

**University of Malta
Gender Issues Committee
Annual Progress Report
Academic Year 2018-2019**

Members

During the academic year 2019-19 some changes were made to the composition of the Gender Issues Committee (GIC). Two new members joined the committee in January 2019. These were Mr Roderick Cassar and Dr Angele Deguara. Furthermore, also in January, Mr Chris Aquilina, KSU President, was nominated as KSU Representative instead of Ms Carla Galea.

The members on the GIC were:

Prof. Marie Therese Camilleri Podestà – Chairperson (Faculty of Medicine & Surgery)
Prof. Gorg Mallia – Member (Faculty of Media & Knowledge Science)
Prof. Andrew Azzopardi – Member (Faculty of Social Wellbeing)
Prof. Janet Mifsud – Member (Faculty of Medicine & Surgery)
Prof. Emanuel Sinagra - Member (Faculty of Science)
Prof. Ruben Paul Borg – Member (Faculty for the Build Environment)
Dr Marceline Naudi – Member (Faculty of Social Wellbeing)
Dr Josette Farrugia – Member (Faculty of Education)
Dr Angele Deguara – Member (Junior College)
Mr Roderick Vassallo - (Junior College)
Ms Carmen Borg – Member (Department of IT, Junior College)
Mr Pierre Cassar – Member (Marketing, Communications & Alumni Office)
Ms Simone Ellul- Secretary
Mr Chris Aquilina - Student representative (KSU)
Mr William Farrugia - Student representative (KSU)

A short profile of the members has been included in the Appendix of this document.

Meetings During the academic year 2018-19 were held on the following dates:

- 27th September 2018
- 9th November 2018
- 14th December 2018
- 25th January 2019
- 21st February 2019
- 2nd April 2019
- 6th May 2019
- 10th June 2019

Committee meetings start with the reading of the minutes of the previous GIC meeting, followed by a discussion of the items on the meeting's agenda. Salient items on the agenda were:

1. Mentoring Scheme
2. Gender Mainstreaming course for UM staff
3. Women's Day held on 21st March 2019
4. Sexual Harassment Policy

5. Proposals sent to MEPs regarding the Genders Issues stand in its representation in parliament as follows:
 - Constitutional and Legal Amendments to permit additional seats for the under-represented sex that obtains less than 40% of the Parliamentary seats
 - Gender Mainstreaming in Parliament and family-friendly measures
 - Incentives in the form of state funding to political parties in order to recruit, train and support candidates from the under-represented sex to contest the Maltese General Elections

Apart from the monthly Committee meetings, the Chairperson and the Secretary met for several informal meetings so as to discuss the progress of the initiatives and events organised by the GIC.

Events

The following is a description of the main event undertaken by the GIC during the academic year 2018-19.

Creating Spaces for all

This workshop was organized by the Gender Issues Committee on the occasion of Women's day 2019. The half day workshop was held on the 21st March 2019 at Gateway Hall C. The programme was as follows:

- 11.00 Registration and Coffee
- 11.20 Welcome Note by Prof. Marie Therese Camilleri Podesta
- 11.30 Keynote Speech 'Space and Gender' by Perit Simone Vella Lenicker
- 12.00 Panel Discussion:
 - Moderator:
Dr Marceline Naudi, Faculty for Social Wellbeing
 - Panel:
Prof. Charles Scerri, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
Ms Rhoda Garland, Female disability rights activist
Ms Gabi Calleja, Female LGBTIQ rights activist
- 12.45 Women's Human Rights Perspectives by Dr Ruth Farrugia
- 12.55 Concluding remarks

Appendix Profiles:

Prof. Marie Therese Camilleri Podestà has occupied the post of Chairperson of the Gender Issues Committee since 2006 and was the first female to be appointed full professor with the University in 1981. Prof. Camilleri Podesta works within the Department of Anatomy at the University of Malta and is involved in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching as well as in research. She regularly takes part in conferences on gender and education and has been asked to sit on various panels locally in connection with gender issues. She also sits on various committees including the ACCESS committee, as well as the Faculty Admissions Committee and the Faculty Board. The Gender Issues Committee was appointed by the council of the University in 1991 to act as a focal point on issues of gender equality. The committee works on several areas including the identification of sources of unequal opportunities or treatment with respect to gender and promotes a policy of equal opportunity. Last year the Gender Issues Committee embarked on a programme of Gender Mainstreaming within various faculties of the university and proposes to

launch a questionnaire for all faculties to determine the extent of commitment to this aim. Prof. Camilleri Podest also forms part of the Review Board for the Foundation for the Well Being of Society.

