

The Ethos of the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society

The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society aims to produce relevant, appropriate and timely research by seeking innovative methodologies to engage with society for the promotion of peace and unity.

INTRODUCTION

The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society recognizes relationships as the fundamental structure nurturing human existence. These relationships can support people and their environment to flourish, or can be destructive. The Foundation wants to offer its contribution for the Wellbeing of society by creating the space to listen, explore, discuss, learn about and research ways of enhancing these human relationships to become forces for meeting human needs, while providing opportunities for each and every individual to develop his or her full potential within a society that is inclusive and supportive. The Foundation wants to focus on the beauty of human existence even when that same beauty is veiled by difficult situations or life circumstances. The Foundation seeks to cultivate hope, particularly through engaging with minority and marginalized groups within our society and bridging the gaps with the wider mainstream society.

The Foundation seeks to uphold the uniqueness of each and every individual, community, society and country, while acknowledging and building upon that which is common and universal. The Foundation engages with issues related to diversity and inclusion and inclusionary practices, through learning about issues of marginalisation and exclusion as well as identities. These include the multiple and transnational identities that people might identify with while cultivating Maltese and Gozitan identities through the construction of relationships rather than in isolation. The Foundation wants to foster innovation and also seek that which inspires people to stimulate imagination and creativity for the betterment of our society.

CONSULTATION

Consultation with the general public, officials, non-state actors, academics and other stakeholders, is the Foundation's starting point for all its endeavours. The Foundation also aims to work in close collaboration with the President's Forum, using both formal and informal processes, scientific and non-scientific methods. Through its consultation processes the Foundation is motivated by participatory processes seeking to listen to the ideas, opinions, and desires of people themselves, as a means of identifying research gaps and themes important to people themselves and guided by their priorities. Therefore, research is directed by the consultation process itself.

The Foundation aims to create a safe space for dialogue, participation and inclusion. It is also in search of wisdom, including that which is popular and folk. The Foundation will seek innovative ways how to engage in dialogue with people, aiming to also promote and stimulate society to discover new forms of expression in particular those highlighting their own narratives. The Foundation adopts a bottom-up approach in its research, meeting the top-down process half way.

RESEARCH

The Foundation enjoys the freedom to select any research method appropriate for the topic selected, but as stated above, seeks to promote participatory and bottom-up approaches. Once research is carried out, findings are presented back to the community, to inform and serve as a catalyst for practice, while feeding into further research. Critical engagements and approaches to research and analyses are welcomed and encouraged. The Foundation will share its research findings with the public in an appropriate, relevant and timely manner.

The Foundation will also promote community led projects supported through open calls for project proposals. It also aims to closely liaise with the President's Creativity Award for future calls for proposals.

CONCLUSION

Through its consultation and research work the Foundation wants to acknowledge people's needs and desires, and engage with those needs and desires to render our work fertile ground for social change and transformation. The aim of entering into consultation and research with a range of stakeholders is to explore and find democratic and participatory ways to effectively promote the Wellbeing of society, while supporting a peaceful coexistence.



National Institute for Childhood

Members:

Dr Maureen Cole – Chair

Mr Daniel Mercieca – Expert

Dr Sandra Hili Vassallo – Expert

Dr. Valerie Sollars - Expert

Mission Statement

1. To promote children's well being through: research, dissemination of research, consultation with relevant stake holders and active participation in debates in matters concerning children and their relationships with significant others.
 - a. In so doing we endeavor to create spaces in which children's voices may be represented or otherwise have their diverse voices acknowledged.
 - b. Children will be invited to contribute to the set up of the Agenda of the Institute for childhood.
 - c. To achieve this we will be seeking to collaborate with any institution or person/s working with children or with any matter concerning children.

Objectives

1. To identify factors which are conducive to children's wellbeing
2. To conduct original research regarding children and their relationships with significant others
3. To identify, develop and use research methodologies that are ethically sound and which promote children's agency.
4. To develop and create a depository of research on children and childhood that could be publicly accessible
5. To identify good practice in working with children which maximizes their opportunities to safely and freely participate in decisions about their life