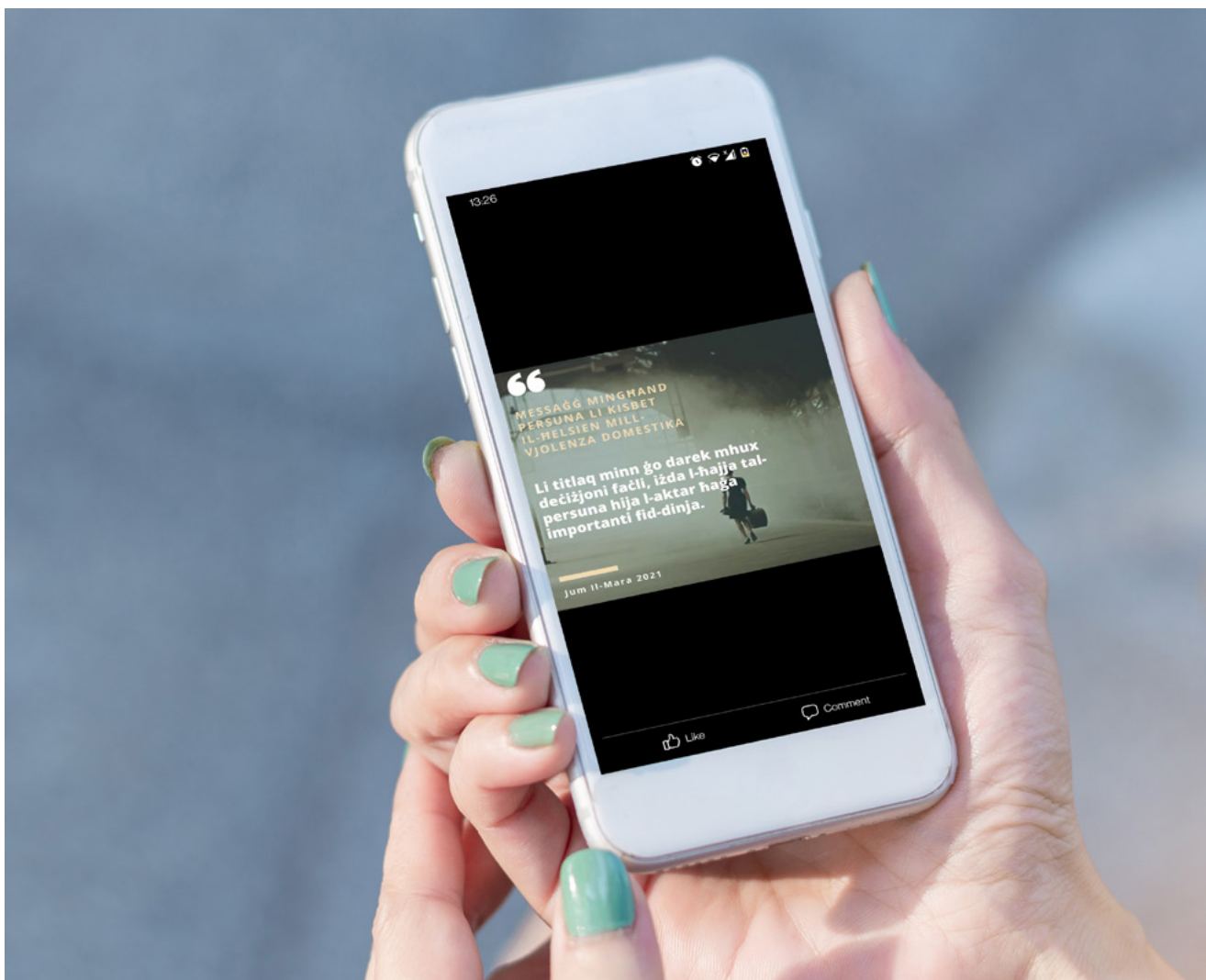




Post for Women's Day in English

### 8.2.3 Women's Day

As part of an initiative for Women's Day, the Commission reached out to domestic violence shelters and invited residents to contribute empowering messages to other women who may be experiencing gender-based violence or domestic violence. These were then shared on the Commission's social media platforms on Women's Day.



Post for Women's Day in Maltese



#### 8.2.4 Billboard campaign

In April 2021, the Commission coordinated a national billboard campaign. Drawings submitted by students, as part of an awareness-raising initiative in schools during the 16 days of activism 2020 campaign, were displayed on the four billboards which were placed in prominent locations across Malta.