Prof. Gorg Mallia is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences, University of Malta. He has a B.A.(Hons) in English Literature and an M.A. in Communications, both from the University of Malta, and a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology, from the University of Sheffield, UK. He specialises in Print and Presentation Media, Personal Communications, Personal Branding, and Instructional Design and Technology (particularly Transfer of Learning). He has recently also been researching the use of Social Networking in education (The Social Classroom: Integrating Social Network Use in Education, that he edited, was published by IGI Global, of Hershey, PA, USA, in 2014). He is also researching and lecturing in graphic narrative and storytelling. Dr Mallia is also a children's book writer, illustrator and cartoonist. He was the chairman of the National Book Council between 2005 and 2013.

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta. His lecturing & research focus on inclusive education, sociology, critical pedagogy, disability politics, and youth & community studies. He has published extensively in the field of disability studies and inclusive education. He is a Member of the Editorial Panel of the highly acclaimed International Journal of Inclusive Education and has edited a special edition called Creating Inclusive Communities. He has contributed extensively in a number of other applauded journals. Azzopardi has published the following texts; Career guidance for persons with disability (2008) (JP Advertising), Reading stories of inclusion – Engaging with different perspectives towards an agenda for inclusion (2009), Understanding disability politics in Malta (2009) (VDM Verlag Dr. Müller), Young people in Gozo – A study 2 (2011) (Artwork Publications) and Roots to Inclusive Education – A Question of Wellbeing (2012) (LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany). He is the Co-Editor of Inclusive communities: A critical reader (2012) (Sense Publishers). Azzopardi has also edited Youth: Responding to lives - An international reader (2013) (Sense Publishers).

Prof Janet Mifsud B. Pharm. (Hons), Ph.D. (QUB) is a member of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Malta. She was appointed the Commissioner, National Commission for the Promotion of Equality for Men and Women between 2004 and 2010 and has represented Malta at several gender EU, UN and EuroMed policy meetings. She has been active in the gender and science field for several years. She has been invited by EU DG Research to attend Women in Science Fora held in Brussels, and she has also been appointed several times expert evaluator for proposals submitted under the Quality of Life and Marie Curie Actions FP5, FP6 key actions and FP7 calls. Locally, she has chaired the Gender Issues Committee for the University of Malta and was previously a member of the Public Service Commission. Dr Mifsud has published extensively in the area of the therapeutic management of neurological disorders especially epilepsy. She was Secretary for the European Epilepsy Academy and is presently Vice-President for the International Bureau for Epilepsy.

Prof Emmanuel Sinagra graduated from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1986 with a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Chemistry with Environmental Science. In the same year he was awarded a Science and Engineering Research Council grant to enable him to do a M.Sc. course in Surfaces and Colloids. After obtaining his M.Sc. in 1987, he was awarded a studentship by Exxon Chemicals to assist him in his studies for a Ph.D. which he obtained in December 1992. During 1992, Prof. Sinagra was employed with the University of Bristol as a Research Associate on a project supported by British Nuclear Fuels. In 1993, Prof. Sinagra joined the Department of Chemistry at the University of Malta as lecturer in 1993, became senior lecturer in 1998 and recently became associate professor in 2011. His teaching interests have been in the areas of physical chemistry,

polymer chemistry as well as environmental chemistry. Prof. Sinagra has tutored a number of students doing research at undergraduate and postgraduate level. He has been head of the Department of Chemistry since 2008 and deputy dean of the Faculty of Science since 2009. Prof. Sinagra is also Chairman of the Faculty of Science M.Sc. Committee as well as the Faculty's Doctoral Committee.

