

2013

Manifest Elettorali

Electoral Manifesto

Alternativa Demokratika



2013
Manifest Elettorali
Electoral Manifesto
Alternattiva Demokratika

www.alternattiva.org.mt

Magħna taf fejn int.

You know where we stand.

1**Il-Manifest fil-Qosor 7-9**
Mini-Manifesto**2****Agrikoltura 11-13**
Agriculture**3****Alkoħol u Drogi Oħra 15-17**
Alcohol and other Drugs**4****Id-Drittijiet u l-Ħarsien tal-Annimali 19-21**
Animal Rights and Welfare**5****Relazzjoni bejn il-Knisja u l-Istat 23-25**
Church-State Agreement**6****Riformi Kostituzzjonali u Demokratiċi 27-31**
Constitutional and Democratic Reforms**7****Konsumaturi 33-35**
Consumers**8****Kultura u Lingwa 37-41**
Culture and Language**9****Diżabilita` 43-47**
Disability**10****Politika Ekonomika u Fiskali 49-53**
Economic and Fiscal Policy**11****L-Edukazzjoni 55-65**
Education**12****Impieg, Relazzjonijiet Industrijali u Ħaddiema 67-71**
Employment, Workers and Industrial Relations**13****Energija 73-77**
Energy**14****Ambjent 79-93**
Environment

15

Familja 95-105
Family Policy

16

Il-Politika Barranija 107-113
Foreign Policy

17

Għawdex 115-119
Gozo

18

Saħħa 121-127
Health

19

***Housing* 129-131**
Housing

20

L-Immigrazzjoni 133-135
Immigration

21

L-Internet 137-141
Internet

22

Ġustizzja u Intern 143-149
Justice and Home Affairs

23

Pensjonijiet 151-155
Pensions

24

Politika Soċjali 157-161
Social Policy

25

***Sports* 163-165**
Sports

26

Trasport 167-171
Transport

27

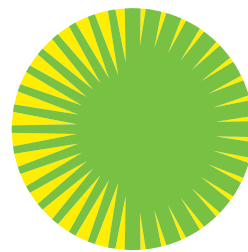
Turiżmu 173-175
Tourism

28

Žgħażagħ 177-181
Youth

1

II-Manifest fil-Qosor 8-9
Mini-Manifesto



II-Manifest fil-Qosor. Magħna taf fejn int.

Mal-Alternattiva taf fejn int. AD fil-Parlament tfisser politika responsabbli, konsistenti u progressiva. Inwiegħdu li:

1.

Inkomplu nkunu l-akbar difensuri ta' dak li baqa' mill-wirt ambjentali Malti, u nistinkaw għal aktar spazji pubbliċi u infrastrutturi aħjar. M'aħniex ostaġġi tan-negozjanti l-kbar, il-kaċċaturi u n-nassaba, l-iffissati fil-logħob tan-nar, l-abitanti illegali tal-Armier, u l-ispekulaturi u żviluppaturi bla rażan. Insejhu għal politika sostenibbli dwar l-art u l-ilma. Insejhu għal politika ekonomika u soċjali ġusta, bħal żieda fil-paga minima u l-pensjonijiet tad-diżabilità; pensjonijiet soċjalment ġusti u taxxa fuq it-tielet proprjetà vojta lil hinn.

2.

Irridu nkomplu nkunu l-partit il-progressiv, favur politika soċjali umana u drittijiet ugwali għal kulhadd, fosthom il-minoranzi fil-politika soċjali u tal-familja, bħall-persuni b'diżabilità u l-persuni LGBT. Aħna favur ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi; id-dritt għall-IVF mingħajr diskriminazzjoni, ugwaljanza sħiħa fid-drittijiet għaż-żwieġ u drittijiet oħrajn tal-familja għal koppji tal-istess sess; l-anti-razziżmu; id-dekriminalizzazzjoni tad-drogi għall-użu personali, u l-għajnuna għall-vittimi tad-droga minflok il-kriminalizzazzjoni; u d-drittijiet tal-annimali.

3.

Lesti naħdmu ma' partit ieħor, skont programm konġunt maqbul. Naħdmu biex dan niksbuh meta nkunu fil-Parlament. Bħala sieħeb minuri, nistinkaw biex niżviluppaw il-politika bil-kunsens u ma nheddux li tgħaddi tagħna akkost ta' kollox, konxji mill-fatt li dan iġib l-instabilità.

4.

Vot għall-AD jkun vot għall-bidla fil-mod ta' tmexxija u favur l-istabilità. Jekk temmen li għandhom ikunu fuq quddiem il-ġustizzja soċjali, id-drittijiet ċivili, il-ġustizzja ambjentali, l-iżvilupp sostenibbli, il-modernizzazzjoni ekoloġika u, fuq kollox, ir-riforma tal-istituzzjonijiet għat-tishih tad-demokrazija, mela taf fejn int mal-Alternattiva Demokratika. Vot għall-PN jew għall-PL ifisser vot għas-sistema staġnata taż-żewġ partiti.

Jekk vera trid il-bidla, invota Alternattiva.

Magħna taf fejn int.

Mini-Manifesto.

You know where we stand.

You know where we stand. In parliament, AD will represent consistent, responsible and progressive politics.

1.

We will continue to be the strongest defenders of what is left of Malta's environmental heritage, and we will strive towards better public spaces and better infrastructure. We are not held hostage to big business, hunters, trappers, firework fanatics, Armier squatters, and big land developers. We call for a sustainable land and water policy. We call for socially just economic and social policies, such as an increase in the minimum wage and disability pensions; socially just pensions; and tax on the third vacant property onwards.

2.

We will continue to be the progressive party, in favour of humane social policies and equal rights for all, including minorities in family and social policy, such as persons with disability and LGBT persons; AD is for gender equality; the right for IVF without discrimination, full equality in marriage and other family rights for same-sex couples; anti-racism; decriminalisation of drugs for personal use whilst helping drug victims rather than criminalizing them; and animal rights.

3.

We are ready to work with another party, on the basis of an agreed joint programme and work to achieve it when in parliament. As a minor partner we will strive to develop politics by consensus and will not resort to threats to have our way at all costs, conscious that this would bring instability.

4.

Voting for AD is a vote for change in the style of governance and for stability. If you believe in giving priority to social justice, civil rights, environmental justice, sustainable development, ecological modernization, and, last but not least, the reform in the institutional set-ups for the enhancement of democracy, you know where you stand with the Greens. Voting for the PN and PL means voting for a stagnant 2-party system.

If you want real change vote Green.

You know where we stand.

2

Agrikultura. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-Gżejjer Maltin, b'territorju ta' madwar 312 kilometru kwadru u b'popolazzjoni ta' ftit aktar minn 400,000 ruħ, huma fost l-aktar densament popolati fid-dinja. L-art agrikola naqset bi kważi nofs ta' dik li kienet fl-1956. Għalkemm illum il-proprjetajiet battala jammontaw għal aktar minn 60,000, qed jittella' aktar bini ġdid saħansitra anke fuq art agrikola minflok jiġu renovati dawn il-binjiet vojta. Nemmnju li għandna nagħmlu użu mill-bini battal flok inkompli nibnu. Mhux biżżejjed li art agrikola tiddaħhal fiż-żona barra mill-iżvilupp (ODZ) u mbagħad l-istess MEPA toħroġ permessi ta' bini fuq l-istess art.

L-agrikultura m'għandhiex titqies biss bħala haġa folkloristika iżda għandha titqies bħala parti integrali minn ekonomija moderna u effiċjenti. Fl-istess waqt, il-bdiewa mhumieks biss produtturi, imma wkoll gwardjani tal-pajsaġġ tipiku Malti.

Fid-dawl ta' dan nishqu fuq il-bżonn ta' pjan ta' żvilupp rurali serju mfassal bil-partecipazzjoni shiħa ta' kull min għandu interess dirett fl-agrikultura. Dan il-pjan għandu joffri viżjoni tal-futur tal-agrikultura u ta' attivitajiet ekonomiċi li jorbtu magħha bħall-agrituriżmu. Permezz tal-agri-turiżmu t-turisti jkun jistgħu jżuru, jgħixu għal ftit żmien u jieklu f'żoni rurali billi jiġu renovati postijiet li jinsabu f'dawn iż-żoni u li ilhom snin twal fi stat ta' telqa. Dawn il-binjiet jinkludu rżiezet privati u binjiet oħra bħal ma huma barracks battala li kienu jintużaw mill-Forzi Militari Brittaniċi. Dan jgħin biex jiġġenera industrija żgħira oħra bħall-artiġjanat u anki jgħin biex jinholoq suq għal prodotti tradizzjonali Għawdxin u Maltin.

Għandu jingħata aktar taħriġ u għajjnuna lill-bdiewa biex dawn jibdew jużaw metodi li ma jagħmlux ħsara lill-ambjent u lill-bniedem. Dawn il-metodi jinkludu l-biedja organika u metodi li jinvolvu anqas użu ta' bexx u pesticidi.

Malta għandha tkompli tkun hielsa mit-tkabbir ta' ikel ġenetikament modifikat. Kemm żrieragħ ġenetikament modifikati u għalf magħmul minn dawn il-prodotti għandhom ikunu ipprojbiti milli jiġu impurtati.

Għandu jingħata inċentiv lil daww ir-raħħala li jużaw metodi free range.

Hemm diskrepanza assoluta bejn il-prezz li jdaħħal il-bidwi għall-prodotti mkabbra minnu u l-prezz li l-konsumatur iħallas. Jinħass il-bżonn ta' holqien ta' aktar swieq għall-bdiewa bil-koordinazzjoni tal-Kunsilli Lokali. B'hekk id-dhul tal-bdiewa jizdied waqt li l-konsumatur ikollu għażla ikbar ta' prodotti iktar friski u bi prezz aktar kompetittiv.

L-ilma hu riżorsa limitata. L-użu għal skopijiet agrikoli għandu jingħata prijorità fuq użu ieħor. Kull bidwi għandu jiġi allokat l-ammont ta' ilma li jista' juża, dejjem skont il-livell ta' operat, liema ilma jkun aċċessibbli bla ħlas. Għandu jsir kull sforz sabiex l-ilma kollu mis-sistemi ta' drenaġġ ikun imsaffi u mgħoddi għal użu agrikolu.

Nemmnju li mhux qed isir użu massimu tar-riżorsi naturali. Għandu jsir studju sabiex intejbu l-effiċjenza. Eżempju tipiku hu fejn jidhol il-magħlef. Waqt li l-magħlef u/jew l-ingredjenti li minnu jsir jiġu importati, riżorsi naturali bħal ma huwa l-ħarrub ma humieks jiġu utilizzati.

Agriculture.

You know where we stand.

With a population of over 400, 000 inhabitants and a total surface area of 312 square kilometres, Malta is one of the highest densely populated countries worldwide. Land development meant that half of the arable land was lost between the period of 1956 and today. Such over development created an over supply of more than 60,000 vacant housing units. Instead of utilising these units, development including on agriculture continued. AD insists on the use of available property and on the protection of the remaining arable land. MEPA should not issue permits for development inside ODZ particularly on agricultural land.

Agriculture should form an integral part of a modern and efficient economy and not appreciated solely for its folkloristic aspect. On the other hand the farmers' role should be not only that of food producers but also of guardians of the Maltese countryside.

AD believes in a more holistic development plan involving all stakeholders where future projections will include economic activities related directly to agriculture such as agro tourism. Tourists will have the opportunity to experience rural life while eating fresh produce. A number of presently depilated rural buildings including abandoned farmhouses and ex British forces barracks will be transformed into holiday homes. All this will create a small market for micro industries such as traditional crafts and delicatessen.

More aid in the form of funds and training is to be provided to local farmers towards the practice of a more sustainable form of agriculture. This includes organic farming and other practices where fewer pesticides are used.

Malta should retain its position against GMO cultivation. Introduction of both seeds and animal feeds originating from GMOs should be banned.

There should be more incentives for farmers practising free range husbandry.

The gap between the price fetched by farmer and the price paid by consumer for agriculture produce is immense. In order to improve farmers' income whilst providing the consumer with a better choice of fresh produce and at a better price more Farmers Markets are needed. Local Councils can play a mayor role in the setting up of such markets.

Water is a limited resource demanding proper management. The use for agriculture purposes merits priority. Every farmer should be allocated the free use of a stipulated amount of water pertaining to levels of productivity. Water from sewage plants should be used for agriculture purposes following filtration.

AD believes in a better use of natural resources. Proper studies should include the use of animal feeds. Whilst all ingredients are imported, local natural resources such as carob pods are not utilised.

3

Alkohol u Drogi Oħra 16-17
Alcohol and other Drugs

Alkohol u Drogi Oħra. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-liġijiet dwar l-alkoħol u drogi oħra għandhom jiġu rriformati sabiex dawk il-persuni li huma vittmi tad-droga jkunu jistgħu jingħataw l-għajnuna.

L-edukazzjoni tibqa' għodda primarja fit-tfassil ta' politika dwar id-droga. In-nies għandhom ikunu konxji mill-effetti varji tad-droga u għandhom jingħataw l-għajnuna meħtieġa meta jirrikorru għaliha. Li persuni jiġu kkriminalizzati għaliex jagħmlu użu mid-droga ma twassal imkien, anzi wasslet għal akter tbatija.

It-twaqqif ta' Qorti speċjalizzata fuq każijiet ta' droga mingħajr ma ssir bidla legali mhix miżura kompluta u ma ssolvix il-problema primarja, dik tal-kriminalizzazzjoni ta' min jagħmel użu mid-droga. Il-leġiżlazzjoni Maltija f'dak li jirrigwarda d-droga ma tirriflettix ir-realtajiet soċjali ta' illum il-ġurnata. Per eżempju, mhux kull min ipejjepp il-ħaxixa huwa neċessarjament dipendenti fuq id-droga. Għaldaqstant, l-użu tad-droga mhuwiex ikkaratterizzat minn tip waħdieni ta' aġir imma wkoll relatat mat-tip ta' droga użata. Il-marijuana, per eżempju, hija droga meqjusa bħala waħda ħafifa waqt li l-eroina mill-banda l-oħra hija droga iktar qawwija.

Għandna naħdmu sabiex tonqos il-persjoni li twassal persuni sabiex jirrikorru għad-drogi kemm dawk legali u dawk illegali. Għalina d-droga mhix biss problema ta' liġi u ordni iżda hi prinċipalment problema li għandha għeruq soċjali fondi. Fil-fatt l-alkoħol, il-kalmanti u s-sigaretti, minkejja li huma legali, joħolqu dipendenza u problemi b'implikazzjonijiet soċjali serji.

L-użu personali tad-drogi għandu jiġi dekriminalizzat. Vittmi tad-droga għandhom jitqiesu bħala nies li jeħtieġu għajnuna, u mhux bħala kriminali. Fl-istess ħin, dekriminalizzazzjoni tiżgura wkoll li dawk li jużaw id-drogi għal skop rikreattiv, inkluż dawk li jikkultivaw id-drogi ħfief għall-użu personali, ma jigux kkriminalizzati minħabba l-mod ta' għixien tagħhom.

Li l-użu tad-drogi jkun dekriminalizzat ifisser li min jinqabad bid-droga għall-użu personali ma jkunx ikkunsidrat bħala kriminali, u li min ikun vittma tad-droga, ikun ikkunsidrat bħala persuna li għandha bzonn l-għajnuna u mhux bħala persuna li teħtieġ tkun ikkastigata. Dan ifisser li l-vittmi tad-droga jeħtieġu għajnuna professjonali, u mhux kastig. Għandu jkun enfazzzjat li persuni li illum qed jintbagħtu l-ħabs minħabba l-użu personali ta' drogi, jistgħu faċilment jispiċċaw jiehdu drogi aktar qawwija jew jidhlu fi ċrieki kriminali meta jithalltu ma' nies li jiehdu jew imexxu id-drogi fil-ħabs stess.

L-użu tal-kannabis għal raġunijiet mediċi għandu jiġi regolarizzat.

Għandha ssir klassifikazzjoni tad-drogi skont l-effetti fuq is-saħħa fiżika u mentali tal-bniedem u fuq il-konsegwenzi soċjali u psikoloġiċi tagħhom.

Il-gvern għandu jaddotta politika ta' riduzzjoni tal-ħsara li tinkoraġġixxi lil min għandu problema ta' droga jfittex l-għajnuna u jkun inkoraġġit jibdel haġtu. Għandu jkun hemm programmi mmirati għal dawk li huma addicts ibbażati fuq dan il-prinċipju.

Waqt li jkun l-isptar, il-persuni li jakkumpanjaw lill-pazjenti għat-trattament minħabba overdose jistgħu jiġu mistoqsija mistoqsijiet li huma limitati biss għat-trattament.

Vittmi tad-droga li jirrijabilitaw rwieħhom m'għandhomx jintbagħtu l-ħabs għal reati tal-imġhoddi relatati mal-użu ta' droga għal użu personali. Xogħol fil-komunità jipprovdi sanzjoni alternattiva aktar razzjonali u umana. Il-kontroll tal-bejgħ tal-alkoħol m'għandux ikun marbut mal-ħin tal-ġurnata li fih isir il-bejgħ jew xiri, iżda mal-età tax-xerrej. Fir-rigward taż-żgħażaġh, l-alkoħol u s-sigaretti għandhom jinbigħu biss lil persuni li juru l-karta tal-identità. F'każ ta' stabbilimenti jew ħwienet li jiksru din il-liġi ripetutament, il-permess tal-istabbiliment għandu jiġi rtirat.

Huwa tajjeb li t-tipjip huwa projbit fi playing fields u f'postijiet oħra frekwentati mit-tfal.

Għandu jkun hemm iktar infurzar fuq xorb u sewqan u multi ikbar għal min jinqabad isuq meta jkun xurban.

Alcohol and other Drugs. You know where we stand.

Legislation on alcohol and other drugs should be reformed so that people who are victims of drugs can be helped.

Education remains a key tool for policies on drugs. People should be conscious of their various effects and, if they seek help, they should receive it. But criminalising people for making use of drugs has been a failure not only in terms of policy but, even more so, with respect to those whose criminalisation has resulted in a spiral of hardships.

The setting up of a Drugs Court without amending laws is a half measure that does not solve the basic problem, namely the criminalisation of drug users. Malta's legislation on drugs is out of synch with social trends. For example, not every marijuana smoker is necessarily a drug addict. Hence, drug use is not characterised by one single all-encompassing type of behaviour and one single type of drug. Marijuana, for instance, is a soft drug. Heroin, on the other hand, is a hard drug.

We should strive to reduce the pressure for people to recur to the use of both legal and illegal forms of drug use. We feel that the drug problem is not only just a matter of law and order but is first and foremost a socially embedded issue. In fact, although such substances as alcohol, depressants and cigarettes are legal, they still result in dependency and difficulties with serious social implications.

Personal use of drugs should be decriminalized. The victims of drug addiction and dependency are to be considered as persons in need of help and not as criminals. At the same time, decriminalization also ensures that recreational drug users, including those who cultivate soft drugs for personal use, are not criminalized for their lifestyle.

The decriminalization of the use of drugs means that whoever is caught with an amount of drugs for personal use should not be considered to be a criminal, and a victim of drug addiction and dependency should be considered as a person in need of help and not as a person that has to be punished. This means that the victims of drugs need professional help and not punishment. One must stress that persons that are today sent to jail because of drugs for personal use, can easily end up as compulsive heavy drug users or be introduced to circles of callous criminal rings when they mix with convicts that either make use of or actually traffic drugs in prison.

The use of cannabis for medical reasons should be regularized.

Drugs should be classified according to their effect on the physical and mental health of human beings and on their social and psychological consequences.

Government should adopt a policy of harm reduction, that encourages whoever has drug problems to look for help and to change his/her life. There should be programmes based on this principle aimed at those who are addicts.

Persons accompanying patients to be treated for overdose should only be asked questions related to the treatment for as long as they are in hospital.

Rehabilitated drug addicts should not be imprisoned for past drug related crimes for personal use. Alternatives such as community work would be a more rational and humane sanction.

Control on the sale of alcohol should not be linked to the time of day when such sale is made, but to the age of the buyer. As regards youngsters, the sale of alcohol and cigarettes should only be allowed against the showing of one's ID card. In this respect, the outlets or shops that repeatedly break the law should have their trading license withdrawn.

Smoking should be prohibited in playing fields and other areas frequented by children.

Enforcement on drink-driving should be strengthened and heavier fines should be imposed on drivers under the influence of drink.

4

Id-Drittijiet u l-Ħarsien tal-Annimali 20-21
Animal Rights and Welfare

Id-Drittijiet u l-Ħarsien tal-Annimali. Magħna taf fejn int.

L-annimali u l-bnedmin jixxiebħu f'haġa fundamentali: it-tnejn iħossu. Għalhekk jidhrilna li l-annimali għandhom jitharsu bil-liġi minn kull moħqrija.

Fl-agrikoltura, metodi tat-trobbija *free range* għandhom jiġu inkoraġġiti permezz ta' incentivi fiskali. Malta għandha taderixxi mar-regoli tal-Unjoni Ewropea li jharsu l-annimali li jitrabbew b'mod intensiv. Dawn il-metodi għandhom sa fejn possibbli jiġu evitati u anki pprobiti. Għandha tkun żgurata sistema effettiva ta' spezzjonijiet kemm fil-biċċeriji kif ukoll fil-postijiet tat-trobbija.

L-AD favur l-abolizzjoni tal-kaċċa fir-rebbiegħa u favur l-infurzar effettiv kontra l-illegalitajiet tal-kaċċa.

Għandu jissaħħaħ l-infurzar tal-liġijiet li jharsu l-annimali. Għandhom jihraxu l-pieni fuq atti barbari ta' moħqrija fuq l-annimali, bħall-ġlied tal-klieb u s-sriedaq, kif ukoll għal min jinqabad jabbanduna annimali jew irabbihom f'kundizzjonijiet mhux xierqa.

Għandu jkun hemm kontroll strett biex ma jsir bejgħ u trobbija ta' annimali eżotiċi mharsa mill-konvenzjoni CITES. Għandu jkun hemm regoli speċifiċi li jirregolaw il-kummerċ ta' annimali perikolużi li jkunu mrobbija fil-magħluq u legalment importati mill-Unjoni Ewropea. Għal dan il-ghan, l-istat għandu jippubblika lista ta' annimali perikolużi li ma jistgħux jitrabbew Malta u lista oħra ta' annimali li jistgħu jitrabbew biss taħt ċertu kundizzjonijiet. F'dan il-każ għandu jkun żgurat li dawn l-annimali jinżammu biss minn persuni li jistgħu jiggarantixxu li dawn jinżammu f'ambjent sikur u komdu. L-istat għandu jwaqqaf reġistru li jinkludi dawk li jrabbu dawn l-annimali.

L-annimali li jintużaw għal skop ta' divertiment għandhom jiġu mharsa mill-moħqrija. Għalhekk l-awtoritajiet m'għandhomx joħorġu permessi għal ċirku bl-annimali. Dawn l-annimali jsofru kemm minħabba t-trasport, kif ukoll minħabba li jiġu sfurzati jagħmlu affarijiet kontra n-natura tagħhom. Dan jgħodd ukoll għall-użu ta' annimali f'forom oħra ta' divertiment, bħal dolfinarji u waqt festi bħall-Imnarja.

Għandu jkun hemm regoli ċari u infurzati dwar l-użu tal-annimali fil-laboratorji.

L-abitat naturali ta' annimali slavaġ, speċjalment dawk f'periklu ta' estinzjoni, għandu jiġi mħares. Għandhom jitwaħħlu sinjali li javżaw lis-sewwieqa bil-preżenza ta' annimali bħall-qanfud.

Għaqdiet involuti f'dan is-settur għandhom jinghataw għajnuna xierqa mill-istat. Fl-edukazzjoni għandu jkun hemm enfasi qawwija favur il-ħarsien u d-drittijiet tal-annimali.

Facilitajiet essenzjali u mekkaniżmi regolari ta' monitoraġġ għandhom jiġu implimentati sabiex jithares il-benessri tal-annimali li jaħdmu, bħaż-żwiemel tal-karozzini. Hemm bżonn titjeb l-aċċessibilità tal-pets għal żoni rikreattivi bħall-bajjiet u l-ġonna pubbliċi.

It-trobbija u l-bejgħ tal-annimali għandhom jiġu kkontrollati b'regolamenti aktar ċari u stretti. Għandu jkun hemm monitoraġġ regolari fil-ħwienet tal-pets u stabbilimenti oħra sabiex jiġi żgurat li jkun hemm kundizzjonijiet xierqa. L-adozzjoni ta' annimali abbandunati jew tat-triq trid tiġi inkoraġġita u promossa bħala l-forma ppreferuta ta' sjieda ta' annimali ta' kumpanija.

L-istrutturi uffiċjali inkarigati mid-drittijiet u l-benessri tal-annimali, bħall-Kunsill Għall-Ħarsien tal-Annimali, l-Administrative Law Enforcement u d-Direttorat tal-Ħarsien tal-Annimali għandhom jinghataw ir-riżorsi meħtieġa u jiġu amministrati b'mod professjonali.

Iridu jittieħdu miżuri biex jiġi ssorveljat il-benessri tal-annimali waqt ċelebrazzjonijiet tradizzjonali u avvenimenti sportivi, u għandhom jitwaqqfu attivitajiet li jistgħu jirriżultaw f'kefrija bla ħtieġa.

Animal Rights and Welfare. You know where we stand.

People and animals are similar in one fundamental issue: both are sentient beings. Therefore, we feel that animals should be protected by law from all forms of cruelty.

In agriculture, free range methods of animal husbandry should be encouraged through fiscal incentives. Malta should adhere to European Union regulations that protect animals reared in intensive farming. These methods should where possible be avoided and even prohibited. An effective system of monitoring should be ensured in both slaughterhouses and places of livestock farming.

AD is for the abolition of hunting in spring and enforcement against hunting illegalities.

The enforcement of animal welfare legislation should be strengthened and harsher punishment should be meted out for crimes relating to animal cruelty, such as dog and cock fighting, animal abandonment or neglect.

There should be strict control on the selling and raising of exotic animals protected by the CITES convention. More specific regulations should be set in place to regulate the trade of dangerous animals, raised in confinement and legally imported from the European Union. For this purpose, government should publish a list of dangerous animals that should not be raised in Malta and another list of animals that can be raised only under certain conditions. In this case, it should be ensured that these animals are kept only by persons who can guarantee that these are raised in secure and adequate accommodation. Government should set up a register of persons who raise these animals.

Animals which are utilised for entertainment purposes should be protected from cruelty. Thus, authorities should not issue permits for circuses with performing animals. These animals endure suffering due to transportation, whilst being impelled to perform acts which go against their nature. This also applies to the use of animals in other forms of entertainment, such as dolphinariums and feasts such as that of St. Peter and St. Paul (Imnarja). There should be clear and enforced regulations regarding the use of animals in laboratories.

The natural environment of wild animals, particularly those in danger of extinction should be protected. Road signs should be set up to alert drivers on the presence of these animals such as hedgehogs.

Organisations involved in this sector should be provided relevant government assistance.

There should be greater emphasis in education on the welfare and rights of animals.

Essential facilities and regular monitoring mechanisms need to be set in place to safeguard the welfare of working animals, such as cab-horses.

The accessibility of pet animals to recreational areas such as beaches and public gardens needs to be enhanced.

The breeding and selling of animals should be controlled through clearer and stricter regulations. Regular monitoring should be carried out in pet-shops and other establishment to ensure provision of adequate conditions. The adoption of abandoned and stray animals should concurrently be encouraged and promoted as the preferred form of pet ownership.

Official structures responsible for animal rights and welfare issues, such as the Animal Welfare Council, the Administrative Law Enforcement and the Animal Welfare Directorate should be afforded with the necessary resources and set up and administered in a professional manner.

Measures need to be taken to monitor the welfare of animals during the celebration of traditional customs and sport events, and any activities that may result in unnecessary cruelty should be curbed.

5

Relazzjoni bejn il-Knisja u l-Istat. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-provvedimenti fil-ftehim bejn il-Knisja u l-Istat dwar il-proċeduri ta' annullament taż-żwieġ quddiem it-Tribunali Ekkleżjaſtiċi għandhom ikunu emendati. Dan sabiex dawn il-proċeduri ma jġidux preċedenza fuq proċeduri ta' annullament quddiem il-Qrati Ċivili.

L-artiklu 2 tal-Kostituzzjoni għandu jkun revedut. Filwaqt li għandu jirrikonoxxi li t-twemmin Nisrani ikkontribwixxa sostanzjalment għall-iżvilupp tal-komunità Maltija, għandu jirrispetta kull reliġjon u twemmin.

Peress li d-dimensjoni spiritwali għandha titqies bħala parti mill-iżvilupp olistiku tat-tfal, l-iskejjel għandhom l-obbligu li jipprovdu din id-dimensjoni għat-tfal kollha fid-diversità tagħhom. Dan għandu jsir permezz ta' ħolqien ta' spazji kurrikulari, kif ukoll spazji fiżiċi li jakkomodaw din id-diversità. Għaldaqstant, it-tagħlim tal-etika ibbażata fuq valuri universali għandu jiffirma parti mill-Kurrikulu Nazzjonali u għandu jiffirma parti mit-tagħlim obbligatorju. L-istudenti għandu jkollhom ukoll il-possibiltà li jsegwu tagħlim dwar reliġjonijiet differenti. L-istudenti m'għandhomx jibqgħu jkunu eżaminati dwar tagħlim reliġjuż tal-Knisja Kattolika biss.

Il-Fakultà tat-Teologija fl-Università għandha tkun taħt id-direzzjoni esklussiva tal-Università. L-ġhalliema u l-istudenti għandhom igawdu l-libertà akkademika bħal dawk f'fakultajiet oħra fl-Università ta' Malta. Il-Knisja m'għandhiex tibqa' jkollha l-privileġġ li tappunta rappreżentant fuq il-Kunsill tal-Università. L-ebda denominazzjoni reliġjuża oħra f'Malta m'għandha dan id-dritt.

L-istat għandu joffri alternattivi sekulari għar-riti tal-funerali u d-dfin. Ċerimonji ta' żwieġ ċivili fil-Kunsilli Lokali għandu jkollhom iktar dinjità. L-uffiċjali pubbliċi għandhom ikunu konxji li l-liġi Maltija diġà tipprovdi l-possibiltà li tkun tista' ssir dikjarazzjoni solenni bħala alternattiva għal ġurament fuq simbolu reliġjuż.

Għandu jinħatar bord li jikkoordina mal-awtoritajiet dwar il-ħtiġijiet ta' reliġjonijiet differenti għal postijiet ta' qima – moskej, sinagogi u knejjes. Għandu ukoll jassigura li l-ebda reliġjon li hi kompatibbli ma' soċjetà demokratika ma tkun soġġetta għal diskriminazzjoni.

Id-dritt li l-iskejjel konfessjonali jasserixxu l-identità distinta tagħhom għandu jibqa' garantit. Fl-istess waqt, it-tagħlim fl-iskejjel reliġjużi għandu jkun konformi mal-kurrikulu nazzjonali fuq materji bħall-edukazzjoni sesswali, l-ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi u x-xjenza.

L-istudenti u l-ġhalliema fl-iskejjel kollha għandu jkollhom id-dritt jagħzlu jipparteċipawx attivament f'attivitajiet reliġjużi organizzati mill-iskola. Madankollu, jibqa' l-obbligu tal-ġhalliema kollha li jassiguraw il-ħarsien tat-tfal f'kull ħin, kemm dawk li jipparteċipaw kif ukoll dawk li ma jipparteċipawx.

Church-State Agreement. You know where we stand.

The provisions of the Church State agreement relative to annulment proceedings before the Ecclesiastical Tribunals should be amended. This should be carried out in order that such proceedings do not take precedence over proceedings for annulment before the civil courts.

Article 2 of the Constitution should be revised. Whilst recognising the fact that Christianity has contributed substantially to development of the Maltese community it should place all religions and beliefs on an equal footing.

Due to the fact that the spiritual dimension should be considered part of children's holistic development, schools have the duty to provide this dimension to all children in their diversity. This must be done by means of the creation of curricular spaces as well as physical spaces that accommodate this diversity. The teaching of ethics grounded in universal values should be part of the National Curriculum and offered as a compulsory subject to all students. Students should also have the option of following courses in different religions. But students should no longer be examined in religious knowledge pertaining only to Roman Catholicism.

The faculty of theology at university should only be subject to the direction of the University authorities. Staff and students should enjoy academic freedom as those in the other faculties of the University of Malta. The Church should no longer have the privilege of appointing a representative on the University Council. No other religious denomination in Malta has this right.

The state should offer secular alternatives for non believers in important rituals like funerals and burials. Civil wedding ceremonies in local councils should be given greater dignity. All public officials should be aware that Maltese law already provides the option of a solemn declaration as an alternative to taking an oath on a religious symbol of their choice.

A board should be appointed to coordinate with the authorities on the needs of different religions like requirements for places of worship - mosques, synagogues and churches. It would also ensure that no religion which is compatible with a democratic society is discriminated against.

The right for confessional schools to retain their distinctive identity should be guaranteed. At the same time, teaching in all faith based schools must conform to the national curriculum in matters like sex education, gender equality and scientific teachings.

Students and teachers in all schools should have the right not to participate in religious activities organised by the school. There still however remains the teachers' duty to supervise all students, both participating and not participating.

6

Riformi Kostituzzjonali u Demokratiċi 28-31
Constitutional and Democratic Reforms

Riformi Kostituzzjonali u Demokratiċi. Magħna taf fejn int.

Kull diskussjoni dwar bidliet profondi fil-Kostituzzjoni għandha titmexxa bl-akbar ftuħ u trasparenza u tiġi diskussa kemm fil-Parlament, (li għandu jsir istituzzjoni professjonali b'parlamentari full-time), kif ukoll f'forum rappreżentattiv li jkun jinkludi rappreżentanti tal-organizzazzjonijiet tas-soċjetà ċivili, il-partiti politiċi kollha u l-kunsilli lokali. Il-proċeduri u d-diskussjonijiet għandhom ikunu aċċessibbli online u s-suggerimenti taċ-ċittadini għandhom jiġu diskussi wkoll. Il-bidliet għandhom jiġu approvati b'referendum.

Riforma Elettorali: Malta għandu jkollha sistema elettorali bbażata fuq rappreżentanza proporzjonali assoluta bejn siggijiet u voti mitfugha f'elezzjoni, ikkoreġġuti b'għatba ta' 2.5%. Dan il-prinċipju jista' jinkiseb bl-istess Sistema ta' Vot Trasferibbli filwaqt li jitwessa' l-mekkanizmu Kostituzzjonali attwali li jiżgura proporzjonalità stretta bejn l-għadd ta' voti u siggijiet u li jimxi minn wieheġ li japplika biss f'każijiet fejn żewġ partiti biss jiġu eletti fil-Parlament, għal wieheġ li japplika għall-partiti kollha li jaqbz u l-għatba nazzjonali ta' 2.5% tal-ewwel għadd tal-voti. Malta għalhekk għandha jkollha għatba doppja, bi kwota distrettwali ta' 16.6% li tippermetti li individwu jiġi elett minn distrett, u kwota nazzjonali b'għatba ekwivalenti għal żewġ kwoti biex partit politiku jiġi rrappreżentat fil-Parlament.

Il-ħatra ta' Bordijiet/Kummissjonijiet ta' importanza nazzjonali għandha ssir mill-President bħala l-Kap tal-Istat u mhux mill-Prim Ministru. Il-President għandu jkun meħtieġ iwettaq konsultazzjonijiet mhux biss mal-politiċi imma wkoll mas-soċjetà ċivili.

Il-President tar-Repubblika għandu jkun elett minn kullegħ elettorali magħmul mill-Membri Parlamentari kollha u mis-sindki eletti kollha tat-68 lokalita. It-twessigh ta' din l-approvazzjoni jista' jiżgura li jiġi aċċettat aktar il-kap tal-istat li jingħażel.

Il-Libertà tal-Informazzjoni, l-Protezzjoni tad-Dejta u d-drittijiet tal-whistleblowers għandhom jiġu ddefiniti kif xieraq u inkorporati fil-Kostituzzjoni.

Id-dispożizzjoni tan-newtralità li fil-Kostituzzjoni tagħmel referenza għaž-żewġ superpotenzi ta' żmien il-Gwerra l-Bierda għandha tiġi riveduta b'tali mod li tkun rilevanti għar-realtajiet ġeopolitiċi tal-lum u għall-impenn ta' Malta lejn id-drittijiet tal-bniedem (ara l-kapitlu tal-politika barranija).

L-aċċess għax-xandir m'għandux jiddependi fuq ir-rappreżentanza parlamentari iżda għandu jitwessa' għall-partiti politiċi kollha u l-organizzazzjonijiet tas-soċjetà ċivili li jirrispettaw il-Kostituzzjoni u li ma jxerrdux mibegħda razzjali kontra l-minoranzi jew il-gruppi etniċi, il-kulturi u l-identitajiet.

L-influwenza mhux dovuta fil-politika għandha tkun irregolata mill-Kostituzzjoni: għandhom jiġu rregolati l-prinċipji bażiċi tal-iffinanzjar, il-lobbying u l-użu ta' proprjetà tal-istat għall-vantaġġ politiku tal-partiti politiċi. Għandhom jiġu rregolati b'mod aħjar l-azzjonijiet tal-gvern fir-rigward tal-impjegi fis-settur pubbliku, il-ħruġ tal-permessi eċċ.

Għandha tiddaħhal dispożizzjoni Kostituzzjonali biex wara tranżizzjoni xierqa, jiġi żgurat baġit bilanċjat. Hlief f'każijiet eċċezzjonali li jkunu jeħtieġu approvazzjoni ta' żewġ terzi mill-Parlament.

Id-dikjarazzjoni tal-prinċipji ġenerali fil-Kostituzzjoni għandha tiġi riveduta biex tinkludi prinċipji ambjentali bħad-dritt għall-arja nadifa u l-ilma. Ir-reviżjoni trid timmira li tittrasforma din it-taqsim tal-Kostituzzjoni minn taqsim dikjarattiva għal waħda inforzabbli fil-Qrati Maltin wara tranżizzjoni ta' għaxar snin.

Il-projbizzjoni tad-diskriminazzjoni skont is-sess għandha titwessa' biex tkopri d-diskriminazzjoni skont l-orjentazzjoni sesswali.

L-imħallfin u l-maġistrati m'għandhomx jibqgħu jinħatru mill-gvern iżda mill-President tar-Repubblika u soġġetti għal konferma mill-Parlament. Dan jiżgura sistema ta' *checks and balances* bejn is-setgħa eżekuttiva (eżerċitata f'dan il-każ mill-President tar-Repubblika) u l-leġiżlatura.

L-Artikolu 2 tal-Kostituzzjoni għandu jiġi rivedut (ara l-kapitlu dwar ir-relazzjonijiet bejn l-Istat u l-Knisja). L-ewwel, billi jiġi ddikjarat, minflok li r-religjoni ta' Malta hija r-religjoni Kattolika Rumana, li l-istat jirrikonoxxi kull religjoni li hija kompatibbli ma' soċjetà demokratika u pluralista. It-tieni, li ma jkunx meħtieġ it-tagħlim obbligatorju tar-religjoni fl-iskejjel.

Id-dritt li ċ-ċittadini jikkontestaw l-elezzjonijiet lokali, ġenerali u Ewropej għandu jkun inkorporat fil-Kostituzzjoni u mhux imħolli f'idejn il-konvenjenza tal-gvern tal-ġurnata.

Riformi Demokratiċi mhux Kostituzzjonali.

Kull entità jew dipartiment tal-gvern għandu jahtar uffiċjal pubbliku inkarigat milli jonora l-impenji tal-gvern lejn il-libertà tal-informazzjoni. Id-dokumenti pubbliċi kollha għandhom ikunu aċċessibbli online u kull talba għal-libertà tal-informazzjoni għandha tiġi pproċessata fi żmien raġonevoli.

Il-korruzzjoni timmina d-demokrazija. Għalhekk iridu jiġu introdotti penali għall-influenza illeċita kif propost mill-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. Kull min jinsab hati ta' korruzzjoni għandu jrodd lura l-gwadann ta' lukru li jkun għamel mill-attivitàjiet korrotti.

