



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

Government response to the consultation on Gender Equality Mainstreaming Framework

9th May 2019

Ministry for European Affairs and Equality
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Executive Summary

Introduction and overview

1. A brief introduction about the subject.

Over the past years, the Maltese Government has taken a number of initiatives aimed at addressing existing inequalities in legislation and policy to safeguard equal opportunities for all. Women's empowerment has come a long way and as a society, we are becoming more conscious about the importance of gender equality and its importance for a better functioning society. Following the set-up of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, it was vital to sustain the importance of gender advancement through a national strategy and action plan.

2. The public consultation date.

Include the objective and purpose of the public consultation.

On 8th March 2019, the Government published a consultation document to receive proposals from governmental entities, civil society organisations and the general public in order to establish the main measures required for the progress of women in society and their equality.

3. This consultation sought views on:

- Gender Equality Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan
- Gender Equality Mainstreaming Bill

Responses to the consultation and process used to seek stakeholder views

This document is the Government Response to this consultation and sets out the Government's decisions on these matters.

4. The closing date of the public consultation. Which methods were used to receive the feedback. The total amount of responses. From whom you received the feedback.

The consultation closed on 8th April 2019. The consultation document was available online and responses were accepted electronically and by post. In total, there were 7 responses. These were received from organisations and individuals. A list of respondents can be found at Annex A.

5. Include (if any) meetings with stakeholders and list who the stakeholders were.

No meetings were held during consultation period. The Gender Mainstreaming Unit worked in collaboration with the Consultative Council for Women's rights on this document.

Summary of responses and decisions

The following is a summary of the consultation responses received. We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the consultation and participate in stakeholder meetings around the consultation exercise.

6. Statistics.

- Total feedback received: 7
- Total feedback received by individuals: 5
- Total feedback received by organisations: 2
- Total feedback received through email: 7
- Total feedback received through online form: 0
- Total feedback received by post: 1 (The same feedback was received through email as well)

7. Summary of feedback received.

- Emphasis on sharing of responsibilities
- Equal sharing of Parental leave
- The need for further evidence based research
- To address the private sector more profoundly
- To address prostitution and trafficking
- To address surrogacy
- To address the role of boys and men in achieving gender equality
- To address pornography and the early pornification of girls
- To address women and girls in the media
- To address housing cost issues, especially for single mothers
- To address the needs of migrant women
- To address low birth rates
- To address sexual harassment at work
- To ensure that gender mainstreaming is translated into tangible actions
- To emphasize that gender mainstreaming is about gender inclusivity rather than neutrality

- The term gender mainstreaming not to be used interchangeably with gender equality
- Include gender mainstreaming as a key objective in the performance review
- To set up a Gender and Diversity Network
- Intensive hands-on training on the implementation of gender mainstreaming and gender impact assessment
- Producing and using gender- disaggregated statistics
- Reviewing of the Maltese legislation (incl. Burial Ordinance Cap. 17; Civil Code Cap. 16; Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure Cap. 12; Companies Act Cap. 386; Criminal Code Cap. 9; Education Act Cap. 327)
- Address Gender Budgeting
- Amendments in the Social Security Benefits Schemes

8. Your assessment and the Government's decision (list the Government's decisions).

Following the feedback received, a new round of consultation with the Consultative Council for Women's Rights (CCWR), in line with Gender Equality Index (GEI) of the European Institute for Gender Equality's (EIGE) and the Beijing Declaration Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be held. Subsequent to that, a strategy will be addressed to the Minister for European Affairs and Equality (MEAE).

Implementation

9. When you intend to implement the decisions

During 2019, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit will present the Gender Equality Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan to Minister MEAE for an eventual presentation in Cabinet.

Annex A: List of respondents

Organisations (2)
Association for Equality (A4E)
National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE)
Private Individuals (5)