

Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

News updates – September 2016

- 1st September 2016

2 general comments adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

“On the 26th of August 2016, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted two general comments relating to the rights of women and girls with disabilities under Article 6 and the right to inclusive education for persons with disabilities under Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).”

<http://www.equineteurope.org/CRPD-Committee-adopts-two-General-Comments>

- 2nd September 2016

Equal Opportunities Act (2000) strengthened

With the introduction of the following clause as part of the amendments to the Equal Opportunities Act (Bill 115), the Equal Opportunities Act has been strengthened:

“37. When another law is inconsistent with this Act, this Act shall prevail when such inconsistency regards the rights of a person with disability.”

- 3rd September 2016

Mr. Oliver Scicluna at the Annual General Meeting of the MFOPD

On the 3rd September 2016, Mr. Oliver Scicluna attended and addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Malta Federation of Organisations Persons with Disability (MFOPD).

- 3rd September 2016

Creating an accessible Tourism Environment in Malta

<http://facesofspinabifida.com/articles/creating-an-accessible-tourism-environment-in-malta>

- 8th September 2016

Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony on 7th September 2016

<https://www.rio2016.com/en/paralympics/news/rio-2016-paralympics-games-opening-ceremony>

- 8th September 2016

Paralympic Games kick off - Vlada Kravchenko carries Malta's flag

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160908/athletics/watch-vlada-carries-maltas-flag-as-paralympic-games-kick-off.624436>

- 10th September 2016

Premju għaċ-Ċittadin Ewropew – Dar il-Kaptan

Mr. Oliver Scicluna was present during the ceremony held on the 10th September 2016, where Dar Il-Kaptan was awarded the “Premju għaċ-Ċittadin Ewropew”. Dar Il-Kaptan was nominated for this award by the Members of the European Parliament (MEP).



- 14th September 2016

Paralympics online advert

"The insight we got was that people with disability end up being either pitied or celebrated as superhumans in the Paralympics but, actually, we're all just people getting on with our lives with their highs and lows."

<http://www.mmm-online.com/campaigns/sex-chocolate-and-disability-what-marketers-can-learn-from-mars-maltesers-campaign/article/521251/>

- 15th September 2016

Information Leaflet on the use of Blue Badges



- 16th September 2016

Awards - Ambassador's women of courage & Gieħ il-Mosta

During this month, CRPD congratulates Ms. Amy Camilleri Zahra, who has been awarded the "Ambassador's women of courage" by the U.S. Embassy, and Mr. Rita Vella and Mr. Kevin Vella who have been awarded "Gieħ il-Mosta".

<https://mt.usembassy.gov/u-s-embassy-presents-ambassadors-woman-courage-award/>

- 19th September

Promoting good practice: Cooperation between entities.

The following pictures show some good examples of entities cooperating with CRPD.



- 21st September 2016

Dar Nazareth Fundraising Marathon

Mr. Oliver Scicluna attended the Dar Nazareth Fundraising Marathon on the 17th July 2016.



- 22nd September 2016

KDPD Consultative Committee of People with Intellectual Disability at Dar tal-Providenza

On the 22nd September 2016, a meeting and a BBQ were held at Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi.

- 23rd September 2016

President of Malta awarded the Agent of Change Prize

<http://www.tvn.com.mt/en/news/president-awarded-agent-of-change-prize-by-united-nations/>

- 24th September 2016

Valletta Strategy Feedback

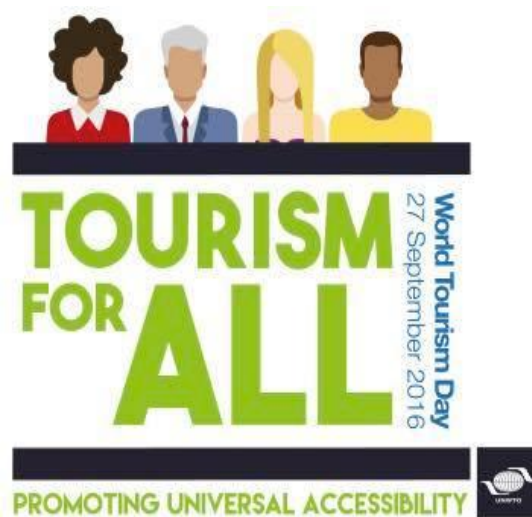
The following Valletta Strategy Feedback on a consultation document was provided by CRPD after a call for consultation with NGOs and DPOs.

A STRATEGY FOR VALLETTA PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT JUNE 2016	A STRATEGY FOR VALLETTA PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT JUNE 2016	A STRATEGY FOR VALLETTA PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT JUNE 2016
<p>Point 1: Parking;</p> <p>Pedestrian areas such as Republic Street, and Merchant Street from bus terminus including surrounding streets to St George's square consist of slopes that require strong able bodied person to push an adult in a manual wheelchair. Therefore it is essential that hilly areas are provided with a significant increased number of parking spaces for blue badge holders as this is the only way for mobility impaired persons to access near areas. If one has to push a person in a wheelchair a small distance say 50m instead of parking hundreds of metres away this would compensate a bit for the city's slopes and streets with steps. Blue badge holders should be allowed to use residential parking bays; therefore Blue badge holders should be exempted from CVA charges when entering and/or parking in Valletta even when the maximum number of hours is exceeded. In order to support CVA offices KDPD could send a list of valid blue badge holders so that it is updated from time to time. But this is not enough as most of the time these are fully occupied.</p> <p>Point 2: Physical Accessibility</p> <p>All outlets in Republic Street, Merchant Street, Straight Street and any other level road have to be accessible. This includes the need for entrances around Valletta to be accessible for all. This means that should a lift be needed for an entrance to be accessible, this should be implemented without further ado. All shops and restaurants in pedestrian areas should attempt to remove part of one to two steps at entrance and provide ramps/lower floor level in case of refurbishments.</p> <p>Footpaths should be rendered accessible to all wherever these do not include more than one step Or Government should issue an expression of interest so that foldable temporary ramps, as according to National Strategy, are provided for all inaccessible outlets including offices, shops and restaurants open to all members, (even for wheelchair users on their own) especially in the pedestrian areas.</p> <p>One other important point with regards to Valletta's accessibility is that fully accessible public restrooms should be increased. It is also unacceptable that buildings that should serve all persons such as the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector are inaccessible and that the lift project near the Parliament areas accessed by the flight of steps is still not functional. It is imperative that areas provided with lifts access should not be restricted solely for business hours and working days only but should be available for use round the clock having CCTV monitoring. Heritage Units should be rendered accessible by making use of temporary foldable ramps.</p>	<p>Point 3: Outdoor catering;</p> <p>All outlets which provide outdoor catering should be in line with the Policy, Guidance and Standards for Outdoor Catering Areas on Public Open Space.</p> <p>Point 4: Rest Areas;</p> <p>It is recommended that wherever possible public benches with shade (break and rest areas) would be provided e.g. Trq' Glormu Cassar, Square in front of Castille, area near Parliament etc....</p> <p>Point 5: Accessible Maps and Signage around Valletta;</p> <p>(a) Should be accessible for all including persons with visual impairment. This means that signage should incorporate Braille and be at a reachable height. (b) Introduction of accessible interactive boards showing all accessible routes, outlets and places of interest. Mobile apps could also be used to indicate accessible routes, outlets and places of interest. (c) All around Valletta there should be well illuminated and well defined road markings on surfaces indicating all accessible routes. (d) Signage should incorporate digital icons which can lead you by using a GPS to accessible routes. (e) It is also highly recommend to have accessible maps to be used by people with intellectual impairment. (hence easy to read version), braille version.</p> <p>Point 6: Introduction of one stop shops at entrances incorporating the below services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental Services for persons with disability who require any kind of assistive apparatus to travel around Valletta • Tourist information providing support to visitors in need of guidance to reach their destination. <p>Point 7: Accessible public convenience all around Valletta.</p> <p>Point 8: Pedestrian route leading from bus terminus to Valletta's main entrance. Although currently there is accessibility, this is often being obstructed by vehicles or other.</p> <p>Point 9: Maintenance persons supervising areas.</p> <p>Point 10: Government should invest in inhabited buildings/ houses in Valletta and instead construct accessible venues.</p>	<p>Point 11: Intra-city and sea transport</p> <p>Transportation used in Ferry Tunnel leading from Grand Harbour to Marsamxett Harbour should be accessible for all and it should be well promoted. In order to reduce traffic congestion around the city, while providing a more scenic route. Moreover intra-city wheelchair accessible means of transport (electric low floor vehicle) and accessible shuttle bus service for when no accessible route is available for user-friendly access for wheelchair users and the elderly should also be introduced.</p> <p>Point 12: Market in Ordinance Street. Passageways around market should not be obstructed. There should be a clearance of at least 1.2m</p> <p>Point 13: Historical sites should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have interactive views for those areas which cannot be rendered accessible for all • make use of tactile relief to make pictures understandable to the blind reader • Explanations in audio format for the visually impaired • visual projections for persons with hearing impairment <p>Point 14: A'live' help button to provide assistance in real time.</p>
<p>COMMISSION FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY</p>	<p>COMMISSION FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY</p>	<p>COMMISSION FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY</p>

- 27th September 2016

Celebration of World Tourism Day – 27th September 2016

This year's theme of World Tourism Day is that of promoting universal accessibility to have tourism for all.



- 27th September 2016

World Tourism Day - "Turizmu għal Kulhadd – Nippromovu Aċċessibilità Universali"

During a press conference held on the 27th September 2016, the Minister for Tourism announced that ITS in collaboration with CRPD will be organising Disability Equality Training for students who attend courses at ITS.

<http://www.one.com.mt/news/l-aktar-lukanda-accessibbli-fil-pajjiz/>

- 26th September 2016

New Book: The Disabled Child's Participation Rights

Mr. Oliver Scicluna thanked Dr. Anne Marie Callus for presenting this book written by her and Dr. Ruth Farrugia on a very interesting subject: *The Disabled Child's Participation Rights*.