AD temmen fl-introduzzjoni ta' regoli aktar stretti fuq id-donazzjonijiet, flimkien mal-finanzjament tal-partiti mill-istat. Fir-rigward tal-ewwel, nemmnu li donazzjonijiet oġġa minn €5,000 għandhom jiġu ddikjarati mill-partiti politiċi u daww ta' aktar minn €40,000 għandhom ikunu illegali. Fil-każ tal-finanzjament tal-partiti mill-istat, nipproponu li l-istat jagħti lill-partiti politiċi kollha €3 għal kull vot miksub fuq livell nazzjonali f'elezzjoni ġenerali jew Ewropea.

Għandu jkun hemm sistema ta' finanzjament tal-partiti politiċi mill-istat. Il-finanzjament tal-istat jipprovdi t-trasparenza u jista' jingħaqad ma' regoli stretti bħal, ngħidu aħna, li kull partit ikun obligat ikollu kontijiet awditajati.

Il-partiti politiċi għandhom jipprezentaw kull sena l-kontijiet tagħhom u dawn għandhom jiġu vverifikati minn kummissjoni indipendenti maħtura mill-Awditur Ġenerali.

Is-somma li jista' jonfoq kull kandidat fil-kampanja elettorali għandha titla' minn €1400 għal €4000. Iżda dan l-ammont għandu jinkludi n-nefqa magħmula mill-partit fuq livell nazzjonali diviża bl-għadd tal-kandidati. Kull nefqa minn terzi biex tgħin lil kandidat għandha tkun inkluża wkoll. Il-kontijiet ipprezentati minn kull kandidat għandhom jiġu vverifikati minn kummissjoni maħtura mill-Awditur Ġenerali. In-nefqa ta' kull kandidat għandha tkun eżenti mit-taxxa sakemm din tkun fil-limiti stabiliti.

Għandha titwaqqaf kummissjoni biex tistabbilixxi l-valur tal-proprjetà tal-gvern mikrija lill-partiti politiċi u tirrevedi l-kirjiet għal-livelli tas-suq fuq bazi regolari.

L-impjegati tas-settur pubbliku m'għandhomx jiġu ppenalizzati bl-impożizzjoni ta' leave bla ħlas obligatorju jekk jikkontestaw l-elezzjonijiet.

Li-ċittadini għandhom jieħdu sehem fil-ħolqien ta' liġijiet ġodda bis-saħħa tal-introduzzjoni ta' referendum propożittiv. Sabiex jiġi żgurat li jsiru biss proposti serji, l-organizzaturi ta' referenda propożittivi għandhom jiġbru l-firma ta' 5% tal-persuni inklużi fir-reġistru elettorali. Il-proposti għar-referenda għandhom jiġu eżaminati mill-Qorti Kostituzzjonali biex jiżguraw li kull liġi li tiġi proposta ma tikkonfligġix mal-kostituzzjoni Maltija, il-Konvenzjoni

Ewropea tad-Drijiet tal-Bniedem, il-Karta tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti, u l-obbligi internazzjonali ta' Malta.

L-uffiċċju tal-Ombudsmen għandu jissahħaħ b'allokazzjoni akbar ta' riżorsi. L-uffiċċju għandu jkun attiv f'setturi oħra tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika, speċjalment f'dawk ikkaratterizzati minn inugwaljanzi fil-poter, bħall-ħabs, il-korp tal-pulizija, ċentri ta' detenzjoni, djar tal-anzjani u istituzzjonijiet psikjatriċi. F'dawn il-postijiet, l-Ombudsmen għandu jkollu aċċess għad-dokumentazzjoni kollha kif ukoll ikollu l-libertà totali biex jaħdem.

Wara li ssir riċerka xierqa u jiġi aċċertat li għet eliminata l-possibbiltà tal-frodi, Malta għandha tikkunsidra l-introduzzjoni ta' metodu ta' votazzjoni aktar rapidu u effiċjenti u inqas għali.

Constitutional and Democratic Reforms.

You know where we stand.

Any discussions on wide-ranging changes to the constitution should be conducted in maximum transparency and openness and debated both by parliament (which should become a professional institution with full-time parliamentarians) and by a representative forum which includes representatives of civil society organisations, political parties and local councils. All proceedings and discussions should be accessible on-line and suggestions by ordinary citizens should also be discussed. Changes should be approved through a referendum.

Electoral Reform: Malta should have an electoral system based on absolute proportional representation between seats and votes cast in elections subject to a 2.5% threshold. This principle could be achieved by retaining the Transferable Vote System while widening the current constitutional mechanism ensuring strict proportionality between number of votes and seats from one which applies only in cases where two parties are elected to parliament, to one which applies to all parties surpassing the national threshold of 2.5% of 1st count votes. Malta should therefore have a double threshold, with a district quota of 16.6 per cent that would allow an individual to be elected on her/his own steam for one's district and a national quota with a threshold of 2.5%, equivalent to two quotas for a party to be represented in Parliament. The composition of Boards/Commissions of National importance should be made by the President of the Republic as Head of State and not by the Prime Minister. When this is required, the President of the Republic should carry out consultations not just with politicians but also with civil society.

The President of the Republic should be elected by an electoral college made up of all Members of Parliament and all elected Mayors of the 68 localities. The widening of the franchise would ensure a wider acceptance of the selected Head of State.

Freedom of Information and Data Protection and the rights of whistle-blowers should be appropriately defined and entrenched in the Constitution.

The neutrality provision in the Constitution which makes reference to the two superpowers of the cold war era should be revisited such that as amended it is of relevance in today's geopolitical realities and Malta's commitment in favour of human rights. (see also foreign policy chapter)

Access to Broadcasting should not depend on representation in parliament but should be widened to all political parties and civil society organisations who respect the constitution and do not incite hatred against minorities or ethnic groups, cultures and identities

Undue influence in politics should be regulated by the Constitution: basic principles on financing, lobbying and the use of public property for party political advantage should be regulated. Government action as regards employment in public sector, the issue of permits etc. should be regulated.

A Constitutional provision to ensure a balanced budget should be introduced, making it compulsory to have a balanced budget after a suitable transition period, barring exceptional circumstances in which case a two-thirds approval by Parliament would be required.

The declaration of general principles in the Constitution should be revisited to include environmental principles such as the right to clean air and water. The revision should aim to transform this section of the Constitution from a declaratory section into one which is an enforceable one in Malta's Courts after a ten year transition period.

The Constitutional limitation on discrimination based on sex should be widened to cover discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Judges and magistrates should no longer be appointed by the Government but by the President of the Republic and subject to confirmation by Parliament. This would ensure checks and balances between the executive power (exercised in this case by the President of the Republic) and the legislature.

Article 2 of the Constitution should be revised. (see church-state relations chapter). Firstly instead of stating that Malta's religion is Roman Catholic it should recognise that all religions that are compatible with a democratic and pluralistic society are welcome in Malta. Secondly, it should not require the compulsory teaching of religion in schools.

Rights of citizens to contest local, general and European elections should be entrenched in the Constitution and not left to the whims of government.

Non Constitutional Democratic Reforms.

Every government entity or department should appoint a public official responsible for honouring the government's freedom of information obligations. All public documents should be accessible on-line and all requests for freedom of information should be processed in a reasonable period of time.

Corruption undermines democracy. Therefore penalties in trading of influence should be increased as proposed by the Council of Europe. Anyone found guilty of corruption should return back lucrative gain made through corrupt activities.

AD believes in the introduction of strict rules on donations to political parties, coupled with the state financing of political parties. As regards the former, we believe that donations in excess of €5,000 should be declared by political parties and those over €40,000 should be made illegal. In the case of state financing of political parties, we suggested that the state should grant on an annual basis to all political parties €3 for every vote obtained on a national level, during a general or a European election.

There should be a system of state financing for political parties. State financing provides transparency and can be coupled with strict regulations such as ensuring that political parties produce audited accounts on a regular basis.

Political parties should present their accounts every year and these should be verified by an independent commission appointed by the Auditor General.

The sum which each candidate can spend in a general election should be increased from €1400 to €4000. But this amount should include the expenditure made the party at a national level divided by the number of candidates presented. Any expenditure made by third parties to assist the candidate should also be included.

The accounts presented by each candidate should be verified by a commission appointed by the Auditor General.

The expenditure made by each candidate should be tax exempt provided that it is within the established limits.

A commission should establish the value of government property leased to political parties and revise rents and leases to market conditions on a regular basis.

Public sector employees should not be penalised through the imposition of forced unpaid leave because they contest general elections.

Citizens should participate in the creation and formulation of new laws through the introduction of the propositive referendum. To ensure that only serious proposals are made, the organisers of propositive referenda must collect the signature of 5% of persons included in the electoral register. All referenda proposals must be

examined by the Constitutional Court to ensure that any proposal made does not conflict with the Maltese Constitution, the European Convention of Human Rights, the UN Charter and Malta's International obligations.

The office of the Ombudsman should be strengthened through a greater allocation of resources. The office should be active in all sectors of public administration especially in those characterised by power inequalities like prison, the police force, detention centres, homes for the elderly and mental institutions. In these places the Ombudsman should have access to all documentation and full freedom to operate.

After conducting adequate research and ascertaining that all possibility of fraud is eliminated, Malta should consider the introduction of a fast, more efficient and less costly method of voting.

7

Konsumaturi. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-konsumatur għandu jkun protett b' leġiżlazzjoni inforzabbli u jkun dejjem infurmat b'mod sħiħ dwar il-prodott u s-servizz li jixtri. Biex dan il-għan jintlaħaq:

L-Awtorità dwar il-Kompetizzjoni u l-Affarijiet tal-Konsumatur għandha tkun awtonoma mill-gvern, u l-bord tad-Diretturi għandu jkun mahtur minn kumitat parlamentari, wara smiġh pubbliku. Għandha twaqqaf prattiċi monopolistiċi u 'cartels', li kemm-il darba jwasslu għal prodotti u servizzi inferjuri.

Regolaturi f'oqsma bħall-enġerija, it-telekomunikazzjoni, is-servizzi finanzjari u x-xandir għandhom ikunu awtonomi mill-gvern. Il-bordijiet rispettivi tad-Diretturi għandhom ikunu mahtura minn kumitat parlamentari, wara smiġh pubbliku.

Malta għandha tkun zona ħielsa mill-GMOs. Dan ifisser li l-ebda prodott ġenetikament modifikat ma jkun imkabbar jew immanifatturat f'Malta. Ir-riċerka fil-qasam tal-GMOs għandha tkun regolata b'mod rigoruż. Fl-istess ħin għandu jiżdied l-investiment fi prodotti tal-ikel organiku.

Il-prodotti u servizzi b'ċertifikat tal-UE ta' Kummerċ Ġust u l-Green Procurement għandhom jingħataw preferenza mis-settur pubbliku. Il-gvern għandu jagħti aktar appoġġ konkret lill-għaqdiet li jaħdmu fil-qasam tal-kummerċ ġust.

Għandu jkun hemm aktar inċentivi għat-tkabbir, importazzjoni jew produzzjoni ta' prodotti li ma jħammgux l-ambjent, bħal ngħidu aħna prodotti organiċi jew prodotti manifatturati b'mod etiku.

Għandu jkun hemm bord awtonomu li jiżgura li r-rikلامي jipprovdu informazzjoni korretta lill-konsumatur.

It-tfal huma l-iktar konsumaturi vulnerabbli għar-rikلامي. Għaldaqstant, għandhom jitfasslu liġijiet li jipproteġu t-tfal minn reklamar u marketing ta' prodotti jew servizzi, speċjalment dawk li għandhom x'jaqsmu mas-saħħa tat-tfal fosthom il-junk food b'livell nutrittiv baxx u l-qerq fl-użu ta' ġugarelli biex iħajruhom jikkunsmaw it-tali prodotti.

Nifhmu li l-ħinijiet tal-ħwienet għandhom ikunu liberalizzati, u dan prinċipalment biex ikun ta' servizz ikbar. Dan iżda għandu jkun sugġett għad-drittijiet tar-residenti kif ukoll bil-kundizzjoni li jkunu mħarsa d-drittijiet tal-ħaddiema tal-ħwienet. Dan kollu għandu jsir wara konsultazzjoni mal-kunsilli lokali. Għandhom jinħarġu liċenzji biex ċerti mediċini li ma jeħtiġux riċetta jinbiegħu minn ħwienet oħra li m'humex farmaċiji. Din is-sistema taħdem sew f'pajjiżi bħall-Ingilterra, l-Italja u l-Ġermanja.

Consumers.

You know where we stand.

The consumer has to be protected by enforceable legislation and should be constantly provided with full access to information on the product which he/she procures.

In order to achieve this objective:

The Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority should be an autonomous entity, independent from the Government, with its Board Of Directors appointed by a Parliamentary Committee, after a public call for applications..The MCCAA should put an end to monopolistic practices and Cartels, which often result in inferior products and services.

Regulators covering sectors such as Energy, Telecommunications, Financial Services, and Broadcasting should be appointed by a Parliamentary Committee after a public call for applications. It is imperative that Malta should become a GMO-free zone. This means that no genetically-modified product should be allowed to be cultivated or produced in Malta. All research in the field of GMO should be rigorously regulated. At the same time full encouragement should be provided to encourage the investment in the production of organic food.

Procurement agencies within the Public Sector should give preference to products and services certified by the E.U. as conforming to Fair Trade and Green Procurement requirements. Government should provide more tangible and concrete support to all those societies who work in the field of Fair Trade.

Additional incentives should be provided to initiatives which lead to the cultivation, production, and importation of environmentally-friendly products, such as organic products or ethically manufactured products.

An autonomous Board should be set up to ensure that adverts promoting goods and services provide correct information to the consumer.

Among consumers, children are considered to be the most vulnerable to the effects of advertising. It is therefore imperative that the necessary legislation should be drawn up in order to protect children from the advertising, promoting, and marketing of those products and services which are likely to cause harm, especially those products which are detrimental to their health, foremost among which are junk food with low nutritional value further aggravated by the deceitful use of 'free' toys designed to attract vulnerable children to consume such products.

AD supports the liberalisation of shop-opening hours, mainly because such a policy generally results in a better service to the consumer. However, such a policy must not prejudice the rights of residents living in the vicinity. Furthermore, such a policy should safeguard the rights of shop workers.

AD fully supports the issuing of licences to permit the sale of medicines which do not require a doctor's prescription, from outlets other than pharmacies. Such a system is working well in other countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany. There is no reason why it cannot work well in Malta and Gozo.

8

Kultura u Lingwa. Magħna taf fejn int.

L-ilsien Malti jipprovdi l-ħjut b'saħħithom fin-nisġa tal-identità Maltija. Waqt li nagħrfu li l-lingwa hi proċess ħaj u l-hin kollu qed tinbidel, intennu l-bżonn ta' ppjanar lingwistiku serju.

Kull prodott għandu jkollu miktub fuqu struzzjonijiet u ingredjenti bil-Malti kif ukoll b'lingwa/i oħra.

L-użu tal-Malti tajjeb fuq il-mezzi tax-xandir għandu jkun inkoraġġit. Ix-xandir pubbliku għandu l-obbligu jippromwovi l-użu tajjeb tal-Malti.

Għandu jkun hemm programmi indirizzati lejn il-Maltin li jgħixu f'pajjiżi oħra biex il-lingwa Maltija tinżamm ħajja f'dawn il-komunitajiet.

Il-Malti għandu jibqa' l-lingwa tat-tagħlim fl-iskejjel. Fl-istess, ħin, l-enfasi fuq l-Ingliš u lingwi oħra fis-sistema edukattiva għandha tkun waħda qawwija għax tiftaħ tieqa fuq id-dinja.

Ix-xandir pubbliku għandu jipprovdi divertiment u informazzjoni u għandu jkun iggwidat minn prinċipji bażiċi ta' etika. Is-sitwazzjoni fejn il-partit fil-gvern hu wkoll is-sid ta' stazzjon kompetitur tal-istazzjon nazzjonali hi waħda perikoluża u għalhekk għandu jiġi żgurat li l-istazzjon nazzjonali jitmexxa minn persuni professjonali u kemm jista' jkun indipendenti.

L-istazzjon nazzjonali PBS għandu jitmexxa minn Bord tad-Diretturi awtonomu mill-gvern, mahtur minn kumitat parlamentari wara smiġħ pubbliku. Dan għandu jinkludi rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili u esperti fil-komunikazzjoni u l-marketing. Għandu jiġi żgurat li x-xandir tal-istat jaħdem b'mod ekonomikament razzjonali. Għandu jkun hemm kontroll effettiv fuq riklamar li jixxandar waqt programmi tat-tfal. *Sponsorships* ta' prodotti ħżiena għas-saħħa bħall-*junk food* għandhom jiġu pprojbiti fil-hin ta' dawn il-programmi.

TVM2 għandu jingħata r-riżorsi meħtieġa u għandu jkun ukoll sors ta' edukazzjoni għall-adulti u mhux biss għat-tfal. Dan għandu jiffoka fuq arti, sports u kultura fis-sens l-aktar wiesa' u inklussiv tal-kelma.

Għandu jkun hemm kodiċi ta' etika li jiggwida lill-produtturi ta' programmi televiżivi. Dan sabiex jiġu evitati messaġġi ta' razziżmu, vjolenza u stereotipi sesswali fil-media lokali. L-Awtorità tax-Xandir għandha tkun tassew indipendenti, u mmexxija minn nies professjonali u rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili.

Il-fatt li Malta hi l-unika post fl-Ewropa fejn il-partiti tradizzjonali huma wkoll is-sidien ta' stazzjonijiet tat-televiżjoni, għandu jwassal biex l-istazzjon nazzjonali jkun wieħed politikament indipendenti

u li joffri spazju akbar lill-partiti u għaqdiet non-governattivi li m'għandhomx stazzjon tat-televiżjoni tagħhom. L-istazzjon nazzjonali għandu jibbilanċja sitwazzjoni ta' defiċit demokratiku fl-aċċess għall-media.

Biex jiżdied il-pluraliżmu fil-pajjiż, il-ħlas għal liċenzja ta' radju nazzjonali għandha tkun waħda aktar raġonevoli.

L-arti u l-kultura għandhom ikunu proċess inklussiv li fih jipparteċipa l-poplu kollu. Dan għandu jgħin fl-iżvilupp kreattiv ta' kull persuna, filwaqt li jkunu sors ta' divertiment u espressjoni ħielsa tal-individwu u l-komunità. Għandu jkun hemm investiment għaqli fl-arti u l-kultura. Dan għandu jtejjeb ukoll il-prodott turistiku li joffri pajjiżna.

Il-finanzjament mill-inizjattivi kulturali jista' jittejjeb bis-saħħa ta' finanzjament mill-istat, kollaborazzjoni bejn l-istat u s-settur privat, inċentivi fiskali, u permezz tal-Fond għall-Kawżi Ġusti. Dan il-fond għandu jkun aktar trasparenti u bi kriterji ċari fir-rigward tat-tqassim tal-fondi għall-inizjattivi kulturali u oħrajn bħal dawk sportivi.

Għandu jiġi kkunsidrat ċentru kulturali f'sit prominenti, inkluż mużew permanenti tal-arti moderna u librerija pubblika ċentrali moderna ta' self u referenza, li jkollha l-informazzjoni fil-formati kollha possibbli, mill-karta sal-multimedja, l-awdjoviżiv u d-diġitali. Għandhom jiġu involuti f'dan il-proġett operatori fis-settur privat li jaħdmu produzzjonijiet artistiki bħal xogħlijiet ċinematografiċi, kotba, diski, u prodotti artistiki oħra.

Għandhom jiġu pprovduti aktar fondi pubbliċi għal-libreriji pubbliċi u għal-libreriji l-oħra ffinanzjati mill-gvern, bħal-Librerija Nazzjonali, il-librerija tal-Università ta' Malta, il-librerija tal-MCAST, u l-libreriji pubbliċi lokali.

Il-libreriji pubbliċi lokali għandhom jiġu promossi bħala ċentri tal-komunità f'kuntest ta' demokrazija ta' kuljum. L-arkitettura, l-għamara, it-tagħmir u l-gabriet tagħhom

għandhom jilqgħu lill-membri tal-komunità u jkunu aċċessibbli. Il-libreriji u x-xogħol tal-arkivjar għandhom ikunu kkaratterizzati mill-professjonalizzazzjoni, l-istandardizzazzjoni u l-interkonnettività.

Għandu jkun hemm sistema ta' ġbir tad-dejta tas-servizz pubbliku fl-arkivji nazzjonali. Il-ġabriet tal-arkivji nazzjonali għandhom jinżammu f'ċentru modern li jaqdi wkoll il-htigijiet tal-arkivji tal-Proġett Nazzjonali tal-Memorja.

Għandha titwaqqaf diviżjoni fil-Ministeru tal-Kultura li tiffoka fuq l-iżvilupp tat-talent u l-kultura mużikali. Id-definizzjoni ta' mużika għandha tinkludi mużika tradizzjonali, mużika klassika, jazz, mużika rock u mużika pop (inkluz il-kategoriji varji li jinkludi kull ġeneru, per eżempju l-metal fil-mużika rock) fost ġeneri oħra. Xogħol din id-diviżjoni jkun li tipprovdi faċilitajiet u spazji għall-mużiċisti, il-ħolqien ta' sistema ta' soft loans biex tgħinhom jiżviluppaw, u l-promozzjoni ta' Malta bħala venue mużikali internazzjonali.

It-tradizzjonijiet kulinarji Maltin speċjalment dawk li jużaw prodotti tipiċi Maltin, għandhom jiġu mrawma. Għal dan il-ghan, għandu jitwaqqaf bord li jippromwovi l-ikel Malti.

Il-mużewijiet għandhom ikunu sors aktar attraenti ta' tagħrif għall-komunità u attrazzjoni akbar għan-nies. Għandhom ikunu ċentri ta' attività marbuta mat-tema tal-mużew. Heritage Malta għandha tinvesti iktar fl-immodernizzar tal-mużewijiet li m'għandhomx jibqgħu sempliċi wirja ta' oġġetti, iżda jsiru lok ta' esperjenza interattiva mal-viżitatur. Is-settur privat u d-dinja akkademika għandhom ikunu involuti f'dan il-proġett. Madankollu l-mużewijiet għandhom jibqgħu entità pubblika. L-amministrazzjoni tal-mużewijiet għandha tkun waħda professjonali.

Għandhom jiġu promossi mużewijiet dwar temi marbuta mal-kultura popolari bħal mużewijiet etnografiċi, mużewijiet industrijali u oħrajn li jiffukaw fuq l-istorja ta' gruppi u klassijiet soċjali li kienu mwarrba mill-istorjografija tradizzjonali, bħan-nisa, it-tfal, il-bdiewa u l-haddiema. Kull lokalità għandha tkun imhegġa u megħjuna tistabilixxi mużewijiet lokali.

Fil-Belt Valletta għandu jitwaqqaf mużew dwar l-istorja soċjali, kulturali u politika tal-belt kapitali.

Għandu jitwaqqaf mużew dwar il-politika Maltija u d-demokrazija li jkun jista' jiġi amalgamat mal-parlament il-ġdid. Biex tiżdied l-aċċessibilità għall-mużewijiet hemm bżonn ta' flessibilità ikbar fil-hinijiet tal-ftuħ. Il-mużewijiet għandhom ikunu b'xejn għat-tfal u għall-istudenti.

Bi sħab mas-settur privat l-istat għandu jiffinanzja proġett ta' arkitettura moderna f'kull legiżlatura. Dan għandu jsir permezz ta' kompetizzjoni miftuħa għall-periti.

It-teatru nazzjonali għandu jingħata l-importanza li jixraq u l-istat għandu jgħin produzzjonijiet ta' kwalità speċjalment dawk li jsiru bil-lingwa Maltija.

Għandna bosta bini storiku kif ukoll bini skedat li għandu jkun imħares b'iktar reqqa u serjetà. Ir-restawr fiżiku ta' bini pubbliku u skemi ta' għajnuna biex iwieżnu lis-soċjetà ċivili biex hi wkoll tirrestawra bini storiku huwa biss parti waħda mill-istorja.

Huwa neċessarju wkoll li dan il-bini meta restawrat ikun utilizzat. Għandha ssir konsultazzjoni mas-soċjetà ċivili għar-restawr u protezzjoni ta' propjetajiet ta' importanza kulturali (bhall-kappelli, siti storici, mużewiet), sabiex jikber il-potenzjal kulturali u turistiku ta' dawn il-propjetajiet.

Culture and Language.

You know where we stand.

The Maltese language provides an important element in the articulation of the Maltese identity. Whilst Alternattiva Demokratika – The Green Party recognizes that the construction of language is a process characterized by change, we believe that serious linguistic planning is required.

All products should include instructions and/or ingredients in Maltese and other language\’s.

Good use of Maltese in the media should be encouraged. Public broadcasting has the obligation to promote good use of the Maltese language.

There should be programmes addressed to Maltese persons living in other countries so as to keep the Maltese language alive in such communities.

Maltese should remain the language of instruction in schools. At the same time, there should be strong emphasis on English and other languages within the educational system, as this connects Malta to the world.

Public broadcasting should provide entertainment and information that are guided by basic ethical principles. The situation where the party in government is also the owner of a television station which competes with state television is dangerous. Therefore it should be ensured that state television is managed by professionals who are as independent as possible.

Public Broadcasting Services (PBS) should be managed by a Board of Directors autonomous from the Government, and appointed by a parliamentary committee, following a public hearing. This should include civil society representatives as well as experts in communication and marketing. It should be ensured that state broadcasting is economically rational.

There should be more effective control on adverts transmitted during children’s programmes. Sponsorships of products which are harmful to one’s health – such as junk food – should be banned when such programmes are transmitted.

TVM2 should be given appropriate resources and be a source of education for both adults and children. This should focus on art, sports and culture in the broad definition of the terms.

A code of ethics should be in place for producers of television programmes, in order to avoid racist, violent and stereotypical messages in the media.

The Broadcasting Authority should be truly independent, and should be led by professionals and civil society representatives.

The fact that Malta is the only European country where traditional political parties are also owners of television stations should lead to a situation where the national television station is politically independent, which offers more space to political parties and NGOs which do not have their own television stations. The national station should balance the democratic deficit in media access.

The licence fee for radio stations should be more reasonable, so as to increase media pluralism in Malta.

Art and culture should be characterised by an inclusive process with the participation of the public. This should help develop every person’s creativity, whilst also being a source of entertainment and free expression of the individual and the community. There should be careful investment in art and culture. This should also improve Malta’s tourist product.

Financing from cultural initiatives can be enhanced through State funding, and state collaboration with the private sector, fiscal incentives, and through the good causes fund which should be made more transparent with clear criteria as to the distribution of funds for cultural and other positive initiatives like sports.

A cultural centre at a prominent site should be considered, including a permanent museum of modern art and state-of-the-art central public lending and reference library with information presented in all its possible formats be it print, multimedia, audio-visual or digital. Private sector operators in artistic productions such as cinema, books, records and artistic products, should be involved in this project.

More public funds should be provided for Malta’s public libraries and all other government-funded libraries such as the National Library, the University of Malta library the MCAST library and local public libraries.

Local public libraries should be promoted as community centres in a context of everyday democracy. All libraries should have internet access. Their architecture, furnishing, equipment and collections should be accessible and inviting to members of the community. Professionalization, standardization and inter-connectivity should characterize all libraries and archival work.

There should be a national records management for public service data. National archive holdings should be kept in a state-of-the-art centre which also caters for archives of the National Memory Project.

The Ministry for Culture should have a division which focuses on the development on musical talent and culture. The definition of music should include traditional music, classical music, jazz, rock music and pop music (including their sub-divisions, e.g. metal in rock music) amongst other genres. This division should provide facilities and space for musicians, the creation of a system of soft loans to help them develop, and the promotion of Malta as an international music venue.

Malta's culinary traditions, especially those which use typical Maltese products, should be cultivated. A board which promotes Maltese food should be set up for this scope.

Museums should become a more attractive source of knowledge for the community and should be more attractive to people. They should be centres of activity related to the museum theme. Heritage Malta should increase investment in the modernization of museums so that they become centres of interactive experiences rather than simply exhibiting objects. The private sector and academics should be involved in this project. However, museums should remain public entities. Their management should be professional.

Museums on themes related to popular culture should be promoted. These could include ethnographic museums, industrial museums and others which focus on the history of groups and social classes that were emarginated from traditional historiography, such as women, children, peasants and workers. Every locality should be encouraged and helped to establish local museums.

A museum on the social, cultural and political history of the capital city should be established in Valletta.

A museum on Maltese politics and democracy should be established. This could be amalgamated with the new parliament. In order to have increased accessibility at museums, there should be more flexibility in opening times. Museum-visits should be free for children and students.

The cultural importance of village feasts should be given due importance. At the same time, the Alfred Vella fireworks report commissioned by Government regarding safety should be implemented.

Cinema is an art form that can help establish Malta in the global map. The national film board should increase promotion and support of Maltese films and productions.

In partnership with the private sector, the state should finance a project of modern architecture in every legislature. This should take place through an open competition for architects.

The national theatre should be given the importance it deserves and the state should assist quality productions especially if in the Maltese language.

We have plenty of historical and scheduled properties which should be protected more rigorously. Physical restoration of public properties and schemes to finance and assist civil society in order that it commits itself to restoring our historical heritage is just a first step. It is essential that the restored buildings are put to good use. Consultation with civil society for the restoration and protection of properties of cultural importance (e.g. chapels, historical sites, museums) should take place in order that the cultural and touristic potential of such properties could be enhanced.

9

Diżabilità . Magħna taf fejn int.

Id-drittijiet ta' persuni b'diżabilità huma drittijiet umani bażiċi. AD jemmen li persuni b'diżabilità għandhom id-dritt għall-edukazzjoni inklussiva fl-iskejjel mainstream, għall-inkluzjoni soċjali, impjeg, ħajja indipendenti u partecipazzjoni fil-komunità. Persuni b'diżabilità għandu jkollhom aċċess sħiħ għall-isferi soċjali, ekonomiċi u kulturali tal-ħajja ta' kuljum.

Persuni b'diżabilità m'għandhomx jitqiesu bħala grupp omoġenju. Hemm diversi gradi u tipi ta' diżabilità, minn dik fiżika sa dik intellettuali – u dawn l-identitajiet jithalltu ma' identitajiet oħra li kull individwu għandu – bħall-ġeneru, il-klassi, is-sesswalità, l-età, l-etniċità u t-twemmin reliġjuż.

Ebda persuna m'għandha tkun imċaħħda mill-opportunitajiet li toffri s-soċjetà minħabba l-kundizzjoni fiżika, sensorjali jew intellettuali tagħha. Għalhekk is-soċjetà m'għandhiex tħares lejn persuni b'diżabilità bħallikieku kienu xi kategorija speċjali li jiddependu fuq il-karità ta' haddieħor. Alternattiva Demokratika tappoġġja l-prinċipji tal-liġi dwar l-opportunitajiet indaqs f'setturi varji, u tishaq li dawn jiġu infurzati permezz ta' multi u penali aktar ħorox għal min imur kontra dawn il-prinċipji.

Kull post pubbliku inkluz dawk governattivi u kummerċjali għandhom ikunu aċċessibbli għal kull min għandu diżabilità fiżika. Is-servizzi pubbliċi relatati mad-dijanjożi, it-tagħmir, il-prodotti u s-servizzi għall-persuni b'diżabilità għandhom ikunu universalment aċċessibbli u mingħajr dewmien bla bżonn.

Il-pensjoni tad-diżabilità preżenti, li tammonta għal 55 fil-mija tal-paga minima, mhix biżżejjed biex taqdi l-bżonnijiet ta' persuni b'diżabilità. Din għandha tiġi reveduta biex tkun tista' tippermetti kwalità ta' ħajja diċenti.

AD taqbel mal-introduzzjoni ta' *Direct Payment and Personal Assistant Schemes* għal persuni b'diżabilità.

Il-prinċipju ta' azzjoni pożittiva favur persuni b'diżabilità fid-dinja tax-xogħol għandu jiġi infurzat. F'Malta ir-rata ta' inattività fost persuni b'diżabilità hija għolja ħafna. Dan ifisser potenzjal mohl, riskju ta' faqar u nuqqas ta' opportunità għal ħajja aktar indipendenti. Il-Gvern għandu jiżgura li l-liġi tkun applikata u li azjendi u kumpaniji fis-settur pubbliku u s-settur privat jimpjegaw minimu ta' 2% ta' haddiema b'diżabilità. Din il-liġi għandha tiġi infurzata b'mod effettiv.

Kull stazzjon ta' xandir pubbliku għandu wkoll obbligi lejn persuni b'diżabilità. Għaldaqstant kull stazzjon Malti għandu jirrispetta l-persuni b' diżabilità bil-mod kif jitkellem dwarhom u jirrapprezentahom permezz ta' kodici ta' etika dwar dan is-suġġett. Kull stazzjon għandu wkoll jittrażmetti programmi bħall-aħbarijiet permezz tal-lingwa tas-sinjali. Fejn hu possibbli, films

u dokumentarji għandhom jintwerew bis-sottotitli wkoll.

L-istat għandu obbligu li joffri servizz xieraq għad-dinjità ta' kull persuna b' diżabilità permezz ta' għixien fil-komunità għal dawk il-persuni b'diżabilità li jixtiequ jgħixu indipendentement mill-ġenituri u l-familja tagħhom, jew dawk li l-familjari tagħhom ma jistgħux jipprovdu għalihom aktar minħabba sitwazzjonijiet varji.

AD taqbel mal-iżvilupp ta' *supported independent living* għal dawk il-persuni b'diżabilità li jixtiequ jgħixu b'mod awtonomu, jikkoabitaw, jiżżewġu, u/jew irabbu familja fil-komunità.

Is-servizz fiċ-ċentri ta' matul il-jum għandu jkun aktar ibbażat fuq mudell ta' attività, taħriġ u indipendenza, fejn il-persuni b'diżabilità huma ttrattati bħala individwi adulti u jkunu integrati aktar fil-komunità.

Hemm bżonn ċentri għall-ippjanar tal-familja li jaqdu speċifikament il-bżonnijiet ta' persuni b'diżabilità, li jipprovdu edukazzjoni sesswali, ippjanar tal-familja u pariri dwar is-saħħa sesswali.

Il-progress li sar fil-qasam tal-edukazzjoni, speċjalment fis-settur primarju, permezz ta' edukazzjoni inklussiva għandu jinfirx aktar fis-settur sekondarju post sekondarju, għal persuni bi kwalunkwe livell ta' diżabilità intellettuali. L-iskejjel preżenti għandhom isiru kompletament aċċessibbli għal studenti jew għalliema li għandhom diżabilità fiżika.

L-assistenza soċjali li tingħata lill-*carers* għandha tiġi estiża lill-ġenituri jew gwardjani uffiċjali ta' persuni b' diżabilità.

Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) għandhom ikunu disponibbli għall-istudenti kollha li għandhom bżonn is-servizz tagħhom, inkluz dawk b'LSAs nieqsa b'mod temporanju (eż. bis-sick leave), kif ukoll għal dawk li jattendu Klabb 3-16 wara l-ħin tal-iskola.

Il-lista preżenti ta' medicini provduti b'xejn mill-istat għandha tiġi estiża sabiex tkopri l-medicini kollha li għandhom bżonn persuni b'diżabbiltà.

Persuni b' diżabbiltà għandhom ikunu rappreżentati f'kull qasam fejn jittiehdu deċiżjonijiet pubbliċi, bħal m'huma awtoritajiet pubbliċi, preferibbilment min persuni b'diżabbiltà stess. Fil-każ li dan mhux possibbli, jiġu rappreżentati minn dawk l-eqreb tagħhom, il-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Diżabbiltà, is-soċjetà ċivili u esperti oħra.

Il-lingwa tas-sinjali bil-Malti għandha tiġi rikonoxxuta mill-Gvern bħala lingwa ufficjali. Għandhom jiżdiedu l-interpreti tal-lingwa tas-sinjali. L-istat għandu jiżgura li l-interpretazzjoni tal-lingwa tas-sinjali tiġi inkluża bis-siġh fis-settur pubbliku. L-akkwist pubbliku irid dejjem ikollu dimensjoni ta' diżabbiltà.

Persuni bl-ME, FB u diżabbilitajiet oħra li mhumex rikonoxxuti mill-istat għandhom jiġu rikonoxxuti mill-istrutturi tal-politika soċjali tal-pajjiż. Is-servizzi tas-saħħa u tas-servizzi soċjali għandhom jivverifikaw is-sitwazzjoni tal-individwu biex tkun tista' tingħata l-għajjnuna meħtieġa lil kull individwu.

Jeħtieġ li jiġu allokat i fondi għall-edukazzjoni u t-taħriġ meħtieġ fil-qasam mediku għall-professjonisti li jispeċjalizzaw fid-dijanjożi ta' persuni bl-ME, FB u kundizzjonijiet simili fi stadju bikri u biex jagħtuhom pariri dwar saħħithom. Dawn il-persuni għandu jingħatalhom l-istess appoġġ u aċċess għal servizzi ta' saħħa f'pajjiżi oħra bħal ma jingħataw persuni oħra li għandhom kundizzjonijiet li lokalment m'hawnx kura għalihom.

Disability.

You know where we stand.

The rights of persons with disability are basic human rights.

AD – The Green Party believes that persons with disability have the right for inclusive education, social inclusion, employment, independent living and community participation. Persons with disability should have full access to the social, economic and cultural spheres of everyday life.

Persons with disability should not be seen as one homogenous group. There are various degrees and types of disability, from the physical to the intellectual – and such identities intersect with other identities that each individual has – such as gender, class, sexuality, age, ethnicity and religious beliefs.

No person should be denied the opportunities offered by society because of his/her physical, sensory or intellectual impairment. Therefore society should not regard persons with disability as if they were a special category depending on the charity of others. Alternattiva Demokratika supports the principles in the law on equal opportunities in various sectors and insists that they should be enforced through fines and harsher penalties against those who break the law.

Every public place including governmental and commercial spaces/building should be accessible to all those with a physical disability.

Public services related to diagnosis, equipment, products and services for persons with disability should be universally accessible and should avoid unnecessary delays.

The current disability pension, which amounts to 55 per cent of the minimum wage, does not suffice to meet the needs of persons with disability. This should be reviewed so as to permit a decent quality of life.

AD supports the introduction of Direct Payment and Personal Assistant Schemes for people with disability.

The principle of affirmative action in favour of persons with disability in the world of work should be enforced. In Malta the inactivity rate among persons with disability is very high. This means wasted potential, poverty risk and lack of opportunity for an independent life. The Government should ensure that the law is applied and that enterprises and companies in the public and private sectors employ a minimum of 2% of workers with a disability. This law should be effectively enforced.

Every public broadcasting station also has obligations towards persons with disability. In this regard, every Maltese station should respect persons with disability in the way it speaks about them and to represent them according to a code of ethics on the

subject. Every station should transmit programmes such as news broadcasts using sign language. Where possible, films and documentaries should be shown using sub-titles.

The state is obliged to offer adequate service which respects the dignity of every person with disability through community living for those persons with disability who wish to live independently of their parents of family, or those whose family cannot provide for them anymore for various reasons.

AD is in favour of the development of supported independent living for those persons with disability who wish to live autonomously, cohabit, marry, and /or raise a family in the community.

Day centre services should be based more on a model of activity, training and independence where persons with disability are treated as individuals and integrated better in the community.

Family planning centres specifically catering for the needs of people with intellectual disability, providing sex education, family planning and sexual health advice are required.

The progress registered in the educational sector, especially in the primary sector through inclusive educational policies should be further extended in the secondary and post-secondary sectors for persons with different levels of intellectual disability. Existing schools should be completely accessible to students or teachers with physical disability.

The social assistance for carers should be extended to parents or official guardians of persons with disability.

Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) should be available to all students who need their services, including those whose current LSAs are temporarily unavailable (e.g. sick

leave) as well as those who attend Club 3-16 after school hours. The present list of free medication provided by the state should be extended so as to cover all medication required by persons with disability.

Persons with disability should ideally represent themselves in every sector where public decisions are made, such as public authorities. If this is not possible then they should be represented by those closest to them, the National Commission Persons with Disability, civil society and other experts.

Maltese sign language should be recognised by Government as an official language. Sign language interpreters should increase. The state should ensure that sign language interpretation is mainstreamed in the public sector. Public procurement should always include a disability dimension.

Persons with ME, FB and other disabilities that are not recognised by the State should be recognised by Malta's social policy structures. Support from health and social services should verify the situation of the individual so as to provide the sufficient level of support required to each individual.

