



SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION 17/18

Meeting #7

University of Malta, the KSU Common Room
18th December 2017, 18.30

MINUTES

1. Approval of agenda
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2. Approval of minutes
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3. Update on past campaigns
Gabriella Sutton (Commissioner): During the 3rd week of November, we had a number of green initiatives for the European Week for Waste Reduction. Our project, entitled One More Time, focused on establishing a better recycling system on campus. In collaboration with SACES, a new recycling bin structure was designed that will be set up on quad in the coming weeks. We also ensured that proper disposal is taking place when bins are full by reaching agreements with the relevant contractors and collectors. Bins for collection of specific items were set up, namely batteries and clothes. When during the first 2 weeks of university a net for used plastic bottles was set up, 1200 bottles were collected and this highlighted clearly that the motivation to recycle is there. We just need to have accessible facilities and that is what we're aiming for. We also set up a resource sharing database that will be on our website. This will allow you to add any resources that you might have that other organisations might need at some point in time and share them with them. As part of this project we also had a workshop with S-Cubed, which focused on finding practical ways to be more sustainable, both at university and at our homes. Together with ESA, the screening of the film 'A Plastic Ocean' made the viewers more conscious of the reality and consequences of polluted oceans and seas and the ripple effect that this creates. Together with Zibel, a cleanup was held in xrobb l-Ghagin where a total of 2 tonnes of waste was collected, separated and disposed of in the proper manner. We would like to thank all those that were present and helped out on the day.

Towards the end of November/beginning of December, we also had the 16 days of activism as part of the national 'Love Doesn't Hurt Campaign'. 7 organisations, who I'd like to congratulate for their hard work, organised informal training workshops for future professionals working in various fields. We also had a discussion on emotional domestic violence in youth relationships which really shed light on how to recognise signs of abuse early on and what to do and say. We would like to thank all organisations that collaborated with us on this.

4. Upcoming events



Gabriella Sutton: Just to give you a heads up on some events that we have coming up, health days and mental health campaign will be organised in second semester. On Valentine's Day we'll be visiting an Old People's Home and deliver to them some cards and flowers. The Blood Drive will be on the 8th of March and Careers and Research will be held from the 13th till the 15th of March. We wanted some feedback to see what companies you'd like to see. If you have any ideas as to how to make careers and research more inclusive and more representative of all areas of study send us an email or message.

5. Prostitution

Gabriella Sutton: This a topic that has been discussed a lot in the past. Prostitution in itself is not illegal in Malta. It's just loitering on the street which is illegal. The Parliamentary Secretary Julia Farrugia Portelli highlighted how important it is to have a proper exit strategy for both national prostitutes and those trafficked. Should Malta be for an exit strategy in terms of prostitution? Should Maltese national and those who are trafficked be provided with an exit strategy?

Liam Curmi De Gray (ICTSA): Due to health and safety precautions, there are many things that factor in when considering this.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): What is the current structure for this? I don't think we're informed enough.

Gabriella Sutton: Prostitution has been heavily discussed in the past therefore from our end we felt that we could delve into the topic of whether there are any exit strategies but if there are any directions you'd like to take the discussion into, let us know.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): Would it be a smart move to look at papers already written to see what they're missing or whether we could add something else?

Gabriella Sutton: It is essential that we use information gathered beforehand and that is something that we easily do.

Joanthan Ebejer (Siera): I don't think that an exit strategy is realistic at all. It will do nothing towards the stigmatisation of prostitution.

Gabriella Sutton: Regulation is to way to effectively address this. What aspects do you propose in regulating?

Jonathan Ebejer (Siera): Everything from health licensing to crime.

Liam Curmi De Gray (ICTSA): What are KSU's views about it?

Gabriella Sutton: The view of the council is that of the platform it represents, therefore what you decide is the stand that we'll take.



Mathias Mallia (Insite): You want us to come up with something new but at this point we don't know whether what we're saying is fresh or stale.

Liam Curmi De Gray (ICTSA): What does the public think about this?

Gabriella Sutton: The public has conflicting views about this.

Owen Michael Grech (Pulse): Perhaps we also need to analyse what leads to prostitution. It's an aspects that needs to be examined further.

Steve Galea (S-Cubed): Prostitutes are humans just like us, they have emotions just like us, they deserve protection just like us. It can also be a form of addiction, they can be suffering from STDs they can be in a situation where they cannot help themselves. If they're unprotected there's nothing we can do. If we leave them in this shade there's nothing that can be done. It's not prostitution itself that needs to be discussed but how to tackle it and what the behaviour of people who actually benefit from it - the effect on the whole community. We must also involve the aspect of health affects, addiction and how to tackle it.

Andrea caruana (MHSA): We are dealing with the oldest industry in the world. This has also been extensively discussed and everything has been tried. We need to get to the very source and the prostitutes themselves; not the representatives. Each case is individual.

Nicola Mangion (JEF): the only way that you can tackle this, being such a huge issue is by first and foremost legalising it as that will diminish taboo.

Andrea Caruana (MHSA): Perhaps it's worth looking into the comparative perspective such as the Netherlands where we can see whether legalisation actually helped and left an impact.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): Regularisation is not the keyword. What we need to do is to discuss it. Perhaps there can be a platform of education and to bring them together and involve them in society.

Karl Attard (SDM): earlier in the discussion we mentioned exit strategies. Can this be related to an educational platform where they're reintegrated into society?

Estelle: You have to find the reasons why they go into prostitution. They need to find the reason why and then you can easily work out how they can help.

Jonathan Ebejer (Siera): What do we want to say? End it or fix it?

Gabriella Sutton: Prostitution is a controversial topic and it cannot be denied that these are all things that need to be tackled. This is a platform for you to speak up and share



your views and this is what we want. The direction we'll be taking this in is we'll take all the points you mentioned and put them in a policy document. If you all agree the next steps would be this: we'll open a sub-comm, take a stand as a platform of kps?
Owen Michael Grech (Pulse): What about the policies already written?

Gabriella Sutton: What we can do is meet up with those organisations so they can forward us their data.

6. Improving KPS

Gabriella Sutton: We like taking constructive criticism and build on that feedback. Do you have any suggestions for us as to how we can build on what we're doing or how to improve campaigns?

Jonathan Ebejer (Siera): What happened to the RAR subcomm and the Constitutional Reform subcomm?

Gabriella Sutton: Over the past month we've had numerous campaigns and were focusing on more pressing topics. Over the christmas holidays we'll be dedicating more time to those subcomms.
What attracts you to events?

Liam Curmi De Gray (ICTSA): I think it depends on the person's interest. The KE KPS workshops were very interesting and it's always nice to learn new things and different approaches.

7. Arising matters

Gabriella Sutton: Are there any arising matters you'd like to discuss? Seeing how there are none, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Meeting adjourned 19.30