



24 February 2014

Towards a Robust Human Rights & Equality Framework

SCOPING CONSULTATION

1. Background

The Maltese government was elected with a promise to strengthen the human rights and equality framework and to set up an adequate institutional mechanism to enforce it.

Ten years ago, the [National Commission for the Promotion of Equality](#) (NCPE) was set up following the adoption of the [Equality for Men and Women Act](#), which transposed EU gender equality legislation into the domestic legal framework.

Over the years, the NCPE's remit was widened through amendments to that Act. Amongst the improvements, various grounds of anti-discrimination were added to the NCPE's remit. Nonetheless, the said improvements did not go far enough. Additionally, the Commission's powers and resources remained limited, and thus its impact was contained.

It is the government's belief that both the current legislative and infrastructural frameworks require reinforcement, as they fall short of providing Malta with the human rights and equality mechanism that it deserves. We believe that we should have robust human rights and equality legislation, and an equally strong institution that enforces such legislation that is in conformity both with the United Nations' model of a national human rights institution (NHRI) laid out in the [Paris Principles](#), and European Union's equality body model laid out in EU equality directives, namely the [Race Equality Directive](#), the [Gender Goods and Services Directive](#) and the [Gender 'Recast' Directive](#).

In view of this, the government is launching this initial scoping consultation to collect input from the general public, civil society organisations, trade unions, business organisations, political parties, governmental institutions and all others that would like to contribute towards this process.

2. Consultation Questions

Do you think that human rights and equality are sufficiently protected and promoted in Malta? If not:

- a. Which human rights do you believe need further protection and promotion?
- b. How can Malta better protect and promote human rights and equality overall?
- c. Are there any models that you would propose that government should consider looking at in terms of legislation, institutional frameworks or both? If yes, what is especially good about such models?

3. Submission of input

Submissions must be sent in through the following channels:

Online form: www.msdc.gov.mt/humanrights

By email: humanrights.msdc@gov.mt

By post: Human Rights & Equality Consultation
Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties
Barriera Wharf,
Valletta VLT 1971

All input towards this consultation must be received by **Friday, 28 March 2014**.

We thank you in advance for your input.

Please be informed that submissions may be published on the webpage of this consultation at the end of the scoping phase.