Funds should be allocated for appropriate education and training in the medical field for professionals that would be specialised at diagnosing persons with ME, FB and similar conditions at an early stage and advise them on appropriate forms of health management. Such persons should also get the same support and access in cross-border care as is given to persons with other conditions for which treatment is not available locally.

10

Politika Ekonomika u Fiskali. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-politika ekonomika tal-AD tirrikonoxxi dawn it-realtajiet permezz ta' *Green New Deal* li tippromwovi l-iżvilupp ekonomiku filwaqt li tnaqqas prattiċi insostenibbli, bil-għan li żżid il-ġustizzja soċjali u l-kwalità tal-ħajja tal-poplu, billi, fost oħrajn, tiġġenera opportunitajiet ta' xogħol.

Alternattiva Demokratika tappoġġja l-viżjoni tal-*Green New Deal*. Bħala partit li jagħti prijorità lill-iżvilupp sostenibbli, l-għan tagħna huwa li jkun hemm sintezi bejn l-aspetti soċjali, ekoloġiċi u ekonomiċi tal-iżvilupp. Għalhekk, AD ma tagħmilx wegħdiet fiergħha li jistgħu jwasslu għal nuqqas ta' dixxiplina fiskali u prattiċi insostenibbli.

Studji jindikaw li 5 miljun impjieg jistgħu jiġu ġġenerati fl-Unjoni Ewropea permezz tal-*Green New Deal*, f'setturi bħall-manifattura, it-turiżmu, is-servizzi, l-informatika, ir-riċerka, l-enerġija alternattiva, it-trasport, l-agrikoltura, ix-xogħol fil-komunità u l-immaniġġjar tal-iskart.

Ħaddiema f'livelli varji, inkluż dawk professjonali, amministrattivi u tekniċi, għandhom x'jigwadanjaw minn dan it-tip ta' investiment. Apparti żieda f'investiment għal proġetti li jiġġeneraw l-impjiegi u li huma ekoloġikament u soċjalment sostenibbli, il-Gvern jista' jinċentiva n-negozju sabiex jinvesti f'dawn l-oqsma.

Miżuri bħal *tax breaks*, inizjattivi ta' *venture capital* u *soft-loans* ikunu ta' benefiċċju f'dan ir-rigward. Il-kunsilli lokali għandhom ikollhom iktar awtorità u riżorsi għall-ħolqien ta' dawn l-opportunitajiet.

Il-*Green New Deal* tirrikjedi pagi ġusti u kundizzjonijiet ta' xogħol tajba, u mhux xogħol prekarju. Ir-rata ta' impjieg ta' Malta, li hi l-iktar waħda baxxa fl-UE, speċjalment minħabba r-rata baxxa ta' nisa u ħaddiema anzjani f'impjieg, għandha tinkoraġġina naghmlu iktar f'dan ir-rigward.

Il-*Green New Deal* tinvolvi konsultazzjoni serja ma' dawk kollha involuti. Dawn jinkludu sidien, ħaddiemaħaddiema, komunitajiet lokali, rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili u konsumaturi. Għalhekk, il-Green New Deal tinvolvi bidla fil-mod kif inħarsu lejn l-iżvilupp ekonomiku.

Id-defiċit u d-dejn nazzjonali għandhom ikunu mmaniġġjati sew. Fil-kostituzzjoni ta' Malta għandha tiddaħħal dispożizzjoni li tiżgura baġit ibbilanċjat. Dan għandu jsir obligatorju wara tranżizzjoni xierqa, ħlief għal każijiet eċċezzjonali li jkunu jirrikjedu approvazzjoni ta' żewġ terzi tal-Parlament.

In-nefqa tal-Gvern għandha tkun sostenibbli filwaqt li timmira li ttejjeb il-prijoritajiet ambjentali, soċjali u ekonomiċi.

AD qed tippromovi miżuri fiskali bbażati fuq il-ġustizzja soċjali, il-protezzjoni ambjentali u ħsieb ekonomiku għaqli. Peress li Malta tiddependi fuq l-esportazzjoni, il-politika ekonomika għandha timmira li żżid il-kompettitività permezz ta' inċentivi varji f'sfond ta' viżjoni ekoloġika sostenibbli.

L-Eko-taxxa għandha tiffoka fuq prattiċi li huma ta' dannu ambjentali, li jiġġeneraw skart u tniġġis eċċessiv, li jużaw ir-riżorsi b'mod insostenibbli u li jispekulaw fuq proprjetà u finanza.

Għandu jkun hemm iktar ħidma kontra l-evazzjoni tat-taxxa.

AD temmen f'sistema progressiva ta' taxxa fuq id-dhul, ibbażata fuq il-kunsiderazzjoni etika li dawk li jistgħu jikkontribwixxu iktar b'mod proporzjonali għandhom jagħmlu dan. Nemmnu li r-rata ta' eżenzjoni għal dawk li għandhom dhul baxx għandha tiżdied.

Ħaddiema fis-settur pubbliku li jahdmu xogħol addizzjonali part-time fis-settur pubbliku għandhom jigu intaxxati fuq bazi part-time għal dan ix-xogħol addizzjonali.

F'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mal-VAT, filwaqt li din it-taxxa għandha l-vantaġġi, għandha ukoll tendenza rigressiva. Dan minħabba li dawk bi dhul baxx li jonfqu ħafna mid-dhul tagħhom fuq il-konsum jispiciċaw iħallsu iktar VAT b'mod proporzjonali. Għalhekk, AD tappoġġja skemi li jżommu rata ta' VAT baxxa fuq prodotti u servizzi li jieħdu proporzjon għoli tan-nefqa ta' persuni li għandhom dhul baxx.

L-ispekulazzjoni fuq il-proprjetà għandha tkun intaxxata mit-tielet proprjetà vojta lil hinn, speċjalment meta Malta hija sit perpetwu ta' kostruzzjoni u meta kwart tal-proprjetajiet huma vojta. Dan jinkoraġġixxi wkoll il-kiri u l-bejgħ ta' proprjetajiet u l-użu ta' bini eżistenti li qed jinżamm vojta għal skop ta' spekulazzjoni, minflok ma tinbena iktar art mibnija.

L-ilma – riżorsa strateġika ta' importanza nazzjonali – għandu jkollha prezz realisitu. Fuq medda ta' żmien qasira, kull *borehole* mhux reġistrata għandha tingħalaq. Fuq medda ta' żmien itwal, u hlief għal xi eċċezzjonijiet strateġiċi bhall-agrikoltura, il-prezz veru tal-ilma għandugħandu jkun rifless fil-konsum tiegħu, fejn prattiċi ħalja, u mhux il-konsum bażiku tal-ilma, għandhom jiġu penalizzati. Il-konsum bażiku għandu jiġi ssusidjat. Il-korporazzjoni għas-servizzi tal-ilma għandu jkollha kontroll shif fuq il-produzzjoni tal-ilma, li, sussegwentament, għandu jiġi ridistribwit skond il-prijoritajiet tal-pajjiż.

Filwaqt li koperattivi u kumpaniji żgħar u ta' daqs medju u kumpaniji ċertifikati bħala dawk tal-kummerċ ġust għandu jkollhom piż ta' taxxa inqas, għandha tiżdied it-taxxa fuq banek u kumpaniji finanzjarji li jagħmlu windfall profits, biex b'hekk titrażżan l-ispekulazzjoni finanzjarja.

Għandu jitwaqqaf bank tal-koperattivi.

Malta għandha tappoġġa wkoll il-proposta tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea għal taxxa fuq it-tranzazzjonijiet finanzjarji, kontra l-ispekulazzjoni fil-finanzi.

L-aġġustament u l-kumpens għall-gholi tal-ħajja (il-COLA) għandhom isiru kull sitt xhur, minflok kull sena. AD tissuggerixxi assessjar realistiku tal-agġustament tal-gholi tal-ħajja sabiex il-kumpens annwali verament jirrifletti z-zieda fl-inflazzjoni. Għalhekk, għandu jkun hemm metodologija aġġornata minflok dik li teżisti fil-preżent għall-COLA.

Il-Gvern għandu jara li prezzijiet eċċessivi, pereżempju permezz ta' abbużi tal-monopolji u kwazi monopolji fis-suq u l-kollużjoni bejn dawk li jissupplixxu s-suq, għandhom jittrażnu. L-introduzzjoni ta' swieq tal-bdiewa kienet ta' benefiċċju f'dan ir-rigward.

L-importazzjoni tal-mediċini trid tiġi riformata sabiex jitnaqqas il-prezz tal-mediċini. Minbarra l-importazzjoni tal-mediċini mis-settur privat, il-gvern missu wkoll jikkunsidra l-involviment tiegħu fl-importazzjoni, skont il-ħtieġa, ta' mediċini essenzjali. Dan għandu jiżgura l-affordabilità tal-prezzijiet jekk ikun hemm tagħwiġ tas-suq, billi l-Gvern jista' jgawdi minn ekonomiji tal-kobor filwaqt li jrawwem il-kompetizzjoni.

F'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mal-enerġija, l-istat għandu jkollu rwol ewlieni. Huwa importanti li l-Gvern jippromwovi enerġija alternattiva, biex b'hekk ikun hemm iktar sostenibilità u inqas dipendenza fuq l-importazzjoni ta' enerġija maħmuga. Il-prattiċi ħalja, u mhux il-konsum bażiku tad-dawl u l-ilma, għandhom jiġu ppenalizzati. Il-konsum bażiku għandu jiġi ssusidjat.

AD temmen li l-paga minima għandha tiżdied u li għandha tiġi estiża għall-ħaddiema part-time u kuntrattwali. Din ittejjeb il-kwalità tal-ħajja tal-ħaddiema u jkun hemm iktar flus fl-idejn. Din tkun ukoll ta' inċentiv biex iktar persuni jaħdmu formalment, għax ikun jaqbel, u dan ikun inċentiv għal iktar produttività. Il-gvern għandu wkoll iżid il-ħidma biex jonqos xogħol mhux iddikjarat.

Minhabba l-importanza strateġika tal-AirMalta, il-Gvern għandu jzomm sehem importanti ta' kontroll fuq din il-kumpanija. Inkella, Malta tirriskja li tersaq lejn id-direzzjoni ta' pajjiżi li huma totalment dipendenti għad-diktat ta' operatori kbar tal-ajru. Fl-istess hin, il-Gvern għandu jiżgura li l-kumpanija topera b'mod sostenibbli, li taddatta kontinwament għall-ħtiġijiet tal-konsumaturi u li toffri kundizzjonijiet ta' xogħol tajba. AirMalta m'għandhiex tersaq lejn id-direzzjoni ta' xogħol prekarju, izda lanqas m'għandha topera ta' agenzija tal-impjieg għall-kostitwenti tal-politici. Operar ekonomiku sostenibbli permezz ta' mmaniġġjar professjonali u konsultazzjoni mal-unjins, jiżgura li l-AirMalta trendi.

Economic and Fiscal Policy. You know where we stand.

Alternattiva Demokratika - the Green party - shares the vision of the Green New Deal. As a party which prioritises sustainable development, we aim for a responsible synthesis of social, ecological and economic aspects of development. Hence, AD does not resort to cheap promises that can lead to fiscal indiscipline and unsustainable practices.

Studies indicate that five million green jobs can be generated within the European Union through the Green New Deal in sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, services, IT, research, alternative energy, transport, agriculture, community work and waste management.

Workers at various levels, including professional, administrative and technical, stand to gain from such investment. Apart from investing more funds in projects that create employment and which are socially and ecologically sustainable, the government can also incentivise business to invest in such areas.

Measures such as tax breaks, venture capital initiatives and soft-loans would surely be beneficial in this regard. Local councils should also have more authority and resources for the creation of such opportunities.

The Green New Deal requires fair remuneration for employees and good working conditions, and not precarious employment. Malta's employment rate, the lowest in Europe, especially due to the very low participation rates of women and aging workers, should encourage us to do more in this regard.

The Green New Deal involves proper consultation with all actors involved, including employers, workers, family, local communities, civil society representatives and consumers. Therefore, the Green New Deal involves a change in the way we look at economic development.

Budgetary deficits and public debt should be manageable. Government's expenditure should be sustainable whilst aiming to improve environmental, social and economic targets. A provision to ensure a balanced budget should be introduced in Malta's constitution, making it compulsory to have a balanced budget after a suitable transition, barring exceptional cases which would require a two-thirds approval by Parliament.

AD is proposing fiscal measures based on social justice, environmental protection and economic good-sense. In view of Malta's heavy dependence on exports, Malta's economic policy should aim to enhance competitiveness through various incentives in line with a Green sustainable vision.

Eco-tax should focus on environmentally-harmful practices that generate excessive waste and pollution, use of resources in an unsustainable manner and speculation on finance and property.

Efforts against tax evasion should be stepped up.

AD believes in a progressive income tax system, based on the ethical consideration that those who can contribute proportionally more do so. In this regard, we believe that ceilings for low-income earners should be raised, in order that tax-free income for such persons is increased. As regards VAT, while it has its advantages, it also tends to be regressive, in that low-income earners who spend almost all their income on consumption pay more VAT proportionately. For this reason, AD supports schemes that keep VAT rates low on products and services that account for a high proportion of expenditure by low-income earners.

Public sector workers who work additional part-time work in the public sector should be taxed on a part-time basis for such additional work.

Property speculation should be taxed from third vacant property onwards, particularly when Malta is a perpetual building site and when a quarter of properties are vacant. This would also encourage the renting and selling of properties, which are kept vacant for speculation purposes and the use of existing buildings rather than building more areas.

Water – which is a strategic resource of national importance – should be priced in a realistic way. In the short run, all unregistered bore holes should be closed. In the longer run, save for some strategic exceptions such as agriculture, the true price of water should be reflected in its consumption, where wasteful practices, and not basic use of water, are to be penalised. Basic use should be subsidized.

The Water Services Corporation should have full control of all water production, which should then be redistributed according to the country's priorities.

While co-operatives, small and medium-sized businesses, and certified fair-trade businesses should face a lower tax burden and should be given incentives by the state, taxes on banks and financial companies making windfall profits should increase, thus curbing financial speculation.

A co-operative bank should be set up.

Malta should also support the proposed financial transactions tax against financial speculation, as proposed by the European Commission.

The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and compensation should be carried out every 6 months, instead of every year. AD suggests a realistic assessment of the cost of living adjustment is carried out in order that the yearly compensation truly reflects the rise in inflation. Hence, an updated methodology should replace the current one on which COLA is based.

Government should ensure that excessive prices, for example through abuse of dominance by monopolists and quasi monopolists and collusion generally leading to price fixing, should be curbed. The introduction of farmers' markets has been beneficial in this regard and should be extended.

The importation of medicines should be reformed so as to reduce the price of medicines. In addition to importation of medicine being carried out by the private sector, Government should consider its involvement in the importation of essential medicine should the need arise. This should help to ensure the affordability of prices if there are market distortions, since Government can benefit from economies of scale whilst enhancing competition.

As regards energy, the State should play a leading role. It is important that the Government promotes alternative energy, which is conducive to sustainable development and at the same time reduces Malta's dependence on the importation of dirty fuel. Wasteful practices, and not basic use of electricity and water, are to be penalised. Basic use should be subsidized.

AD believes that the minimum wage in Malta should increase and should be extended to part time and contractual workers. Such an increase would help improve the quality of life of the workers and give them more spending power. Such an increase would also encourage more people to enter the formal labour market, making work pay, acting as an incentive for increased productivity. At the same time, the Government should step up its efforts to reduce "underground" unemployment.

Alternattiva Demokratika - The Green Party believes that due to the strategic importance of AirMalta, Government should retain an important degree of control over AirMalta. Otherwise, Malta risks moving towards the direction of other countries which are totally dependent on the diktat of big airline operators. At the same time, Government should ensure that the airline is sustainable in its operations, that it constantly adapts to consumer needs, and that it offers good working conditions. AirMalta should not move towards the direction of precarious jobs, but neither

should it act as an employment agency for politicians' constituents. Sustainable economic operations, through professional management and consultation with unions, will ensure that AirMalta will survive.

11

L-Edukazzjoni. Magħna taf fejn int.

L-edukazzjoni għandha tkun marbuta mal-iżvilupp sħiħ tal-bniedem li jinkludi l-aspetti akkademiċi, fiżiċi, soċjali, spiritwali, etiċi, emozzjonali, u vokazzjonali. Għandha trawwem ukoll rispett lejn id-dinja u l-ambjent li sawwarna u li ngħixu fih. L-edukazzjoni għandha tgħin lill-individwi jiżviluppaw attitudni kreattiva u kuxjenza kritika f'kuntest komunitarju. Dan partikolarment fi sfond soċjali kurrenti ta' prekarjetà u xejriet neo-liberali li jnaqqru mis-sens ta' responsabbiltà kollettiva u solidarjetà.

L-edukazzjoni għandha tkun il-mezz li bih il-persuni jiżviluppaw bħala ċittadini f'soċjetà demokratika. L-edukazzjoni m'għandhiex tipperpetwa l-inugwaljanzi soċjali iżda għandha tgħin biex dawn jixxejnu. F'dinja li l-hin kollu qed tinbidel, l-edukazzjoni trid tkun proċess kontinwu u dinamiku kif ukoll kritiku u trasformattiv li jissokta tul il-ħajja. L-AD kienet uffiċjalment haddnet u approvat ir-riforma fl-edukazzjoni varata erba' snin ilu għax emmet fil-bżonn tagħha. Fl-istess waqt, thoss li għandha tistimola diskussjoni u hsieb kritiku biex il-proċess u l-għan aħħari tar-riforma partikolarment dak ta' ġustizzja soċjali jintlaħaq. Għaldaqstant, l-AD tixtieq tagħmel dawn il-punti:

Kurrikulu AD taqbel mal-mod kif ġie mniedi il-proċess wiesgħa ta' konsultazzjoni fuq il-Qafas il-ġdid tal-Kurrikulu Nazzjonali. Filwaqt li tirreferi għar-reazzjonijiet fid-dettall li tat fuq is-suġġett is-sena l-oħra, tishaq fuq dawn il-punti prinċipali bħala spunti ta' żvilupp fis-sistema edukattiva:

Il-bżonn li d-dokument u allura d-direzzjoni tas-sistema edukattiva kollha tinfatam mix-xeħta utilitarja u ekonomika li tillimita bil-kbir l-iskop edukattiv wiesgħa u ħolistiku.

Isir sforz ikbar sabiex dak li johroġ mid-dokument ma jkunx preskrittiv, imma jhalli spazju biżżejjed għall-innovazzjoni edukattiva, filwaqt li jiżgura Prattika ta' kwalità.

Tishaq fuq il-bżonn ta' edukazzjoni kooperattiva u s-sens ta' komunità bħala qafas prinċipali tal-politika edukattiva. Taqbel mat-tentattiv li jingħata sens ħolistiku ikbar fl-ippjanar tal-kurrikulu

Taqbel mal-introduzzjoni ta' edukazzjoni teknoloġika fl-iskejjel kollha bħala dritt edukattiv ta' kull student, iktar milli dan il-qasam tal-għerf jiġi ssegregat fi skejjel partikulari kif kien isir fl-imghoddi.

Taqbel mar-riforma proposta fit-tagħlim tax-xjenza li għandu jnaqqas mill-frammentazzjoni tal-għerf frott speċjalizzazzjoni bikrija. Dan għandu jgħin biex tingħata stampa iktar sħiħa, wiesgħa u kritika tad-dinja. Taqbel ukoll mal-enfasi ikbar fuq l-edukazzjoni fiżika.

Fl-istess waqt, issostni l-bżonn ta' artikolazzjoni ta' politika fuq il-kreattività u l-arti biex dawn l-oqsma kruċjali fl-iżvilupp edukattiv ma jibqgħux kunsiderazzjonijiet tas-sekonda klassi.

Jibqa' jsir kull sforz biex l-għalliema jhossu li huma mnebbħa u mgħejuna fl-isfond ta' klassijiet ta' abbiltajiet imħallta.

Thoss li filwaqt li l-Qafas tal-Kurrikulu jindirizza riforma wiesgħa fil-qasam primarju u sekondarju, dan ma jistax isir b'mod adegwat jekk paripassu ma jiġux indirizzati riformi urġenti li għandhom bżonn isiru kemm fis-sistema tas-SEC, MATSEC, u s-sistema post-sekondarja kollha kemm hi. Hemm bżonn riforma edukattiva li tkun koerenti f'kull livell. Għaldaqstant, AD thoss li t-tmexxija tas-SEC għandha taqa' taħt il-ġurisdizzjoni tad-Direttorat tal-Kwalità u Standards fl-Edukazzjoni biex ikun hemm konsistenza fil-viżjoni u fl-implimentazzjoni.

Taqbel mal-proposta fil-kurrikulu l-ġdid li jipproponi t-tagħlim tal-etika għal studenti li jagħzlu li ma jseguw lezzjonijiet fir-reliġjon Kattolika. AD thoss li dan il-komponent ta' etika għandu jkun parti integrali mill-kurrikulu ta' kull student filwaqt li l-istudenti kollha jingħataw l-oportunità jseguw lezzjonijiet f'reliġjonijiet rikonoxxuti mill-istat.

Huwa bi pjaċir li wara t-thassib muri mill-AD fuq ir-regimentazzjoni fis-Secondary School Certificate and Profile kif propost oriġinarjament, twaqqaf kumitat li rreveda din l-ghodda. AD tippromponi li anke wara din ir-reviżjoni, issir evalwazzjoni wara numru ta' snin meta din l-ghodda tkun għaddiet mill-għarbiel tal-prattika.

Politika ta' inkluzjoni minn kemm ilha li twaqqfet, AD kienet konsistenti fuq il-bżonn ta' inkluzjoni fl-edukazzjoni. Bla tlaqliq, qatt ma qagħdet lura milli tesponi dan il-hsieb, anke meta haddiehor kien jibza' jitellem.

Thoss li *s-setting* li qed jithaddem partikolarment fl-iskejjel tal-istat għandu

jkun miżura temporanja fil-mixja lejn edukazzjoni komprensiva. AD temmen li *s-setting* applikat b'mod daqshekk wiesgħa u minn kmieni fl-aħhar mill-aħhar m'huwa xejn għajr mezz ieħor ta' segregazzjoni. AD thoss li jkun iktar għaqli li ir-riżorsi estensivi użati biex isir *is-setting*, jintużaw biex l-għalliema ikollhom klassijiet iżgħar. Dan jippermetti lill-għalliema li jagħtu l-attenzjoni individwali u differenzjata lit-tfal kollha.

Għandha tingħata spinta ikbar lill-proċess *Let Me Learn* li permezz tiegħu it-tagħlim minn punti tat-tluq differenti (learning patterns) jiġi valorizzat. Dan ifisser li ċ-ċentru li joffri taħriġ fil-LML jingħata r-riżorsi neċessarji biex ikun jista' jiffunzjona u jifrex il-hidma tiegħu. Dan għandu joffri l-possibiltà ta' diskors komuni fil-komunità edukattiva, li jista' jiftiehem minn kulhadd, inkluż il-ġenituri u l-istudenti, li wkoll għandhom ikunu inklużi fl-użu tal-mudell. L-AD thoss għaldaqstant, li dan il-mudell għandu jingħata iktar prominenza fil-korsijiet ta' preparazzjoni tal-għalliema. S'issa huma biss l-istudenti-għalliema fil-korsijiet tal-primarja li qed jingħataw taħriġ f'dan il-qasam.

Għandha tiġi mfassla politika multikulturali li filwaqt li tħalli l-inizjattiva f'idejn l-iskejjel, tagħti direzzjoni u messaġġi ċari u support adegwat f'dan ir-rigward. Kull inizjattiva favur l-apprezzament tad-diversità għandha tiġi inkoraġġita.

Għandha tissawwar politika fuq il-ġeneru biex jiġu indirizzati b'mod sistematiku temi li għandhom x'jaqsmu ma' rispett bejn l-irġiel u n-nisa partikularment temi ta' poter bejn is-sessi. Dan għandu jwassal fost l-oħrajn, għal programm edukattiv sistematiku mas-subien li minnhom ukoll tiddependi l-kwalità tar-relazzjonijiet bejn l-irġiel u n-nisa fil-preżent u l-futur.

F'sistema inklussiva, is-segregazzjoni tas-subien mill-bniet huwa xejn inqas minn kontradizzjoni. Għaldaqstant, għandha tkun studjata l-possibbiltà li l-iskejjel isiru co-ed. Dan jagħmel iktar u iktar sens f'kuntest ta' familji b'wild wieħed kif ukoll fil-kuntest ta' soċjetà b'xejriet iktar individwalisti fejn il-kuntatt uman qed jonqos. Fl-istess waqt AD tenfasizza l-bżonn li l-inugwaljanzi li jeżistu bejn l-irġiel u n-nisa fis-soċjetà maskilista li ngħixu fiha, ma jispicċawx jiġu pperpetrati fil-kuntest edukattiv co-ed. Għaldaqstant, għandu jkun hemm preparazzjoni tajba tal-komunità edukattiva fuq *gender sensitivity* u *gender mainstreaming* fil-prattika edukattiva.

Għandu jiġi studjat il-fenomeni tal-underachievement tas-subien fl-edukazzjoni biex jtfasslu strateġiji adegwati f'dan ir-rigward.

AD tişhaq ukoll fuq il-bżonn li jkollna politika li tindirizza il-ħtiġijiet ta' persuni omosesswali fil-komunità edukattiva (kemm staff kif ukoll studenti) fl-iskejjel. Thoss li il-bżonnijiet ta' din il-komunità qed jiġu mirduma bil-konsegwenza li hemm ħafna tbatija moħbija fl-iskejjel tagħna. Huwa dmir ta' sistema edukattiva ġusta li l-bżonnijiet ta' dawn il-persuni jiġu indirizzati.

L-inklużjoni tal-ġenituri fl-edukazzjoni ta' wliedhom għandha tingħata imbutturatura ġdida. Apparti l-inklużjoni tal-ġenituri bħala rappreżentanti ta' ġenituri oħra fil-kunsilli skolastiċi, kull skola għandha tikkultiva policies ċari li jqarrbu iktar ġenituri għall-proċess edukattiv li għaddejjin minnhom uliedhom filwaqt li jikkontribwixxu għalih.

L-isforzi favur l-inklużjoni huma pass fid-direzzjoni t-tajba, u għandhom jiġu inkoraġġiti. Fl-istess waqt hemm bżonn ta'

evalwazzjoni kontinwa tal-mod kif din l-inizjattiva qed tevolvi biex isir l-aħjar użu mir-riżorsi limitati, u fuq kollox biex nassiguraw li d-direzzjoni edukattiva tirrispetta tabilhaqq il-viżjoni inklussiva.

Riforma mhux minn 'fuq' imma min 'isfel'.

L-innovazzjoni edukattiva għandha tiġi mill-hidma u l-viżjoni ta' ħafna fl-iskejjel tagħna.

AD thoss li fl-iskejjel tagħna hemm ħafna Prattika tajba li ma tidhirx biżżejjed. Dan ifisser li soluzzjonijiet li jaħdmu jinħbew.

AD thoss li għandu jsir sforz ikbar biex il-prattika tajba tingħata iktar viżibbiltà bejn skejjel differenti permezz ta' użu ta' blogs, websites u fora oħra biex l-għalliema jaqsmu flimkien soluzzjonijiet differenti u biex l-iskejjel verament ikunu komunitajiet ta' tagħlim.

Il-bżonn li l-edukaturi fl-iskejjel jiltaqqgħu flimkien b'mod ħafna iktar regolari mingħajr il-preżenza tat-tfal ilu jinħass. Għaldaqstant, għandhom jinstabu mezz, permezz ta' konsultazzjoni bejn kull min hu involut, biex din il-possibbiltà issir realtà regolari. Dan għandu jsir mingħajr ma jitnaqqas il-ħin ta' tagħlim li għandhom dritt għalih l-istudenti. L-iskejjel għandhom jithallew jimirħu biex isibu l-aħjar soluzzjonijiet li jgħoddu għalihom.

Il-kapijiet tal-iskejjel qed jiġu mgħobbija b'amministrazzjoni li qed ixxejjelhom milli jkunu mexxejja edukattivi iktar milli amministratturi. Dan il-fenomeni għandu jiġi studjat bl-għan aħhari li titnaqqas il-burokrazija żejda halli l-enfasi fuq il-kwalità tat-tagħlim tiżdied.

AD hija favur is-sistema tal-kulleġġi għax tagħti l-possibbiltà ta' *networking* bejn l-iskejjel. Thoss iżda li il-kulleġġi għandhom jingħataw awtonomija ikbar biex ikunu f'pożizzjoni aħjar li jfasslu l-proċess edukattiv skont il-bżonnijiet speċifiċi tat-tfal tagħhom. AD thoss li ir-rwol tad-direttorati għandu jkun iktar ta' support milli ta' direzzjoni riġida li tghodd għall-kulleġġi kollha bl-istess mod. Temmen ukoll li il-kulleġġi għandhom jinfatmu mir-riskju li jsiru top-heavy bil-konsegwenza li jitqalu b'burokrazija ġdida li xxejjel is-sens ta' inizjattiva u innovazzjoni edukattiva.

Biex l-istudenti ma jibqgħux numru fl-iskejjel tal-istat, huwa bżonn li dawn ma jibqgħux skejjel kbar. Għandu jsir kull sforz biex jinħolqu komunitajiet żgħar fl-iskejjel

b'tali mod li l-istudenti iħossuom f'ambjent iktar komdu u ndukrat. Dan ikun ifisser studenti li jitgħallmu iktar. L-aspett affettiv ikun jista' jingħata iktar importanza, filwaqt li jkun hemm protezzjoni aħjar minn vjolenza fiżika u mentali.

Taqbel mal-proposti li tingħata iktar importanza lill-edukazzjoni fiżika biex tiġi indirizzata l-obezità fit-tfal. Fl-istess waqt tħoss li dan għandu jkun imwiežen b'politika parallela fil-qasam tal-iżvilupp urban partikolarment il-bżonn ta' spazji miftuħa.

Tfaħħar u tagħti s-sapport tagħha għal kull sforz biex it-tfal jingħataw l-ghodda biex it-teknoloġija tal-informatika tintuża kif jixraq u ma tkunx ta' periklu għalihom. Tħoss iżda, li dan it-tagħlim għandu jkun parti integrali mit-tagħlim tal-IT innifsu, iktar milli jkun relegat għal xi parti oħra tal-kurrikulu. Għaldaqstant, temmen li dan l-aspett għandu jkun ittrattat b'mod sistematiku fil-korsijiet tal-*European Computer Driving Licence* li jsir fl-iskejjel. Dan għandu jgħaqqad il-prattika tal-IT mas-sigurtà tat-tfal fl-użu tat-teknoloġija.

Mingħajr tibdil, sistema edukattiva ssir skaduta u mifruda mill-bżonnijiet tal-istudenti li taqdi. Fl-istess waqt, it-tibdil huwa diffiċli u impenjattiv. Ikun importanti għalhekk li jingħata nifs biżżejjed lil min qed jimplimenta r-riformi fl-iskejjel biex jagħraf il-bżonn tagħhom u jsib il-mezzi u l-enerġija biex jimplimentahom. Il-bżonn sistematiku ta' evalwazzjoni għaldaqstant huwa kruċjali biex il-pass tar-riforma ikun wieħed sostenibbli u tiġi evitata reform fatigue li jista' jkollha konsegwenzi serji fuq il-vijabilità tar-riforma nnfisha.

AD tħoss li għandu jkun hemm mekkanizmu li jiżgura li l-edukaturi jkunu imħallsa b'rimunerazzjoni adegwata li tirrifletti ir-responsabbiltajiet kbar li qed iġorru u li kull ma jmur qed jiżdiedu.

Servizzi.

Huwa pożittiv li Malta hija waħda mill-iktar pajjiżi li tinkludi persuni b'dizabilità fil-mainstream. Fl-istess waqt, temmen li għandu jkun hemm iktar investiment f'għajjnuna fosthom fis-CDAU biex sitwazzjonijiet li jistgħu iħallu impatt negattiv fuq it-tagħlim jiġu misjuba kmieni halli l-periklu ta' tfal li jaqgħu lura jtnaqqas kemm jista' jkun. Lista ta' stennija twila tfigħi fuq f'riskju ikbar.

Għandu jsir investiment ikbar f'riżorsi anċillari għall-iskejjel partikolarment dawk offruti mill-Appoġġ li jinkludu Terapija tal-Familja u Fidma Soċjali li jgħinu lill-familji fil-bżonnijiet tagħhom.

Għandha tiġi indirizzata l-problema akuta ta' sistema edukattiva li tiddependi minn limitazzjonijiet ta' transport lejn u mill-iskejjel. Fuq kollox tħoss li mhuwiex ġust li t-tfal jitwasslu kmieni wisq l-iskola għad-detriment tas-sigurtà tagħhom biex ikun hemm possibbiltà ta' iktar vjaġġi. Dan qed ipoġġi lit-tfal f'sitwazzjoni imminenti ta' periklu. AD temmen li għandu jitwaqqaf kumitat biex jistudja l-problema bir-reqqa u jissuġġerixxi soluzzjonijiet aħħarija wara proċess ta' konsultazzjoni u dibattitu nazzjonali.

Tħoss li l-PGCE, bħala preparazzjoni għall-ghalliemu huwa preparazzjoni parzjali u ffullata. Għandhom isiru sforzi biex il-bżonn ta' tibdil li ilu jissemma s-snin jitwettaq.

Għandu jkun hemm iktar aċċessibilità universali, fuq bażi volontarja, għall-estensjoni tal-iskejjel wara l-ħin uffiċjali tal-iskola. Dan għandu jkun servizz ta' kwalità li jkompli fuq dak li jkun sar

fl-iskola, u għandu jinkludi attivitajiet bħal sports, arti u kultura. Miżura bħal din tkun fuq kollox miżura ta' ġustizzja soċjali għax tgħin biex jtnaqqas id-distakk bejn min isib l-għajjnuna id-dar u min din l-għajjnuna ma jsibhiex. Dan għandu jintrabat ukoll ma politika fuq il-*homework* li tkun imfassla fl-iskejjel infushom fi sfond ta' dibattitu nazzjonali. Din tnaqqas id-dipendenza tas-suċċess edukattiv fuq id-dar, u tagħti iktar spazju lill-istudenti biex jieħdu sehem attiv fil-komunitajiet tagħhom. Miżura bħal din għandha tgħin biex tnaqqas id-dipendenza tas-sistema edukattiva tagħna mill-pjaga tal-privatizazzjoni li tkompli żżid id-distakk bejn min għandu l-mezzi u min m'għandux.

L-uniformijiet tat-tfal għandhom ikunu fuq kollox komdi għat-tfal. Għandhom ukoll ikunu sempliċi, anke jekk distinti biex jtnaqqas l-monopolji f'dan is-settur.

Kull inizjattiva li tittiehed biex tindirizza l-illitteriżmu u studenti li jaqgħu lura hija ta' min ifaħħarha. F'dan is-sens, il-Fondazzjoni għas-Servizzi Edukattivi għandha tingħata l-ghodda li għandha bżonn biex tikkumplimenta l-iskejjel fl-isforzi tagħhom. Għaldaqstant, għandha tiġi assicurata kontinwità fil-programmi mal-iskejjel. F'dan ir-rigward, ma jistax ikun hemm inizjattivi li jiddependu minn skadenzi elettorali. Irid isir kull sforz halli jiġu indirizzati r-raġunijiet fis-sistema edukattiva tagħna li minħabba fihom qed jaqgħu lura numru sostanzjali ta' tfal. Id-diskors ta' 'problema' għandu jiġi mżerżaq minn fuq l-istudenti u l-familji tagħhom għal fuq in-nuqqasijiet strutturali tas-sistema edukattiva tagħna.

L-awtonomija u d-deċentralizzazzjoni tal-iskejjel għandha wkoll isservi biex l-iskola ssir ċentru tal-komunità li jkun aċċessibbli għal kulhadd. Il-bini tal-iskola għandu jintuża biex fih isiru attivitajiet kulturali u soċjali għall-komunità fil-ħinijiet ta' wara l-iskola. L-argument ta' aċċessibilità jgħodd mhux biss għall-iskejjel tal-istat imma ukoll għal skejjel oħra, wkoll għall-iskejjel tal-Knisja li qed jirċievu finanzjament imdaqas mill-istat.

L-iskejjel infushom għandhom jingħataw iċ-ċans jimpjegaw direttament haddiemu anċillari. Il-kulleġġi wkoll għandhom ikunu involuti direttament fl-għażla tal-istaff edukattiv li jgħallmu fi hđandhom biex l-istaff ikun konsonanti mal-*mission statement* u l-*ethos* partikolari tal-iskola u/jew kulleġġ.

Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) għandhom ikunu disponibbli għall-istudenti

kollha li għandhom bżonn is-servizz tagħhom, inkluz dawk b'LSAs nieqsa b'mod temporanju (ez. bis-sick leave), kif ukoll għal dawk li jattendu Klabb 3-16 wara l-hin ta' l-iskola.

Il-learning support assistants għandhom jiġu jitharrġu qabel ma jibdwu jaħdmu u għandu jkun hemm assessjar kontinwu tal-kwalità ta' dan is-servizz.

Edukazzjoni Terzjarja.

Bħala pajjiż għandna nagħmlu minn kollox biex inħajru l-istudenti jkompu jistudjaw. Għaldaqstant, hemm bżonn li jitneħħa kull xkiel li jista' jaqta' qalb l-istudenti. Fost l-oħrajn, għandha tiġi studjata riforma tal-MATSEC b'mod li titnaqqas il-pessjoni żejda li taqta' qalb l-istudenti. AD taqbel mal-provvediment li tħabbar dan l-aħħar li l-eżamijiet taċ-ċertifikat tal-Matrikola jistgħu jiġu mferxa fuq l-istess waqt tħoss li ma saret l-ebda diskussjoni fuq l-implikazzjonijiet loġistiċi u anke edukattivi biex dan il-provvediment pożittiv jintuża tajjeb. F'każ ta' studenti bi bżonnijiet speċjali (dan jinkludi persuni b'diżabilità tfajliet tqal, fost oħrajn), id-drift għall-istipendju m'għandux jintilef jekk il-proċess biex jingiebi iċ-ċertifikat tal-MATSEC jiehu iktar minn sentejn. Il-kunċett ta' inkluzjoni għandu jgħodd fil-livell post-sekondarju daqskemm jgħodd fil-livell primarju u sekondarju.

Naqblu mas-sistema preżenti tal-istipendji, jiġifieri li jkun hemm parti stipendju u parti għotja. Is-sistema preżenti għandha gradwalment tiġi estiża għal kull persuna taħt il-21 sena li ma tkunx qed taħdem full-time biex issegwi xi forma ta' studju u taħriġ rikonuxxut u *full-time*.

Il-fakultajiet fl-università għandhom jirriflettu diversità fil-ħsieb iktar milli viżjoni waħda predominanti li ma ċcaqlaqx l-ilmijiet. AD tħoss li l-fakultajiet fl-università għandhom jitneħħu minn influwenzi differenti biex verament jinholqo dibattitu u stimolu usa' għall-ħsieb.

L-Università għandha tkun aktar awtonoma. Dan jista' jseħh jekk tonqos ir-rappreżentanza tal-Gvern u tiżdied dik tal-akkademiċi u l-istudenti fil-Kunsill. Għandha ssir elezzjoni diretta għal Rettur tal-Università u karigi għolja oħra mill-membri kollha tal-korp akkademiku, mir-rappreżentanti eletti tal-istudenti fil-KSU u minn rappreżentanza tal-korp mhux akkademiku. Ir-Rettur għandu jwieġeb direttament lejn l-akkademiċi, haddiema u studenti.

L-elezzjonijiet għal rappreżentanti tal-istudenti fl-Università u l-Junior College għandhom jitbiddlu mill-qiegħ biex il-kunsilli rispettivi tagħhom verament iħaddnu studenti b'diversità ta' ħsieb. Is-sitwazzjoni attwali ta' kunsilli monolitiċi tfigħu kunsilli mhux rappreżentattivi, u l-eskluzjoni tal-ideat validi sempliċement għax huma differenti. Il-KSU u l-KSJC iridu jieqfu jkun l-front tal-battalja għall-PL u l-PN fil-Junior College u l-Università.

Kull kors fl-Università għandu jkun b'xejn inkluzi korsijiet *post graduate* u l-korsijiet ta' filgħaxija. Almenu għandhom ikunu iktar finanzjarjament aċċessibbli biex iħajru iktar persuni jistudjaw. F'dan ir-rigward, il-programm STEPS fost oħrajn, għandu jkompli jiġi sostnut biex dan il-prinċipju jithares.