Billboards displaying students' artwork



#### 8.2.5 Sticker campaign

The Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence launched a campaign by designing awareness-raising stickers which were distributed to various hair and beauty salons. These stickers promote the 179 helpline and were placed on sellable products to encourage anyone who falls victim of some form of abuse or violence to seek help.

Stickers displayed on products

### 8.2.6 Junior College fresher month

The G.F. Abela Junior College organised a Freshers' Month in which the Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence collaborated with Kunsill Studenti Junior College (KSJC). A display stand was set up at the Junior College premises by KSJC. Information and promotional material provided by the Commission were presented and disseminated to all the students throughout the month of October.

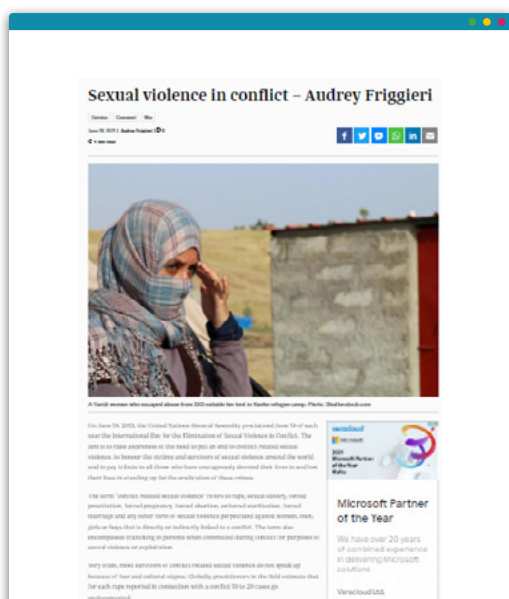
The scope of this activity was to raise awareness on gender-based violence, domestic violence and dating violence among young individuals.



Display stand at Junior College

### 8.3. Newspaper articles

Throughout the year, the Commissioner, Ms Audrey Friggieri, was committed to writing a variety of articles which deal with gender-based violence and domestic violence. Such articles were published on multiple local newspapers and online news portals.



Article on Times of Malta, June 2021



Article on Illum, August 2021



Kalamita – ONE TV  
October 2021



**8.4 Discussions on television and radio**

Commissioner Audrey Friggieri was invited on various television and radio programmes throughout the year to discuss the extensive work of the Commission and campaigns which took place in 2021. The 16 Days of Activism and *Safe Dates* campaigns made headlines and were discussed numerous times during these interviews.

Newsline – Radju Malta  
06/07/2021



TVAM – TVM News+  
26/10/2021





Attwalita` – XEJK TV  
27/10/2021



LovinDaily – Lovin Malta Facebook  
29/11/2021



Espresso – ONE TV  
29/12/2021



### 8.5 Participation in local and international conferences

During 2021, Commission staff attended various local and international conferences about gender-based violence and domestic violence.

Name	Date	Organisation
The tenth anniversary after the signature of the Istanbul Convention	6th April 2021	Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality during the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union
Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action	11th May 2021	The Council of Europe and the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, during Germany's current Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
The Angry Internet: Knowledge and Tools for Professionals	23rd June 2021	Denmark's Ministry for Employment and Council of Ministers
A Social Vision for Malta 2035: Shaping the Future of Our Society	9th July 2021	Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family, and Children's Rights
'Breaking the cycle: preventing and tackling sexualised violence against women and children' aims to offer participants a holistic and intersectional approach on preventing and tackling sexualised violence	6th & 7th October 2021	WAVE
Gender Equality Index: Online Conference	28th October 2021	European Institute for Gender Equality



Business card with contact numbers of services

### 8.6 Updating and dissemination of business cards

In, 2021, the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence redesigned and updated its business cards, which contain various helplines and contact numbers of services and shelters for victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence. The new business cards have been disseminated to various organizations and operators in the field. Moreover, the National Statistics Office, who shall be conducting a nationwide survey on gender-based violence, were also provided with a substantial number of cards to disseminate to the participants of the study.

## 09

# Social Marketing



Banner for 16 days of activism

## 9.1 16 Days of Activism

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign which aims to raise awareness and combat violence against women and girls. The campaign spans between the 25<sup>th</sup> November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the 10<sup>th</sup> December, Human Rights Day.

Every year, the Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence coordinates the 16 Days of Activism campaign on a national level by inviting government stakeholders, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions and student organisations to collaborate on initiatives and activities.

