

Women's Day CONFERENCE

"ACCELERATE ACTION"



→ A call for accountability

Opening session

9am to 9.30am

Women's rights are not limited to this one day but to every day of the year. But progress in gender priorities is too slow. It is time to move beyond symbolic gestures and take real concrete action. Institutions should be held accountable and urged to deliver on commitments without any further delays.



Dr Sabine Agius Cabourdin
Fidem founder



Prof. Marie Briguglio
Economist

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Panel 1 Discussion



Accelerating Women's
Empowerment in Economic,
Education, Employment Sectors

9:30am to 10:15am
Discussion

10:15am to 10:30am
Questions from the floor



Moderator:

Ariadne Massa
Media Strategist

The panel will address structural inequalities hindering women's progress, focusing on equal pay, education access, and leadership. It will discuss solutions for economic empowerment, closing the gender pay gap, promoting recruitment diversity, and improving access to education, especially in STEM and adult learning.



Prof. Anna Borg
Expert in Gender Equality



Julia Aquilina
The Malta Chamber



Joe Farrugia
Economist



Dr Maria Brown
Senior Lecturer
Adult Education

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Panel 2 Discussion



Breaking barriers in Sports, Arts,
and Culture for Women and Girls

10:30am to 11:15am
Discussion

11:15am to 11:30am
Questions from the floor



Moderator:

Ariadne Massa

Why aren't more girls considering careers in sports or the arts? This session will explore how we can boost female participation and achievement in these fields, from sports to creative industries. What efforts are being made to encourage women and girls' involvement in the arts? The discussion will highlight strategies to break down barriers and create more opportunities for women to shine.



Howard Keith Debono
Music Producer &
Artist Manager



Mary Ann Cauchi
COO - Strategy & Funding
Arts Council Malta



Charlo Bonnici
CEO - Mediterranean
College of Sports



Dr Maria Azzopardi
MFA General Secretary



11:30am - 12:00pm
Coffee Break

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Panel 3 Discussion



Promises, promises: Accelerate action for victims of domestic violence

12:00pm to 12:45pm
Discussion

12:45pm to 1:00pm
Questions from the floor



Moderator:

Trudy Kerr

Domestic violence victims face delays seeking justice despite promises of change. This discussion will focus on survivors' experiences, how to support them, and improve the system. Survivors will engage with authorities to explore ways to better protect victims and accelerate justice, demanding immediate action to end domestic violence.



Alessia Cilia Portelli
Sister of femicide victim
Bernice Cassar



Samantha Pace Gasan
Commissioner for
Domestic Violence



Supt. Sylvana Gafa
Head of Services
Victim Support Agency



Prof. Marceline Naudi
Senior Lecturer
Gender Studies

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Panel 4 Discussion



Mental health matters for domestic violence victims and their families

1:00pm to 1:45pm
Discussion

1:45pm to 1:55pm
Questions from the floor



Moderator:

Trudy Kerr

Domestic or sexual violence can have traumatic mental health effects on victims and their loved ones. Stigma surrounding trauma worsens the situation. Despite progress in trauma support, many approaches don't address survivors' unique needs. What is hindering action to properly safeguard the mental health of domestic violence victims?



Franica Cassar
Counselling Psychologist



Shakira Fenech
Head of SOAR Service
St Jeanne Antide Foundation



Antonella Mizzi
Director - Child
Protection Directorate