L-istudenti kollha li qed isegwu korsijiet li jwasslu lil studenti biex jikkwalifikaw fl-ewwel stadju tal-professjoni magħzula minnhom,

(fosthom xi suġġetti fil-PGCE) għandu jkollhom aċċess għall-istipendju. L-aċċess għall-istipendju m'għandux ikun marbut mad-domanda ekonomika tal-kors magħżul kif qed jiġi f'xi korsijiet bħalissa.

Għandu jsir sforz biex l-Università ssir ċentru komunitarju.

Il-poteri limitati tal-Ombudsman għandhom jinfirxu u jissahhu iżjed. Għandu jkun hemm sistema ta' ilmenti li tkun iktar aċċessibbli u adegwata biex tiġi żgurata aktar *accountability*.

Il-*lecturers* għandhom ikunu *accountable* lejn l-istudenti u kull ħames snin it-tagħlim u r-riċerka għandu jiġi sottomess għal *reviewers* esterni u interni skont kriterji maqbula. Dawn il-kriterji għandhom ikunu tali li jippremettu l-inizjattiva, il-kreattività u mhux produzzjoni dejqa li xxekkel il-possibbiltajiet.

Għandha tingħata aktar importanza lill-aspett emottiv u ta' kura ħolistika tal-istudenti fil-qasam post-sekondarju. Fiż-żmien meta l-Junior College ġie abbinat mal-Università, tista' tgħid li ġew żarmati hafna għodda li kienu siewja f'dan ir-rigward, b'mod li l-istudenti saru ftit iktar minn numri mehdija f'tellieqa għaċ-ċertifikati. AD tinkoraġġixxi l-kurrenti ta' numru mill-istaff tal-Junior College li qed jaħdmu biex l-istudenti ikollhom brejk komuni, ikun hemm spazju għall-edukazzjoni fiżika u l-PSD bħala parti mill-kurrikulu, kif ukoll li jkun hemm qafas komprensiv ta' inkluzjoni li taħdem.

Edukazzjoni Tul il-Ħajja

Kull persuna, ta' kull età, għandha tingħata l-possibbiltà li titgħallim snajja' u suġġetti godda differenti minn dak li tħarrġet għalih inizjalment. Dan għandu jkompli jinkiseb permezz tal-iżvilupp ta' sistema ta' klassijiet ta' filgħaxija f'kull livell f'ħinijiet flessibbli mad-dinja tax-xogħol.

Partijiet tal-iskola għandhom ikunu akkoljenti għal programmi ta' edukazzjoni speċifikament tal-adulti.

L-Università, l-MCAST u istituzzjonijiet post-sekondarji oħra għandhom joffru varjetà ta' korsijiet ta' filgħaxija li ma jkunux marbuta ma' terminu fiss ta' żmien.

Għandu jkun hemm ukoll sistema ta' self/ għotjiet għal persuni li jkollhom bżonn

perjodi itwal ta' studju. Fid-dinja tax-xogħol għandu jkun hemm rikonoxximent akbar għall-ħaddiema li javvanzaw fl-istudju u t-taħriġ tagħhom.

Għandu jigi introdott is-“*2nd Chance Schooling*”, għal żgħażaġh u adulti li m'għandhomx edukazzjoni, kwalifiki u/jew taħriġ bażiku. Għandu jkun hemm liġi dwar it-tagħlim tul il-ħajja li tagħti d-dritt għal provedimenti ta' edukazzjoni ta' kwalità tul il-ħajja. Partikolarment, id-dritt tal-*leave* edukattiv għandu jkun estiż għas-settur privat ukoll.

Education.

You know where we stand.

Education is an endeavour which should be intimately tied with the all-round development of persons including the academic, physical, social, ethical, emotional and vocational aspects. Education should also develop a sense of respect towards the environment of which we are a part. It should also help the development of a creative attitude and a critical conscience within the framework of communities. This is deemed important given the current situation of precariousness in employment and an underlying neo-liberal hegemony which gradually unravel collective responsibility and solidarity.

Education should be the means that develops democratic citizenship. Rather than perpetuating social inequalities, education should be the vehicle for their removal. In a changing world, education should be a continuous, dynamic, critical and transformative endeavour which is life-long. AD had officially endorsed the reform in education launched four years ago on the premise that the reform was sorely needed. At the same time, AD feels that it should stimulate discussion and critical debate so that the process and the ultimate aims of the reform, in particular the issue of social justice are upheld. With this in mind, AD makes the following proposals:

Curriculum

AD is in agreement with the way the consultation process regarding the National Curriculum Framework was conducted. Whilst referring to its detailed reaction on the document itself issued last year, AD emphasises the following points as the lynchpins for the development of our educational system: The need for the NCF and by implication the educational system as a whole to distance itself from the pervading utilitarian and economic undertones which limit to a large extent efforts towards a truly holistic education.

There needs to be a conscious effort to make the NCF much less prescriptive so that it leaves much needed space for innovation in education whilst ensuring quality.

AD emphasises the need for a cooperative education and a sense of community as the lynch pins of educational policy.

AD agrees with efforts to provide a more holistic view in curriculum planning

AD gives thumbs up to the introduction of technology education in all schools as an educational right for all students rather than have this knowledge component segregated within particular schools as was the case in the past.

AD agrees with the proposal concerning changes in science education. This should help to reduce fragmentation of knowledge as a result of early specialization currently in place. This should help provide a more holistic, wider and critical view of the world. AD also supports the bigger emphasis on physical education.

There needs to be a better articulation of creativity and the arts such that these crucial aspects in educational development are not considered any more as the Cinderella of our educational system. No efforts should be spared to help teachers feel inspired and supported within the context of mixed ability classes.

Whilst the draft NCF addresses reform in the primary and the secondary, AD feels that these efforts will remain half baked if urgent reforms in the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC), Matriculation (MATSEC) and the post secondary sector in general remain untackled. A coherent educational reform demands no less. AD strongly feels that SEC should be taken up by the Education Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education so that consistency in vision and implementation become more possible.

AD concurs with the proposal of ethical education for students who chose not to follow Catholic religion lessons. AD feels that this component should feature as an integral part of the curriculum for all students whilst still providing the opportunity for religious education.

AD notes with satisfaction that after airing its reservations regarding the regimen originally proposed in the Secondary School Certificate and Profile, a committee was subsequently set up for the revision of this certificate. AD suggests that following this revision, the policy is revised after a number of years following its implementation.

A Politics of Inclusion.

Since its inception, AD was consistent on the need for inclusion in education. AD was always forthcoming in pushing this agenda forward even when others preferred to avoid taking a position. The setting regimen which is being practiced particularly in state schools should only be a temporary measure in the path towards a truly comprehensive education. AD believes that such a broad application of setting from such an early age is in effect simply another way of segregating students. AD feels that the extensive resources used to make setting work should be put to better use in providing smaller mixed ability classes. This would help teachers in no small way in providing more individual attention through a differentiated approach.

Let Me Learn should be given the push it deserves so that the appreciation of different learning patterns is pushed forward. This means that the centre that offers training in LML should be provided with the necessary resources for it to function adequately and effectively. LML should help to provide a common discourse within the educational community that is understood by all especially parents and students. Consequently, this model should be afforded more prominence in teacher training. Currently, this training is offered only to primary teachers-in- training.

A national policy regarding multiculturalism should be drawn up leaving adequate elbow space for schools whilst providing direction and support. Every initiative in favour of diversity should be encouraged.

A Gender Policy should also be drawn up in an effort to address in a systematic way issues related to an understanding of the power issues between the sexes and the need for mutual respect. This should inter alia lead to an educational programme with boys in particular on whom the quality of the relationship between women and men in the present and future depend.

For an educational system flaunting an inclusive streak, gender segregation is a contradiction. The possibility of co-education should therefore be addressed. This arrangement makes more sense within the context of single-child families and also the pervading individualist streaks that are reducing the possibilities of social interaction. AD reserves a word of caution in that a co-ed system can still propagate inequalities between the sexes unless there is adequate gender mainstreaming and sensitization and a conscious effort by the educational community to engage with the issues in educational practice.

The phenomenon of underachievement in boys should be addressed so that adequate strategies can be drawn up.

AD also insists on the need to address the needs of LGBT persons within the educational community that include both staff and students. The needs of this community are currently not being addressed with the consequence that a lot of hurt is going unnoticed in our schools. AD feels that in the name of justice it is the duty of an educational system to address the needs of this category of people.

The inclusion of parents in their children's education should be given fresh impetus. Apart from the inclusion of parents as representatives of other parents in school councils, every school

should cultivate clear policies that bring more parents closer to the educational process.

Efforts in favour of inclusion are in the right direction and should be encouraged. The need for continuous evaluation is however a necessity. This should throw light on how the process is evolving so that the use of limited resources is maximised and above all, to make sure that the way forward respects the overall vision for inclusion.

Reform – A Bottom-up Approach.

Innovation in education should come about through the work and vision generated by the grass roots in our schools. AD feels that there is a lot of good practice going on in schools which however is not visible enough. This means that possibilities that work remain hidden.

AD feels that more needs to be done to make good practice visible though the use of blogs, websites and other such fora so that teachers can share together different possibilities. This should make schools truly communities of learning.

There is a dire need for educational practitioners in schools to meet together on a regular basis when children are not at school. Through broad consultation with all stakeholders this should become a regular occurrence in schools. This should take place without sacrificing contact time with students which is theirs by right. Schools should be given the space to create the best solutions that cater for their specific needs.

Heads of school are increasingly being bogged down with administrative work that hampers their role as educational leaders rather than mere administrators. This phenomenon should be monitored with the intention of shedding excess bureaucracy so that the emphasis on the quality of learning is restored.

AD favours the introduction of the college system because this provides possibilities of networking between schools. It is felt however that Colleges should enjoy more autonomy so that they may be in a better position to cater for the specific needs of the children in their care. AD feels that the Education Directorates' role should be one of support rather than a provider of a one-size-fits-all-Colleges direction.

AD also believes that Colleges should be careful not to risk being top-heavy with the consequence that they become bogged down by excessive bureaucracy that stifles initiative and innovation in education.

For students not to become a mere number in state schools, there is a need for schools to become smaller. No effort should be spared in creating smaller communities. This should help children feel more comfortable and cared for improving on their learning in the process. The emotional aspect will therefore be given the importance and space it deserves whilst reducing risks of physical and emotional violence.

AD agrees with the increased emphasis on physical education so that the well-being of children and in particular obesity in children is addressed. This should be bolstered by parallel policies in urban planning, particularly the need for open spaces.

AD supports initiatives through which children are provided with IT skills and tools that promote safe use of the technology. It is however felt that teaching of such skills should be an integral part of the teaching of IT itself, rather than having this aspect side-lined to other parts of the curriculum. It is therefore of the essence that this aspect is introduced as an integral part of the European Computer Driving Licence training provided in schools. This should help bridge in a better way the practical aspects of IT with issues of safety.

Without change, any educational system becomes outdated and divorced from the needs of the students it serves. Change is however difficult and challenging. It is therefore important for the actual implementors of the reform on the ground to be understood and provided with the means to implement policy. There is therefore a systematic need for evaluation so that the reform process remains sustainable and reform fatigue which may have dire consequences on the viability of the whole reform is avoided.

AD feels that mechanisms should be in place to ensure that remuneration for educators adequately reflects the increasingly substantial responsibilities being shouldered by them.

Services

It is commendable that Malta is one of the countries that includes persons with disability in the mainstream the most. At the same time, AD feels that more investment is needed particularly for the CDAU so that issues affecting learning are identified as early as possible reducing the risk of failure later on. A long waiting list implies more children at risk.

More investment is needed in ancillary resources to schools offered inter alia by Appoġġ including services of Family Therapy and Social Work that help families in difficulty.

The acute problem of an educational system that depends to a large extent on transport to and from school needs to be urgently addressed. AD feels that it is inhuman on children to be taken to school very early. This practice which serves the interest of service providers that allows them to make more trips, is detrimental to children's safety. AD believes that a national committee should be set up to study the issue in detail and suggest possible solutions

after a process of consultation and national debate.

The PGCE teacher training course is at best partial and crammed. The much needed changes on the cards for some time need to be put in place.

Access to after school hours should be extended to all on a voluntary basis. This should be a quality service that builds upon the educational process during the day at school and should include other curricular activities such as sports, the arts, cultural activities etc. Such a provision upholds the principle of social justice because it bridges the gulf between those children who find help at home with those who do not. This measure also needs to be complimented with a policy on homework by individual schools within the context of a national debate on the subject. This should decrease the dependence of our educational system on private lessons that continue to drive a wedge between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'.

School uniforms need to be comfortable for children to wear. They should also be simple in design even if distinct, in an effort to reduce on monopolies in the sector.

Every initiative that addresses illiteracy and students at risk is laudable. The Foundation for Educational Services should be provided with the necessary tools to compliment education in schools. Continuity between schooling and the programmes offered by the Foundation need to be improved. Initiatives that depend on electoral time-frames are misplaced. Efforts need to be stepped up to address the reasons that impede children from keeping up with the rest. The discourse of 'problem' needs to be shifted from children and their families to structural shortcomings underlying our educational system.

Autonomy of schools and their decentralization should help schools become community centres accessible to everyone. The use of school premises should be maximised to host social and cultural activities for the wider community after school hours. Being subsidized by the state also means that the issue of accessibility applies to Church schools as much as it applies to State schools

Individual schools should be given the opportunity to directly employ ancillary

staff. Colleges should also be directly involved in the choice of educational personnel so that chosen staff are in synch as much as possible with the mission statement and ethos of the particular school or college.

Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) should be available to all students who need their services, including those whose current LSAs are temporarily unavailable (e.g. sick leave) as well as those who attend Club 3-16 after school hours.

Learning support assistants should be trained before being employed and there should be continuous assessment on the quality of this service.

Tertiary Education

By all means, students should be encouraged to keep studying beyond the compulsory years of education. Hurdles that hamper students in this respect need to be removed. Inter alia, a reform of MATSEC that reduces the exaggerated pressures on students is long overdue. AD agrees with the decision taken recently that the acquisition of the MATSEC certificate can be spread over five years. However, AD believes that there was no discussion involved that considers the logistical and ultimately the educational implications of this overall positive measure. In the case of students with special needs (these include persons with disability, pregnant students, et al), the right for a stipend should not be lost if the MATSEC certificate acquired is extended beyond the two years currently allowed. This is however only the first step. AD feels that MATSEC exams do not need to be sat for at one go especially in case of students with special needs. Inclusion is as valid in post secondary institutions as much as in primary and secondary schools.

AD is in agreement with the current system of stipends which is part stipend and part grant. The present arrangement should be gradually extended to all students under 21 years of age working part-time to be able to accommodate work and a recognized training programme on a full time basis.

University faculties should reflect diversity rather than a monolithic ideology that reflects the status quo. AD feels that university faculties should be inspired by a diversity of ideas and positions so that debate and thinking is stimulated.

University should be more autonomous. This implies less representatives of the state on the University Council with representatives from students and staff being increased. The University Rector and other high posts within the institution should be elected directly by the academic corp, elected representatives from KSU and representatives from the non-academic staff. The Rector should be directly accountable to the academic and non-academic staff and students.

Elections for student representatives at University and the Junior College should be overhauled such that the respective representative councils are indeed diverse and representative. The monolithic winner-takes-all councils currently in place imply non representative councils that exclude valid propositions on the premise of difference. The KSU and the KSJC should stop being the stooges and the battle front for the PL and the PN at university and the Junior College respectively.

All university courses should be free of charge. This includes post graduate and evening courses.

At least, these courses should be more financially accessible to encourage more students to enrol. In this respect, the STEPS programme among others should be sustained so that the principle of accessibility is upheld.

All students following courses that lead to the basic requirement in a particular profession (including some specializations within the PGCE course) should have access to a stipend. The access to a stipend should not be dependent on demands by the economy as is currently the case.

There should be a no holds barred approach to creating a University which is a community centre.

The limited powers of the University Ombudsman should be strengthened. There should be a more accessible and adequate compliant system so that accountability is enhanced.

Lecturers should be accountable towards students. Every five years, their teaching and research should be submitted to external and internal reviews on the basis of agreed criteria. These criteria should encourage rather than stifle initiative and creativity.

More importance should be afforded to the emotional aspects and the overall well being of students in post-secondary institutions. Back when the Junior College was created as a university institution, much of the 'care' aspects were dismantled making the institution more of a mere rat race for certificates. AD encourages currents from staff within the Junior College that are pushing for a common break-time for students, space for physical education and PSD within the curriculum, and a comprehensive framework of inclusion that works.

Life-long Education.

Every person regardless of age should have the possibility of learning new skills which are different from what the person was initially trained for. This should be encouraged through the development of evening classes in all levels at particular times of the day that fit in with the

exigencies of the workplace.

Particular areas within schools should be dedicated to life-long learning and should therefore be inviting for adults

University, MCAST and other post secondary institutions should offer a variety of evening courses that are not bound by a specific time period.

A system of loans/handouts should be in place for people who need longer periods to go through a course. There should be more recognition of workers that choose to upgrade their education.

The concept of a 'second chance schooling' for youths and adults who do not possess a basic educational qualification or basic training, should be introduced.

Legislation regarding life-long learning should be enacted, ensuring the right to a quality education throughout life. Leave for educational purposes should be extended to the private sector as well.

12

Impieg, Relazzjonijiet Industrijali u Faddiema 68-71
Employment, Workers and Industrial Relations

Impieg, Relazzjonijiet Industrijali u Haddiem. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-Gvern u l-imsieħba soċjali għandhom juru aktar determinazzjoni fil-ġlieda kontra l-pjaga tax-xogħol prekarju. Dan it-tip ta' xogħol qiegħed jiżdied fost kategoriji differenti ta' haddiema b'hiliet, esperjenzi u kwalifiċi differenti, ngħidu aħna biż-żieda ta' xogħol b'kuntratt definit kif ukoll iż-żieda ta' haddiema rreġistrati bħala *self-employed* li jkunu qed ibigħu x-xogħol tagħhom lil kuntrattur wieħed bħall-Gvern jew sid ta' negozju. Il-Gvern għandu jiżgura li l-kuntratti li joħroġu ma jkunux ibbażati fuq xogħol prekarju.

Id-dinja tax-xogħol kif ukoll dik tar-relazzjonijiet industrijali hija ddominata mill-irġiel. Il-partecipazzjoni tan-nisa fil-qasam tax-xogħol għadha baxxa wisq, kemm bħala proporzjon globali, kif ukoll bħala rappreżentanza f'oqsma partikolari tax-xogħol u f'dawk ta' tmexxija, kif ukoll fir-rappreżentanza trejdunjonista. Hemm bżonn li din is-sitwazzjoni tiġi rrimedjata b'azzjoni sistematika li tnaqqas l-iżvantaġġi li jaffaċċjaw in-nisa fil-qasam tax-xogħol. Alternattiva Demokratika tagħti l-appoġġ kollu tagħha lil inizzjattivi li jagħtu possibbiltajiet ta' *job sharing*, *flexitime* u faċilitajiet ta' *day care centres* kemm għan-nisa, kif ukoll għall-irġiel li għandhom it-tfal jew li għandhom il-ħarsien ta' xi hadd id-dar taħt ir-responsabbiltà tagħhom. AD tappoġġa wkoll inizzjattivi li jtawwlu l-hin li t-tfal iqattgħu fl-ambjent tal-iskola billi jipparteċipaw f'attivitajiet varji wara l-hin tal-iskola biex il-ġenituri jkunu jistgħu jipparteċipaw fid-dinja tax-xogħol fuq bażi full time. Familji b'ġenitur wieħed jaffaċċaw problemi kbar biex ikunu jistgħu jaħdmu u hafna minnhom jispiċċaw taħt il-linja tal-faqar.

AD temmen li l-paga minima għandha tiżdied u li għandha tiġi estiża għall-haddiema *part-time* u kuntrattwali. Din ittejjeb il-kwalità tal-ħajja tal-haddiema u jkun hemm iktar flus fl-idejn. Din tkun ukoll ta' inċentiv biex iktar persuni jaħdmu formalment, għax ikun jaqbel, u dan ikun inċentiv għal iktar produttività. Il-gvern għandu wkoll iżid il-ħidma biex jonqos xogħol mhux iddikjarat.

L-aġġustament u l-kumpens għall-ġholi tal-ħajja (il-COLA) għandhom isiru kull sitt xhur, minflok kull sena. AD tissuggerixxi assessjar realistiku tal-agġustament tal-ġholi tal-ħajja sabiex il-kumpens annwali verament jirrifletti z-żieda fl-inflazzjoni. Għalhekk, għandu jkun hemm metodologija aġġornata minflok dik li teżisti fil-preżent għall-COLA.

Il-gvern għandu jaqsa il-piż finanzjarju għal ċerti beneficiċċi, bħal-*leave* tal-ġenituri, ma' min jimpjega, speċjalment peress li l-maġġoranza tal-kumpaniji huma SMEs. B'hekk il-haddiema mas-settur privat ikunu jistgħu jgawdu l-istess drittijiet bħall-haddiema taċ-ċivil.

Servizzi ta' ħarsien tat-tfal (*child care*) għandhom ikunu universalment accessibbli u f'kollaborazzjoni mas-settur privat, il-Gvern għandu jipprovi servizzi bla ħlas lil min għandu bżonnhom.

In-nisa mhumieq l-unika kategorija ta' nies li jbatu biex jidhlu fis-suq tax-xogħol. Għad baqa' hafna xi jsir biex jikber l-aċċess għax-xogħol għal persuni b'forom ta' diżabbiltà li jistgħu jaħdmu imma għandhom qed jaffaċċaw diffikultajiet kbar. Kategoriji li għandhom isibuha diffiċli biex isibu xogħol huma ex-prigunieri, immigranti, persuni b'diżabbiltà u nies li għandhom aktar minn erbgħin sena.

Għalkemm f'Malta l-problema tal-qgħad hija kkontrollata, irridu naraw x'tipi ta' impjegi qed jinholqu. Qed jiżdied ix-xogħol prekarju li jnaqqar id-drittijiet tal-haddiema u ma joffrilhomx sigurtà u serħan il-moħħ. Hemm bżonn li jsiru aktar kontrolli biex jiġi aċċertat li d-drittijiet tal-haddiema jkunu rispettati.

Meta jingħataw kuntratti pubbliċi għandhom jiġu stabbiliti kriterji soċjali li jassiguraw li jkunu biss il-kumpaniji serji li jirrispettaw id-drittijiet tal-haddiema u jħarsu l-liġi tax-xogħol li jirbħu l-kuntratti pubbliċi.

Ix-xogħol part time għandu jkun inkoraġġit għax jgħin biex jingħata aċċess għas-suq tax-xogħol lil haddiema li qabel ftit li xejn kellhom aċċess għas-suq tax-xogħol, bħal nies b'diżabbiltà. Sabiex ma jkunx hemm diskriminazzjoni u prekarjetà, il-*part-timers* għandhom igawdu l-istess drittijiet *pro rata* bħall-haddiema full time. Fl-istess hin, dawk li jixtiequ jaħdmu *full-time* għandu jkollhom l-istrutturi neċessarji li jiffaċilitaw dan.

Haddiema fis-settur pubbliku li jaħdmu xogħol addizzjonali part-time fis-settur pubbliku għandhom jiġu intaxxati fuq bażi *part-time* għal dan ix-xogħol addizzjonali.

Għandha tiġi nfurzata l-liġi f'każijiet fejn min iħaddem ma jhallix jew jagħmel il-bsaten fir-roti lill-haddiema biex ma jidhlux f'unjin. F'każ ta' abbużi ripetuti dawn għandhom jingħataw multi.

Il-closed shops għandhom isiru illegali. Il-haddiema kollha għandu jkollhom il-libertà

li jagħżlu l-union li tirrappreżentahom. M'għandux ikun hemm pressjoni fuq min jiddeċiedi li ma jibqax f'union. Min ma jibqax iħallas il-miżata għandu jitqies li m'għadux membru.

F'servizzi pubbliċi bażiċi bħat-trasport pubbliku, l-edukazzjoni u s-saħħa, għandu jkun hemm bilanċ bejn id-dritt tal-istrajk u l-proviżjoni ta' dawn is-servizzi bażiċi lill-pubbliku. Għandu jiġi definit liema huma dawk is-servizzi li qatt m'għandhom jiġu interrotti.

Qabel kull azzjoni industrijali għandu jsir vot sigriet fost il-haddiema involuti.

Għandhom isiru aktar sforzi biex ikun hemm parteċipazzjoni akbar tan-nisa fl-unjins kemm bħala membri kif ukoll bħala uffiċjali.

It-Tribunal Industrijali għandu jiġi appuntat mill-President tar-Repubblika u jitneħħa bl-istess metodu għall-istess raġunijiet li jistgħu jitneħħew l-imħallfin u l-maġistrati.

Il-kumpens għal tkeċċija ingusta li jingħata mit-tribunal industrijali għandu jogħla sostanzjalment biex ikun jirrifletti l-paga u l-prezzijiet tal-lum. F'każ li jinstab li haddiema sofrew minn tkeċċija ingusta, dawn għandu jkollhom id-dritt jagħżlu li jerġgħu jiksibu lura l-impieg li jkunu tilfu. Impjegati pubbliċi għandu jkollhom ukoll l-istess rimedji quddiem it-tribunal industrijali bħall-impjegati fis-settur privat.

Kull kuntratt definit li jiġi mġedded għal aktar minn sena għandu jitqies awtomatikament bħala kuntratt indefinit. Għandhom jinqatgħu prattiċi abbużivi fejn haddiema jiġu ingaġġati fuq kuntratti bi żmien ta' ftit granet inqas minn dak stabbilit bil-liġi sabiex jakkwistaw status ta' kuntratt indefinit.

L-iktar li jintlaqtu hażin mill-kundizzjonijiet offruti fix-xogħol *part-time* huma l-haddiema nisa, li bħala grupp ta' nies huma diġà fi żvantaġġ sostanzjali fil-qasam tax-xogħol. Għaldaqstant riforma fil-liġijiet li jirregolaw il-part-time tkun ukoll att ta' ġustizzja mal-haddiema nisa. Nemmu li l-haddiema part-time għandhom jieħdu l-benefiċċji kollha *pro rata* skont il-hinijiet tax-xogħol li jaħdmu. Il-liġi li tagħti dawn il-benefiċċji lill-haddiema li jaħdmu aktar minn 19-il siegħa għandha tiġi estiża għal kull haddiem/a *part-time*, t/jahdem kemm t/jahdem sigħat.

Immigranti li ma jingħatawx status ta' rifuġjat jew protezzjoni iżda li ma jistgħux jintbagħtu lura lejn pajjiżhom għandhom jingħataw permess tax-xogħol biex ikun żgurat li dawn l-immigranti ma jiġux sfruttati u mhaddma f'kundizzjonijiet ta' skjavitù. Dan għandu jiżgura li dawn igawdu mill-protezzjoni kollha li tagħti l-liġi lill-haddiema Maltin.

Jeħtieġ li tingħata prijorità lill-investiment u inċentivi biex Malta tkun tista' timxi lejn il-*Green New Deal*, fejn jiġu maħluqa impjiegi ekoloġiċi f'oqsma bħas-servizzi, it-turiżmu sostenibbli, l-immaniġġjar tal-iskart, l-edukazzjoni, ir-riċerka, it-trasport pubbliku u l-enerġija alternattiva.

Malta għandha tappoġġa d-Direttiva dwar il-Fin tax-Xogħol (il-*Working Time Directive*), li tistabbilixxi l-massimu ta' sigħat ta' xogħol fil-ġimgħa (medja ta' 48), sabiex jonqos l-isfruttar tal-haddiema, tingħata prijorità lis-sigurtà u s-saħħa tal-haddiema u

jkun hemm aktar opportunitajiet ta' xogħol għall-haddiema qieghda. Il-*European Confederation of Trade Unions* qed tappoġġa din id-direttiva.

Ir-rappreżentanza tas-soċjetà ċivili fl-MCESD għandha tikber. B'effett immedjat, il-Forum għandha tkun parti mill-MCESD.

Haddiema professjonali bħal *counsellors*, *probation officers*, arkivisti u librara għandhom jingħataw stat professjonali bħal professjonisti oħra biex jiġu żgurati livelli għoljin ta' prattika u biex il-klijenti jkunu moqdija aħjar fil-każ ta' professjonisti li joffru għajjuna personali.

Għandhom jingħataw iktar inċentivi biex haddiema jkunu jistgħu jipparteċipaw fil-post tax-xogħol mhux biss bħala haddiema imma wkoll bħala proprjetarji ta' ishma fil-kumpanija.

Irid isir aktar sforz biex tiżdied il-parteċipazzjoni tan-nisa fuq bordijiet ta' kumpaniji u korporazzjonijiet. Filwaqt li AD temmen li l-kwoti huma bżonnjuzi biex ikun jista' jintlehaq bilanċ adegwat bejn is-sessi, tagħraf ukoll li dawn eventwalment ikunu jistgħu jitneħħew ġaladarba r-rappreżentazzjoni taż-żewġ sessi tilhaq il-bilanċ mixtieq.

Jeħtieġ li jsir aktar investiment fil-qasam tas-saħħa u s-sigurtà fuq il-post tax-xogħol. L-Awtorità għas-saħħa u s-sigurtà fuq il-post tax-xogħol irid ikollha aktar saħħa u aktar riżorsi biex tkun tista' tilhaq l-għanijiet tagħha b'mod effettiv. Jeħtieġ li tiżdied il-kuxjenza pubblika dwar l-importanza li jinżammu livelli għoljin ta' saħħa u sigurtà fuq il-post tax-xogħol.

Il-liġi li tirregola r-relazzjonijiet industrijali (EIRA) għandha tipprovdi mekkaniżmu legali li jirregola l-għarfien ta' *trade union* fuq il-post tax-xogħol meta aktar minn unjin waħda tiddikjara li għandha rappreżentanza tal-maġġoranza tal-haddiema.

Employment, Workers and Industrial Relations. You know where we stand.

The Government and the Social Partners should show more determination in their fight against precarious employment. This type of work is on the increase among different categories of workers with different skills, experience and qualifications, such as with the increase of definite contract work as well as with the increase of workers registered as self-employed but who would be selling their services to one contractor such as the Government or the owner of a business. The Government should ensure that its contracts are not based on precarious employment.

The world of work as well as that of industrial relations is dominated by men. The participation of women in the employment sector is still too low, both as a global share as well as in terms of representativeness in particular sectors and management and in trade union representation. This situation has to be remedied by means of systematic action which reduces the disadvantage faced by women in the world of work. Alternattiva Demokratika gives its total support to initiatives which offer the possibility of job sharing, flexitime and day care centre facilities both for women as well as for men who have children or other forms of caring responsibilities. AD also supports initiatives which extend the time spent by children in the school environment participating in various activities after school hours so that their parents would be able to participate in the world of work on a full time basis. Lone-parent families face bigger challenges when it comes to combining work and family responsibilities and many of them end up living under the poverty line.

AD believes that the minimum wage in Malta should increase and should be extended to part time and contractual workers. Such an increase would help improve the quality of life of the workers and give them more spending power. Such an increase would also encourage more people to enter the formal labour market, making work pay, acting as an incentive for increased productivity. At the same time, the Government should step up its efforts to reduce "underground" unemployment.

The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and compensation should be carried out every 6 months, instead of every year. AD suggests a realistic assessment of the cost of living adjustment is carried out in order that the yearly compensation truly reflects the rise in inflation. Hence, an updated methodology should replace the current one on which COLA is based.

The Government should share the financial burden with regards to certain benefits such as parental leave with employers, especially because most companies in Malta are SMEs. In this way workers employed in the private sector would be able to enjoy the same rights as those employed in the civil service.

Child care services should be universally accessible and, in collaboration with the private sector, the State should provide free services to those who need them.

Women are not the only category which finds it difficult to access the labour market. There is still much to be done to improve access to work for persons with disability who can work but who are still facing huge difficulties. Categories who are still finding it difficult to enter the labour market are ex-prisoners, immigrants, persons with disability and persons over forty.

Although in Malta unemployment is under control, we have to see what type of jobs are being created. Precarious employment is on the rise resulting in a deterioration of workers' rights and in workers having less security and peace of mind. Better monitoring is needed to ensure that workers' rights are being respected.

With regards to public contracts, social criteria should be established to ensure that it is only serious companies which respect workers' rights and the law are awarded such contracts.

Part time work should be encouraged to enable access to the labour market to workers who previously had little access to employment such as persons with disability. In order to avoid discrimination and precariousness, part timers should enjoy the same rights on a pro rata basis as full time workers. At the same time, those who wish to work full time should have be supported by the necessary structures.

Public sector workers who work additional part-time work in the public sector should be taxed on a part-time basis for such additional work.

There should be better law enforcement in cases where employers do not allow or make it difficult for workers to join unions. In the case of repeated abuses, such

employers should be fined.

Closed shops should become illegal. All workers should have the freedom of choosing the union to represent them. There should not be any pressure on workers who decide to leave a union. Those who are no longer paying their trade union membership should not be regarded as members any more.

In basic public services such as public transport, education and health, there should be a balance between the right to strike and the provision of these basic services to the public. Those services which should never be interrupted should be identified clearly.

Before every industrial action, a secret vote should be taken among the workers involved.

There should be more efforts to increase the participation of women in trade unions both as members as well as officials. The Industrial Tribunal should be appointed by the President of the Republic and removed for the same reasons as judges and magistrates may be removed.

The compensation given by the Industrial Tribunal for unfair redundancy should be substantially increased in order to reflect today's prices and wages. If it is established that workers were made redundant without a just cause, they should have the right to decide whether they want their job back. Public employees should have the same remedies in front of the Industrial Tribunal as private sector employees.

Every definite contract which is renewed for more than one year should be automatically considered as an indefinite contract. There should be stop to abusive practices where workers are engaged on definitive contracts for a period which expires a few days shorter than that stipulated by law to be eligible for an indefinite contract.

Women tend to be worse hit by the conditions offered in part time employment. As a group, women are already significantly disadvantaged in the world of work. In this regard a reform in the legal framework regulating part time employment will also be an act of justice with female workers. We believe that part time workers should be entitled to all benefits on a pro rata basis according to the number of hours worked. The law which provides such benefits to those who work more than 19 hours should be extended to all part time workers regardless of the number of hours worked.

Immigrants who are not granted refugee status or protection but who cannot be returned to their country should be granted a work permit to ensure that such immigrants are not exploited and employed under conditions of slavery. This should ensure that these persons will benefit from the protection afforded by law to Maltese workers.

Priority should be given to investments and incentives which would take Malta towards a Green New Deal, where ecological jobs can be created in areas such as services, sustainable tourism, waste management, education, research, public transport and alternative energy.

Malta should support the Working Time Directive which establishes a maximum number of hours per week (an average of 48) so that there will be less exploitation of workers, priority will be given to the health and security of workers and there will be more opportunities for unemployed workers. The European Confederation of Trade Unions is supporting this directive.

The representation of civil society in MCESD should be extended.

Professional workers such as counsellors, probation officers, archivists and librarians should be given professional recognition at par with other professions in order to ascertain high standards of practice and to better safeguard the clients in the case of helping professionals.

There should be more initiatives which encourage the participation of workers not only as part of the labour force but as shareholders in an enterprise.

There should be more efforts to improve the participation of women in corporate governance. While AD believes that quotas are necessary for a more equitable gender balance to be achieved, it also acknowledges that these should eventually be phased out once gender representation becomes more balanced.

More investment should be made towards occupational health and safety. The Occupational Health and Safety Authority should be empowered with more resources in order to be able to be more effective in its operation. There also needs to be more public awareness about the importance of maintaining high standards in occupational health and safety.

The law regulating employment relations (EIRA) should provide a legal mechanism regulating trade union recognition in places of work where more than one trade union claims majority representation.

13

Energija. Magħna taf fejn int.

Pajjiżna għadu lura milli jilhaq il-miri minimi stabiliti mid-direttivi tal-UE dwar l-enerġija rinnovabbli. Hemm bżonn pjan b'miri ċari biex Malta tilhaq dawn il-miri fl-anqas żmien possibbli.

Il-viżjoni ta' Alternattiva Demokratika għall-ġejjieni hi wahda bbażata fuq il-konservazzjoni u l-użu bil-għaḡal tar-riżorsi, ġustizzja soċjali u effiċjenza. Aktar ma l-enerġija u riżorsi oħra bħall-ilma jintużaw bil-għaḡal aktar jinholq għid u aktar mill-valur miżjud jibqa' fil-pajjiż. Bl-inċentivar ta' industriji bbażati fuq l-iżvilupp ta' teknoloġiji li jiġġeneraw enerġija nadifa jew teknoloġiji li jagħmlu użu aħjar mill-enerġija, aktar jinholqu impjiegi.

L-istat għandu jkollu rwol ewlieni fil-politika u fil-provvista tal-enerġija. Għandu jiġi żgurat li l-użu tal-enerġija jkun sostenibbli, li ma jkunx hemm faqar minhabba nuqqas ta' aċċess għall-enerġija, u li x-xogħol f'dan il-qasam ma jkunx prekarju. Dan jgħodd ukoll għall-enerġija pprovduta mis-settur privat. Jekk is-settur privat ma jirnexxielux jilhaq dawn il-miri, l-istat għandu jintervjeni u jirregola bl-iktar mod effettiv.

L-istat għandu jissussidja konsum bażiku tal-enerġija u jippenalizza l-hela. L-istat jista' jagħmel tajjeb għal nefqa soċjali f'dan il-qasam permezz ta' miżuri fiskali progressivi bħal *windfall taxes* u taxxi fuq ħsara ambjentali u fuq spekulazzjoni finanzjarja.

Il-politika tagħna hi wahda mnebbha mill-kriżi globali minhabba t-tibdil fil-klima. Fid-dawl ta' dan nipproponu:

Kull bini għdid għandu jkun żviluppat b'mod li jkun hemm spazju fuq il-bejt għal panelli fotovoltaiċi u solar water heaters. Kull bini għandu jikkonforma ma' liġijiet dwar l-effiċjenza fl-enerġija b'użu sħiħ ta' insulazzjoni u *double glazing*. L-installazzjoni ta' *solar water heaters* għandha tkun obligatorja, inkluż f' bini eżistenti fejn hemm spazju fuq il-bjut.

Għandu jkun hemm skema miftuħa għal kulhadd (u mhux kif jiġri bħalissa fejn l-iskema hi limitata għal min japplika l-ewwel) ta' sussidju li tgħin lil daww bi dħul baxx u medju biex jinvestu f'*solar water heaters* u panelli fotovoltaiċi. F'*housing estates* u *social housing* il-gvern għandu jagħmel tajjeb għall-ispiża.

L-installazzjoni ta' sistemi fotovoltaiċi li jiġġeneraw l-elettriku mix-xemx, jistgħu jiġu inċentivati permezz ta' self b'interessi baxxi li jithallas lura fuq numru ta' snin. Il-feed-in tariff għandha tkun kemm jista' jkun vantaġġjuża għall-konsumatur. Fl-asalura ta' self jista' jsir permezz tal-enerġija żejda li jipproduċi l-konsumatur.

It-tibdil fil-għoli permissibbli tal-bini introdott bil-Pjani Lokali fl-2006 wassal biex ħafna propjetajiet tilfu l-aċċess għall-enerġija solari. Kull reviżjoni tal-pjani lokali għandha tassigura li ma tnaqqasx l-aċċess għad-dawl tax-xemx.

Issir reviżjoni fir-rati tal-enerġija li permezz tagħha l-hela tiġi penalizzata. Għandha tiġi stabilita rata ta' konsum bażiku ta' enerġija għad-djar, negozji u entitajiet oħra. Is-sistema għandha tippremja lil daww li jnaqqsu l-konsum tagħhom billi toffrilhom rata anqas waqt li tagħmel tajjeb għad-differenza permezz ta' rati oghla għal daww li jahlu l-elettriku.

Għandu jkun hemm rata iktar favorevoli għall-konsumatur fis-siġhat ta' billejl sabiex il-piż tal-enerġija jinqasam aħjar tul il-jum kollu.

Il-familji kollha jingħataw servizz ta' *'energy audit'* u jintwerew kif jistgħu jnaqqsu l-konsum tal-elettriku.