The theme chosen by the Commission for the 2021 campaign was 'Your voice can set you free – Il-vuċi tiegħek tista' teħilsek'.



## 9.2 Calendar of events

Events throughout the 16 days

Awareness-raising campaign by NCPE

Calendar of events

Posts created for the 16 days of activism

## 9.3 Awareness-raising initiatives

### 9.3.1 Social media campaign

Quotes to raise awareness and statistics on domestic violence were posted on the Commission's social media platforms throughout the 16 Days of Activism. The posts were illustrated to emphasize the importance of each message.

In addition, Instagram stories were shared which featured the campaign logo and slogan, information about daily events as well as a weekly quiz with questions related to the 16 Days of Activism.

Instagram stories



Animated videos



**9.3.2 Television adverts**

In preparation for the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Commissioner visited domestic violence shelters and met with residents who shared their experiences of violence and abuse. Parts of these interviews were adapted into animated video clips to ascertain anonymity. In addition to being shared on the Commission’s social media platforms, the video clips were aired on national television during prime time throughout the 16 days.



Commission staff at Palazzo Ferreria

**9.3.3 Awareness-raising stand in collaboration with MSFC**

During the 16 days of activism, the Commission collaborated with the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children’s Rights to set up an awareness-raising stand at Palazzo Ferreria in Valletta. Commission staff manned the stand throughout the campaign, handing out informational and promotional material as well as offering assistance to the general public.



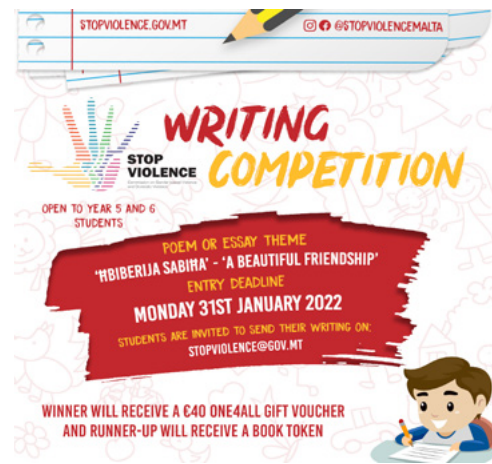
#### 9.3.4 Collaboration with Lovin Malta

The Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence collaborated with Lovin Malta on an awareness-raising campaign during the 16 Days of Activism. This consisted of eight Instagram posts and stories, which were also shared on Facebook over a period of two weeks, and a banner advert which ran throughout the 16 days. In addition, this collaboration included an article campaign which went live a few days after the end of the campaign, where all images were shared again. The Commissioner was also invited on Lovin Daily during the 16 days of Activism, to give an overview of the meaning behind the 16 days and the work of the Commission throughout this period.

*Posts shared on social media*



Drawing competition flyer for primary students



Writing competition flyer for primary students



Drawing competition flyer for secondary students



Writing competition for secondary students

## 9.4 Activities

### 9.4.1 Writing workshop

A writing workshop was held with residents of Dar Għabex. The session was delivered by Ms Miriam Calleja and the aim was to help participants to creatively express their feelings, thoughts and worries.

### 9.4.2 Drawing competition

Following last year's success of the drawing competition in schools, the Commission once again organised a drawing competition for Primary and Secondary students with the aim of promoting and raising awareness about the importance of healthy and respectful relationships among students of all ages.

This year, the Commission extended this initiative to host a writing competition which includes essays and poems written by Primary and Secondary school students.

The themes for the drawing and writing competitions were 'A Beautiful Friendship' ('Ħbiberija Sabiha') for Primary students whereas for Secondary students, the theme was 'We Need Love to be Healthy & Happy' ('Għandna Bżonn l-Imħabba Biex Nghixu f'Saħħitna u Kuntenti').

The drawing and writing competitions invited students from all the schools across Malta and Gozo to participate and the initiative commenced as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign.



Hon. Bonnici, Hon. Caruana and Commissioner at Safe Dates launch event

#### 9.4.3 Launch of *Safe Dates* pilot project

On the 1<sup>st</sup> December, an official press launch for the *Safe Dates* pilot project was held at the Malta Visual and Performing Arts School. The *Safe Dates* is an evidence-based dating violence prevention programme which will be piloted with Year 10 students in four secondary state schools during PSCD lessons.

The implementation of the pilot project is a collaboration between the Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence, within the Ministry for Research, Innovation and Equality, and the Ministry for Education. The main objective of this pilot study is to evaluate whether the implementation of *Safe Dates* is effective in changing the beliefs and attitudes of Year 10 PSCD students on dating abuse and to gather feedback from PSCD teachers on the implementation of the programme.



*Safe Dates* launch



#### 9.4.4 Launch of Malta's Observatory on Femicide

The Malta Observatory on Femicide was launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December by the Women's Rights Foundation in partnership with the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, within the Ministry for Research, Innovation and Equality.

The Observatory is a component of the European Observatory on Femicide (EOF),

which was established in Malta in 2018 and was hosted by the University of Malta till January 2020. The Malta Observatory on Femicide aims to bring together multiple stakeholders and academics active in the sector of gender-based violence and domestic violence to strengthen policy development and implementation with regards to femicide by raising awareness, conducting research, offering insights, as well as serve as a basis to develop domestic homicide evaluations in Malta.

Following the launch, the Women's Rights Foundation and the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the purpose of fostering cooperation in promoting awareness and assisting the Observatory in attaining its primary objective.



Launch of Malta Observatory on Femicide



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and Women's Rights Foundation



Hon. Bonnici and Hon. Falzon during the book donation event



Book donations to local shelters



Book donations from the National Book Council to representatives from local shelters

#### 9.4.5 Book donation

In the run up to the 16 days of activism, the Commission and the National Book Council collaboratively organised a book donation to five local shelters which house victims of domestic violence: Dar Merħba Bik, Għabex, Dar il-Milja (Fondazzjoni Sebħ), Dar Emmaus and SOAR. The contents of the donation were decided based on the shelters' communicated preferences and the educational, possibly therapeutic, value that they could bring to service users, both young and adult.

Representatives from the five shelters joined Commissioner Ms Audrey Friggieri and Chairman Mr Mark Camilleri at an event hosted by Għabex on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The donation was presided over by the Minister for Equality, Research and Innovation, Hon. Owen Bonnici and the Minister for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights, Hon. Michael Falzon. The Commission hopes that the literary works now furnishing the shelters' libraries prove to be a safe haven and a source of solace and inspiration for survivors through the stories they weave.

## 9.5 Training for professionals

### 9.5.1 Training for obstetrics and gynaecology department

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November, the Commission coordinated a training seminar for health professionals addressing the legal aspect of sexual assault management. The event was held at the Central Auditorium at Mater Dei Hospital and participants included doctors from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Accident and Emergency Department, GUM, Forensic Medicine and Public Health as well as nurses from these departments and social workers from Appogg.



*Training for health professionals*

Professor Muscat Baron, the chairperson of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, gave an introductory address and presentations were delivered by Police Inspector Joseph Busuttil, Forensic Scientist Dr Marisa Cassar, Assistant Court Registrar Mr Franklin Calleja and Magistrate Lara Lanfranco.



**EARLY IDENTIFICATION CAN SAVE LIVES**

SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT THAT THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE PROFESSIONALS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THEM (MANGION, 2016; NAUDI, CLARK AND SALIBA, 2018). IN VIEW OF THIS, THE TRAINING IS SET OUT TO SUPPORT THE EMPLOYEES, TO ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT COLLEAGUES AND OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF GBV AND DV.

**DATE** 26TH NOVEMBER 2021

**TIME** 2:00PM – 4:00PM

**VENUE** ONLINE

**FACILITATOR** MARIA MANGION, SENIOR MANAGER, FAMILY SERVICES, FONDAZZJONI SEBH

STOP VIOLENCE

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2021

STOPVIOLENCE.GOV.MT

*Poster for training session*

### 9.5.2 Multi-agency training on child to parent violence

The Commission organised two multi-agency training sessions on child to parent violence on the 26<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December, which were delivered online by Dr Ceryl Davies. Services providers working within the area of gender-based violence and domestic violence were invited to attend.

### 9.5.3 Information sessions for professionals

During the planning stages of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Commission received several requests for information sessions. Online sessions were organised for employees within the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, The Family and Children's Rights and the Ministry for Finance and Employment. Another information session was held in collaboration with the Employee Support Programme at MUZA in Valletta.

The information sessions were delivered by Ms Maria Mangion and focused on enhancing the participants' knowledge and skills in identifying and supporting colleagues and other persons who are experiencing gender-based violence or domestic violence as well as providing information about existing services.