Prof. Ruben Paul Borg is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta. He studied Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University of Malta and read for a Specialisation in Structural Engineering and Reinforced Concrete Structures at the Politecnico di Milano, Italy and a Ph.D. in Materials Engineering and Sustainable Concrete at the University of Sheffield, UK. He has also been collaborating on research and lecturing as a visiting academic at the Technical University of Milan (Politecnico di Milano) Italy since 2004. Dr. Borg has participated in and coordinated a number of European funded and International Research Projects on materials engineering, sustainable construction, structural vulnerability and disaster resilience. He was appointed chairman of the European Council of Civil Engineers for Knowledge and Technology; board member of the International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment; member of the European CEN TC350: Sustainable Construction. He was appointed as Malta's representative of the Institution of Civil Engineers, UK in 2013. He is also a member of the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples of Malta, member of the Executive Board of the Building Industry Consultative Council (BICC) Malta and Coordinator for Research and Innovation in Construction, and member of the Structural Eurocodes Technical Committee, MCAA Malta. He is co-founder and President of Sustainable Built Environment (SBE) Malta, which aims at promoting sustainable development. Dr Borg participates in international research fora on materials engineering, sustainable construction and structural vulnerability and resilience of cultural heritage, and has published widely in these fields.

Dr Marceline Naudi received her first degree from University of Malta (1980), her Masters Degree in Women's Studies from University of Bradford (U.K.) (1990) and her Doctorate from Manchester University (U.K.) (2004). A social worker by profession, her practice (in England, Ireland and Malta) included work with children and young people in care and their families, ex-offenders, homeless people, persons with mental health support needs and survivors of domestic violence. She is Head of the Department of Gender Studies and also contributes to teaching and supervision of student research within several other University Departments on gender issues, violence against women and other anti-oppressive issues (LGBTIQ, ethnicities, disabilities) at Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. She continues to be active in the issues of gender equality and violence against women, as well as wider human rights issues, and has convened, chaired and presented at many conferences, seminars and meetings, both in Malta and Europe. She represented Malta at the Council of Europe ad Hoc Committee on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO) which drafted the Istanbul Convention, and is now an elected member and 2nd vice-president of its Group of Experts, the GREVIO. She has supported and acted as consultant to various organisations in the field of violence against women, gender, LGBTIQ, racism and ethnicity, and sits on the boards of management of several NGOs. She also served as the Chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence (Malta) from 2006 to 2010 and as a member and Chairperson of the Gender Issues Committee of the University of Malta for many years. She currently sits on the Women against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network Board, and until recently on the European Women Lobby (EWL) Observatory on Violence against Women. She is a management committee member of the EU COST Action on Femicide across Europe and of the Action on Appearance Matters. Her current voluntary activity includes supporting the Jesuit Refugee Service and the Malta Gay Rights Movement, as well as member of the Review Board for the Foundation for the Well Being of Society.

Dr Josette Farrugia holds a B.Ed (Hons) from the University of Malta and a Ph.D from the University of York. She has taught Chemistry at secondary and postsecondary level for a number of years. She has also worked as Principal Subject Area Officer for Sciences with the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board of the University of Malta (MATSEC) and is currently a Senior Lecturer in Science Education with the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technical Education of the Faculty of Education at the University of Malta. Her research interests are related to various aspects of science education and educational assessment and include problem solving; practical work and investigations; school-based assessment; students' understanding of scientific ideas and concepts especially those related to chemistry; and inquiry-based learning. She has participated in conferences and published work related to science education and educational assessment.

Dr Angele Deguara is a Senior lecturer and Subject coordinator of Sociology and Art at the Junior College of the University of Malta. She has been lecturing in Sociology since 1995 and at the University of Malta since 2003. She obtained her masters degree in Sociology in 1999 following her research into the experience of factory work. She conducted her PhD studies with the Department of Anthropological Sciences at the University of Malta. Her doctoral research in the anthropology of religion and sexuality concerned the sexual morality and religious belief of LGBT Catholics in Malta and Palermo. Angele is the author of *Life on the Line: A Sociological Investigation of Women working in a Clothing Factory in Malta* as well as a number of other published works. Her main research interests are religion and secularization, sexuality, gender and poverty. Between 2016 and 2018 she was the Secretary of the Malta Sociological Association. She is an activist for social justice and civil rights.