Il-*power station* il-ġdida ta' Delimara għandha taqleb għall-gass, u sa kemm dan iseħħ, għandha taqleb mill-Heavy Fuel Oil għad diesel. Mhux aċċettabbli li jintuża l-iktar fjwuil li jhammeġ meta jeżistu alternattivi aktar nodfa.

Ma naqblux mal-użu ta' teknoloġija bbazata fuq il-ħruq tal-faħam imħallat ma' bio-fuels u CCS. Dan għaliex dawn it-teknoloġiji huma riskjużi u jżidu d-dipendenza fuq il-fjuwils fossili. Hemm dubbi serji wkoll fuq is-sostenibilità ekonomika tagħhom. Barra minn hekk Malta m'għandhiex issir dipendenti fuq kumpanija wahda li twieġhed soluzzjonijiet mirakolużi u torbot lill-ġenerazzjonijiet futuri ma' teknoloġija li għadha dubjuża.

Għandu jitwaqqaf kumitat ta' esperti u rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili li jkollu l-kompitu li jiskrutinja proposti għodda fil-kamp tal-enerġija li jiġu mis-settur privat. Dan jiżgura aktar trasparenza f'dan il-qasam.

Malta għandha tappoġġja u tinvolvi ruħha b'mod attiv fl-idea tal-iżvilupp ta' sistemi ta' enerġija solari fid-deżert tas-Saħara fl-Afrika ta' fuq, sakemm jithares l-aspett soċjali tal-popolazzjoni lokali, inkluż id-drittijiet ta' residenti f'żoni fejn isir żvilupp;

id-drittijet tar-residenti li jkollhom aċċess ekwu għall-enerġija li tiġi prodotta; u parteċipazzjoni sħiħa ta' komunitajiet lokali.

Nappoġġjaw l-iżvilupp ta' proġetti li jinvolvu l-ħolqien ta' enerġija ġenerata mir-riħ u l-mewġ, fost oħrajn. Sfortunatament kien hemm wisq prokrastinazzjoni f'dan il-qasam.

Bi ftehim negozjat mas-sħab soċjali, għandhom jiġu implimentati sistemi energy saving u ta' ġenerazzjoni ta' elettriku minn sorsi rinovabbli fiż-żoni industrijali. Dawk l-industriji li jinvestu f'sistemi energy saving jgawdu minn skemi ta' tnaqqis fit-taxxi.

Jiġi nnegozjat 'Patt dwar it-tibdil fil-klima' bejn is-sħab soċjali kollha. Dan ikun jinkludi miri biex l-industriji f'Malta jsiru aktar effiċjenti fl-użu tal-enerġija, il-ħolqien ta' impjiegi ġodda fil-qasam tat-teknoloġija enerġetika, u l-użu ta' enerġija minn sorsi rinovabbli fiż-żoni industrijali kollha. Il-Gvern min-naħa tiegħu juri l-impenn tiegħu billi l-bini kollu tiegħu, inkluż sptarijiet, skejjel, agenziji, toroq u ġonna jagħmlu użu minn sistemi li jnaqssu l-użu tal-enerġija, kif ukoll jintużaw l-ispazji kbar tal-bjut biex jiġi ġġenerat l-elettriku mix-xemx. Minn atti simboliċi l-gvern għandu jgħaddi għal programmi aktar konkreti ta' użu aktar bil-għaqal tal-enerġija.

Energy. You know where we stand.

Our country is still behind in incorporating EU directives on renewable energy. There is an urgent need to reach these objectives.

Alternattiva Demokratika's future vision is based on conservation and the careful use of resources, social justice and efficiency. A wiser use of resources such as water means that the more wealth and value added will stay in the country. By giving incentives to industries that use clean energy or make better use of our limited energy employment will increase.

The state should have the leading role in energy policy and supply. It should be ensured that energy use is sustainable, that energy poverty is avoided and that employment is not precarious. This also holds for energy provided by the private sector. If the private sector does not manage to reach these aims, the state should intervene and regulate in an effective manner.

The state should subsidize the basic consumption of energy while penalizing waste.

The state can make good the expenditure required by progressive fiscal measures such as windfall taxes and taxes on those that harm the environment and financial speculation.

Our policies take in consideration the global crisis of climate change.

All buildings should have enough space to include renewable energy apparatus such as solar panels. Every building needs to conform with energy efficiency regulations with full use of double glazing. Water heaters should be obligatory, including in existing buildings where there is space on the roof.

A scheme should be put into place enabling everyone (unlike the present where there are limited funds) through subsidies to those medium and lower incomes to purchase and use solar water heaters and photovoltaic panels. State housing estates and social housing projects should be subsidized as well as those having lower and medium incomes.

The installation of photovoltaic systems that generate electricity through the sun should be encouraged by making low interest loans available to the general public. These loans could be paid back over a long period of time. The feed in tariff should be to the advantage of the consumer. Payment for loan may come in the form of extra energy the consumer produces.

Liberalized height restrictions introduced in the Local Plan of 2006 has meant that many properties now lack access to roofs to make

use of solar energy sources. A revision of these height restrictions should guarantee that dwellers have access to sunlight.

Revision of energy tariffs should see that waste is penalized. There should be established a minimum consumption level for homes, businesses and other entities. Those that use less energy should be rewarded with lower prices while those who use more have to pay more.

Energy costs off peak hours should be cheaper to encourage a better distribution of energy use.

Every household would have the services of an energy audit at its disposal to help in using less electricity.

The new Delimara power station should shift to gas, and should immediately switch over heavy fuel oil to diesel in the interim period. It is not acceptable to use polluting fuels when cleaner alternatives exist.

We do not agree on the use of technology based on burning coal mixed with bio-fuels and CCS. This is because it is a risky technology and increases dependence on fossil fuels. There are also doubts about the economic sustainability of such technology. Moreover Malta cannot become dependent on one company.

A committee made up of experts and civil society to scrutinize new proposals in the private sector regarding energy. This would mean more transparency.

Malta should be involved in efforts to harness solar energy from the Sahara desert, bearing in mind the rights of residents where such developments take place, the social aspects affecting the populations of the area. Saharan populations should have the right to access the created energy and take part fully in the local committee.

Support efforts to obtain energy from wind and waves, among other sources.

With agreements with social partners there should be an implementation of systems to save and harness renewable energy in industrial zones. Firms that invest in such projects will be entitled to tax rebates.

All areas of society which fall under state control such as hospitals, schools, agencies, roads and gardens etc.. should use low energy sources and utilize roofs and spaces for the creation of renewable energy.

All social partners should agree to a pact regarding climate change. This should include focusing on renewable energy and creating new jobs in the energy technology sector.

14

Ambjent 80-93
Environment

Ambjent. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-politika ma tistax tibqa' f'konfront mal-ekoloġija iżda għandha tkun bi shab magħha. Dan ifisser li nehtieġu politika li tfittex li tistabillixxi l-ekoloġija bħala punt ta' referenza. Tfiisser politika iktar responsabbli fl-oqsma kollha kif ukoll titjib fil-kwalità tal-ħajja.

Kontra l-Frammentazzjoni.

Il-MEPA li inħolqot fl-2002 bl-amalgamazzjoni tal-Awtorità tal-Ippjanar u d-Dipartiment tal-Ambjent kienet ħafna drabi ineffettiva fil-qadi ta' dmirha li tħares l-ambjent. Dan minħabba li bl-istruttura li nħolqot, anke wara l-hekk imsejha riforma tal-2010 il-ħidma ambjentali tal-MEPA hi fdata f'idejn min konsistentement wera li l-interess tiegħu hu li jinkoraġġixxi l-iżvilupp bla rażan. Id-Direttorat għall-Ħarsien tal-Ambjent fil-MEPA hu maħnuq u ftit li xejn jista' jaġixxi għajr f'xi eċċezzjoni fejn ikun jaqbel politikament għall-Gvern.

B'żieda ma' dan hemm problema kbira kkawżata minn responsabbiltajiet ambjentali mifruxa fuq diversi Ministeri u awtoritajiet. Il-frammentazzjoni tnaqqas l-effettività tal-ħidma li ssir.

Fil-passat Alternattiva Demokratika iffokat fuq il-ħtieġa tas-separazzjoni tal-funzjoni ambjentali mill-funzjoni tal-ippjanar dwar l-użu tal-art. Din l-enfażi kienet saret minħabba li l-problema prinċipali dakinnhar kienet li l-ħarsien tal-ambjent kien maħnuq minn dawk li riedu jmexxu 'l quddiem l-iżvilupp bla rażan tal-art.

Alternattiva Demokratika illum qed tipproponi soluzzjoni differenti. Din is-soluzzjoni hi intiża biex tindirizza l-importanza li l-ħarsien tal-ambjent ikun il-mutur li jmexxi, iżda ukoll li tkun indirizzat l-frammentazzjoni u dan billi jkunu kkonsolidati l-funzjonijiet ambjentali f'awtorità waħda. Nipproponu għalhekk li jingħaqdu f'awtorità waħda l-MEPA u l-Awtorità dwar ir-Riżorsi (MRA). Fl-awtorità kkonsolidata, il-funzjoni ambjentali għandha tkun dik ċentrali u għandha sservi biex id-Direttorat tal-Ippjanar jieħu funzjoni sekondarja.

L-awtorità kkonsolidata telimina d-duplikazzjoni eżistenti u b'hekk isservi biex ikunu utilizzati aħjar il-faċilitajiet u l-istaff imħarreġ li hemm illum fil-MEPA u l-MRA.

Il-Ħatriet

Il-ħidma tkun effettiva daqs kemm ikunu kompetenti u affidabbli dawk li jinħatru biex imexxu. Alternattiva Demokratika għaldaqstant tipproponi illi filwaqt li l-Gvern tal-ġurnata jibqa' jżomm s-setgħa li jahtar il-membri ta' din l-Awtorità kkonsolidata, dan m'għandux jagħmlu sakemm il-Parlament permezz ta' Kumitat Magħżul ma jagħtihx il-kunsens tiegħu għall-ħatriet proposti. Il-Parlament ikun jista' jikkunsidra li jagħti l-kunsens tiegħu wara li

l-Kumitat Magħżul tiegħu ikun organizza sessjoni pubblika (*public hearing*) li fiha jgħarbel lil kull persuna proposta. Kull persuna proposta għandha tkun eżaminata fil-pubbliku dwar l-esperjenza u l-kwalifiċi tagħha konnessi mal-ħatra proposta.

Fejn tidhol rappreżentanza mis-socjetà ċivili, in-nominazzjonijiet għandhom isiru direttament mill-korpi effettwati. Għandu jkun hemm inqas uffiċjali pubbliċi bħala membri tal-bord, u rappreżentanza ikbar tas-socjetà ċivili fl-awtorità kkonsolidata.

B'hekk huwa ittammat li jiżdiedu n-nomini ta' persuni kompetenti kif ukoll li jonqsu l-ħatriet ta' persuni li l-iprem kwalifika tagħhom hi l-lealtà politika. B'hekk ukoll il-Parlament ikun qed jieħu lura mingħand il-Gvern rwol importanti biex jassigura li l-ħarsien tal-ambjent jittiehed b'iktar serjetà.

Dan jgħodd għaċ-Chairman u l-membri tal-Bord li jmexxu l-Awtorità kif ukoll l-uffiċjali ewlenija fit-tmexxija tal-Awtorità li jinkludu iċ-*Chief Executive Officer*, id-Diretturi kif ukoll il-membri tal-Kummissjonijiet jew Tribunali tal-Appell li jiddeċiedu dwar talba għal permessi kemm ta' żvilupp kif ukoll dwar riżorsi u permessi ambjentali oħra.

Il-Parlament bil-Lenti

Il-Membri tal-Parlament m'għandhomx jibqgħu jkollhom rwol attiv fit-tmexxija tal-Awtorità li tinħoloq flok il-MEPA u l-MRA. Minflok il-Parlament għandu joħloq l-ghodda neċessarja biex, permezz ta' Kumitat Magħżul tal-Kamra dwar l-Ambjent, ir-Riżorsi u l-Ippjanar, ikun jista' jissorvelja lill-awtorità l-ġdida u jitlob spjegazzjonijiet mingħand id-dirigenti tal-istess awtorità u l-uffiċjali ewlenija tagħha dwar l-aġir tagħhom kull meta mehtieġ. B'dan l-mod il-membri tal-Bord tal-Awtorità kif ukoll il-politiċi (Ministru u Segretarju Parlamentari) inkarigati jkunu ultimament kontabbli lejn il-Parlament kontinwament.

Rwol tal-Komunità.

Diversi kontroversji jqumu dwar l-impatti fuq il-komunità ta' proġetti kbar bħal dak tal-Impjant tar-Riċiklaġġ tal-Iskart f'Sant Antnin, tal-iżvilupp turistiku f'Fondoq ir-Rummien, l-estensjoni tal-*Power Station* f'Delimara, l-estensjoni tal-Port Hieles jew il-megaproġetti magħrufa bħala l-proġetti tal-MIDI u ta' *Fort Cambridge* f'Tigné, Tas-Sliema.

F'kull wieħed minn dawn il-każijiet il-komunità semmgħet lehinha kontra dawn il-proġetti kemm direttament kif ukoll permezz tas-soċjetà ċivili. F'każijiet ta' din ix-xorta AD qed tipproponi li wara li l-awtorità responsabbli tkun ipproċessat applikazzjoni għal proġett ta' żvilupp, il-komunità għandu jkollha d-dritt tesprimi ruħa dwar jekk il-proġett jipproċedix, u dan permezz ta' referendum lokali li jissejjaħ wara li jingabru l-firem tar-residenti skond il-liġi, inkella b'talba tal-Kunsill Lokali f'isem il-komunità.

Proġett għandu jiġi pprezentat għal deċizzjoni popolari wara li jkun għew konkluzi l-istudji kollha relattivi kif ukoll wara li l-istess studji jkun aċċessibbli għal żmien raġjonevoli għal kull min ikun irid jaqrahom. F'każ ta' proġetti infrastrutturali u ta' importanza nazzjonali għandu jkun possibbli għall-Parlament (li jirrappreżenta lill-komunità fuq livell nazzjonali) illi wara li jassigura ruħu illi l-ilmenti tal-komunità lokali jkun indirizzati, jintervjeni u jiehu deċizzjoni finali.

Gustizzja Ambjentali.

Alternattiva Demokratika tifhem li proġetti ta' importanza nazzjonali jibqgħu jiffaċċaw diffikultajiet. Dan jibqa' jsir sakemm il-Gvern Ċentrali u l-Korpi Parastatali jibqgħu ma jagħtux importanza adegwata lill-impatt ambjentali ta' dawn il-proġetti kif ukoll sakemm dawn jibqgħu konċentrati fin-nofsinnhar tal-pajjiż.

Alternattiva Demokratika taħdem favur ġustizzja ambjentali u dan billi filwaqt li tinsisti fuq proġetti infrastrutturali u industrijali ppjanati b'mod li l-impatt ambjentali tagħhom ikun l-inqas possibbli, tassigura li safejn hu possibbli il-piż ambjentali ma jibqax jingarr prinċipalment mill-komunità residenti fin-nofsinnhar tal-pajjiż.

Hi ukoll materja ta' ġustizzja li min bena b'mod illegali jerfa' r-responsabbiltà ta' għemilu. B'mod partikolari Alternattiva Demokratika qed tipproponi li għandhom jitwaqqgħu immedjatament il-kmamar illegali li nbnew fl-Aħrax tal-Mellieħa, kif ukoll dawk f'żoni oħra hdejn il-baħar, u l-ispazju kollu mal-kosta b'hekk jingħata lura lill-komunità għat-tgawdija ta' kulhadd.

L-Ilma.

Is-settur tal-ilma matul is-snin ġie traskurat. L-estrazzjoni tal-ilma mill-pjan saret fi kwantitajiet kbar li ma qisix ir-rata li biha n-natura kienet qed ttrimpjazzja l-ilma. Dan ma jgħoddx biss għall-ilma użat b'mod uffċjali iżda fuq kolloxx hu rifless fl-eluf ta' *boreholes* li ġew tollerati matul iż-żmien. L-ilma li ttella' minn dawn il-*boreholes* illegali. Alternattiva Demokratika tikkunsidrah bħala serq ta' proprjetà pubblika.

L-ilma – riżors strategiku ta' importanza nazzjonali – għandu jkollu prezz realistik. Fuq medda ta' żmien qasir, kull *borehole*

mhux reġistrata għandha tingħalaq. Fuq medda ta' żmien itwal, b' eċċezzjonijiet strateġiċi bħall-agrikoltura, il-prezz veru tal-ilma għandu jkun rifless fil-konsum tiegħu, fejn għandhom jiġu penalizzati l-prattiċi haġja, u mhux il-konsum bażiku tal-ilma. Il-konsum bażiku għandu jiġi ssusidjat. Il-Korporazzjoni għas-Servizzi tal-Ilma għandha jkollha kontroll shiħ fuq il-produzzjoni tal-ilma, li, sussegwentament, għandu jiġi ridistribwit skond il-prioritajiet tal-pajjiż.

L-ilma li nixorbu kif ukoll l-ilma li nużaw għal skop domestiku illum joriġina in parti mill-ilma tal-pjan (44%) u in parti hu prodott billi bil-proċess tar-Reverse Osmosis ikun ipproċessat ilma tal-baħar. Dan għal total ta' madwar 29 miljun metru kubu fis-sena.

Sal-lum l-ilma tad-drenaġġ ġġenerat fil-Gżejjer Maltin — li hu stmat li fis-sena 2011 kien jammonta għal 24 miljun metru kubu fis-sena (21,858,000 mk f'Malta u 1,982,000 mk f'Għawdex) — qed jintefa' l-baħar, wara li jkun ippurifikat.

Alternattiva Demokratika ilha tinsisti li dan d-drenaġġ ippurifikat li qed jintefa' l-baħar hu riżorsa mohlija u għandu valur ekonomiku u soċjali kbir. Huwa teknikament possibbli illi b'purifikazzjoni addizzjonali (polishing) dan l-ilma jkun jista' jintuza għall-agrikoltura, għall-industrija u anke għall-konsum pubbliku kif diġa qiegħed isir f'pajjiżi oħra bħal Singapor.

L-Awtorità dwar ir-Riżorsi kif ukoll il-Korporazzjoni għas-Servizzi tal-Ilma ilhom issa għaddejjin b'esperimenti biex jistabilixxu l-aħjar użu li jista' jsir minn l-ilma tad-drenaġġ ippurifikat. Saret proposta dwar il-possibbiltà li jekk il-kwalità tal-ilma ippurifikat tkun waħda aċċettabbli, dan l-ilma jista' jintuza biex l-ilma tal-pjan ikun rikarigat (aquifer recharge). Fil-waqt li Alternattiva Demokratika taqbel ma' dan, tħoss li għandha tissottolinea illi biex dan l-iskop ikun jista' jintlaħaq hu essenzjali li qabel ikun assigurat li l-iskart likwidu li jinxtexet ġos-sistema tad-drenaġġ ikun biss dak aċċettabbli. Biex dan isehh irid ikun assigurat li l-industrija, b'mod partikolari l-intrapriżi ż-żgħira ikunu konxji tal-impatt tagħhom meta jagħmlu użu mis-sistema tad-drenaġġ biex fiha jittgħu kull xorta ta' skart kimiku. Is-sistema ta' kontrolli trid tkun imsaħħa bi spettorat imħarreg sewwa u b'deterrent effettiv.

Huwa meħtieġ li ssir iżjed ħidma biex ikun assigurat li jingabar iktar ilma tax-xita fl-

ibliet u l-irhula tagħna u li dan ikun jista' jintuża. Ma saritx biżżejjed hidma biex tnaqqas l-impatt tal-ghargħar. F'dan il-kuntest huwa importanti li r-restawr tal-widien ikun proċess kontinwu li jħares il-bijodiversità u jassigura li l-ilmijiet akkumulati ma jagħmlux ħsara.

Il-Bini u l-Użu tal-Art.

Ir-riżultat taċ-ċensiment tal-2011 għadu mhux ippubblikat. Iżda huwa ċar li meta ser joħroġ dan ir-riżultat in-numru ta' postijiet residenzjali vojta ser ikun ferm ikbar mit-53,000 li kienu irriżultaw fiċ-ċensiment tal-2005. Dan juri kemm l-industrija tal-kostruzzjoni tħalliet għal riħha, tibni bl-addoċċ u bir-riżultat li iktar art inbniet.

Ir-riżultat taċ-ċensiment irridu nieħdu l-lezzjonijiet minnu, mhux kif ġara bir-riżultat taċ-ċensiment tal-2005 li prattikament ġie injorat fil-qasam tal-bini u tal-użu tal-art.

Fid-dawl ta' dan in-numru ta' postijiet vojta, Alternattiva Demokratika tinsisti illi ma hemmx hteġa ta' proġetti residenzjali godda fuq skala kbira u għaldaqstant qed tipproponi moratorju fuq dan it-tip ta' żvilupp. Hemm hteġa ukoll li l-proċess li bih żdiedu bosta artijiet għall-iżvilupp fl-2006, magħruf bħala l-proċess tar-razzjonalizzazzjoni, safejn ma bediex il-proċess ta' bini fuq dawn l-artijiet għandu jitregġa' lura.

Għandu jitregġa' lura l-għoli ta' bini permissibli f'diversi partijiet ta' Malta li sar permezz tal-Pjanijiet Lokali approvati fl-2006 u li bħala riżultat tagħhom spekulaturi qed jidfnu diversi żoni residenzjali fid-dell u jagħmlu herba minn investimenti tal-familji Maltin fit-teknoloġija tal-enerġija solari.

Il-bini tal-*penthouses* għandu jkun skoraġġit u dan biex il-bjut ikunu jistgħu jintużaw għall-ġenerazzjoni ta' enerġija solari.

L-Industrija tal-Bini.

Tnaqqis fir-ritmu u l-volum tal-bini jfisser illi wasal iż-żmien li l-industrija tal-bini tibda proċess ta' ristrutturazzjoni. L-ewwel passi ikun li jkun rikonoxxut il-fatt li hawn wisq bini u li jrid jieqaf it-teħid ta' iktar art għall-bini. Lanqas ma nistgħu nibqgħu bħala pajjiż inwaqqgħu ċ-ċentri tal-ibliet u l-irhula tagħna biex flokhom noholqu binjiet bi żvilupp iktar intensiv. Wasal iż-żmien li nifhmu li r-restawr tal-bini l-qadim u l-addattament tiegħu għal użu kompatibbli mal-ħtiġijiet tal-lum hi t-triq neċessarja.

Biex dan iseħħ hemm bżonn ta' taħriġ fi snajja' qodma li qed jintilfu u dan biex il-bini l-qadim ikun jista' jiġi restawrat b'sengħa.

Bini Storiku u Skedat.

Għandna bosta bini storiku kif ukoll bini skedat li għandu jkun imħares b'iktar reqqa u serjetà. Ir-restawr fiżiku ta' bini pubbliku u skemi ta' għajjuna biex iwieżnu lis-soċjeta' ċivili biex hi ukoll tirrestawra bini storiku huwa biss parti waħda mill-istorja. Huwa neċessarju ukoll li dan il-bini meta restawrat ikun utilizzat.

Il-Ġebbla Maltija.

Iktar ma jgħaddi żmien il-ġebbla Maltija (globiġerina) qed tonqos.

Hemm bżonn li nippreservaw il-ġebbla diġà użata f'bini qadim. Fejn ikun meħtieġ li bini jitwaqqa' għax ma jkunx possibli li jkun restawrat, il-ġebbla użata f'dan il-bini m'għandhiex tintrema iżda għandha tkun użata mill-ġdid. Għandu jistab mod kif fdal tal-kostruzzjoni mormi f'barrieri jkun użat mill-ġdid. Hekk kienu jagħmlu missirijietna. Qatt ma hlew xejn.

L-Iskart.

Ninkoraġixxu s-separazzjoni tal-iskart fil-lokalitajiet. Nirrikonoxxu iżda li dan m'huwiex biżżejjed. Għadna lura bħala pajjiż biex nilhqu l-miri Ewropej għall-iskart mill-ippakkeġġjar kif ukoll l-iskart ġenerat minn apparat elettriku u elettroniku.

Hemm bżonn b'mod ġenerali li jkun imminimizzat kull xorta ta' skart u għal dan l-iskop hu meħtieġ li jittieħdu inizzjattivi li jgħinu f'din id-direzzjoni.

Huwa neċessarju li jiġu indirizzati r-relevanza u l-mod tal-operazzjoni tal-*iscrapyards*. Prezentement f'dawn l-*iscrapyards* jiġi pproċessat skart li huwa kontrollat taħt tal-anqas tlett Direttivi tal-Unjoni Ewropea: id-Direttiva WEEE, l-End of Life Vehicles Directive u d-Direttiva dwar il-Batteriji. Il-mod kif l-*iscrapyards* qed jithallew joperaw f'Malta jfisser abbandun totali tal-prinċipji u salvagwardji elenkati fl-imsemmija Direttivi. Li wara iktar minn tmien snin mis-shubija ta' Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropea għadna nitkellmu fuq dawn l-affarijiet ifisser kemm kienet defiċjenti it-tkejjija biex pajjiżna jerfa' l-obbligi ambjentali li dhalna għalihom bis-shubija.

Taxxi Ambjentali.

Hemm bżonn li tkun riformata l-istruttura tat-tassazzjoni ambjentali (l-eko-kontribuzzjoni) biex ikun assigurat li din tilhaq miri ambjentali. Huwa meħtieġ li s-settur privat ma jkunx ippenalizzat billi jhallas darbejn biex jonora l-obbligu tiegħu dwar l-iskart kopert bl-eko-kontribuzzjoni.

It-taxxi ambjentali jintużaw għal żewġ skopijiet. Biex jiġġeneraw fondi għall-kaxxa ta' Malta kif ukoll biex iservu ta' deterrent u per konsegwenza jgħinu fit-tnaqqis tal-

impatti ambjentali. Biex id-deterrent ikun effettiv hu mehtieg li meta jiffasslu taxxi ambjentali ikun assigurat li safejn hu possibli jkun hemm servizz jew prodott alternattiv għal dak intaxxat u li għax jiġġenera inqas impatti ambjentali jkun jista' jintuża mill-ewwel minuta li tkun imposta taxxa ambjentali.

Min-naħa l-oħra, konxji li taxxi ambjentali li jsiru bla ħsieb, jista' jkollhom effett rigressiv, jiġifieri jkollhom impatt soċjali negattiv minhabba li jolqtu l-kwalità tal-ħajja ta' dawk ta' mezzi limitati. Biex jiġi assigurat li l-mira prinċipali tat-taxxi ambjentali tkun it-titjib ambjentali, Alternattiva Demokratika tipproponi li t-tassazzjoni ambjentali tkun responsabilità kongunta tal-Ministeru tal-Ambjent u tal-Ministeru tal-Finanzi.

Żvilupp Sostenibbli.

Huwa neċessarju li kontinwament tkun integrata l-politika ambjentali ma' dik ekonomika u soċjali. Dan isehh fil-kuntest ta' politika dwar l-iżvilupp sostenibbli li permezz tagħha infittxu li inharsu lejn l-impatt olistiku tal-politika.

Biex dan isehh hemm bżonn l-involviment tas-soċjetà ċivili għax il-politika dwar l-iżvilupp sostenibbli hi l-ewwel u qabel kollox tishih tal-proċess demokratiku bl-inkoraġġiment ta' involviment ta' kulhadd fit-tfassil u t-tweqqif tal-istrategija neċessarja.

Wara li għal 4 snin injora kompletament l-istrutturi konnessi mal-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli fil-pajjiż, il-Gvern ressaq liġi li biha abolixxa l-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali dwar l-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli u b'konsegwenza elimina l-involviment dirett tas-soċjetà ċivili milli tkun involuta fil-bini tal-infrastruttura tas-sostenibilità. Dan hu kompletament żbaljat. Alternattiva Demokratika tfittex li dan l-involviment jerga' jiġi stabbilit biex il-pajjiż ikun jista' jibbenefika mill-impenn u l-esperjenza tal-għaqdiet mhux governattivi.

L-Istrategija Nazzjonali għall-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli għadha ma bdiex tiġi implimentata. In partikolari f'kull Ministeru trid titwaqqaf struttura u mekkaniżmu biex ikun assigurat li l-politika u l-implimentazzjoni tagħha thares fit-tul, fuq l-impatt tagħha lejn il-ġenerazzjonijiet ta' għada. Dawn huma strutturi neċessarji biex mhux biss jikkoreġu l-iżbalji li saru matul is-snin iżda fuq kollox biex jinkoraġixxu l-formolazzjoni ta' politika pożittiva fil-Ministeri, Dipartimenti u Awtoritajiet li flimkien jiffurmaw is-settur pubbliku fil-pajjiż.

Politika Ambjentali fuq Livell Lokali.

Huwa neċessarju li kulhadd jifhem li l-politika ambjentali filwaqt li tkun imfassla fuq livell nazzjonali issib l-applikazzjoni tagħha fuq l-iżjed affarijiet żgħar f'livell lokali.

"Think global act local" m'huwiex biss slogan użat minn dawk li jmexxu l-quddiem il-politika ambjentali. Huwa minnu innifsu programm ta' ħidma. Id-dokument tal-Konferenza ta' Rio (1992) intitolat "Agenda 21" jenfasizza l-bżonn tat-tishib tal-awtoritajiet lokali f'dan il-proċess.

F'Malta huwa biss issa mill-2010 li beda dan il-proċess bil-pubblikazzjoni minn diversi Kunsilli Lokali ta' Strategija Lokali dwar l-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli. Din kienet inizjattiva li sabet l-appoġġ

tal-Gvern u għandha tinfirex iktar. Imma jehtieg li l-Kunsilli Lokali ma jingħatawx biss għajnuna fil-forma ta' fondi. Hija essenzjali għajnuna dwar x'inhuma l-elementi essenzjali li għandu jkun hemm fl-eżerċizzju li huma jagħmlu.

It-Tibdil fil-Klima.

It-tibdil fil-klima huwa riżultat akkumulat tal-ħidma tal-bniedem. Alternattiva Demokratika temmen li kull pajjiż għandu jikkontribwixxi lejn soluzzjoni iżda dan il-kontribut għandu jkun proporzjonat għall-impatt li kull pajjiż qed ikollu illum jew inkella kellu l-bierah fuq il-ħolqien ta' din il-problema.

Malta għandha tfittex li tnaqqas l-impatti tagħha fuq il-klima billi jkollha politika sostenibbli dwar it-trasport, l-enerġija u l-agrikoltura.

Irridu nindirizzaw l-impatti tal-klima fuq il-bijodiversità, fuq is-saħħa, fuq it-turiżmu, fuq l-ilma, fuq l-agrikoltura kif ukoll fuq l-infrastruttura marittima.

Fuq bażi regolari l-Gvern għandu jfassal pjan dwar l-impatti ta' Malta fuq il-klima mis-setturi differenti. Dan il-pjan fil-forma ta' baġit tal-karbonju għandu jiffassal b'konsultazzjoni mal-ishab soċjali u jitressaq għall-approvazzjoni tal-Parlament perġodikament.

Il-Kwalità ta' l-Arja.

Ir-riforma tat-trasport pubbliku tista' tkun l-istrument prinċipali biex titjeb sostanzjalment il-kwalità tal-arja. Mhux biss għax l-inġenji użati jniġġsu inqas imma ukoll jekk jiffasslu strategiji li jħajru iktar nies jagħmlu użu mit-trasport pubbliku. Waħda mil-miri ambjentali ta' Malta hija li jintużaw il-mezzi kollha disponibbli (teknologici, politiċi, ekonomiċi eċċ) sabiex il-limiti stabbiliti mid-Direttiva dwar il-kwalità tal-arja (2008/50/KE) jkunu rispettati kullimkien. Diġà ġie reġistrat titjib fit-tnaqqis tal-livelli ta' diġossidu tal-kubrit (SO₂) mid-dhul ta' Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropeja. Jehtieg li dan jiġi estiż għas-sustanzi inkwinanti l-oħra ukoll, jiġifieri għad-diġossidu tan-nitroġenu (NO₂) u għall-partiċelli PM₁₀ u PM_{2.5}.

Jehtieg ukoll illi l-impjanti tal-kombustjoni industrijali li bħalissa ma jaqgħux taħt id-Direttiva tal-Unjoni Ewropeja dwar

L-impjanti l-kbar tal-Kombustjoni jkunu regolati permezz ta' permessi li jinkludu valur limitu għat-tniġġis atmosferiku. Dan il-valur limitu għandu jkun tali li jippermetti l-konformità mad-Direttiva tal-Unjoni Ewropeja dwar il-kwalità tal-arja. Jeħtieġ ukoll li ssir analiżi tal-impatti tal-iżvilupp fuq il-kwalità tal-arja u għaldaqstant jidhrilna illi l-ewwel reviżjoni tal-pjani lokali għandha tiegħu dan in konsiderazzjoni.

Jeħtieġ ukoll li kif inhi l-prattika f'ħafna mill-Istati Membri l-oħra tal-UE, il-MEPA ma tibqax tagħti permessi għall-iżvilupp għall-proġetti kbar f'żoni fejn il-livelli permissibli dwar il-kwalità tal-arja jkunu diġà nqabżu, kif ukoll jekk jirriżulta li dawn il-proġetti jkunu ser jikkawżaw livelli ta' tniġġis atmosferiku oġġa minn dak stabilitt mid-Direttiva dwar il-kwalità tal-arja.

Bijodiversità.

Il-bijodiversità mhix kif inħarsu lejn l-għasafar u l-ħarsien tagħhom biss iżda dwar l-interazzjoni tagħna mal-ekosistema.

Alternattiva Demokratika taħdem biex tkun eliminata darba għal dejjem il-kaċċa tal-għasafar fir-rebbiegħa kif ukoll biex l-obbligi li Malta assumiet bis-sħubija fl-Unjoni Ewropea li l-insib spicċa darba għal dejjem ikun onorat.

Huwa neċessarju li jkun mħarsa sewwa iż-żoni li Malta identifikat għall-protezzjoni taħt il-provedimenti tad-Direttiva tal UE dwar il-*habitats*. Fost oħrajn wasal iż-żmien li l-Buskett ma jibqax meqjus bħal ġnien u ma jibqax ikun sfruttat bħala tali. L-istatus tal-Buskett ta' Żona Speċjali ta' Konservazzjoni huwa meħtieġ illi jiġi osservat, ħaġa li fil-preżentement mhix issir.

Huwa neċessarju ukoll illi l-widien ikunu mħarsa. Dan għandu jsir billi fil-kuntest ta' pjan ċar u olistiku jkunu riabilitati l-widien b'mod li tkun rispettata l-bijodiversità ta' go fihom u jkunu ukoll eliminati l-ispeċi invażivi li ġew introdotti tul is-snin.

Storbju.

Ir-regolamentazzjoni tal-istorbju tfigħi il-mod kif għandna niproteġu lill-komunità minn storbju eċċessiv li jkun iġġenerat. Dan ivarja mill-istorbju iġġenerat mill-ajruplani huma u nieżlin l-art minn fuq Birzebbuġa jew żoni oħra sal-ħoss iġġenerat mill-*air conditioner* tal-ġar. Mill-*"burglar alarm"* li jdum ħafna jdoqq sa ma jintefa, sa dak li jiġri bil-karozza fit-toroq bl-isterjow *full-on*. Jinkludi ukoll il-ħin u l-qawwa tal-logħob tan-nar li jsir fil-festi f'Malta.

L-immaniġġjar tal-istorbju huwa neċessarju fejn jiltaqgħu żoni kummerċjali u domestiċi, b'mod partikolari meta s-separazzjoni bejniethom hi waħda vertikali, ħafna drabi minima. Il-problemi jinqalgħu dejjem minħabba nuqqas ta' rispett, minħabba li xi hadd jippretendi li huwa iktar importanti minn xi haddiehor u allura jippretendi li dak li jagħmel hu għandu jkun tollerant ferm iktar.

F'pajjiżi oħra hemm liġijiet twal u dettaljati li jikkontrollaw il-ħsejjes permissibli. Alternattiva Demokratika fil-Parlament timpenja ruħha li dawn ikunu eżaminati bir-reqqa u li tithejja proposta li tkopri l-kontroll tal-ħsejjes eċċessivi li tiġġenera s-soċjetà Maltija tal-lum.

Irwejjah u l-Fastidju Ambjentali Environmental Nuisance

Huwa meħtieġ li jkunu regolati l-irwejjah (odours). Prinċipalment dawk regolati f'pajjiżi oħra huma dawk ikkawżati minn kċejjen industrijali. Ħafna drabi jiffurmaw parti minn restorant f'żona ta' użu mħallat fejn fil-livell terran ikollok r-restorant u fil-livelli l-oħra jkollok uffiċini u/jew residenzi jew tahlita tat-tnejn.

L-irwejjah jistgħu ukoll ikunu kkawżati kemm minn impjanti li jitrattaw id-drenaġ kif ukoll minn impjanti li jitrattaw l-iskart organiku jew minn impjanti li jipproduċu l-kompost. Il-livell ta' tolleranza għall-irwejjah jiddependi ħafna fejn dawn l-irwejjah ikunu qed jiġu ġġenerati.

It-trab ġenerat mill-industrija tal-kostruzzjoni jeffettwa l-arja fil-lokal u madwaru u huwa fastidju ambjentali. Ir-regolamenti li saru f'dawn l-aħħar snin biex ikun hawn maniġġjar aħjar ta' siti ta' kostruzzjoni għad m'humix infurzati b'mod sodisfaċenti. L-anqas m'hemm sorveljanza adegwata f'dawk il-postijiet fejn huma prodotti jew li minnhom issir distribuzzjoni ta' materjal użat mill-industrija ta' kostruzzjoni. Hemm bżonn li dawn l-attivitajiet isiru fi spazji magħluqa biex it-trab iġġenerat ikun jista' jingabar b'iktar faċilità u hekk ikun ridott sostanzjalment dan il-fastidju ambjentali.

Fl-ibliet u l-irħula tagħna hemm attività semi-industrijali li diversi drabi qed tagħti fastidju u tkun ta' inkonvenjent għar-residenti. Eżempju tipiku huma l-ifran kif ukoll manifatturi tal-helu sitwati f'nofs l-abitat. Bl-emissjonijiet tagħhom dawn ġieli jikkawżaw il-problemi. Filwaqt li hemm soluzzjonijiet teknoloġici għal din it-tip ta' attività, fuq kollox huwa neċessarju li d-daqs permissibli ta' din l-attività semi-industrijali għandha tkun waħda kompatibbli man-natura residenzjali tal-inħawi. B'hekk ikun assigurat inqas impatti negattivi fuq ir-residenti.

It-Tniġġis mid-Dawl.

It-tniġġis mid-dawl (*light pollution*) joħloq diffikultà għall-ħajja notturna fid-dinja tal-annimali kemm għall-għasafar (prinċipalment dawk li għadhom heġġin mill-bejta) kif ukoll tipi differenti ta' insetti. Huwa prinċipalment ta' theddida għall-bijodiversità kif jixhed rapport fuq l-materja ippubblikat xi snin ilu dwar proġett għall-ħarsien tal-għasafar fl-Aħrax tal-Mellieħa.

It-tniġġis mid-dawl huwa kkawżat minn dawl żejjed u dawl li jithalla jkun direzzjonat fejn m'hemmx bżonnu.

Kontroll tat-tniġġis mid-dawl jista' jagħti kontribut żgħir għat-tnaqqis ta' konsum tal-enerġija billi s-setturi li jridu jkunu indirizzati huma d-dwal fit-toroq, id-dwal madwar bini storiku u dwal estern f'bini pubbliki u bini kummerċjali bħall-lukandi.

Issues Nukleari u ta' Radjuattività.

Billi s'issa l-ebda Gvern Malti ma ppronunzja ruħu direttament favur l-enerġija nukleari l-issues nukleari li rridu niffaċċjaw huma dawk importati.

Fuq quddiem nett hemm l-iskart radjuattiv (mhux ħafna fil-kwantità) u li huwa prinċipalment iġġenerat minn impjanti ta' medicina nukleari bħall-X-Rays u magni tar-raġġi radjuattivi użati fit-trattament tal-kanċer. Dan l-aspett huwa normalment ikkunsidrat fil-kuntest tal-politika dwar l-iskart u minħabba l-kwantità żgħira ta' skart iġġenerata tkun teħtieġ l-esportazzjoni.

Il-problema prinċipali nukleari li trid tiffaċċja Malta hi konnessa ma' impjanti nukleari f'pajjiżi oħra. Fil-Mediterran fi ftit snin ser ikun hawn proliferazzjoni ta' impjanti b'Malta issir qiesha *sandwich* nukleari f'nofs il-Mediterran.

Wara d-diżastru ta' Fukushima fil-Ġappun, id-dinja saret iżjed sensittiva u konxja tal-impatti negattivi ta' impjanti nukleari. Dan wassal biex il-ġirien tagħna fl-Italja permezz ta' referendum ċaħdu l-enerġija nukleari għat-tieni darba f'25 sena. Imma issa rridu niffaċċjaw problema oħra fin-nofsinar fejn hemm pajjiżi li qed jipplanaw l-importazzjoni tat-teknoloġija nukleari minn Franza, pajjiż membru tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Huwa importanti li Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropea tiegħu posizzjoni li twassal biex mal-esportazzjoni tat-teknoloġija nukleari, meta din issir, tkun esportata ukoll ir-responsabbiltà u regolamentazzjoni fil-forma ta' trattati li permezz tagħhom il-pajjiżi li jirċievu t-teknoloġija nukleari jintrabtu mal-istess regoli applikabbli fl-Unjoni Ewropea.

Bhal diversi pajjiżi oħra Malta hawn ukoll il-preżenza tal-gass radjuattiv radon. Materja li hi sorveljata mid-Dipartiment tas-Saħha Ambjentali imma li dwarha ftit hawn informazzjoni pubblika. Alternattiva Demokratika timpenja ruħha li din il-materja tingħata iktar attenzjoni.

Radjazzjoni Elettromanjetika.

Ir-radjazzjoni elettromanjetika li temetti minn apparat konness mat-telefonija ċellulari hi l-kawża ta' ħafna tħassib, l-iktar minħabba li għadu mhux magħruf b'ċertezza x'inhu l-impatt fuq il-bniedem. Id-dinja xjentifika għadha ma waslitx għal konklużjoni definittiva dwar il-gravità ta' tali impatt. F'dawn iċ-ċirkustanzi Alternattiva Demokratika tiffavorixxi l-applikazzjoni tal-prinċipju ta' prewazzjoni imfassal u maqbul fil-konferenza ambjentali ta' Rio 1992 u li jiffirma parti mid-dikjarazzjoni ta' Rio (prinċipju 15). Tali prinċipju mhux biss huwa mnaqqax fil-leġislazzjoni ambjentali tal-UE, talli jiffirma parti ukoll mill-leġiżlazzjoni ambjentali Maltija.

Fid-dawl ta' dan Alternattiva Demokratika tinsisti li apparat telefoniku li jemmetti raġġi elettromanjetici m'għandhomx jitwāhħlu la fuq skejġel u f'postijiet frekwentati mit-tfal.

Responsabbiltà Soċjali tal-Industrija u n-Negozju (CSR).

Fid-dinja tal-lum huma diversi l-organizzazzjonijiet li jippubblikaw fuq bażi regolari rapporti li fihom jelenkaw f'dettall l-impatti tagħhom prinċipalment (iżda mhux biss) fuq il-komunità fejn joperaw.

F'Malta huma żewġ kumpaniji biss li jagħmlu dand: il-*Bank of Valletta* u *Vodafone*. S'issa ppubblikaw żewġ edizzjonijiet tar-rapporti tagħhom. Kull wieħed minn dawn il-pubblikazzjonijiet hu ta' kontribut pożittiv imma f'kull każ hemm lok għal titjib kemm fid-direzzjoni politika kif ukoll fil-kontenut tar-rapport.

Huwa neċessarju li dan ikun estiż għall-kumpaniji kollha elenkati fil-Borża kif ukoll għall-Korpi Parastatali bħall-Enemalta u l-Korporazzjoni għas-Servizzi tal-Ilma flimkien ma' dawk il-kumpaniji fis-settur privat li jimpjegaw iktar minn 1,000 ruħ. Huwa importanti li jkun sottolineat li r-rappurtaġġ ambjentali huwa importanti daqs dak finanzjarju u għaldaqstant għandu jkun ukoll soġġett għal proċess tal-verifika.

Għaqdiet Ambjentali mhux Governattivi u s-Soċjeta Ċivili.

L-Għaqdiet Ambjentali mhux Governattivi u s-Soċjeta Ċivili in ġenerali għandhom rwol importanti ħafna fil-proċess li permezz tiegħu l-pubbliku qed isir iżjed konxju kif l-impatti ambjentali tiegħu u ta' oħrajn jeffettwa l-kwalità tal-ħajja ta' kulhadd.

Hemm ħtieġa partikolarment fil-qasam ambjentali li dawk l-għaqdiet li għandhom struttura demokratika kif ukoll għaqdiet oħra mis-soċjetà ċivili jkollhom l-ikbar għajna possibbli biex ikunu jistgħu jkollhom l-għajna speċjalizzata u professjonali tant meħtieġa għall-ħidma tagħhom. Għajna ta' din ix-xorta trid tingħata b'mod trasparenti u mingħajr ma jkunu ppreferuti għaqdiet partikolari.

Riċerka Ambjentali.

Huwa importanti li l-politika ambjentali tagħti każ u tkun ibbażata fuq ir-riċerka. Dan jista' jsir kemm billi l-Gvern permezz tad-Dipartimenti u l-aġenziji tiegħu jagħmel riċerka b'mod dirett kif ukoll billi fejn neċessarju jikkummissjona korpi oħra bħall-Università li jagħmlu r-riċerka meħtieġa.

Ir-riżultati ta' din ir-riċerka għandhom ikunu magħrufa u aċċessibbli għal kull min ikun interessat li jgħarbilhom.

In partikolari huwa meħtieġ li ma jittieħdux deċiżjonijiet ta' politika ambjentali li ma jkunux imwieżna minn riċerka li tanalizza l-impatti ekonomiċi, soċjali u ambjentali.

Environment.

You know where we stand.

Politics cannot remain in direct confrontation with ecology but must be its most loyal partner. This signifies that we need to establish ecology as a point of reference. It signifies that politics must be more responsible in all areas including in bettering the quality of life.

Against Fragmentation.

MEPA which was established in 2002 through the amalgamation of the Planning Authority and the Department for the Environment has been generally ineffective in carrying out its duty of protecting the environment. This has come about because as a result of the structures created, even after the so-called 2010 reforms, the environmental function of MEPA has been entrusted in the hands of those who consistently indicated that their interest was in encouraging unbridled development. The Directorate for the Protection of the Environment is suffocated and can hardly act except in some exceptional case where it would be to the political benefit of Government.

In addition to this there is a serious problem resulting from the spreading of various environmental responsibilities under different Ministries and Authorities. Fragmentation reduces the effectiveness of any action taken.

In the past AD focused on the need to separate the environmental function from the land use planning function. This emphasis was made as the basic problem then was that the environment protection function was continuously over-ruled by those bent on development at all costs.

AD is today proposing a different solution. This solution is intended to address environment protection and identify it as a central function whilst simultaneously addressing the existing fragmentation: this can be carried out by consolidating all the environmental functions in one authority. We thus propose that MEPA and the Malta Resources Authority (MRA) are brought together in one authority. In a consolidated authority the environmental function should be central and should lead the Planning Directorate to take a secondary role.

The consolidated authority will eliminate existing duplication and will thus lead to a better utilisation of resources as well as trained staff currently on the books at MEPA and MRA .

Appointments.

The work undertaken will bear fruit depending on the competence and trustworthiness of those appointed to lead. AD hence proposes that whilst Government retains the right to appoint members of this consolidated Authority this should only be done after Parliament, though a Select Committee, consents to the proposed appointments. Parliament would be in a position to consider whether to give its consent after its Select Committee examines in a public hearing the proposed candidates. Every candidate would be examined in public on his/her experience and qualifications relative to the proposed post.

With reference to the representation of civil society sitting on the Board of the Authority, nominations should come directly from the affected bodies. There should be less public officers and more representatives of civil society in the consolidated authority.

This would hopefully lead towards an increase in the nomination of competent persons and consequently to a corresponding reducing in the appointment of persons whose best qualification is their political party membership card. As a result Parliament would be reclaiming from government an important role to ensure that environment protection is taken much more seriously.

This would apply to the Chairman and members of the Board administering the Authority as well as its principal officers, namely its Chief Executive Officer, the Directors as well as the members of the Commissions and Appeal Tribunals who decide on applications for development, resources as well as other environmental permits.

An Alert Parliament.

Members of Parliament should not have an active role in the running of the new Authority which substitutes MEPA and MRA. Parliament should make the necessary tools available such that a Parliamentary Select Committee dealing with the Environment, Resource Management and Land Use Planning can oversee the new Authority querying its Board of Directors and its principal officers on its operations whenever this is required. In this manner both the Authority's Board of Directors and the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary politically responsible for the Authority will be ultimately accountable to Parliament on a continuous basis.

The Role of the Community.

Various controversies have arisen on the impacts of large projects on the community. Reference is being made for example to the Sant' Antnin Waste Recycling Plant, the touristic development at Hondoq ir-Rummien, the extension of the Delimara Power Station, the extension of the Freeport and the mega projects referred to as the MIDI and the Fort Cambridge projects at Tigne Sliema.

In each of the above mentioned examples the community spoke up both directly as well as through civil society. In such cases AD is proposing that after the responsible authority would have processed the development application the community should have the right to express its opinion as to whether the project should proceed. This will be carried out through a local referendum called after a pre-identified number of registered voters make a request in line with the requirements of legislation or else through a call made by the Local Council on behalf of the community.

A project shall be submitted for the community's consideration in a referendum after all the relative studies would have been concluded as well after the said studies would have been available for a reasonable time for all those wishing to peruse them.

However in the case of infrastructural projects of national importance it shall be possible for Parliament (which represents the whole community at a national level) to intervene and take a final decision after ascertaining that the objections of the local community have been addressed.

Environmental Justice.

AD understands that projects of national importance will still face difficulties. This will keep recurring until such time that Central Government and Parastatal bodies do not address adequately the environmental impacts of these projects and until such time that sites for such projects keep being located in the southern parts of the country.

AD shall insist on the implementation of environmental justice such that whilst infra structural and industrial projects are planned with the minimal environmental impacts in mind the burdens created will as far as is possible not be shouldered only by the residential community in the southern parts of the island.

It is also an issue of justice that whoever carried out illegal construction activity shoulders his responsibilities. In particular Alternattiva Demokratika is proposing the immediate demolition of the illegally constructed boathouses at I-Ahrax tal-Mellieħa as well as those in other zones close to the sea such that the space close to the coast is back in community ownership to be enjoyed by all.

Water.

Water resources have been mismanaged throughout the years. Water extraction from the aquifer has been carried out without taking into consideration its natural replenishment. This does not only refer to the recorded water statistics. It also results from the number of boreholes which have been tolerated throughout the years. AD considers that the water extracted from illegal boreholes as the misappropriation of a publicly owned resource.

AD also believes that water – which is a strategic resource of national importance – should be priced in a realistic way. In the short run, all unregistered boreholes should be banned. In the longer run, save for some strategic exceptions such as agriculture, the true price of water should be reflected in its consumption, where wasteful practices, and not basic use of water, are to be penalized. Basic use should be subsidized. The Water Services Corporation should have full control of all water production, which should then be distributed according to the country's priorities.

Eventually all bore holes shall cease to be operational and steps have to be taken to ensure that it is clear to all that the water table is public property.

Water used for human consumption as well as all water used for domestic purposes is partly sourced from ground water (44%) whilst the rest is the result of processing of sea water through Reverse Osmosis technology. This amounts for around 29 million cubic metres annually.

Up till the present day the sewage generated in the Maltese islands which during 2011 was estimated at 24 million cubic metres (21,858,000 cubic metres in Malta and 1,982,000 cubic metres in Gozo) is being dumped into the sea, recently subsequent to purification.

AD has been insisting for a long time that the treated sewage which is being dumped into the sea is a wasted resource with a high economic and social value. It is technically possible that with additional treatment (polishing) this water can be used for agriculture, industry and public consumption as is being done in other countries notably Singapore.

The Resources Authority (MRA) as well as the Water Services Corporation (WSC) have been carrying out various trials and experiments in order to establish the optimum use of treated sewage. A proposal has been made that subject to the quality of the purified water being of an acceptable quality this could be used to recharge the aquifer. Whilst AD agrees with this proposal it should be underlined that for this objective to be attained it must be ascertained that only permissible liquid waste is discharged into the public sewer. For this objective to be achieved it must be ensured that industry, in particular SMEs, are conscious of their impacts when they discharge all sorts of chemical waste into the public sewer. Regulatory controls should be strengthened through the employment of a well-trained inspectorate as well as effective deterrents.

It is essential that more efforts are made in order that more rainwater is harvested in our towns and villages and that this should be put to good use. Insufficient efforts have been made to tackle the impacts of flooding. In this context it has to be stated that the restoration of valleys has to be a continuous process which protects biodiversity and ensures that accumulated waters are not the cause of any damage.

Development and Land Use.

The results of the 2011 Census have not yet been published. It is however very clear that when the result is known the number of vacant residential properties shall be well in excess of the 53,000 vacant dwellings documented in the 2005 Census. This clearly shows how the building industry was given a free rein, building in an uncontrolled manner with substantially more land being built up.

The Census results should be taken note of and lessons should be learnt. It should not be ignored as the 2005 Census was in relation to building and land use.

In view of this large number of vacant residential units AD insists that there is no need of large scale residential projects and it shall thus propose a moratorium on this type of development. It is also necessary that the rationalisation exercise through which additional land for development was identified in 2006 should be reversed in all those cases where land so identified has not yet been developed.

The increase in permissible heights for development in various localities which was brought into effect by the Local Plans approved in 2006 should be reversed. In these cases land speculators are placing in the shade various residential areas and as a result they are ruining investments which Maltese families have made in solar energy technology.

The construction of penthouses should be discouraged in order that roofs can be better used for the generation of solar energy.

The Building Industry.

The current slow down of the building industry makes it ripe for restructuring. The first step would be acceptance of the fact that too much of the Maltese islands are built up and that the up-take of more land for building should cease forthwith. Nor can we continue demolishing the core of our towns and villages and replacing them with more intensive development. The restoration of old buildings and their adaptation to uses compatible with today's needs is the necessary way forward.

Historical and Scheduled Property.

We have plenty of historical and scheduled properties which should be protected more rigorously. Physical restoration of public properties and schemes to finance and assist civil society in order that it commits itself to restoring our historical heritage is just a first step. It is essential that the restored buildings are put to good use.

Maltese Stone.

The availability of Maltese stone (globigerina) is on the wane.

We need to preserve stone which is already in use in old buildings. Where it would be necessary to demolish a building as it does not lend itself to be restored, the stone used should not be discarded but it should rather be reused. Ways should be found to reuse construction waste deposited in landfills. It is what our forefathers used to do. They did not waste anything.

Waste.

We encourage waste separation in localities. However we recognise that this is not enough. As a country we still lag behind and have failed to reach targets on packaging waste as well as waste generated by electrical and electronic equipment.

It is essential to address the operation of scrapyards. These process waste which is subject to at least three Directives of the EU, namely the WEEE Directive, the End of life Vehicles Directive and the Batteries Directive. The manner in which scrapyards have been permitted to operate signifies

a total disregard of the principles and safeguards listed in the said Directives. The fact that after more than eight years of EU membership we are still discussing these issues signifies the low level of preparedness to shoulder environmental responsibilities resulting from EU adhesion.

Environmental taxation

It is essential that environmental taxation (eco-contribution) is reformed in order that it be ascertained that environmental objectives are attained. The private sector should not be penalised through double payment in order that it fulfils its responsibilities relevant to waste on which eco-contribution was due.

Environmental taxation has two objectives. Generating funds to be used by the exchequer as well as to serve as a deterrent and consequently to reduce environmental impacts. For the deterrent to be effective it is essential that when environmental taxes are proposed it be ensured that as far as possible an alternative product or service to the one being taxed which generates less impacts than the taxed product or service is available.

On the other hand we are aware that environmental taxes which are not properly designed can be regressive. That is they can have a negative social impact due to their impacting the quality of life of those with limited means. In order to ensure that the primary objective of environmental taxation would be environmental improvement AD proposes that environmental taxation should be the joint responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Finance.

Sustainable Development.

It is necessary that environmental policy is continuously integrated with economic and social policy. This is carried out through the politics of sustainable development through which we consider the overall impacts of policy.

For this to occur the involvement of civil society is essential because the politics of sustainable development is first and foremost a strengthening of the democratic process through the involvement of one and all in the formulation and implementation of the necessary strategy.

After ignoring for more than 4 years the National Sustainable Development structures, government has proposed a law through which it abolished the National Commission for Sustainable Development and as a result impeded civil society from being involved in the construction of the sustainability infrastructure. This is completely mistaken. AD will seek to re-establish the involvement of civil society as the country needs to benefit from the commitment and experience of non-governmental organisations.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development has not yet reached the stage of implementation. In particular in each Ministry structures and mechanisms need to be set up in order to ensure that policy and its implementation has a long term view with its impacts on future generations being always in focus. This is essential not just to correct yesterday's mistakes but more so to encourage the formulation of positive politics in the Ministries, Departments and Authorities which together form the country's public sector.

Environmental Policy at a Local Level.

It is necessary that all realise that whilst environmental policy is formulated at a national level it finds its application at a local level.

"Think global act local" is not just a slogan used by those who direct environmental policy. It is a programme of action. "Agenda 21", a document approved during the 1992 Rio East Summit emphasises the need to involve Local Authorities as partners in this process.

In Malta the process through which Local Councils are concluding and publishing Local Strategies for Sustainable Development is very recent (2010). It was an initiative supported by government which needs further dissemination. It is however essential that Local Councils are not only assisted through the provision of the finance required. They need guidance on the essential elements of the exercise which they have embarked upon.

Climate Change.

Climate Change is anthropogenic. AD believes that all countries should contribute towards the solutions required in proportion to the impacts which they generate. Malta should seek to reduce its climate impacts through developing sustainable transport, energy and agriculture policies.

We need to address the climate change impacts on biodiversity, health, tourism, water, agriculture as well as maritime infrastructure.

Government should prepare plans on the climate change impacts of the various sectors. These plans in the form of a carbon budget drawn up after consultation with the social partners should be submitted periodically for Parliament's approval.

Air Quality.

Public transport reform could be the main contributor to a substantial improvement in air quality. Not just because the new buses pollute less but more so if strategies to encourage more use of public transport are in place.

One of Malta's environmental objectives is the use of all available means (technological, political, economic) in order to attain the limits established in the Clean Air Directive (2008/50/KE). Reductions in the sulphur dioxide (SO₂) levels measured have already been registered since Malta's EU accession. It remains that this reduction is also registered in respect of other pollutants, namely nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} particulate matter.

It is also required that industrial combustion plants which are not regulated by the EU Directive on large combustion plants are instead regulated through permits which establish limits for atmospheric pollution. These limits should be such that no conflict arises with the EU Directive on Air Quality.

It is also necessary to analyse the impacts of development on air quality and hence it is imperative that the first revision of the Local Plans takes this into consideration. In line with the practice in other EU countries it is necessary that MEPA refrains from issuing development permits for large projects in zones where the permissible thresholds for air quality have been exceeded. This would also apply if it results that such projects could be the cause of generating atmospheric pollution higher than that established in the Directive on Air Quality.

Biodiversity.

Biodiversity is not exclusively concerned with bird protection but on our interaction with the eco-system.

Alternattiva Demokratika shall focus on the need for the complete cessation of spring hunting as well as in ensuring that Malta's EU accession commitments on the halting of bird trapping are honoured.

It is necessary that zones identified for protection under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive are well managed. In particular it is necessary that Il-Buskett is no longer considered and utilised as a garden. The status of Il-Buskett as a Special Area of Conservation should be respected, something which is currently ignored.

Valley protection is also necessary. This has to be done within the context of a clear and holistic plan to rehabilitate valleys in such a manner that their resident biodiversity is respected and invasive species introduced throughout the years are removed.

Noise.

Regulating noise involves the protection of the community from excessive sound which is generated. This varies from the noise generated by aeroplanes when landing or taking off over Birżebbuġa or other areas to the noise generated by the neighbour's air conditioner. Or the burglar alarm which takes too long to be switched off. Or that car with a full-on stereo. It includes both the time of the day and the intensity of fireworks displayed during local festas in Malta.

The management of noise is necessary in those areas where there is a mix of residential and commercial uses, in particular

where these uses are separated in a vertical direction. Problems always arise due to a lack of respect, because of pretensions that someone is more important than someone else and hence expecting a greater degree of tolerance for his actions.

In other jurisdictions there exist long and detailed laws which regulate permissible noises. Alternattiva Demokratika in Parliament will endeavour to minutely examine such legislation and ensure that a proposal suitable for the needs of Maltese society is prepared.

Odours and Environmental Nuisance.

It is essential that odours are regulated. Odours regulated in other jurisdictions are primarily those generated by industrial kitchens. These generally form part of a restaurant in an area of mixed use where a restaurant is sited at ground floor having offices or residential units or a mixture of both at the levels above.

Odours can also be generated by waste water treatment plants as well as in plants processing organic waste or plants producing compost. The level of tolerance of such odours is dependent on the location of the site where they are generated.

Dust generated by the construction industry affects the local environment and is a cause of environmental nuisance. Regulations made in recent years for the better management of construction sites are not yet enforced in a satisfactory manner. Nor is there adequate supervision on those sites used for the production and/or distribution of materials used by the construction industry. It is necessary that this type of activity is carried out in a closed environment such that dust generated can be recovered and the environmental nuisance caused substantially reduced.

There is activity of a semi-industrial nature taking place in our towns and villages which is the source of nuisance and is inconveniencing various residents. Typical examples are bakeries and confectioners situated within residential areas. Their emissions are occasionally the cause of problems. Whilst there are technological solutions for this type of activity it is necessary to ensure that the size of such semi-industrial activity is compatible with the residential nature of the area where

it is situated. This would ensure the minimum of negative impacts on residents.

Light Pollution.

Light pollution causes difficulties for nocturnal life amongst animals, both for birds (primarily those newly hatched) as well as for different types of insects. It is primarily a threat to biodiversity as is evidenced by a report on the subject published some years ago in conjunction with a bird protection project at I- l-Aħrax in Mellieħa.

Light pollution is caused by an excess of light as well as misdirected light. Controlling light pollution can be a small contribution towards the reduction of energy consumption as the areas to be tackled are street lighting, the floodlighting of historic buildings and the external lighting of public and commercial buildings including hotels.

Nuclear Issues and Radioactivity.

As no Maltese Government has ever pronounced itself directly in favour of nuclear energy the nuclear issues which we must face are imported ones.

First on the list would be radioactive waste which is not much in quantity and being primarily generated by sites providing services using nuclear medicine such as X-Rays and radioactive treatment plants used in treating cancer patients. This is an aspect normally considered within the context of waste management policy and in view of the small quantities of waste involved this is normally exported.

The main nuclear problem which Malta must face and address is related to nuclear plants in other countries. The Mediterranean will in the near future face a proliferation of nuclear plants with Malta being transformed into a nuclear sandwich in the centre of the Mediterranean.

Following the Fukushima disaster in Japan the whole world is much more sensitive and conscious as to the negative impacts of nuclear plants. This has led our Italian neighbours to renounce nuclear energy for the second time in 25 years through a referendum. However we will now have to face the problem in our southern flank where various countries are planning to import nuclear technology from France an EU member state. It is imperative that Malta within the European Union structures emphasises that when the export of nuclear technology is carried out this has to be accompanied by a sense of responsibility and regulation through treaties as a result of which the countries receiving this technology bind themselves to the same rules applicable within the European Union.

As in other countries there is in Malta a presence of the radioactive gas radon. This is an issue which the Department of Environmental Health supervises but in respect of which little if any information is made public. Alternattiva Demokratika will endeavour to give more importance to this matter.

Electromagnetic Radiation.

Electromagnetic radiation emitted by equipment related to wireless telephony is the cause of concern due to the fact that there is no certainty yet on its impacts on man. The scientific world has not yet arrived at a definite conclusion on the seriousness of this impact. In these circumstances Alternattiva Demokratika favours the implementation of the precautionary principle drafted and agreed to in the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and which forms part of the Rio Declaration (principle 15). This principle is not only written into EU environmental legislation, but it also forms part of Maltese environmental legislation.

In view of the above Alternattiva Demokratika insists that telephonic apparatus which emits electromagnetic radiation should not be fixed on schools nor in places frequented by children.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

In today's world various organisations publish reports on a regular basis in which they list their impacts primarily on the community in which they operate. In Malta only two companies do so, Bank of Valletta and Vodafone. To date they have published two editions of their reports. Each of these publications is of a positive nature but in every case there is room for improvement both in the policy direction as well as in content. It is necessary that all companies listed on the Stock Exchange as well as parastatal organisations such as Enemalta and the Water Services Corporation together with all companies employing more than 1000 employees publish such information. It is important to underline that environmental reporting is as important as financial reporting and hence it should also be audited.

Environmental NGOs and Civil Society.

Environmental NGOs and civil society in general have a very important role in the process through which the public becomes more aware how their environmental impacts affects everybody's quality of life. It is necessary, in particular in the environmental field, that those organisations which have a democratic structure, as well as civil society in general,

are assisted such that they can have access to specialised professional advice which is essential in their activities. Such assistance should be forthcoming in a transparent manner and without any particular organisation being preferred.

Environmental Research.

It is imperative that environmental policy is based on research. This can be achieved through both research carried out directly by Government through its departments and agencies as well as through the commissioning of research carried out by other bodies such as the University, where this is felt necessary. The results achieved should be accessible to all those who are interested.

In particular it is necessary that no decisions on environmental policy are taken without first subjecting such policy to an analysis of its economic, social and environmental impacts.

15

Familja. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-kunċett ta' familja jvarja f'kuntesti soċjali differenti. Il-bidliet soċjali li qed iseħħu madwarna raw lill-familja Maltija tevoli u tinbidel u għalhekk inkunu aktar preċiżi jekk nużaw l-idea ta' 'familji' biex inkunu qed nirriflettu ir-realtajiet ta' llum. Il-politika soċjali ta' Alternattiva Demokratika tagħraf diversi tipi ta' familja li jeżistu fis-soċjetà Maltija u tħares id-drittijiet u l-obbligi tal-individwi li jikkomponu dawn il-forom diversi ta' familja. Fl-istess ħin tishaq fuq l-importanza li tiġi indirizzata din id-diversità minflok jibqa' jiġi pproġettat tip wieħed ta' familja. Alternattiva Demokratika temmen li għandna nersqu lejn mudell ta' familji ibbażat fuq l-idea ta' 'universal caregiver', fejn kulhadd, irrispettivament minn sess u stat, għandu jkun involut fl-isfera pubblika (eż. l-impjeg u x-xogħol) u dik privata (eż. ħarsien). Politika demokratika tal-familja għandu wkoll ikollha lit-tfal fil-qafas ċentrali tagħha, fejn irrispettivament mit-tip ta' familja, il-ġenituri jkollhom drittijiet u dmirijiet f'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mat-tfal.

Alternattiva Demokratika tagħraf l-importanza tal-familja fis-soċjetà Maltija. Ħafna mill-ġid, materjali u mhux, li jinholq fis-soċjetà Maltija, hu frott il-ħidma tal-familji Maltin u Għawdxin. Alternattiva Demokratika hija kburiya li kienet il-mutur li wassal għall-introduzzjoni tad-divorzju f'Malta. Bl-istess mod, AD tipproponi l-introduzzjoni ta' politika soċjali progressiva fil-qasam tal-familja.

Għajnuna lill-Familja.

Alternattiva Demokratika temmen li l-istat għandu jgħin lill-familji biex ikunu aktar integrati fis-soċjetà permezz ta' qafas soċjali, strutturi komunitarji u servizzi soċjali addattati għar-realtajiet soċjo-ekonomiċi ta' llum. Dan mhux biss biex iktar familji jkunu jistgħu jgawdu livell t'għixien diċenti u jittaffa l-faqar fost il-ħafna familji li għadhom qed iġarrbuh, imma wkoll biex kemm l-iġiel kif ukoll in-nisa fil-familji tagħna ikollhom l-oportunità li jagħtu sehemhom fil-ħajja pubblika kif ukoll fit-trobbija tal-ulied.

Għal dan il-għan Alternattiva Demokratika tipproponi:

Servizzi ta' ħarsien tat-tfal (child care) għandhom ikunu universalment accessibbli u f'kollaborazzjoni mas-settur privat, il-Gvern għandu jipprovdi servizzi bla ħlas lil min għandu bżonnhom.

Il-maternity leave għandu jiżdied għal 20 ġimgħa bi ħlas filwaqt li l-missirijiet għandhom jingħataw ġimagħtejn leave bi ħlas ukoll meta jkollhom tarbija. Malta toffri l-iqsar perġodu ta' maternity leave fl-Ewropa minkejja li ta' spiss nisimghu retorika politika dwar l-importanza tal-familja u l-importanza li l-ġenituri jqattgħu ħin ma' wliedhom. Il-Gvern għandu jerfa' parti mill-piż u jikkonsidra li jaqsam fil-finanżjament tal-parental leave jew jiffinanzjah hu bħal ma jsir f'ħafna pajjizi fl-Ewropa minflok jitfa' din ir-responsabbiltà

kollha fuq min iħaddem. B'hekk ikun jista' jiġi mħares dan id-dritt tal-ħaddiema, speċjalment nisa, li jibqgħu fl-impieg meta jkollhom tarbija u mhux jiġu kostretti li jtitlqu mix-xogħol. Dan huwa mod effettiv kif il-Gvern jista' jgħin bis-serjetà lill-ħaddiema nisa u rġiel biex isibu bilanċ aħjar bejn ix-xogħol u l-ħajja tal-familja.

Għandu jkun hemm leave għall-ħaddiema li jridu jieħdu ħsieb anzjani u persuni b'diżabbiltà kif ukoll leave għall-ġenituri meta jkollhom it-tfal ma jifilħux. Dawn huma miżuri importanti biex aktar nies, speċjalment nisa, li għadhom qed iġorru ħafna minn dawn il-piżijiet waħedhom, ikunu jistgħu jipparteċipaw fid-dinja tax-xogħol b'mod aktar shih u b'rashom mistrieħa.

Għandhom jiġu appoġġjati sistemi ta' job sharing, flexitime u telework biex jgħinu fl-integrazzjoni tal-ġenituri fid-dinja tax-xogħol, filwaqt li jibqgħu jieħdu ħsieb effettiv tal-familji tagħhom.

Għandu jiġi ikkunsidrat li jitwessa' s-servizz ta' attivitajiet li jingħata fl-iskejjel wara l-ħin uffiċjali tal-iskola u waqt il-vaganzi, biex b'hekk ikun ipprovdut f'kull parti ta' Malta u Għawdex. Dan is-servizz jista' jingħata kemm minn għalliema stess li jkunu jixtiequ jagħtu s-servizz tagħhom mingħajr obbligu jew inkella jistgħu jiġu impjegati nies biex joffru dan is-servizz. Dawn l-attivitajiet jistgħu jinvolvu għajnuna fil-homework lit-tfal kif ukoll attivitajiet varji bħal sport, lezzjonijiet tal-mużika u arti fost oħrajn.

Barra minn hekk għandhom jingħataw inċentivi lil min iħaddem fis-settur privat biex benefiċċji li huma aċċessibbli biss għal min jaħdem mal-gvern (bħal flexitime, reduced hours) jingħataw ukoll lill-ħaddiema f'dan is-settur biex b'hekk ma jkunx hemm diskriminazzjoni bejn ħaddiema ta' setturi differenti. Dan il-piż fuq min iħaddem jista' jintrefa' kollu jew parzjalment mill-Gvern. Fl-aħħar mill-aħħar, dan iservi ta' ġid kemm għall-ħaddiema, kif ukoll għal min iħaddem u għall-ekonomija

tal-pajjiż.

Għandu jiġi mhegġeġ it-twaqqif ta' ko-operattivi li jipprovdu servizzi komunitarji bħal ċentri ta' matul il-jum, ċentri rikreattivi fil-komunità, canteens u servizzi ta' tindif tad-djar, fost oħrajn.

Għandu jkun hemm ċentru għall-ippjanar tal-familja tal-istat biex jgħin persuni u koppji biex jingħataw pariri u informazzjoni dwar il-ħajja sesswali u riproduttiva tagħhom.

It-trattament tal-IVF bla ħlas offrut mis-servizz pubbliku tas-saħħa għandu jiffaċilita l-ħajja il-ġenituri prospettivi li huma infertili. M'għandux ikun hemm diskriminazzjoni fuq l-ebda bażi għall-aċċess għal dan is-servizz, u l-applikanti għandhom jingħataw counselling professjonali.

Koabitazzjoni.

L-istat għandu jagħraf d-drittijiet u l-obbligi ta' koppji li jkunu ilhom jgħixu flimkien għal perjodu ta' aktar minn 5 snin. Għandu jiġi introdott reġistru pubbliku biex min irid jirreġistra il-koabitazzjoni. Din l-għażla għandha tkun volontarja.

Koppji li jikkoabitaw għandhom jingħataw drittijiet simili bħal dawk ta' koppji miżżewġin f'kuntesti differenti tal-ħajja.

Qraba jew ħbieb li flimkien jikkostitwixxu household (eż. bint u omm anzjana, żewġ anzjani jgħixu flimkien għall-wens, eċċ.) għandu jkollhom l-istess drittijiet fejn jidhol housing, visti l-isptar, wirt u benefiċċji soċjali bħal koppji eterosesswali u tal-istess sess li jgħixu f'koabitazzjoni.

It-tfal li jitwiellu minn ġenituri mhux miżżewġa għandu jkollhom l-istess drittijiet bħal tfal oħra f'kull qasam inkluż f'każ ta' wirt.

Familji b'Ġenitur Wieħed.

In-numru ta' familji b'ġenitur wieħed żdied ħafna f'dawn l-aħħar snin. Minbarra l-mewt, raġunijiet li jwasslu għal dan huma t-tqala fost nisa żgħażaġh mhux miżżewġin kif ukoll is-separazzjonijiet u d-divorzju. Fost dawn il-familji li l-maġġoranza tagħhom huma fformati minn ommijiet u t-tfal tagħhom, hemm rata għolja ta' faqar. Għalhekk, Alternattiva Demokratika tipproponi li:

L-inkluzjoni ta' dawn il-persuni fis-soċjetà Maltija għandha tkun prijorità nazzjonali. Dawn il-familji għandhom jingħataw sussidju fuq l-użu ta' ċentri ta' matul il-jum u għajnuna biex isibu dar fejn jgħixu.

L-ETC għandha tkompli torganizza korsijiet speċjali ta' taħriġ biex dawn il-persuni jkunu jistgħu jsibu xogħol filwaqt li jiġu pprovduti faċilitajiet bla ħlas biex waqt il-ħin tat-taħriġ dawn il-ġenituri jsibu fejn u ma' min iħallu t-tfal tagħhom.

Importanti li dawn il-familji jkollhom aktar aċċess għad-dinja tax-xogħol speċjalment dawk bi tfal żgħar. Għal dawn il-familji huwa ħafna aktar diffiċli biex jinstab bilanċ bejn ix-xogħol u l-ħarsien tat-tfal.

Adozzjoni.

Għandu jkun aktar faċli għal koppji li jkunu jridu jaddottaw tfal li illum jgħixu fid-djar tat-tfal. Meta persuni jew koppji japplikaw għall-adozzjoni, kull każ għandu jiġi eżaminat fuq bażi individwali. M'għandux ikun hemm diskriminazzjoni fuq ebda bażi ta' min japplika meta jiġi ikkunsidrat jekk persuna jew koppja humiex eliġibbli biex jaddottaw. L-uniċi kriterji li għandhom jintużaw sabiex jiġi stabbilit jekk il-koppja jew l-individwu humiex idoneji biex jaddottaw huma li min jagħmel id-domanda għall-adozzjoni jkun kapaċi jieħu ħsieb tal-esiġenzi tat-tfal.

Fejn l-adozzjoni ma tkunx possibbli, għandu jkun inkorraġġit iktar il-fostering anki permezz ta' incentivi fiskali. F'każi serji bħal abbandun permanenti u abbuż fiżiku u mentali, il-ġenituri naturali għandhom jitilfu l-parental rights tagħhom, liema drittijiet jgħaddu lill-koppji adottivi. L-interessi tat-tfal għandhom dejjem ikunu l-aktar fattur importanti.

Tfal addottati għandu jkollhom id-dritt legali li jkunu jafu li huma addottati.

Malta għandha tirrispetta l-obbligazzjonijiet internazzjonali tagħha biex tiżgura li l-ebda ċittadin Malti ma jkun qed jagħmel negozju minn tfal f'pajjiżi oħra għal skop ta' adozzjoni, traffikar ta' organi jew abbużi oħra. Malta għandha tagħmel trattati ma' pajjiżi oħra biex tirregola dan il-qasam.

Drittijiet tat-Tfal.

Illum il-ġurnata it-tfal għandhom ħafna aktar drittijiet milli kellhom qabel. Madankollu hawn ħafna tfal fis-soċjetà tagħna li qed ibatu minħabba faqar, abbuż jew għax id-drittijiet tagħhom mhux qed jiġu mħarsa. It-tfal għandu jkollhom dritt għall-kenn, ikel, kura medika, edukazzjoni u trobbija ħielsa mill-vjolenza u l-abbuż. Għandu jkun hemm rimedji legali biex tittieħed azzjoni kontra dawk kollha li ma jirrispettawx dawn id-drittijiet. Iċ-Charter tad-Drittijiet tat-Tfal tal-Ġnus Magħquda għandu jiġi applikat u rikonoxxut.

Is-sistema edukattiva għandha tkun waħda holistika li tinkludi l-aspetti emozzjonali, fiżiċi u psikoloġiċi u mhux biss l-aspett akkademiku. (Ara il-kapitlu dwar l-edukazzjoni).

Tfal ta' nazzjonalitajiet u kulturi differenti li jghixu go pajjiżna għandhom jiġu integrati b'mod effettiv fil-komunità u speċjalment go-iskejjel tagħna. Dan japplika ukoll għal tfal oħra f'minoranzi bħal ma huma tfal b'diżabilità.

F'Malta hawn hafna tfal li qed jghixu fil-faqar. Għandu jsir dak kollu possibbli biex jittaffa l-faqar fost it-tfal speċjalment billi jiżdied l-aċċess għal xogħol diċenti lill-ġenituri li qed irabbu t-tfal waħedhom u billi nagħmlu x-xogħol aktar attraenti minn ħajja dipendenti fuq is-servizzi soċjali.

It-tfal għandhom id-dritt li jghixu f'familji stabbli. Għandu jkun hemm servizzi ta' għajjnuna lill-familji li għaddejjin minn problemi fil-familja.

It-tfal għandhom jiġu protetti legalment minn kwalunkwe tip ta' sfruttament kummerċjali jew politiku.

Għandu jithejja qafas leġislattiv li jipproteġi t-tfal mill-isfruttament sesswali inkluż il-pedofilija fuq l-internet.

Malta għandha taħdem favur il-qerda tax-xogħol tat-tfal fid-dinja kollha, filwaqt li jsir kontroll fuq l-importazzjoni ta' prodotti li jkunu r-riżultat ta' dan l-isfruttament. Fl-istess ħin l-istat għandu jippromwovi u jappoġġja inizjattivi bħall-kummerċ ġust li huwa hieles minn dawn l-abbużi.

Għandu jkun hemm infurzar akbar tal-liġijiet li jipproteġu lit-tfal minn xogħol taħt l-età. Għal ċerti tfal, ix-xogħol taħt l-età qed jispiċċa jillimitalhom hafna mill-possibilitajiet f'ħajjithom speċjalment għax iċaħħadhom minn edukazzjoni xierqa.

Jeħtieġ li jsir aktar investment fi strutturi ta' support fejn ikunu jistgħu jingħataw kenn, għajjnuna u appoġġ lil dawk it-tfal li jkun hemm bżonn li jitneħħew mill-qafas tal-familja tagħhom għal ragunijiet diversi bħal abbuż jew abbandun. Bħalissa hemm tfal li jkollhom jintbagħtu lura għand il-ġenituri tagħhom minhabba n-nuqqas ta' strutturi li jeżistu għal dan il-ghan.

Jeħtieġ li jsir aktar sforz biex ma neqirdux iktar postijiet miftuħa fejn it-tfal jistgħu jilagħbu f'ambjent mingħajr tniġġiż. It-tniġġiż tal-arja qed iwassal għal rati ogħla ta' mard fost it-tfal.

Vjolenza Domestika.

Il-vjolenza fil-familja hafna drabi ma tidhirx u faċli ninjorawha u nittraskurawha. Dan qed iwassal għal numru ta' traġedji inviżibbli fis-satra ta' hafna djar f'pajjiżna. Eluf ta' persuni qed jghixu fil-biża' minhabba l-vjolenza fil-familji li mhux neċessarjament tkun ta' xejra fiżika. Il-vjolenza domestika m'għandhiex klassi soċjali. In-nisa u t-tfal huma l-aktar vulnerabbli għalkemm l-irġiel ukoll jistgħu ikunu vittmi tal-vjolenza domestika. Fid-dawl ta' dan:

Il-*helpline* 179 m'għandhiex titmexxa minn voluntiera, anki jekk ikunu mħarrġa, imma minn haddiema mħarrġa li jkunu disponibbli bil-lejl u bi nhar.

Il-korp tal-pulizija għandu jkollu taqsima speċjalizzata biex tiżgura l-ħarsien tal-vittmi tal-vjolenza u wliedhom. Il-pulizija trid tkun sensittiva għal dawn is-sitwazzjonijiet u għandha tiġi mħarrġa sabiex tittrattahom b'mod aktar effettiv.

In-numru ta' haddiema tal-unità dwar il-Vjolenza Domestika fi hdan l-Appoġġ għandu jiżdied sabiex ikun jista' jitratta b'mod aktar effettiv l-għadd ta' nisa li jitolbuhom l-għajjnuna. Investment akbar jista' jgħin lill-unità mhux biss tiddedika aktar ħin lill-każi individwali, iżda wkoll biex l-attivitajiet fir-rigward tat-taħriġ tal-professionisti u kampanji edukattivi jiġu estiżi, kif ukoll ikun hemm rabta aħjar ma' entitajiet legali, tas-saħħa u edukattivi oħrajn.

Il-vittmi tal-vjolenza għandu jinħarġilhom ordni ta' protezzjoni minn meta jibda l-proċess legali, mhux biss wara li l-akkużat ikun instab ħati.

Il-kenn għall-vittmi tal-vjolenza domestika għandu jintuża biss għal dan il-ghan. Minhabba n-natura sensittiva ta' dawn il-każijiet u t-trauma li jkollha tgħaddi minnha persuna li jkollha thalli d-dar, huwa xieraq li s-servizz offrut ikun spejalizzat u ffukat.

Nisa li jghixu fil-kenn apposta m'għandhomx jinġieghlu mill-qrati jikxfu fejn qed jghixu lill-aggressur tagħhom, lanqas għall-ghanijiet tal-kustodja tat-tfal. Barra minn hekk, f'każi ta' vjolenza domestika, spiss tkun il-mara li jkollha thalli d-dar u mhux l-aggressur. Hemm bżonn aktar sforzi f'dan ir-rigward sabiex titnaqqas it-tbatija tal-vittmi tal-vjolenza, speċjalment fir-rigward tal-perjodi ta' żmien fejn tittiehed azzjoni legali kontra l-aggressur. L-aggressur għandu jiġi mġieghel jhalli d-dar tal-familja wara li jkun sar rapport lill-pulizija.

Billi bosta vittmi tal-vjolenza m'għandhomx ir-riżorsi finanzjarji biex iħallu għall-qrati, spiss ikollhom jiddependu mill-għajjnuna legali tal-istat. Din is-sistema mhix dejjem effiċjenti u spiss twassal għal aktar tbatija minhabba li l-proċeduri tal-qrati jdumu hafna, ħaġa li hija ta' strapazz għan-nisa trawmatizzati u abbużati.

Barra minn hekk, għandu jkun hemm kemm jista' jkun kontinwazzjoni fil-każ tas-servizzi legali fejn il-każ ta' vjolenza domestika jwassal għal każ ta' separazzjoni, minflok ma jkun hemm żewġ każi separati. Dan ifisser aktar burokrazija u ħela ta' ħin għall-vittmi trawmatizzati. Filwaqt li għadd ta' servizzi importanti huma offruti sew lill-vittmi sew lill-aggressuri, koordinazzjoni u kontinwità aħjar fost min jipprovi s-servizzi tiżgura servizz aktar holistiku.

Il-liġi li tirregola l-abbuż għandha tiġi riveduta sabiex il-persuni vjolenti jinghataw pjeni eħrex u/jew appoġġ jekk ikunu jeħtieġ l-għajnuna. Għandha wkoll tiġi riveduta biex eventwalment tinkorpora d-dispożizzjonijiet tal-Konvenzjoni tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa dwar il-pervenzjoni u l-ġlieda kontra l-vjolenza fuq in-nisa u l-vjolenza domestika.

Kampanji edukattivi kontra l-vjolenza għandhom jilhqg partijiet interessati bħall-professjonijisti tas-saħħa, legali u edukattivi kif ukoll vittmi prospettivi tal-vjolenza. Għandhom ukoll jimmiraw lil dawk li jkunu għaddejnin minn din it-trauma sabiex isibu l-kuraġġ jagħmlu dan il-pass. Huwa wkoll importanti li x-xhieda tal-vjolenza jitheggu jiehdu l-azzjoni u jkunu infurmati dwar dan.

Għandu jgħaddi l-messaġġ li l-vjolenza għandha forom diversi u l-ebda waħda minnhom ma hija aċċettabbli.

Hemm bżonn jiġu involuti l-irġiel f'dawn il-kampanji. Dan ikun tajjeb biex jiġu indirizzati ċerti sterjotipi, u jgħinu wkoll biex l-irġiel jidentifikaw aktar mal-kawża.

L-edukazzjoni u s-sensibilizzazzjoni dwar l-ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi trid tibda fost it-tfal. Neħtieġu sforz kollettiv biex niġġieldu aktar kontra l-isterjotipi jekk tassew irridu naslu għal ugwaljanza shiħa.

Żwieġ li ma jirnexxix.

L-AD kburiya li kienet strumentali fl-introduzzjoni tal-leġiżlazzjoni dwar id-divorzju f'Malta. Madankollu, tiħasseb dwar iż-żieda ta' żwieġ li ma jirnexxix.

L-istat għandu jipprovdi għajnuna ta' counselling għal dawk li jkunu għaddejnin minn diffikultajiet fil-familja biex kemm jista' jkun il-koppja ma tirrikorrixi għad-divorzju jew għas-separazzjoni. Iżda għaladarba il-koppja tiddeċiedi li tapplika għad-divorzju, il-koppja għandha tinghata l-għażla ta' servizzi ta' appoġġ, pariri u informazzjoni.

Għandha ssir aktar riċerka biex naraw x'qed iwassal għal żieda fiż-żwieġijiet li mhux jirnexxu biex inkunu nistgħu nindirizzaw dawn il-problemi bis-serjetà.

Nisa.

Ma teżistix demokrazija veru mingħajr il-partecipazzjoni shiħa tan-nisa f'kull livell u qasam tas-soċjetà. Is-soċjetà Maltija għadha waħda li ma tistax tisseejaħ demokratika għal kollox għax in-nisa mhumieħ rappreżentati daqs l-irġiel fl-istituzzjonijiet u fil-ħajja politika, soċjali, ekonomika u kulturali tal-pajjiż. Dan ifisser ukoll li Malta qed tiċċaħħad mill-potenzjal kreattiv ta' ħafna nisa. Dan l-iżbilanċ demokratiku fis-soċjetà Maltija għandu jiġi korrett b'miżuri konkreti.

Biex jiġi indirizzat dan l-iżbilanċ f'kull qasam tal-ħajja għandu jiddaħħal il-kunċett ta' azzjoni affermattiva. Dan jista' jsir b'diversi modi. Fejn meħtieġ għandhom jiġu riservati ċerti pożizzjonijiet amministrattivi u impjeggi għan-nisa. In-nisa jistgħu ukoll jinghataw preferenza fuq l-irġiel f'dawk l-oqsma li fihom hemm nuqqas ta' partecipazzjoni tan-nisa. Meta japplikaw għal impjeg jew

pożizzjoni amministrattiva f'dawn l-oqsma, jekk mara jkollha l-istess kwalifiki daqs l-applikanti maskili, il-mara għandha tinghata preferenza.

Nisa li jkollhom jinterrompu l-karriera minħabba t-tqala m'għandhomx jitlefu s-seniority tagħhom fuq il-post tax-xogħol. L-irġiel għandu jkollhom id-dritt li jieħdu parental leave matul is-sena meta titwieled jew tiġi addottata tarbija. Dan jgħin biex ma tkunx dejjem il-mara li twaqqaf il-karriera.

Għandhom jiġu offruti aktar possibiltajiet ta' job sharing, teleworking u flexitime biex ikun aktar faċli li ħaddiema kemm nisa kif ukoll irġiel jirrikonċiljaw il-ħinijiet tax-xogħol ma' dawk tal-familja.

Hemm bżonn li jsir aktar enfażi fuq ir-rwol importanti tal-missier fit-trobbija tal-ulied biex kulturalment u soċjalment tidhol aktar l-idea ta' rwoli ugwali u qsim ta' xogħol bejn in-nisa u l-irġiel fi ħdan il-familja.

Għandha tinghata aktar importanza lill-kura preventiva rigward mard li jolqot lin-nisa (eż. kankru tas-sider). Għandu jsir monitoraġġ minn kmieni biex jiġu identifikati l-problemi mill-ewwel.

LGBT.

Għandu jkun hemm ugwaljanza shiħa bejn koppji tal-istess sess u koppji eterosesswali f'kull aspett tal-ħajja. L-istat għandu jiftaħ l-istituzzjoni taż-żwieġ ċivili għall-koppji tal-istess sess u għaldaqstant jagħti l-istess drittijiet u obbligi lil kull koppja (kemm dawk eterosesswali kif ukoll dawk tal-istess sess).

Ugwaljanza shiħa għandha tkun garantita ukoll, fost oħrajn, għad-dritt għall-IVF u għall-adozzjoni, irrispettivament mill-orjentazzjoni sesswali u l-istat ċivili ta' dak li jkun.

Għandu jkun hemm pjan nazzjonali għat-tiħ tad-drittijiet u l-promozzjoni tal-ugwaljanza tal-persuni LGBT f'kull qasam tal-ħajja. Dan il-pjan għandu jiġi żviluppat bi djalogu mal-komunita' LGBT.

Għandu jkun hemm emenda fil-kostituzzjoni li permezz tagħha d-diskriminazzjoni fuq bażi ta' orjentazzjoni sesswali u identita' tal-generu tiġi ipprojbita. L-istat għandu immedjatament jagħraf l-identita' tal-generu ta' persuni li jkunu assumew identita' ġdida u din għandha

tkun riflessa fid-dokumenti uffiċjali tal-persuna bhall-karta tal-identita` u l-passaport. L-istat għandu jippermetti li dawn il-persuni jiżżewġu.

Għandu jiġi ratifikat Protokol 12 tal-Konvenzjoni Ewropea tad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem u Malta għandha tiegħu rwol aktar attiv fil-promozzjoni tad-drittijiet tal-persuni LGBT fuq livell internazzjonali.

Family Policy.

You know where we stand.

The concept of the family varies in different social contexts. The social changes happening around have seen the family evolving and changing and therefore we would be more accurate if we refer to “families” in order to reflect today’s realities. The social policy of Alternattiva Demokratika recognises different family types which exist in Maltese society and respects the rights and obligations of individuals forming part of these diverse family types. At the same times it stresses the importance of addressing such diversity instead of continuing to project one type of family.

Alternattiva Demokratika believes that we should move towards a family model based on the idea of the ‘universal caregiver’, where everyone, irrespective of one’s sex or status, is able to participate in the public sphere (e.g. Employment) and in the private sphere (e.g. Caring). A democratic family policy should also have children within its central framework, where regardless of the type of family, the parents should have rights and responsibilities where children are concerned.

Alternattiva Demokratika recognises the importance of the family in Maltese society. A lot of wealth, both material and not, which is created in society, is the fruit of Maltese and Gozitan families. Alternattiva Demokratika is proud to have been pivotal in the introduction of divorce in Malta. In the same way, AD proposes the introduction of a progressive social policy pertaining to the family.

Supporting Families.

Alternattiva Demokratika believes that the state should help families become more integrated in society by means of a social framework, communal structures and social services to meet today’s socioeconomic realities. This not only so that more families will be able to enjoy a decent standard of living and to reduce poverty experienced by many families, but also so that both men and women in our families would have the opportunity to give their contribution both in public life and in the upbringing of children.

Thus Alternattiva Demokratika proposes that:

Child care services should be universally accessible and, in collaboration with the private sector, the State should provide free services to those who need them.

Maternity leave should be extended to 20 weeks with pay while fathers should also be granted two weeks of paid leave when they have a baby. Malta offers the shortest period of maternity leave in Europe despite the fact that we often hear political rhetoric about the importance of the family and the importance of parents spending time with their children. The Government should carry part of the burden and should consider sharing the financing of

parental leave or else finance it completely as happens in other European countries instead of putting all this responsibility on employers. In this way this right of workers, particularly female workers, to continue working once they become parents instead of being constrained to leave employment, would be respected. This is an effective way in which the Government can seriously support female and male workers to achieve a better balance between work and family life.

Workers who need to take care of elderly persons or persons with disability should be able to avail themselves of leave off work. This applies also to parents who need to take leave when their children are sick. These are important measures so that more people, especially women, who still carry most of these burdens on their own, would be able to participate fully in the world of work with less stress.

Systems of job sharing, flexitime and telework should be encouraged to enable the integration of parents in the world of work, while still being able to effectively take care of their family.

The state should consider extending the service of activities offered by schools after official school hours and during the holidays so that this service will be provided throughout Malta and Gozo. This service may be provided either by teachers who would be willing to offer the service without any obligation or else the state may employ people to offer this service. Such activities may include help with children’s homework as well as various activities such as sports, music and art lessons among others.

Incentives should also be given to employers in the private sector so that benefits accessible only to public sector employees (such as flexitime and reduced hours) would also be offered to workers in this sector so that there will be no discrimination among workers in different

sectors. This burden on employers may be borne fully or partially by the Government. Ultimately this will be beneficial to workers, employers and the economy of the country.

The establishment of co-operatives offering community services such as day centres, recreation centres in the community, canteens and home cleaning services, among others, should be encouraged.

There should be a state family planning centre to provide advice and information to individuals and couples on their sexual and reproductive life.

Free IVF treatment offered by the public health service should facilitate matters for prospective parents who are infertile. There should not be discrimination on any grounds for access to this service, and applicants should be offered professional counselling.

Cohabitation.

The state should recognise the rights and obligations of couples who have lived together for more than five years. A public register should be introduced to enable those who would like to register their cohabitation to do so. This should be a voluntary choice. Cohabiting couples should be given similar rights as those of married couples in different life contexts.

Relatives or friends constituting a household (e.g. a daughter and an elderly mother, two elderly persons who live together to keep each other company) should enjoy the same rights as heterosexual and homosexual couples who are cohabiting where housing, hospital visits, inheritance and social benefits are concerned.

Children born to unwed parents should have the same rights as other children in every aspect including inheritance.

Single Parent Families.

The number of single parent families has increased significantly over the past years. Apart from death, these could be the result of pregnancy among unmarried young women, separation or divorce. Among these families, most of which consist of women and their children, there is a high poverty rate. Consequently Alternattiva Demokratika proposes that:

The inclusion of these persons in Maltese society should be a national priority. These families should be given subsidies on the use of day centres as well as help in finding decent accommodation.

ETC should continue organising special training courses so that these persons would be able to find work while being offered free childcare so that during their training, these parents would have child-care facilities at their disposal.

It is important for these families to have more access to the labour market especially those who have small children. For these families it is even more difficult for a work-caring balance to be achieved.

Adoption.

It should be easier for couples who would like to adopt children living in children's homes. When persons or couples apply for adoption, each case should be examined on its own merits. There should be no discrimination on any basis against applicants when a person or a couple are considered for eligibility to adopt. The only criterion which should be used in order to establish whether the couple or the individual are suitable for adoption is that whoever applies would be able to bring up children adequately. The interests of children should be the most important priority.

Where adoption is not possible, fostering should be encouraged even by means of fiscal incentives. In serious cases such as permanent neglect and physical and mental abuse, the natural parents should lose their parental rights which should be transferred to the adoptive couple/person. Adopted children should have a legal right to know that they are adopted.

Malta should respect its international obligations to ensure that no Maltese citizen would be involved in the illegal trading of children for adoption from other countries, in organ trafficking or other abuses. Malta should enter into treaties with other countries in order to regulate this sector.

Children's Rights.

Nowadays children have many more rights than they did in the past. Nevertheless, there are many children in society who are suffering because of poverty, abuse or because their rights are not being respected. Children should have the right to shelter, food, health care, education, an upbringing free of violence and abuse. There should be legal mechanisms for action to be taken against all those who do not respect these rights. The United Nations Charter for the Rights of Children should be acknowledged and applied. The educational system should be holistic in the sense that it includes emotional, physical and psychological aspects and not only the academic aspect. (See the Chapter on Education).

Children of different nationalities and cultures living in our country should be integrated in an effective way in the

community and especially in our schools. This also applies to children from other minorities such as children with a disability.

In Malta there are many children living in poverty. All efforts should be made to reduce poverty among children especially through better access to decent work for parents who are bringing up children on their own and by making work more attractive than living on welfare benefits.

Children have a right to live in stable families. Support services should be offered to those experiencing family problems. Children should be legally protected against any type of commercial or political exploitation.

A legal framework needs to be drawn up to protect children against sexual exploitation including internet paedophilia. Malta should work towards the abolition of child labour across the world, while the importation of products resulting from such exploitation should be banned. The state should promote and support initiatives such as fair trade which is free from such abuses.

There should be more effective enforcement of laws protecting children from child labour. For certain children, under-age illegal work is limiting their possibilities in life especially because it is depriving them of a good education.

More investment is needed in support structures where children could be given shelter, help and support if they need to be removed from their family environment for various reasons such as abuse or neglect. At present there are children who are reluctantly sent back to their abusive parents because of the lack of such structures.

More efforts are needed to stop the destruction of more open spaces where children can play in a pollution-free environment. Air pollution is causing high rates of illness among children.

Domestic Violence.

Family violence is very often invisible and thus can easily be ignored or neglected. This is the source of many invisible tragedies behind closed doors in our country. Thousands of people are living in fear because of family violence which is not necessarily of a physical nature. Domestic violence is not linked to social class. Women and children are more vulnerable although men and boys may also be victims of violence. In light of this:

The helpline 179 should not be managed by volunteers, even if they are trained, but by trained workers who will be available day and night.

The police force should have a specialised section to ensure the protection of victims of violence and their children. The police need to be sensitive to such situations and should be trained in order to be able to deal with them more effectively.

The staff complement of the Domestic Violence Unit within Appogg should increase in order to be able to deal more effectively with the number of women who seek their professional help. Further investment would enable the unit not only to dedicate more time

to individual cases but also to extend its activities with regards to staff training and educational campaigns as well as to liaise better with other entities such as legal, health or educational structures.

Victims of violence should be issued with a protection order from the beginning of the legal process, not only after their perpetrator is found guilty.

Shelters for victims of domestic violence should be used exclusively for this purpose. Considering the sensitive nature of such cases and the trauma that a person who is constrained to leave the family home goes through, it is appropriate that the service offered is specialised and focused.

Women living in shelters should not be made by the courts to reveal their whereabouts to their aggressor, not even for purposes of child custody.

Furthermore, in cases of domestic violence it is very often the woman who is constrained to leave her family home rather than the perpetrator. More efforts are needed in this regard to reduce the suffering of victims of violence especially in relation to the periods of time involved where legal action against the perpetrator is taken. It is the perpetrator who should be made to leave the family home soon after a report is made to the police.

Since many victims of violence do not have the financial resources to pay for court proceedings, they often have to rely on legal aid. The free legal aid system is not always so efficient, often leading to more suffering by the victims as proceedings take a lot of time which traumatised and abused women can hardly afford. Furthermore, there should as much as possible be a continuation where legal services are concerned when cases of domestic violence lead to cases of separation instead of being treated as separate cases. This once again means more bureaucracy and waste of time for the traumatised victims.

While a number of important services are offered to both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, better coordination among service providers as well as continuity would ensure a more holistic service.

The law regulating abuse should be revised so that violent persons would be given harsher penalties and/or support if they need help. It should also be revised to eventually incorporate the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Violence-specific educational campaigns need to reach important stakeholders such as health, legal and educational professionals as well as prospective victims of gender-based violence. They should also target those who would be experiencing such a trauma so that they will know where they may find help and more importantly so that they will find the strength to take such a courageous step. It is also important to inform and encourage witnesses of violence to take action.

The message that has to go through is that violence can take various forms and that no form is acceptable under any circumstances.

We need to involve men more in such campaigns. This will be beneficial in addressing certain gender stereotypes such as that gender issues pertain only to women or that men are naturally aggressive. It may help men identify more with the issue. Education and awareness-raising on gender equality should start among school children. We need a collective effort to fight gender stereotypes more aggressively if we are ever to achieve true equality.

Marriage Breakdown.

AD is proud to have been instrumental in the introduction of divorce legislation in Malta. At the same time, the increase in marriage breakdown is of concern. In this regard:

The state should provide counselling services to those who are going through difficulties in their families so that as much as possible couples will not resort to divorce or separation. However, once a couple decides to file for divorce, it should be provided with a choice of support, counselling and information services. More research is needed to establish what is causing an increase in failed marriages so that we would be able to address such problems in a serious manner.

Women.

There is no real democracy without the full participation of women in all levels and sectors of society. Maltese society cannot be considered completely democratic since women are not represented as much as men in political, social, economic and cultural institutions. This also means that Malta is losing the creative potential of many women. This democratic imbalance in Maltese society should be corrected by means of concrete measures.

In order to address this imbalance in all spheres of life, the concept of affirmative action should be introduced especially in areas where there is a wider gender imbalance.

Women who have to interrupt their career due to pregnancy should not lose their seniority at the place of work. Men should have the right to avail themselves of parental leave during the

year when they have or adopt a baby. This would ensure that it not always the woman who has to interrupt her career.

There should be more opportunities and possibilities for job sharing, teleworking and flexitime so that it will be easier for both men and women to reconcile their work and family responsibilities.

More emphasis should be made on the important role of the father in the upbringing of children so that the concept of equal roles and responsibility sharing within the family would become more accepted culturally and socially.

LGBT.

There should be full equality between same-sex couples and heterosexual couples in every aspect of life. The state should open the institution of civil marriage to same-sex couples and hence provide the same rights and obligations to all couples (irrespective of whether they are heterosexual or of the same sex).

Full equality should also be guaranteed, among others, for the right to IVF treatment and to adoption regardless of sexual orientation and civil status.

There should be a national human right and equality plan ensuring full inclusion of LGBT persons in Maltese society. This plan should be developed following a dialogue with the Maltese LGBT community.

There should be a constitutional amendment by means of which discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity would be prohibited.

The state should immediately recognise the gender identity of persons who have assumed a new gender identity and this should be reflected in the person's official documents such as identity card and passport. The state should allow these persons to marry.

Protocol 12 of the European Convention on Human Rights should be ratified, and Malta should take a more active role in the promotion of human rights of LGBT persons at the international level.

16

II-Politika Barranija. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-harsien tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem, it-tishih tal-Unjoni Ewropea u ż-żamma tal-paċi fid-dinja huma l-pern tal-politika barranija tal-Alternattiva Demokratika. Nemmu wkoll li l-vera paċi tista' tintlaħaq biss permezz tal-prevenzjoni tal-kunflitti u permezz ta' għarfien tal-ghejun soċjali, ekonomiċi u kulturali tal-kunflitti internazzjonali. AD - The Green Party taħdem biex pajjiżna jhaddan politika attiva għall-paċi fid-dinja. Għalhekk niċċdu kull tip ta' iżolazzjoniżmu u naqblu mas-sehem attiv ta' Malta f'kull livell tal-ko-operazzjoni internazzjonali.

Il-klawsola tan-newtralità għandha tinbidel b'mod li tneħhi kull referenza għal superpotenzi li m'għadhomx jeżistu. FI-istess hin għandu jinżamm il-prinċipju li Malta ma sservix bħala bażi militari. FI-istess waqt Malta għandha tagħti appoġġ loġistiku lil kull azzjoni approvata mill-Ġnus Magħquda u/jew l-Unjoni Ewropea li jkunu intiżi biex jevitaw ġenoċidji jew reati kontra l-umanità.

Huwa fl-interess ta' pajjiżna li ma jinqalghux kunflitti bejn il-pajjiżi ġirien tagħna, kif ukoll dawk li mhumieqx. Malta għandha tkun aġent attiv ta' paċi fid-dinja permezz ta' rabtiet kummerċjali, kulturali u soċjali. Dawn ir-rabtiet għandhom iduru mal-pern tal-harsien tad-drittijiet umani. Malta għandha titkellem mingħajr ebda kantunieri favur ir-rispett tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem f'kull pajjiż tad-dinja. L-użu tal-forzi militari Maltin barra l-pajjiż għandu jkun limitat għal parteċipazzjoni f'missjonijiet awtorizzati mill-Ġnus Magħquda, l-OSCE u/jew l-Unjoni Ewropea, u għandhom ikollhom bħala għan għajjnuna umanitarja, żamma tal-paċi, għajjnuna f'diżastri naturali, eċċ.

Il-prinċipju li Malta hija zona hielsa mill-armi nukleari għandu jinżamm. Bastimenti li jżuru lil Malta għandhom jiddikjaraw li mhux qed iġorru fuqhom armi nukleari. Bastimenti li jaħdmu permezz ta' reatturi nukleari wkoll m'għandhomx jidhlu f'pajjiżna.

Malta Ċentru ta' Paċi.

Malta tista' tkun iċ-ċentru fejn joperaw istituzzjonijiet dedikati għall-għarfien kmieni ta' kunflitti potenzjali. Għandha tkun ukoll ċentru ta' taħriġ għal negozjaturi tal-paċi. Dan għandu jsir f'kollaborazzjoni ma' organizzazzjonijiet internazzjonali. Is-sehem ta' Malta f'organizzazzjonijiet internazzjonali u r-relazzjoni ta' Malta ma' pajjiżi ġirien għandu jkun maħsub biex ikattar l-impenn ta' dawn il-pajjiżi u l-organizzazzjonijiet favur ir-rispett shih tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem, il-ġustizzja soċjali, il-harsien ambjentali u l-paċi.

Viżjoni Mediterranja.

Nappoġġaw bis-shih id-demokrazija fid-dinja Għarbija fid-dawl ta' dak li seħħ fir-Rebbiegħa Għarbija. Għandna naħdmu sabiex l-Unjoni Ewropea toffri lil dawn il-pajjiżi perspettiva ekonomika, soċjali, ekoloġika u politika permezz ta' trattat formali ta' kooperazzjoni Mediterranja bejn l-UE u d-demokraziji l-ġodda.

Il-kooperazzjoni mal-Libja għandha tkun ibbażata fuq ir-rispett tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem u m'għandhomx jiġu ripetuti l-iżbalji tal-passat taż-żewġ partiti l-oħra, li kienu jincensaw dittatura brutali. Sabiex id-demokrazija fil-Libja tagħmel l-ewwel pass, jeħtieġ li l-flus li nsterqu mir-reġim ta' Gaddafi jingħataw lura lill-gvern leġittimu Libjan. Il-Libja għandha tiffirma u ttrattat ta' Ginevra dwar il-harsien tad-drittijiet tar-rifuġati.

Nirrikonoxxu l-jedd tal-poplu Palestinjan għal stat tiegħu, kif ukoll il-jedd għal stat Izraeljan. Pajjiżna għandu jkun minn ta' quddiem nett biex iseddaq is-sliem bejn dawn iż-żewġ popli, ħalli jkunu jistgħu jgħixu f'rispett reċiproku fi ħdan konfini siguri.

Viżjoni Globali.

Il-viżjoni globali tagħna tikkorrispondi mal-viżjoni internazzjonalista tal-Partiti tal-Modor fid-dinja kollha. Fost l-għeruq tal-kunflitti fid-dinja nsibu l-faqar, il-qerda tal-ambjent, ir-razziżmu, il-ksur tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem, l-iskarsezza tar-riżorsi, l-ingustizzji fit-tqassim tagħhom u l-kummerċ fl-armamenti. Ahna nemmu f'ko-operazzjoni internazzjonali li tfittex soluzzjoni għal dawn il-problemi.

Sabiex il-globalizzazzjoni tal-kummerċ ma twassalx għal aktar sfruttar tal-ambjent u tal-ħaddiema, għandu jkun hemm kriterji soċjali, ambjentali u ta' drittijiet tal-bniedem li jkunu applikati f'kull pajjiż li jissieheb

f'organizzazzjonijiet bhall-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tal-Kummerċ (WTO), il-Fond Monetarju Internazzjonali (IMF) u l-Bank Dinji (WB).

Id-dejn tal-pajjiżi tat-'Tielet Dinja' li jirrispettaw id-drittijiet tal-bniedem għandu jithassar kollu. Il-UNDP għandha tagħmel monitaraġġ tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem f'dawn il-pajjiżi. Meta wiehed ihares lejn l-istorja ta' kolonjalizmu, razziżmu u sfruttament, wiehed jinduna li huma l-pajjiżi sinjuri li huma midjuna lejn dawn il-pajjiżi.

Malta għandha ssahha l-impenn tagħha favur id-drittijiet tal-bniedem kemm fil-fora internazzjonali kif ukoll f'relazzjonijiet bilaterali ma' stati oħra.

Malta għandha taħdem favur il-bidu ta' proċess ta' diżarm nukleari dinji. L-istess proċess għandu jsehh fil-każ ta' armi kimiċi u bijoloġiċi.

Għandu jsir kull sforz biex il-pajjiżi produttori tal-armi ma jibqgħux jesportaw aktar armamenti u teknoloġija militari lejn pajjiżi li jiksru d-drittijiet tal-bniedem.

II-Ġnus Magħquda.

Il-Ġnus Magħquda hi l-istituzzjoni bl-akbar kredibbiltà biex iżżomm il-paċi fid-dinja.

Il-Ġnus Magħquda għandha tisaħha u tiġi demokratizzata. Il-Kunsill tas-Sigurtà tal-Ġnus Magħquda għandu jiġi ssostitwit b'organu aktar rappreżentattiv li jagħraf is-sehem tal-pajjiżi tat-'Tielet Dinja'. Id-dritt tal-veto għandu jitneħħa u minfloku, fil-proċess tat-teħid tad-deċiżjonijiet, għandu jintuża l-prinċipju ta' maġġoranza kwalifikata. L-Assemblea Ġenerali tal-Ġnus Magħquda għandha tkun l-aktar organu importanti fil-proċess tat-teħid tad-deċiżjonijiet tal-Ġnus Magħquda.

Malta għandha tikkontribwixxi 1% tal-Prodott Gross Domestiku tagħha lill-Ġnus Magħquda. Din l-għajjnuna tista' tiegħu forma ta' taħriġ jew użu ta' faċilitajiet Maltin.

L-għaqdiet non-governattivi internazzjonali għandhom jingħataw sehem aktar importanti fil-Ġnus Magħquda. Għandhom jingħataw status speċjali ta' osservaturi f'kull organizzazzjoni u forum fi hdan il-Ġnus Magħquda.

Il-Ġnus Magħquda għandha jkollha s-setgħa timponi sanzjonijiet fuq l-esportazzjoni ta' armi, teknoloġija militari kif ukoll sanzjonijiet finanzjarji li jolqtu lill-gvernijiet li jiksru r-riżoluzzjonijiet tal-Ġnus Magħquda. Madankollu qatt m'għandhom jiġu imposti sanzjonijiet ekonomiċi li jolqtu lill-popli ta' dawn il-pajjiżi f'oqsma bħall-mediċini, is-saħħa, l-ikel, l-enerġija u l-edukazzjoni. Kull pajjiż li jikser dawn is-sanzjonijiet għandu jkun mgħobbi bl-istess sanzjonijiet fuqu.

Is-sigurtà fl-Ewropa.

Għal eluf ta'snin il-pajjiżi Ewropej għaddew minn gwerer kontinwi. Permezz tal-ħolqien tal-Unjoni Ewropea u istituzzjonijiet oħra bħall-Kunsill tal-Ewropa u l-OSCE, l-Ewropa għaddiet minn perjodu ta' paċi.

Sabiex tiżdied il-paċi u s-sigurtà fl-Ewropa, ir-rwol tal-OSCE u l-Unjoni Ewropea għandu jissahha. Ir-rwol ta' pajjiżi newtrali fl-Unjoni Ewropea u l-OSCE għandu jiġi rispettat.

L-Unjoni Ewropea għandha titmexxa b'mod aktar demokratiku. Il-Parlament Ewropew għandu jkollu sehem akbar fil-ħatra tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea.

Nemmnu f'Ewropa soċjali u ekoloġika bbażata fuq il-mudell soċjali Ewropew li għandu jiġi mseddaq u aġġornat permezz ta' miżuri bħal taxxa fuq it-tranzazzjonijiet finanzjarji.

Alternattiva Demokratika, flimkien mal-Partiti fi hdan il-*European Green Party* temmen li l-Unjoni Ewropea għandha tkun il-mutur tal-paċi u l-ħarsien tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem. Il-politika barranija u ta' difiża tal-Unjoni Ewropea għandha tkun waħda li sservi bħala strument ta' paċi u ta' solidarjetà attiva fost il-ġnus.

Alternattiva Demokratika temmen li l-Unjoni Ewropea għandu jkollha vuċi waħda f'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mal-affarijiet barranin. Fid-dinja globalizzata tal-lum, il-pajjiżi membri tal-Unjoni Ewropea wahidhom f'tit għandhom piż meta mqabbla mar-Russja, maċ-Ċina jew mal-Istati Uniti.

AD taħdem mal-Partiti tal-Ħodor għal bidla radikali fil-politika agrikola tal-Unjoni Ewropea. L-Unjoni Ewropea għandha tirrikonoxxi l-importanza kulturali, soċjali u ambjentali tal-agrikoltura f'Malta.

Alternattiva Demokratika, flimkien mal-partiti tal-Ħodor l-oħra, se tkompli taħdem sabiex l-Unjoni Ewropea tagħraf aktar l-importanza tal-bdiewa żgħar. Fl-istess ħin, naħdmu biex tinbidel il-politika preżenti tas-sussidji li qed twassal biex ikun hemm hekk kbira ta' ikel f'dinja li fiha miljuni jmutu bil-ġuħ. Ahna nipprivileġġaw politika li tiffavorixxi l-iżvilupp rurali u l-ħarsien tal-kampanja u l-pajsaġġ kif ukoll il-ħarsien tal-annimali u sostenibbiltà agrikola.

Alternattiva Demokratika taħdem sabiex l-Unjoni Ewropea żżid l-għajjnuna li tingħata għall-iżvilupp ta' pajjiżi ifqar. Dan mhux biss għax jgħin sabiex ikun hemm kundizzjonijiet ta' ħajja aħjar f'dawn il-pajjiżi, imma ukoll bħala prevenzjoni kontra l-immigrazzjoni irregolari. Jekk noħolqu possibbiltà ta' xogħol u għixien diċenti f'postijiet fqar bħall-Afrika, in-nies tal-post ikunu jistgħu jibqgħu jgħixu f'pajjiżhom.

Votanti Maltin barra minn Malta.

Alternattiva Demokratika - The Green Party se tagħfas għall-possibiltà li l-Maltin espatrijati jkunu jistgħu jivvutaw barra minflok joqgħodu jinżlu Malta. Il-Maltin li jgħixu barra, li jkunu irregistraw mar-rappreżentanzi diplomatiċi Maltin barra, ikunu jistgħu jivvotaw fl-eqreb amabaxxata jew konsolat.

Foreign Policy.

You know where we stand.

The basis of AD's foreign policy is made up of the safeguarding of human rights, the strengthening of the EU and peace enforcement globally. We also believe that real peace can only be attained through conflict prevention and through the identification of the social, economic and cultural sources of international conflicts. AD – The Green Party will strive to ensure that our country adopts and active peace policy. We therefore condemn any type of isolationism and we believe in the active participation of Malta in international cooperation.

The neutrality clause in the constitution should be changed to ensure that any reference to superpowers that no longer exist is deleted. At the same time, the principle that Malta should not serve as a military base has to be maintained. Malta should also give all logistic support to any action approved by the UN and the EU, meant to avoid genocide or crimes against humanity. It is in the interest of our country that no conflicts arise in our region and even beyond. Malta has to fulfil its role as a positive agent of peace through commercial, cultural and social ties, all centred around the focal point of the respect of human rights. Malta should speak openly and without fear in favour of the respect of human rights all over the world.

The deployment of Maltese military forces outside Malta should be limited to participation in missions authorised by the UN, OSCE and/or the EU, and should have as their aim humanitarian aid, peace keeping, help in natural disasters, etc. The concept of Malta as a nuclear free zone should be maintained. Ships visiting Malta should declare that they are not carrying nuclear arms aboard. Vessels working on nuclear energy should not enter Maltese waters.

Malta a Centre of Peace.

Malta could be a centre for institutions that operate in the field of conflict prevention. It should also act as focal point for the training of peace negotiators. Cooperation on these initiatives with international organizations is necessary.

Malta's contribution to international organisations and its relations with neighbouring countries should be a catalyst for further effort on the part of these countries and organisations towards then full respect of human rights, social justice, environmental protection and global peace.

A Mediterranean Vision.

We fully support the democratisation of the Arab world following the events of the Arab spring. We should work so that the EU offers these countries a strong economic, social, ecological and political perspective through a formal treaty of cooperation in the Mediterranean between the EU and the new Arab democracies.

Cooperation with Libya should be based on the respect for human rights and the mistakes of the past of PN and PL, who were busy competing amongst themselves to praise Gaddafi's brutal dictatorship, should not be repeated. In order for democracy in Libya to develop further, the money that was stolen by the Gaddafi regime should be given back to the legitimate Libyan government. Libya should sign and ratify the Geneva Convention which safeguards the rights of refugees..

We recognise the right of the Palestinian people to their own state, as also the right of Israel to its own state. Our country should be on the forefront in the quest for peace between these two peoples, living in harmony amongst themselves in mutual respect and within safe borders.

A Global Vision.

Our global vision is in tune with the internationalistic vision of Green parties all over the world. Poverty, environmental destruction, racism, the disrespect of human rights, the scarcity of resources and blatant injustices in their distribution together with the commerce of weapons are amongst the major sources of conflicts around the world. We believe in an international cooperation that strives for the solution of these problems.

The globalisation of commerce should not lead to further depletion of the environment and to the exploitation of workers. There should therefore be clear social and

environmental criteria as well as clear human rights that are to be adhered to by all countries that become members of organisations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB).

The debts of those third world countries that fully respect human rights should be cancelled. The UNDP should monitor the situation of human rights in these countries. When one looks back at the history of colonialism, racism and exploitation, one realises that it is the developed and rich countries that are indebted to them.

Malta should strengthen its efforts in favour of human rights both in the international fora as well as in its bilateral relations with other states.

Malta should work towards a process of a global nuclear disarmament, as well as in the field of chemical and biological armaments.

Every effort should be made so that weapon producing countries do not continue exporting more armaments and military technology towards countries that violate human rights.

The UN.

The UN is the institution with the greatest credibility with regards to peace keeping in the world.

The UN should be strengthened and democratised. The UN Security Council should be substituted by a more representative organ that recognises the contribution of developing countries. The right of veto should be abolished and instead all decisions are to be taken by a qualified majority. The General Assembly of the UN should be the most important organ in the decision making process of the UN.

Malta should contribute 1% of its GDP to the UN. This contribution can also be given through training programmes or the use of facilities in Malta.

International non governmental organisations should be given a more important role in the UN. They should be given the special status of observers in each institution or forum forming part of the UN.

The UN should have the power of imposing effective sanctions on the exports of arms and military technology as well as imposing financial sanctions on those governments that do not respect UN resolutions. However, no economic sanctions that hit the population with regards to medicine, health, food provisions, energy and education should be imposed. Each country that breaks these sanctions should be hit by these same sanctions.

Security in Europe.

For many years in the past the countries of Europe went through continuous wars. Thanks to the setting up of the EU and other institutions like the Council of Europe and OSCE, Europe has gone through a period of relative peace..

