

**From:** Peter Cassar Torreggiani  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 30, 2014 10:44 PM  
**To:** Integration at MSDC  
**Subject:** The gender identity bill on line consultation - a response

**Memo re consultation on the self designation of persons in regard to their natural gender**

The historically recognized genders are masculine and feminine. However it may be that the recognition of eunuchs is historically to be identified as the forerunner of the modern effort for the recognition of diversity of traits and tendencies in humanity as it is. Unity and diversity are indeed civilizing characteristics, but the good of good order is the norm of their relationship. Cosmopolitan progress calls on all to hold together, work for progress, and please God in everything. In Christ we have the God-man's word about the difficulty of understanding the things he says about eunuchs after proscribing divorce. You find this report in the gospel of Matt (cf Matt, 19, 12). It could help real life dialogue today to try to understand what is happening, not only in the world at large, but also in Christianity itself.

Because the question needs to be asked: is the proposed bill on self selection of gender confirmation wise or foolish? Should it be paused for a long time at second reading? Because to the extent that it is unrealistic it could create more problems than it sets out to solve. What is unrealistic is an angelic attitude to absolute personal purity which transcends the unity of the person in the integration of body and soul, and thus becomes an idealistic Pandora's box..

These are very difficult questions that require much time to be given their true human value. So I think it would be wise to let more than a year pass before the second reading is concluded, and consultations be held with those involved in the synod of the family being reconvened next October.

My own opinion is that respectful dialogue will find in diversity the basis of unity, as always. So creation of its nature reflects the benevolence of God, even in the case of eunuchs. To the extent that acts are moral or immoral in the matters of sexual intimacy, the gospel of Christ gives us the capacity to illuminate the future.

This I believe is the way for Europe and its politicians to integrate ethics in their service to man by being truly mindful of the future of man on the planet. From the spiritual perspective, the material element in creation is truly integral in a mysterious way. As Christians we believe in the Holy Trinity, the Incarnation, the Redemption, Salvation, and the Resurrection. Does the pre-occupation about sexual psychology have a relevance to all this. Certainly the insights on the original unity of man and woman in the vision of Pope St John Paul II, known popularly as "the theology of the body", promise to help us resolve all modern family dilemmas.

This parliament of Maltese people would, in my opinion, be true to its own identity as Europeans living in the world at large if it came to see the way forward in its own true identity as a Christian people that can stop and reflect more deeply for a longer period of at least a year on this and similar seeming dilemmas.

The quotation below is the concluding part of the speech of Pope Francis to the European Parliament which culminated in a standing ovation. Perhaps it will be your best inspiration

*Upon you, as legislators, it is incumbent to protect and nurture Europe's identity, so that its citizens can experience renewed confidence in the institutions of the Union and in its underlying project of peace and friendship. Knowing that "the more the power of men and women increases, the greater is the personal and collective responsibility",<sup>[12]</sup> I encourage you to work to make Europe rediscover the best of itself.*

*An anonymous second-century author wrote that "Christians are to the world what the soul is to the body".<sup>[13]</sup> The function of the soul is to support the body, to be its conscience and its historical memory. A two-thousand-year-old history links Europe and Christianity. It is a history not free of conflicts and errors, and sins, but one constantly driven by the desire to work for the good of all. We see this in the beauty of our cities, and even more in the beauty of the many works of charity and constructive human cooperation throughout this continent. This history, in large part, must still be written. It is our present and our future. It is our identity. Europe urgently needs to recover its true features in order to grow, as its founders intended, in peace and harmony, since it is not yet free of conflicts.*

*Dear Members of the European Parliament, the time has come to work together in building a Europe which revolves not around the economy, but around the sacredness of the human person, around inalienable values. In building a Europe which courageously embraces its past and confidently looks to its future in order fully to experience the hope of its present. The time has come for us to abandon the idea of a Europe which is fearful and self-absorbed, in order to revive and encourage a Europe of leadership, a repository of science, art, music, human values and faith as well. A Europe which contemplates the heavens and pursues lofty ideals. A Europe which cares for, defends and protects man, every man and woman. A Europe which bestrides the earth surely and securely, a precious point of reference for all humanity!*

Peter Cassar Torreggiani

770539 M