Mr Roderick Vassallo is Vice-Principal at Ġ.F. Abela Junior College and a senior lecturer within the college's Department of Biology. He joined the College's academic rank and started lecturing advanced matriculation biology in 2004. He eventually coordinated the department for six years. His interests are wide and varied, including science and human rights in general providing constant support to human rights and gay rights activism. He is also significantly active within the artistic sphere as he's a trained actor and was involved in a number of theatrical productions and other projects involving the performing and the visual arts.

Ms Carmen Borg is a senior lecturer in the Department of Computing and IT at the Junior College Msida and has been teaching computing and IT since 1995. She studied Computer Science at the University of the State of New York, USA. In 1985 she co-founded the first courses in Computing at Gian Frangisk Abela, New Lyceum, and two years later was given approval by the University Of Oxford Delegacy Of Local Examinations to prepare and present candidates for 'O' level Computer Studies and 'A' level Computer Science. She was subsequently appointed examiner by the Director of Education to conduct the Final Examination in Office Practice at the then Secretarial School. She developed and conducted computing in-service courses for Teachers organised by the Department of Education and was involved in the development and lecturing of courses in Computer Applications organised by the Faculty of Education of the University of Malta. On various occasions she provided consultancy and training to local companies, on how to set up Information Systems for their organisation

Mr Pierre Cassar was appointed Director of Marketing, Communications and Alumni at the University of Malta in September 2016. He graduated with a B.A (Hons) in Communications Studies from the University of Malta in 1994 and also holds a Master's Degree from the University of Leicester. Recently he completed a Diploma in the Laws of Procedure from the University of Malta. From 2009 until mid-2016 Pierre acted as the Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Broadcasting Authority and represented Malta on the international regulatory level in Brussels and

beyond. He has for many years been active in sports journalism and managed Campus FM between 1997 and 2001.

Ms Simone Ellul started working at the University of Malta in February 2015, five years after graduating from B.Psy (Hons). She is the Administrator of the University of the Third Age (U3A) and the co-ordinator of the Attard, Mellieha, and Gozo U3A Centres. She is also the secretary of the Gender Issues Committee.

Mr Chris Aquilina is an active law student at the University of Malta with a passion for student activism. He occupied the roles of Financial Officer, Events Officer and Vice President in the past two years as an executive board member in JEF Malta. Christian also shows interest in public speaking and current affairs whilst maintaining his passion for music. After occupying the role of Social Policy Coordinator within KSU for the term 18/19, Christian is ready to embark on a new journey as KSU's Secretary General for the term 19/20. He would like to build on the stellar work done by the previous executive, to continue working on KSU's relationship with the University Administration so as to continue providing students with the best level of service possible. Additionally, he will be striving to bring something new to the table this year by giving importance to the student organisations on campus. He cannot stress enough the importance of active participation in KSU's agenda for the upcoming term to ensure that the Council's work is as representative as possible.

Mr William Farrugia is a 22-year-old University of Malta student, currently reading for a law degree. It is William's belief that KSU is a vital organ for the student body within the University of Malta and it is the job of the executive committee to see that KSU is empowered to deliver on its role. The aim of KSU is that of offering to students a structure which is proactive in addressing their needs, and which is available to offer them support throughout their University experience, be it due to academic issues or any other needs. William's vision for KSU is that of crafting the Council into a structure which is friendly towards students, adapting to their requirements and needs, whilst striving to represent them at higher levels within the University, nationally and internationally to guarantee their rights. This includes addressing academic issues and working with stakeholders to craft future policies with students at their core and to develop and improve the support systems available to students both internally within KSU, as well as externally. A strong belief which motivates William's work is that at the end of its term, this Council should have evolved itself into an organisation which serves these aims through excellent communication and support with students.