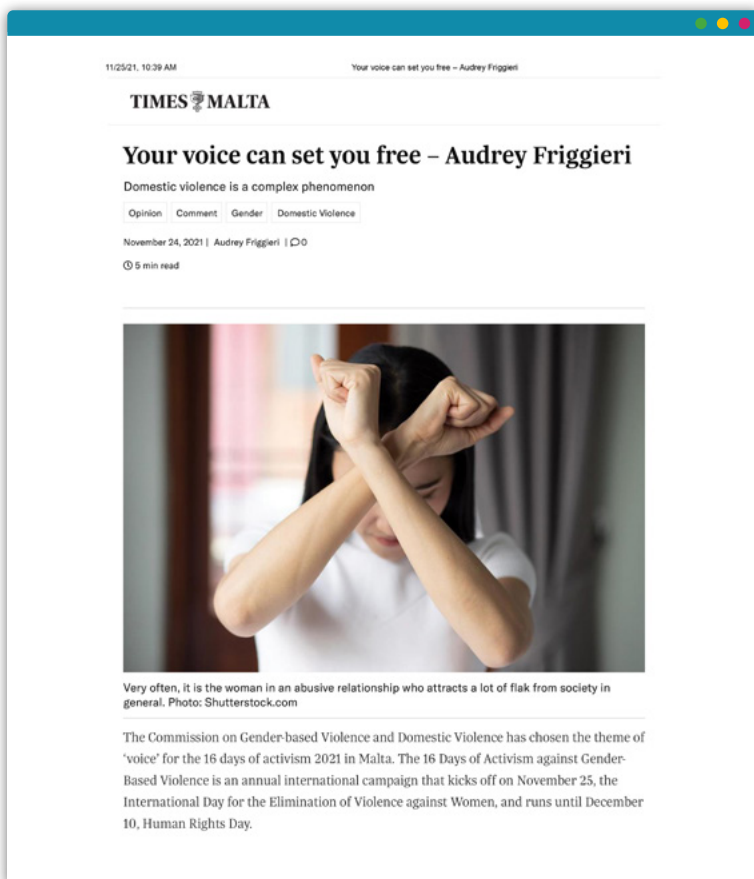
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Commissioner Ms. Audrey Friggieri  
Interview on Family Magazine  
Issue 17 - Winter 2021

Interview with Commissioner published in Family Magazine



1  
Commissioner Ms. Audrey Friggieri  
Interview on Senior Times  
November 2021

Interview with Commissioner published in Senior Times



Article in Times of Malta

### 9.6 Participation in the media

Throughout the 16 Days of Activism, Commissioner Audrey Friggieri received various invitations to participate in interviews in the media to raise awareness on gender-based violence and domestic violence and promote the Commission’s work during the campaign. In addition, the Commissioner wrote newspaper articles in which she addressed this year’s message; ‘Your voice can set you free’.

#### 9.6.1 Radio

103 Malta’s Heart on 27/11/2021.

#### 9.6.2 Online

Online interview on Lovin Daily on 29/11/2021.

#### 9.6.3 Newspaper interviews and articles

Interview with Commissioner published in Senior Times

## 10

# Financial overview

## Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Vote 5477

### Capital Expenditure

Communication	€151.08
Office Furniture	€19,395.24
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>€19,546.32</b>

### Corporate Running Costs

Rent and Maintenance Fees	€87,170.52
Honoraria of Board Members	€24,053.70
Local Transport	€19,677.64
Annual Subscriptions	€200.00
General Expenses	€45,701.28
Recruitment Expenses	€1,547.10
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>€178,350.24</b>

### Professional Services

(Contract for Services)	€47,904.35
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### Awareness Raising Expenses

Education and Training	€3,189.50
Awareness Raising Material	€17,016.64
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>€20,206.14</b>

<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>€266,007.05</b>
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## Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Strategy Vote 5246

<b>Awareness Raising</b>	€48,811.58
(Campaigns and Promotional Material)	

<b>Education &amp; Training</b>	€14,629.75
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<b>Launch of Second National Strategy</b>	€11,175.80
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<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>€74,617.13</b>
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<b>Total Annual Amount For 2021</b>	<b>€340,624.18</b>
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\*Side Note: This financial overview is an estimate of the Commission's expenses and does not reflect the exact amount of expenses in 2021.



📍 Zentrum Business Centre, Triq l-Imdina, Qormi

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f Commission on Gender-Based  
Violence and Domestic Violence