

## SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION 16/17

### Meeting #9

University of Malta, KSU Tipico Careers Common Room

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, 17:15

### AGENDA

17:00 Registration

1. Approval of Agenda  
Agenda approved.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Matters Arising out of Minutes  
Minutes approved.
3. Equality Bill Update  
Alex Hili (KSU): There were some delays because of exams and this project should be done in the coming weeks. There were around 9 organisations who collaborated on this initiative.
4. Childrens' Dreams Christmas Initiative Update  
Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): Following cancellations from the Madre's side, and following consultation via email with organisations, it was decided that the money collected (285eur) will be donated to the Sisters of Mother Teresa.
5. Euthanasia Assemblea

Jacqueline Grech Licari (ESA): Questioned how the format will be.

Alex Hili (KSU): Speakers register from before and can give a speech of 5 to 10 minutes. At the end of this assemblea, all speeches will be gathered into a report to be discussed during the next KPS meeting.

Christoph Schwaiger (MHSA): Suggested changing the format to accommodate discussions.

This suggestion was welcomed onboard and a short discussion related to the previous speech will be accommodated.

6. Gender Equality Campaign  
Alex Hili (KSU): Explained the motives behind the campaign and how KSU is giving space to organisations to create a campaign focused around gender equality. ELSA and GEM are currently working on it via Campaign +. Possible areas to explore are: paternity leave in Malta, better work payment, education, and social cultural stereotypes.

Nicole Sciberras Debono (ELSA): Questioned whether this be taking over ELSA's Campaign + project in terms of the gender wage gap.

Julian Chircop (We Are): I think we should target university, secondary, as well as the general public. There are many issues that we can discuss, and where we can take it such as media depiction, discrepancy in community between how men are treated and how women are treated. There is also the bisexuality issue. If someone is bisexual, there are certain people who take it badly and some demand that one should only be attracted to people coming from one sex or another. If we want to keep it general, there are various issues that we need to tackle.

Nicole Sciberras Debono (ELSA): As ELSA, we are not only focusing on the gender pay gap but are also exploring other themes which seem to be overlapping with this proposed campaign.

Alex Hili (KSU): Indicates that he was under the assumption that ELSA will be tackling the gender wage gap theme only.

Samuel Attard (MMSA): Questions whether organisations will be sending ideas from now.

Several ideas were brainstormed such as promotion at 6<sup>th</sup> form level, secondary level schools, battle of the sexes, issues that can be tackled from a younger age. It was also raised that promotion at primary level is too early as they would be too young.

Julia Magri (DESA): Promotion at secondary level is ideal as children grow up fast especially with the media, etc.

Cynthia Chircop (We Are): Believes that promotion at a secondary school level is too early as they will be too young. She states that everyone matures at a different stage in life and they will continue to grow up until university and beyond. These views will keep on being put forward to when they have their families with kids. For eg. the imagery that a woman's place is in the kitchen. If this issue is forced on children, they won't understand. Apart from this, one must keep in mind that the PSD lesson curriculum is decided by the ministry and hence fixed to a certain extent. Teachers simply follow what is laid out in the curriculum.

It was questioned whether KSU has any relations with the Education minister, maybe he can be of benefit.

Alex Hili (KSU): Suggests approaching ministers after a solid plan is finalized.

It was suggested that the university admin is contacted to see their take on the issue. It was also raised that most probably, primary schools will not let anyone promote anything to their alumni as it is a sensitive area because of their age. The issue about the limited man power between organisations was also raised.

Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): Explains that the reason why KSU is tabling a gender equality campaign is because it was an issue that KSU truly believes in. It was also incorporated in Campaign + to see what organisations could come up with and then proceed to tackle the areas left uncovered via a university-wide

campaign. Campaign + is a KPS initiative and will obviously remain in force and highly regarded. Organisations are invited to question if necessary so that everything is clear to enable a true dialogue and a successful Campaign + initiative as well as a gender equality campaign. Highlights that at the end of the day, he believes that every individual and organization wants the issue of gender equality in Malta to be improved.

Mark Trapani (KSU): Suggests putting this forward to the next KPS until the Campaign + overlap issue is clarified. All organisations agree unanimously.

## 7. Nature Week

Thomas Mifsud (SACES): STRIP will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February and the point of debate of this debate is to try create a better understanding and to generate ideas for a new outlook on sustainable development. This event is limited to 100 places and the layout is composed to promote conversation.

Alex Hili (KSU): Apologises for the delays as the policy had to be proof read before. Requests feedback following the first draft that was sent via email.

Christoph Schwaiger (MHSA): Comments that this policy was more of a national policy. Questions whether this was its intention and suggests a section only on UoM. Notes the fact of the large amounts of water wasted, even on campus. For eg. ring road.

Alex Hili (KSU): Welcomes feedback. Explains that the design of the policy is that it can be adapted to accommodate the necessary needs. Adds that the people who contributed and the organizations who will be backing the policy will be listed at the end of the policy. Proceeds to go through a quick overview of sections.

Marta Falzon (Y4TE): Notes that in the section 'Responsible Consumption', there are some statements such as those relating to the marketing plan that require more detail.

Alex Hili (KSU): Agrees and explains that the reason behind this structure is to leave adequate room to change in order to implement it.

Marta falzon (Y4TE): Notes that statements in the policy like "Initiatives which make ones lifestyle easier," is easier said than done.

The list of organisations who will be endorsing the policy will be gathered via email. This mode of decision making was put forward to a vote and approved nem con.

## 8. Other Matters

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm