



EU Community Action Programme to Combat Discrimination
Sahha fid-Diversita Campaign organised in collaboration with the Jesuit Refugee Services
VS/2004/042
Report on Activities Organised

"This campaign was supported by the European Community Action Programme to Combat Discrimination (2001-2006). This programme was established to support the effective implementation of new EU anti-discrimination legislation. The six-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective anti-discrimination legislation and policies, across the EU-25, EFTA and EU candidate countries.

The Action Programme has three main objectives. These are:

- *To improve the understanding of issues related to discrimination;*
- *To develop the capacity to tackle discrimination effectively;*
- *To promote the values underlying the fight against discrimination.*

For more information see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index_en.htm3

1. School Outreach Programme

The School Outreach Programme was targeted all secondary schools and youth centres in Malta and Gozo. Schools were first sent a promotional brochure and a letter from the Department of Student Services and International Relations within the Education Division which authorised this project in state schools, a necessary step in Malta. Meetings were then held with school teachers in order to co-organise the project. On the day itself, the crucial aspect of this programme was to create opportunities for students to interact with people from different ethnic backgrounds as well as people with disabilities so that students could familiarise themselves with these persons and come to recognise that, at the end of the day, we are all human beings. Various activities were proposed from practical workshops, to the exchange of personal experiences, food tasting sessions, drum circles and hair braiding. (More information on this can be obtained from the separate report specifically on this programme). Other organisations collaborated in this campaign, in particular, UNHCR, Amnesty International Malta Group, Moviment Graffiti, IDEAL International and Third World Group. StoPoverty!, the Maltese GCAP campaign, was also invited to participate. JRS Malta's coordinators were also invited to collaborate with the Drama Unit within the Department of Education. This Unit put up a play specifically for secondary school students on the theme of racism and after each performance students were invited to participate in a discussion on racism. JRS Malta was invited to participate as experts due to the running of the campaign "Sahha fid-Diversita". The School Outreach Programme was extended through till December 2005 and all in all 51 schools and youth centres participated.

2. Art Competition and Art Exhibition

Secondary school students were invited to participate in an art competition on the theme of the campaign and the winning entry will be printed into a poster for national distribution. All schools were sent informative flyers and posters and various press releases were issued. Rules and guidelines and application forms were posted on the web-sites of KNPD and JRS. 25 students took part and the best three were chosen by established Maltese artists participating in the Art Exhibition and a representative from each of the participating organisations. The Art Exhibition was inaugurated on October 27 by the Hon. Clyde Puli MP at St James Cavalier, Valletta. Fr. Paul Chetcuti SJ, Provincial of the Maltese Jesuits, and Mr Joe Camilleri, KNPD Chairman, also addressed those present. Participating artists and winners of the art competition were among the guests who attended the official ceremony. The works on display were not for sale and the artists all participated on a voluntary basis. The works exhibited were by Charles Bonnici, Charles Gatt, Madeleine Gera, Alexandra Pace, Ed Schembri, James Vella Clark and Darrin Zammit Lupi. There was also a very large mural which was made by the artists Francis Buhagiar and Sarah Cassar together with immigrants who are resident at the Open Centre of Hal-Far. The works of the winning students of the art competition were also on display. All three students were given an art book kindly donated by *Merlin Library*, Hamrun. St James Cavalier gave its support to the exhibition and the artist Kenneth Zammit Tabona also helped with the art competition.

3. INSET Course for Teachers

In preparation for the INSET Course, an activity pack was prepared for teachers on the theme of diversity. The pack is split into 6 modules, each of which deals with a separate theme. Each module gives teachers information on the topic (e.g. work) and more specific information related to disability issues and racism. Cartoons were prepared for each module to serve as a further tool, together with the web-sites provided, for teachers to use. The pack is in the Maltese language. The Inset Course was attended by around 25 teachers from secondary schools in Malta and Gozo. JRS' Project Coordinator introduced the morning with a power point presentation explaining why JRS and KNPD are working together, why the issues of diversity and discrimination are so important in education and also gave a brief overview of the activity pack. A refugee and a disabled person then gave their own personal experience of discrimination and two experts, one from JRS and one from KNPD, commented on the technical issues involved, such as the legislation available. The group was then split into two and one group was led by JRS and one by KNPD. The one led by JRS focused on racism. The activity pack presented to them that morning was used as the basis for the workshop with teachers asked to comment on its use and problems related to its use. They were then further divided into two groups and asked to choose a module on which they then prepared a model lesson plan. The workshop led by KNPD focussed on disability issues that are relevant in the everyday life of different disabled persons, especially those in education. The latter gave talks about their experiences and answered questions from the participants. The focus was on the social model of disability, that is on how disabling barriers created by society prevent people with different impairments to participate fully in the life of their community, with special attention being given to inclusive education.

4. National Human Rights Week

This week started on 3rd December, the European Day of Disabled Persons, and ended on the 11th December, the day after International Human Rights Day. The activities held during this week targeted different sectors of the population and were aimed at raising awareness of discrimination and promoting efforts to combat it. A billboard was placed in 3 different locations in Malta and Gozo. Two posters were also launched for the occasion. The other activities held during this week are described in items 5, 6, and 7 below.

5. National Conference on the Employment Directive

This conference was held on the 10th December, International Human Rights Day. It dealt with issues relevant to the different minority groups identified in the Directive, namely persons who are at the risk of being discriminated against on the grounds of disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or age. The keynote speech was delivered by Ms Elizabeth Straw, from the European Commission. This speech was followed by short papers presented by representatives of trade unions, employers' associations and the Employment and Training Corporation. Another panel consisted of representatives of the minority groups mentioned above. The person who was due to talk about discrimination faced by young workers did not attend. The papers delivered in this conference have been published in a report in both Maltese and English.

6. Major Concerns of Disabled Persons and their Families

Funding for the *Sahha fid-Diversita* campaign did not include this seminar, except for the funds for KNPD publications in alternative media which were used to produce the research report in easy-to-read, sign language, audio and large print versions. However, this was an integral part of the National Human Rights Week. In fact, the seminar was held on the 3rd December, the European Day of Disabled Persons, and it presented the key findings from a research that highlighted the major concerns of disabled persons and their families.

7. Human Rights Walk

The walk was held on the day after International Human Rights Day, i.e. on the Saturday, in order to attract maximum attention. NGOs and government agencies representing various minority groups, namely disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age and gender, were invited to take place. The Walk started at Freedom Square in Valletta. Some of the participating organisations as well as established performers took part in a variety show. Leaflets with information about human rights were distributed. After the end of this show, Walk participants marched to St George's Square where they were met by the Prime Minister, Dr Lawrence Gonzi. A Declaration for the occasion was presented to Dr Gonzi. This presentation was followed by short speeches by persons representing the various groups, and a final speech by the Prime Minister. The Walk received extensive coverage on the local media.

8. Seminar for Legal Practitioners on Race Directive and Equal Opportunities Act

This seminar was held on Friday, April 29 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre and was open to lawyers, social workers, government officials, NGO representatives, law students and social work students. The maximum number of participants set was 50 and a total of 39 persons participated, excluding JRS and KNPD staff. Belgian lawyer Pierre-Arnaud Perrouty, also legal advisor of LDH, addressed the participants on the Racial Equality Directive, while Ms Marianne Debono and Dr Doreen Clarke spoke about the Equal Opportunities Act. Participants were divided into 3 workshop groups in the afternoon session according to their preference. Two of the workshop groups focused on race. Each of these took a case study and analysed it according to what they had heard from Dr Perrouty earlier during the morning. The two groups then came together to discuss their approaches and solutions. The disability workshop focused on the impact of the Equal Opportunities Act and on ways in which its implementation can be more effective.

9. Seminar on Self-Advocacy for Persons with Intellectual Disability

This was held on the 27th of May, and the keynote speaker was Mr Andrew Lee, Director of People First, the UK's leading self-advocacy organisation. Maltese people with intellectual disability who are involved in self-advocacy were also invited to address the seminar. During Mr Lee's visit in Malta, other meetings were held including with the President of Malta, a self-advocacy group and service providers in the field of disability. The proceedings of this seminar were published together with a research paper, the findings of which were presented during the seminar.

10. Access for All – Design Guidelines

The seminar was open to architects, students of architecture, disabled persons and members of the general public. It was an opportunity for those present to give their reactions to the guidelines. The finalised document is enclosed with this report.

11. Launch of KNPD Publications in Alternative Media

These included the findings from the Major Concerns Research and a set of DVDs in sign language related to the driving test.