The role of the OSCE and the EU should be strengthened for the benefit of peace and security in Europe. The role of neutral countries in the EU and OSCE should be respected

The institutions in the EU should open up to further democratisation. The European Parliament should have a greater say in the appointment of the European Commission..

We believe that a social and ecological Europe based on the European Social model should be strengthened and updated through certain measures, like the tax on financial transactions.

Alternattiva Demokratika, together with the parties forming part of the European Green Party, believes that the EU should be the motor for peace and for the safeguarding of human rights. The EU Foreign and Defence Policy should serve as an instrument of peace and active solidarity amongst peoples.

Alternattiva Demokratika believes that the EU should speak with one voice with regards to Foreign Affairs. In today's globalised world single countries of the EU have little or no weight at all when compared to Russia, China or the USA.

AD will work with other green parties for a radical change in the EU Common Agricultural Policy. The EU should recognise the cultural, social and environmental importance of Maltese agriculture. Alternattiva Demokratika, together with other European Green Parties, will continue working to ensure that the EU gives greater importance to the small farmer. At the same time, we shall work to bring about a change in the present subsidy policies which are leading to great wastage of food all over the world, where millions are dying of hunger. We will privilege policies that favour rural development and the safeguarding of the countryside and of the natural landscape as well as the welfare of animals and agricultural sustainability.

Alternattiva Demokratika will strive to ensure that the EU increases its development aid to poorer countries. This should contribute not only to better the conditions of life in these countries, but also to act as a preventive measure against irregular migration. If possibilities of work and decent conditions of life are created in poor countries, as in Africa, the

local people would be able to live a decent life in their own country, and not be forced to migrate.

Maltese Voters Abroad.

Alternattiva Demokratika - The Green Party will push for the possibility for Maltese expatriates to be able to vote abroad instead of coming down to Malta. Maltese living abroad, who have previously registered with Maltese diplomatic representations abroad, will be able to vote in their nearest embassy/consulate.

17

Ghawdex. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-viżjoni ta' AD għal Ghawdex hija waħda verament ta' gżira-reġjonali ekoloġika fl-Ewropa.

Il-kunċett ta' eco-Gozo (Ghawdex-ekoloġiku), imnissel mill-AD fl-2007 qabel ma ġie kkapparrat mill-Gvern Nazzjonalista lejlet l-elezzjoni ġenerali tal-2008, għandu jtnissel b'ħidma politika ċara għal sostenibiltà f'dak li jirrigwarda l-enerġija, l-ilma, l-baħar u l-użu tal-art. Dan għandu jinkludi projbizzjoni ċara fuq żvilupp kummerċjali barra miż-żona ta' żvilupp, waqt li jinkorpora proġetti ta' afforestazzjoni fuq livell nazzjonali u santwarji ta' naturali u rikreattivi.

Bir-rappreżentanza tagħha fil-Parlament, AD tikkommetti ruħha illi sseddaq il-potenzjal turistiku ta' Ghawdex u l-kwalità tal-ħajja tar-residenti billi jiġi protett l-ambjent, kemm dak naturali, storiku u tal-kosta. Proġetti insostenibbli bħal bini ta' vilel f'Ta' Ċenċ, appartamenti fir-Ramla l-Hamra u *yacht marinas* u appartamenti f'lokalitajiet mhux mittiefa bħal Ffondoq ir-Rummien għandhom jitražżnu. Żvilupp ta' bini għoli u korsu tal-golf għandhom jiġu projbiti, u minflok jitheggu investimenti ta' shubija bejn is-settur pubbliku u dak privat fl-oqsma kulturali, storiċi u karatteristiċi naturali t'Ghawdex.

Jekk AD tiġi eletta fil-Parlament, taħdem biex f'Ghawdex jiġi żviluppat turizmu tan-niċċa bbażat fost l-oħrajn fuq servizzi ekoloġiċi, agrikoli, reliġjon u kultura, sport u avventura, saħħa u benesseri u bl-użu kemm jista' jkun possibbli tal-infrastruttura rurali preżenti u li jinkoraġixxi l-intrapriżi Ghawdxin sabiex joħolqu x-xogħol.

L-iżvilupp ta' ħolqa permanenti bejn Malta u Ghawdex għandha tkun ibbażata fuq soluzzjonijiet realistiċi u sostenibbli. Studji adegwati għandhom jiġu mnieda sabiex tiġi eżaminata l-ispiża involuta fil-kostruzzjoni, servizz u kif ukoll l-impatt taż-żieda tat-traffiku fuq Ghawdex. AD mhix se taħli zmien tiddiskuti kastelli fl-arja u tippreferi tenfasizza l-ħolqien tax-xogħol f'Ghawdex .

AD topponi l-iżvilupp ta' ajruport f'Ghawdex u tiffavorixxi servizzi ta' transport pubbliku minn Ghawdex għall-ajruport, kif ukoll l-introduzzjoni tas-servizz tal-katamaran għal Tas-Sliema u Sa Maison, li kieku joffru lil dawk li jivvjaġġaw ta' spiss, haddiema Ghawdxin, kif ukoll turisti, vjaġġ komdu u effiċjenti minn u għal Ghawdex. Jekk eletta fil-parlament, AD se taħdem sabiex tesplora ħolqa ta' transport dirett bil-baħar minn u għal Ghawdex kif ukoll għal pajjiżi oħra fil-kontinent.

Aħna nappoġġaw il-liberalizzazzjoni tas-servizzi tat-transport bil-baħar minn u għal Ghawdex, sakemm il-Gvern ma jaħrabx mill-obligazzjonijiet soċjali tiegħu. Is-servizz regolari ta' transport bejn l-Imġarr u Sa Maison għandu jiġu rintrodott.

Minhabba l-insularità doppja t'Ghawdex, il-gvern għandu jiżviluppa l-gżira bħala niċċa tal-industrija informatika.

AD tippromponi t-twaqqif ta' Kumitat Parlamentari għall-Affarijiet li jirrigwardaw lill-Ghawdex, magħmul mill-Membri Parlamentari Ghawdxin kollha. Dan il-Kumitat Permanenti għandu jassigura trasparenza u tmexxija serja mill-Ministeru għal Ghawdex.

AD tikkommetti ruħha sabiex taħdem kontra l-klijentelizmu u n-nepotizmu staġnat li jipprevali preżentament fuq il-ħajja Ghawdxija u minflok iniedi qafas amministrattiv sabiex jinforma u jiggarrantixxi d-drittijiet fundamentali ta' kull ċittadin u operatur ekonomiku. Il-Gvern għandu jara illi l-meritokrazija tiegħu post il-prattika prevalenti ta' selezzjoni esklussiva ta' xogħol għal dawk tal-qalba. Minhabba s-sitwazzjoni partikolari f'Ghawdex, il-Gvern għandu jikkonsidra l-ftuħ ta' fergħa tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman f'Ghawdex.

L-evoluzzjoni tad-demokrazija partecipattiva f'Ghawdex bl-involvement dirett ta' ċittadini fil-proċess tat-tehid ta' deċiżjonijiet għandha tiġi mwessgħa. It-twaqqif ta' Kunsill reġjonali demokratikament elett, huwa kompletament kompatibbli mal-politika ta' AD. Persuni mhux ta' nazzjonalità Maltija li ilhom residenti f'Malta għal perjodu twil ta' snin għandhom jingħataw id-dritt tal-vot għall-elezzjonijiet ta' dan il-Kunsill Reġjonali.

Għandu jkun hemm kollaborazzjoni shiħa bejn il-Membri Parlamentari Ghawdxin ta' xejriet politiċi differenti sabiex isir l-aħjar użu ta' talenti lokali eżistenti għall-kuntrarju ta' hela ta' riżorsi sempliċiment minhabba divergenzi politiċi.

Għandha titwaqqaf istituzzjoni reġjonali, li tinkorpora Reġistru Pubbliku, Kwartieri tal-Pulizija Reġjonali, Uffiċċju tal-Avukat Ġenerali Reġjonali, Uffiċċju Reġjonali għall-Gvern Lokali u dipartimenti oħra li jaqgħu taħt ir-responsabbiltà tal-Ministeru tal-Ġustizzja u l-Intern.

AD tistinka sabiex tiggarantixxi rappreżentazzjoni ġusta u proporzjonali għal votanti Għawdxin, b'mod li l-kwota tal-Membri Parlamentari Għawdxin tirrifletti n-numru ta' votanti rreġistrati f'Għawdex. Dan ifisser illi Għawdex jiġi allokat Membru Parlamentari ieħor mal-ħames rappreżentanti kurrenti.

Il-ħtieġa ta' *childcare centres* għandu jiġi indirizzat. Servizzi ta' ħarsien tat-tfal (*child care*) għandhom ikunu universalment aċċessibbli u f'kollaborazzjoni mas-settur privat. Il-Gvern għandu jipprovdi servizzi bla ħlas lil min għandu bżonnhom.

Gozo. You know where we stand.

AD's vision for Gozo is for a truly Ecological Region Island in Europe

The concept of an eco-Gozo coined by AD in 2007 before it was taken up by the Nationalist government on the eve of the 2008 general election, should be backed with a clear commitment for sustainable energy, water, sea and land use policies. This should include a clear ban on outside development zone commercial development incorporated with afforestation projects on a national level and sanctuary recreational parks.

Represented in parliament, AD is committed to enhance Gozo's tourism potential and the quality of life of residents by the protection of the environment including the countryside, historical heritage and the coastal environment. Unsustainable projects like the building of villas at Ta' Ċenċ, apartments at Ramla l-Ħamra and yacht marinas and apartments in pristine localities like Hondoq ir-Rummien should be excluded. High rise development and golf courses should also be excluded. Instead investments through public-private partnerships in the Gozo cultural, historic and natural features will be encouraged.

If AD is elected in parliament, it will strive to develop niche tourism in Gozo and related services such as eco, agro, religion & culture, sport and adventure, health and wellness amongst others, using as far as possible the present rural infrastructure and encouraging Gozitan entrepreneurs to create green jobs and future ventures.

The issue of a permanent link between Malta and Gozo should be based on realistic and sustainable solutions. Proper studies clearly showing the costs involved in construction, the cost of the service as well as the impact of increased traffic on Gozo. AD will not replace efforts to create jobs in Gozo by discussing pies in the sky.

AD opposes the development of an air strip and favours a shuttle bus service from Gozo directly to the airport as well as the re-introduction of the catamaran service to Sliema and Sa Maison, which would afford local commuters, Gozitan workers and tourists alike, a fast, comfortable trip to and from Gozo. If elected in parliament, AD will work to explore direct sea links to and from Gozo and to other countries in the continent.

We support the liberalisation of sea transport services to and from Gozo as long as the government does not abscond of its social obligations. The regular Mgarr-Sa Maison ferry service should be re-introduced.

In view of Gozo's double insularity the government should focus on developing the island as an information technology hub.

AD proposes the set-up of an inclusive Parliamentary Committee for Gozo Affairs made up of all Gozo's MPs. The Standing Committee will ensure transparent and serious governance by the Ministry for Gozo.

AD is committed to work against the prevalent stagnant clientelist nepotism which pervades Gozitan life and in its stead institute an administrative framework to inform and to guarantee the inalienable rights of all citizens and economic operators. The government should see that meritocracy replaces the prevailing practice of exclusive selection of 'jobs-for-the party-boys-and-girls.' Due to Gozo's particular situation, the government should consider opening a branch of the office of the Ombudsman in Gozo.

The evolution of participatory democracy for Gozitans through direct citizens' involvement in the decision-making process should be expanded.

A democratically elected Regional Council is completely in line with Green Politics. Long term non-Maltese residents should have the right to vote in elections for this regional council.

There should be close collaboration between the Gozo MPs of different leanings to optimise existing local human talent as opposed to wasting such resources simply because of varied political creeds.

A Regional Institution should be set up to include a Public Registry, a Regional Police Head Quarters, a fire brigade and Rescue Centre, Regional Attorney General office, Regional office for Local Government and any other departments which fall under the aegis of the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs.

AD will strive to obtain a fair, proportionate representation for Gozo voters in that the quota of Gozo's MPs reflect the number

of Gozo's registered voters. This means that Gozo should be allocated a sixth elected MP to its current five representatives.

The need for childcare centres should be addressed. Child care services should be universally accessible and, in collaboration with the private sector, the State should provide free services to those who need them.

18

Saħħa. Magħna taf fejn int.

Is-Sostenibilità tas-Sistema tas-Saħħa.

Waqt li s-servizz tas-saħħa għandu jibqa' b'xejn għal kulhadd, għandu jiġi żgurat li s-sistema tas-saħħa tkun waħda sostenibbli fid-dawl tal-bidliet demografici li qed iwasslu għal aktar persuni anzjani. Nemmnju wkoll fil-valur ta' sistema nazzjonali bbażata fuq il-valur tas-solidarjetà u li sseddaq is-sens ta' ċittadinanza. Il-privatizzazzjoni tas-saħħa mhux biss iżżid l-inugwaljanzi iżda timmina l-valur ta' sistema nazzjonali li kulhadd iħossu parti minnha. Biex dan jiġri:

Għandha titwaqqaf il-prattika tal-kumpaniji tal-assigurazzjoni li jhallu pazjenti li jużaw is-servizz pubbliku flok dak privat. Dan qed iwassal għal lista ta' stennija itwal fl-isptarjiet għal nies li ma jistgħux iħallu għall-kura privata, u huwa hekk ta' riżorsi pubbliċi.

Għandha titwaqqaf skema nazzjonali ta' assicurazzjoni (national insurance) separata biex tiffinanzja l-iskema tas-saħħa nazzjonali. Dan il-fond għandu jkun separat minn dak tal-pensjonijiet u għandu jitmexxa b'mod professjonali. Il-kontribuzzjonijiet għall-fond għandhom ikunu progressivi u jikkorrispondu mad-dhul.

Spizeriji.

Għandu jkun hemm riforma tal-ħruġ tal-permessi tal-ispiżeriji b'mod li jkun hemm iktar liċenzji għal spiżeriji ġodda fil-lokalitajiet. Bħalissa l-permessi huma limitati għal spiżerija waħda kull 2500 persuna u l-uniku mod li tinfetħu spiżerija ġdida hu li tagħlaq waħda eżistenti. Dan wassal għal sitwazzjoni fejn hemm iktar applikazzjonijiet pendenti għal spiżeriji milli hemm spiżeriji. Dan il-limitu żgħur ma jagħmilx sens f'postijiet li jattiraw numru kbir ta' turisti u ma jinkoraġġix il-kompetizzjoni u l-innovazzjoni. Il-liberalizzazzjoni tas-settur tgħin biex il-konsumatur jinqeda aħjar. Fl-istess waqt għandu jkun jkun hemm kundizzjoni li tiżgura l-ammont minimu ta' spiżeriji f'kull lokalità. Għandu jkun hemm ukoll skema li permezz tagħha dejjem ikun hemm spiżeriji miftuħa f'kull hin tal-ġurnata.

Għandhom jinħarġu liċenzji biex ċerti mediċini li ma jehtigux riċetta jinbiegħu minn ħwienet oħra li m'humex spiżeriji. Din is-sistema taħdem sew f'pajjiċi bħall-Ingilterra, l-Italja u l-Ġermanja.

L-importazzjoni tal-mediċini għandha tiġi riformata sabiex jonqos il-prezz tal-mediċini. Flimkien mal-importazzjoni tal-mediċini mis-settur privat, il-Gvern missu jikkunsidra l-involvement tiegħu fl-importazzjoni ta' mediċini essenzjali jekk jinqala' l-bżonn. Dan jgħin biex il-prezzijiet ikunu għall-but ta' kulhadd fil-każ li s-suq ma' jaħdimx kif suppost, għaliex il-Gvern jista' jgawdi mill-ekonomiji tal-kobor filwaqt li jagħti spinta lill-kompetizzjoni.

Għandha ssir riforma tas-sistema tal-mediċini b'xejn sabiex il-flus jintefqu fuq mediċini bżonnjużi u jinqatgħu l-abbużi. Għandu jkun hemm *means testing* strett għall-aċċess għal ċerti mediċini mhux essenzjali. Ma jagħmilx sens li min għandu dħul tajjeb jibbenefika minn mediċini mhux essenzjali. Fl-istess waqt mediċini għal kundizzjonijiet serji u bi prezzijiet projbittivi għandhom ikunu aċċessibbli b'mod universali kemm jista' jkun malajr.

Il-bord li jirrevedi r-reġistru tal-medicini b'xejn għandu jingħata iktar riżorsi biex talbiet għall-inklużjoni ta' mediċini ġodda jkunu indirizzati kemm jista' jkun malajr. Għandu jkun hemm sistema ta' rifiżjoni għal dawk li jkollhom bżonn urġenti ta' mediċini li ma jkunux għadhom ġew approvati minn dan il-bord.

Is-sistema tal-ispiżerija tal-għażla tiegħek (Pharmacy Of Your Choice (POYC)) għandha tiġi estiza, u sabiex il-pazjenti tal-POYC ma jkollhomx problema ta' mediċini *out of stock*, il-pazjenti għandhom jingħataw id-dritt li jieħdu l-mediċini minn kwalunkwe spiżerija, minflok sistema ċentralizzata fejn il-Gvern jixtri kollox hu. Il-Gvern għandu jirrifondi lill-ispiżeriji skont prezzijiet ġusti kif stabbilit.

Servizz tas-Saħħa.

Is-servizz tas-saħħa pubbliku għandu jkun l-aħjar u għandu jggarantixxi servizzi essenzjali għal kulhadd. Fl-istess waqt, l-istat għandu jassigura li s-servizzi sew tal-gvern sew privati ikunu qed jilħqu standards stabbiliti.

Biex is-servizz tas-saħħa pubblika jtgawda mill-generazzjonijiet li ġejjin, għandu jitqiegħed fuq bażi finanzjarja soda u sostenibbli.

Drittijiet tal-Pazjenti.

Il-pazjenti għandu jkollhom id-dritt għall-informazzjoni dwar is-saħħa tagħhom. Din l-informazzjoni għandha tingħata b'sensittività għall-persuni kkonċernati.

Il-fejtan mhux biss proċess fiżiku iżda għandu jinkludi l-aspett psikoloġiku tal-pazjent. Dan l-aspett għandu jingħata importanza ikbar mill-amministraturi tal-isptar.

Persuni b'mard terminali għandhom jingħataw l-aqwa servizz ta' appoġġ possibbli b'bidma ma' entitajiet non-governattivi li jaħdmu f'dan il-qasam.

Għandha tinħadem sistema trasparenti biex pazjenti li jkunu fittxew konsulta privata ma jiġux invantaġġati fuq pazjenti oħra li jagħmlu użu mis-servizz mediku tal-istat, fejn jidhlu appuntamenti għal interventi kirurġiċi u kura oħra fl-isptarijiet tal-istat. Is-sistema preżenti ta' distribuzzjoni tal-mediċini tagħti lok għal abbużi kbar bin-nefqa dejjem tielgħa bla kontroll. Dan qed jhedded bis-serjetà s-sostenibilità ta' dan is-settur daqstant importanti. Għalhekk għandu jkun żgurat li r-riżorsi limitati jiġu indirizzati speċjalment lejn dawk li huma tassew fil-bżonn bħal pazjenti li jsofru minn mard serju, terminali jew kroniku. Għandu jkun hemm riforma sħiħa fid-distribuzzjoni tal-mediċini. F'din ir-riforma għandhom jipparteċipaw l-imsieħba soċjali bħall-Gvern, l-ispiżjara u t-tobba, l-għaqdiet tal-konsumaturi u l-għaqdiet tal-anzjani. Din is-sistema għandha titmexxa minn amministrazzjoni professjonali.

Ir-riforma għandha tkopri mhux biss il-pazjenti tal-*out patients* u tal-bereġ imma għandha tinkludi ukoll dawk il-pazjenti li jkunu waslu biex jiġu liċenzjati mis-swali. Barra minn hekk għandu jinħoloq mekkanizmu fuq bażi ta' *home health care* li permezz tiegħu jiġu identifikati dawk il-pazjenti fil-komunità li huma suxxettibbli għall-użu ħażin tal-mediċini. Dawn il-pazjenti għandhom jibdew jiġu invistati minn spiżjar fuq bażi regolari biex jevitaw il-ħela jew nuqqas ta' mediċini, jew l-użu ħażin tagħhom. Sabiex il-pubbliku jgawdi minn aċċess aħjar għas-servizz farmaċewtiku matul il-ġurnata kollha, għandu jkun hemm imqar spiżerija waħda f'kull reġjun tal-gżejjer Maltin li tkun miftuħa għal 24 siegħa, fuq sistema ta' roster.

Il-gvern għandu jiżgura li l-formularju tal-mediċini uffiċjali tad-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa jkun wieħed aġġornat, u li jiġi rivedut regolarment. Il-formularju għandu jinkludi mediċini moderni li skont l-aħħar riċerka jkunu ġew ippruvati li joffru vantaġġ lis-saħħa tal-pazjent. Dan għandu jsir permezz tal-użu ta' linji gwida stabbiliti fil-mediċina.

Ċentri tas-Saħħa.

F'kull distrett għandu jkun hemm poliklinika miftuħa 24 siegħa kuljum li tipprovdi servizz ta' kura primarja u ta' emerġenza.

Assigurazzjoni fuq is-Saħħa.

Il-prezzijiet ta' kliniċi privati u tobba privati għandhom ikunu pubbliċi biex ma jsirux abbużi minn tobba u kliniċi b'dannu għall-kumpaniji tal-assigurazzjoni.

Ħaddiema fis-Servizz tas-Saħħa.

Il-kundizzjonijiet tax-xogħol tal-infermiera għandhom jiġu mtejbja, fuq livelli rikonossuti internazzjonalment, biex b'hekk verament jingħataw rikonossiment professjonali xieraq.

It-titjib fil-pagi m'għandux jkun limitat għat-tobba biss, imma għandu jiġi estiż għall-professjonijiet kollha involuti fis-servizz tas-saħħa pubblika.

L-ebda tabib impjegat fis-servizz tas-saħħa pubblika jew dik privata m'għandu jaħdem aktar mil-limiti stabbiliti mid-Direttiva dwar il-*Fin tax-Xogħol (Working Time Directive)*. Dan kemm biex ikun hemm titjib fil-kwalità tal-ħajja tat-tobba kif ukoll biex il-pazjenti ikunu assigurati minn kura tal-aqwa livell. Il-hinijiet tas-servizzi fl-isptarijiet tal-gvern għandhom jiġu estiżi fuq dak preżenti; dan sabiex jiġi evitat dewmien eċċessiv fl-allokazzjoni ta' viżti, posponiment ta' appuntamenti, kif ukoll sabiex numru adegwat ta' pazjenti jkunu jistgħu jibbenefikaw minn trattament effiċjenti kuljum, mingħajr ma jingemgħu iżjed listi ta' stennija twal.

Fil-Kunsill Mediku li jirregola l-professjoni medika għandu jkun hemm rappreżentanza tal-għaqdiet li jħarsu d-drittijiet tal-konsumaturi, tal-pazjenti u tal-persuni b'diżabilità.

Għandu jkun hemm standards stretti ta' saħħa u sigurtà kemm għall-pazjenti fl-isptar, kif ukoll għall-ħaddiema kollha li jaħdmu fl-isptar. Għad fadal wisq ħaddiema fl-isptarijiet pubbliċi (fosthom ħaddiema tekniċi) li għadhom jaħdmu f'kundizzjonijiet li ma jixirqux lill-ħaddiema fis-seklu 21.

Prevenzjoni.

Parti integrali mill-prevenzjoni tal-mard hija l-attenzjoni għall-ambjent li ngħixu fih. Livelli inqas ta' tniġġis ifisser kwalità ta' arja, ilma u ikel aħjar. Kontroll fuq sorsi ta' storbju żejjed ifisser inqas stress. Inqas antibijotiċi fil-laħam u kontroll strett fuq il-pestiċidi jfisser iktar reżistenza tal-bniedem għall-mard u inqas veleni u l-konsegwenzi li jġibu magħhom. Kwalità ta' ħajja aħjar tiddependi wkoll mill-investiment fil-prevenzjoni u l-edukazzjoni.

Għandha tingħata edukazzjoni kemm fl-iskola kif ukoll fil-komunità biex tippromwovi

stil ta' ħajja li jnaqqas l-istress, li jinkoraġġixxi għażla ta' dieta bbilanċjata u eżerċizzju fiżiku.

Għandha tiġi inkorraġġita edukazzjoni perijodika ta' '*First Aid*' liċ-ċittadini Maltin kollha, sabiex kulhadd ikun jista' jagħti l-ewwel għajjnuna f'każ ta' bżonn. Il-kunsilli lokali għandhom joffru dawn il-korsijiet. F'każ li l-konsumaturi jiġu ingannati b'informazzjoni skorretta jew falza rigward benefiċċji jew effetti oħra fuq is-saħħa, ta' ikel jew supplimenti nutrittivi, dawn għandhom jingħataw rimedju legali billi jittieħdu passi kontra min jipprovdi dawn l-affarijiet.

Jiġi żgurat li s-sillabu tal-PSD (Personal and Social Development) jinkludi ukoll l-edukazzjoni sesswali u taġġirif ċar dwar kontraċettivi u mezzi ta' prevenzjoni oħra kontra mard trażmess sesswalment. L-edukazzjoni sesswali għandha tkun ippennjata fuq valuri umani u sekulari.

Għandu jkun żgurat li ż-żgħażaġh jingħataw servizzi permezz ta' *counsellors* fl-iskejjel u l-komunità għal pariri dwar is-saħħa sesswali. Dan is-servizz għandu jkun ipprovdut b'xejn, għandu jirrispetta l-privatezza, u għandu jkun marbut ma' *outreach campaigns* f'postijiet frekwentati miż-żgħażaġh.

Għandha tingħata aktar importanza lill-kura preventiva rigward mard li jolqot lin-nisa (eż. kanċer tas-sider). Għandu jsir monitoraġġ minn kmieni biex jiġu identifikati l-problemi mill-ewwel.

Kanċer.

Il-formularju għandu jiġi aġġornat bl-iktar frekwenza possibbli sabiex jinkludi wkoll l-aħjar u l-iktar medicina effettiva, b'mod partikolari dawk użati f'terapija kontra l-kanċer.

Bħala miżura preventiva għal kontra l-kanċer, il-Pjan Nazzjonali kontra l-kanċer għandu wkoll jinkludi miri ta' tnaqqis fuq perjodu ta' għaxar snin ta' sustanzi li jniġġsu l-arja bħal-livelli ambjentali ta' *benzene*, PM(10 u 2,5) u wkoll kimiċi poliaromatċi (*PAHs*).

Health.

You know where we stand.

The Sustainability of the Health Care System.

While health care services should remain free for everyone, in view of the demographic changes leading to an ageing population, it should be ensured that the health care system remains sustainable. We also believe that the national health care system should be based on the values of solidarity and social cohesion. The privatisation of the health care system not only sustains inequalities but also undermines the value of inclusiveness. For ensuring this inclusiveness, the following measures need to be set in place:

The curtailment of the practice sustained by insurance companies which encourages patients to use public, rather than private services. This practice is leading to increased waiting lists for people who do not afford to pay for private care as well as misuse of public resources.

The setting up of a separate national insurance scheme to finance the national health care system. This fund, which should be apportioned separately from the pension system, needs to be managed in a professional manner. Contributions to this fund should be cumulative and correspond to one's income.

Pharmacies.

The licensing of pharmacies should be reformed so that additional licenses are issued for the opening of new pharmacies in localities. Presently the permits are limited to the ratio of one for every 2500 persons and a new license can only be issued following the closure of an existing pharmacy. This is leading to a situation where there are more pending applications for licensing than existing pharmacies. This limitation is certainly not feasible for localities which attract a substantial number of tourists and hinders rather than encourages competition and innovation. The liberalisation of the sector should help the consumer to get a more efficient service. Simultaneously, there should be a clause which assures a minimum amount of pharmacies in every locality. There should also be a scheme whereby pharmacies remain open at every hour of the day.

Licences should be issued so that certain medicines which do not require a prescription are made available from other shops which are not necessarily pharmacies. This system is successfully employed in other countries such as England, Italy and Germany.

The importation of medicines should be reformed so as to reduce the price of medicines. In addition to importation of medicine being carried out by the private sector, Government should consider its involvement in the importation of essential medicine should the

need arise. This should help to ensure the affordability of prices if there are market distortions, since Government can benefit from economies of scale whilst enhancing competition.

The present system for the provision of free medicine should be reformed so that money is spent on indispensable medicine and abuse is curtailed. There should be a strict means testing mechanism for the granting of access to certain types of medicine which are not of an essential nature. It does not make sense that those who have a good income, benefit from free medicine which is not of an indispensable nature. In the same time, medicine for serious ailments and with prohibitive prices should be made accessible on a universal basis with immediate effect.

The board responsible for reviewing the medicines register should be granted greater resources so that, requests for the inclusion of new medicines are addressed as timely as possible. There should be a refund system for those who require urgent need for medicine but whose application would not have as yet been approved by the board.

The pharmacy of your choice (POYC) scheme should be extended so that patients benefiting from this scheme are not faced with the difficulty of out of stock medicine, and patients are granted the right to collect medicines from any pharmacy instead of the present centralised system where Government procures the lot itself. Government should refund pharmacies according to just and established pricing.

The Health Care System.

The public health care service should be supreme and should guarantee universal essential services. It should also guarantee that both state and private services are reaching the established standards. In order to ensure that the public health

care service is enjoyed by future generations, it should be founded on sustainable and sound policies.

Patients' Rights.

Patients should possess the right for information on their personal health. Such information should be granted with full respect to the sensitivity of the persons concerned.

Healing is not only a physical process but should also take due account of the psychological well-being of the patient. This aspect should be granted greater attention by the health care administration.

Persons with terminal illnesses should be given the best service of support possible in collaboration with non-governmental entities engaged in the field.

There should be a transparent system whereby patients who have resorted to private consultancy are not advantaged over those patients who make use of governmental medical services, with regards to appointments for surgical interventions and other care services in state hospitals.

The present system of medicine distribution gives rise to serious abuse leading to uncontrolled rise in expenditure. This is seriously threatening the sustainability of this important sector. Therefore, it should be ensured that the limited resources are specifically addressed towards those most needy, such as patients suffering from serious, terminal or chronic illnesses.

The distribution of medicine should be fully reformed. This reform should involve all relevant stakeholders such as Government, pharmacists and doctors, consumer organisations and elderly associations. This system should be run through a professional administration.

The reform should cover not only patients benefiting from the out patients and health centres, but also those patients being released from hospital wards. Furthermore, a mechanism should be set up in place through which community based patients who are benefiting from home health care and may be liable to medicine abuse are identified. These patients should be examined by pharmacists on a regular basis so as to avoid wastage, shortage, or abuse of medicine.

There should be at least one pharmacy in every region of the Maltese Islands open on a twenty four hour roster basis, so that the public benefits from better access of pharmaceutical services at all hours.

Government should ensure that the medicine formulary of the Health Department is updated and revised on a regular basis. The formulary should include innovative medication that has been established through latest research to be of benefit to the health of patients. This should take place through established pharmaceutical guidelines.

Health Centres.

There should be a health centre open for twenty four hours in every district to provide for primary and emergency care.

Health Insurance.

The prices of private clinics and practitioners should be made public so as to curb abuse by doctors and clinics to the detriment of insurance companies.

Health-care System Workers.

The conditions of work of nurses should be improved in line with internationally recognised standards, so that they truly receive due professional recognition.

Salary improvement should not only be limited to doctors, but should be extended to all professionals involved in the provision of public health care.

No doctor employed in the public or private health care system should work more than the established limits under the Working Time Directive. This should ensure both the quality of life of doctors as well as guarantee that patients receive the highest level of care.

The schedule for state services should be extended so as to avoid excessive waiting-time in appointing and rescheduling of visits so that patients can benefit from efficient treatment without the excessive prolongation of waiting lists.

The Medical Council regulating the medical profession should be represented by organisations which deal with consumer and patients' rights and organisations which work for the rights of persons with a disability.

There should be more strict health and safety standards for both hospital patients and employees. There are still a good number of workers in public hospitals (including technical workers) who are still employed in conditions that are not fitting for the 21st century.

Prevention.

An integral aspect of disease prevention concerns the provision of attention to the surrounding environment. Lower levels of pollution lead to a better quality of air, water and food, control of sources of noise pollution lead to decreased stress whereas reduced levels of antibiotics in meat and stricter control on pesticides lead to increased resistance to diseases, and reduction in toxins and their ensuring consequences. A better quality of life thus strongly depends in investment in prevention and awareness raising initiatives.

Awareness raising initiatives should take place in both schools and communities in order to encourage a healthy life-style, through reduced stress, a balanced diet and physical exercise. Regular instruction in 'First Aid' should be given to all Maltese citizens so that everyone will be in a position to provide first aid in the eventuality of need. Local councils should be involved in the provision of such courses.

In the case where consumers are deceived through incorrect or false information with regards to benefits or other effects through health, food or nutrition supplements, these should be provided with legal redress which enables them to take action against those who are responsible for such negative effects.

It should be ensured that the PSD (Personal and Social Development) syllabus provides for sexual education and clearer information on the use of contraceptives and other measures of prevention from sexually transmitted diseases. Sexual education should be based on human and secular values.

It should be ensured that young people are granted counselling and guidance services on sexual health through schools and communities. This service should be provided free of charge, respect one's privacy and be linked to outreach campaigns in localities frequented by young people.

More attention should be given to the prevention of diseases which specifically affect women (ex: breast cancer). Early monitoring should be provided so as to ensure early identification and intervention.

Cancer.

The formulary should be updated as frequently as possible in order to include state of the art drugs particularly those used in anti-cancer therapies.

As a cancer preventive measure, the National Cancer Plan should also include reduction targets over a 10 year period for ambient levels of certain air pollutants such as benzene, PM(10 and 2,5) as well as polyaromatics.

19

Housing 130-131
Housing

Housing.

Magħna taf fejn int.

Madwar tmienja u għoxrin fil-mija (28%) tad-djar Maltin u Għawdxin huma vojta. Dan ifisser li ma jagħmilx sens li nkomplu nissagrifikaw iktar mill-ftit kampanja li fadlilna, f'isem l-hekk imsejjaħ żvilupp. Jeħtieġ politika li taqdi l-bżonnijiet soċjali mingħajr ma jibqa' jinqered l-ambjent. Dan jista' jsir billi jittieħdu miżuri fiskali kontra l-ispekulazzjoni permezz ta' taxxa mit-tielet proprjetà vojta. Niżguraw li r-riforma fil-liġi tal-kera li nbdiel f'din il-leġiżlatura titkompla b'rispett sħiħ għall-ġustizzja soċjali.

Inheggu l-holqien ta' suq tal-kera attiv u realistiku bit-tnaqqis tat-taxxa fuq id-dhul minn kera għal 15%.

Għandu jinholoq mekkaniżmu li jiżgura li l-ebda proprjetà użata għall-abitazzjoni ma tkun fi stat ta' periklu.

L-istat, fi sħubija ma' għaqdiet volontarji, għandu jkollu f'idejh numru ta' postijiet vojta li jintużaw f'każi ta' emerġenza u biex jilqgħu fihom nies li jispiċċaw bla dar.

L-istat għandu jiddedika l-fondi tiegħu għall-holqien ta' stokk ta' *housing* b'kirjet baxxi għal persuni bi dhul baxx. Għal dan l-iskop il-Gvern għandu jibqa' sid ta' dan l-istokk ta' *housing* soċjali biex ikun jista' jipprovdi akkomodazzjoni lil dawn il-persuni. F'dawn il-binjiet l-istat għandu jipprovdi sorsi ta' energija sostenibbli, servizzi pubbliċi u faċilitajiet rikreattivi għat-tfal u ż-żgħażaġħ.

Għandu jtfassal pjan ta' *housing* soċjali għal immigranti li joħorġu miċ-ċentri ta' detenzjoni kemm għaliex iċ-ċentri miftuħa mhumieħ atrezzati biex jgħixu n-nies fihom f'kundizzjonijiet diċenti kif ukoll biex jiġu evitati l-*ghettoes*. L-immigranti hielsa għandhom jingħataw akkomodazzjoni b'kera baxxa f'lokalitajiet mifruxin ma' Malta u Għawdex u mhux jiġu miġbura kollha f'post wieħed b'konsegwenza ta' holqien ta' *ghettoes* u l-problemi soċjali li jġibu magħhom.

Housing.

You know where we stand.

Around twenty-eight percent (28%) of houses in Malta and Gozo are vacant. Thus it makes no sense to continue sacrificing the little countryside that we have left, in the name of so called development. We need policies which meet social needs without destroying the environment. This can be done through fiscal measures against speculation by means of a tax from the third vacant property onwards. We will ensure that the reform in rent law which was started during this legislature will continue with full respect towards social justice.

We encourage the creation of an active and realistic rent market with a tax reduction on rent income to 15%.

There should be a mechanism which ensures that no property used for residential purposes is in a dangerous state.

The state, in partnership with voluntary organisations, should have at its disposal a number of vacant properties to be used in emergency cases and to be offered to those who end up homeless.

The state should allocate funds for the creation of a stock of housing at low rent for persons with low income. For this purpose, the Government should remain the owner of this stock of social housing so that it will be able to provide accommodation to these persons. In these buildings the state should provide sustainable energy sources, public services and recreational facilities for children and young people.

A plan should be drawn up for social housing for immigrants coming out of detention centres first of all because open centres are not adequately equipped to permit decent living conditions and secondly in order to avoid the creation of ghettos. Free immigrants should be provided with accommodation at low rent in localities spread across Malta and Gozo and not concentrated in one place with the consequence of ghetto creation and the ensuing social problems associated with them.

20

L-Immigrazzjoni. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-livell ta' ċiviltà u demokrazija li pajjiż ikun laħaq jitkejjel minn kemm il-pajjiż jistma persuni minn pajjiżi oħra li jitolbu kenn mit-turufnament li għandhom f'pajjiżhom. L-aġar atroċitajiet fl-istorja bħall-Olokawst u n-Nażiżmu, faqqsu minhabba l-mibegħda u l-injoranza fil-konfront tal-barranin. Dawn huma grajjiet mill-istorja li pajjiżna ma jistax, imqar għal mument wieħed, jinsa.

L-ulied ta' residenti barranin li jgħixu legalment f'Malta inkluż persuni li ilhom jaħdmu Malta permezz ta' permessi tax-xogħol imġedda regolarment, rifuġjati u persuni li ngħataw ažił f'Malta, li jkunu twieldu f'Malta u/jew attendew iċ-ċiklu tal-iskola f'Malta, għandhom ikunu eliġibbli għaċ-ċittadinanza Maltija b'mod awtomatiku.

Malta għandha tkompli taħdem għal iktar qsim tar-responsabilità bejn pajjiżi Ewropej - prinċipju mhaddan mill-familja tal-Partiti tal-Ħodor li permezz tiegħu l-pajjiżi kollha Ewropej għandhom jaqsmu r-responsabilità f'dan il-qasam. Il-Ħodor Ewropej dejjem sejjhu għal qsim ta' responsabilità fl-UE, għal tibdil relattiv fit-Trattat ta' Dublin, kif ukoll għal aktar attenzjoni lejn is-sitwazzjonijiet tal-gżejjer żgħar. Fl-istess waqt Malta għandha dejjem taderixxi mal-liġi internazzjonali u tonora l-obbligi internazzjonali tagħha. Malta għandha wkoll tħares lejn l-immigranti bħala riżors għall-pajjiż. L-ETC għandha ttiprovdi iktar taħriġ għal persuni li applikaw għal ažił sabiex dawn jintegraw ruħhom fis-suq tax-xogħol legali. Dan jiżgura li ma jkunx hemm kompetizzjoni bejn haċċiem Maltin u immigranti li jkunu mħallsa inqas. L-integrazzjoni sħiħa tal-immigranti fis-suq tax-xogħol tkun daqqa kbira għall-ekonomija s-sewda.

Immigranti li t-talba tagħhom għal ažił tiġi miċħuda iżda li ma jistgħux jintbagħtu lura għandhom ukoll jingħataw permess tax-xogħol. Il-pożizzjoni ta' immigranti li ilhom Malta iktar minn 6 snin u ma jistgħux jintbagħtu lura minn fejn ġew għandha tiġi regolarizzata. Fil-preżent dawn il-persuni qed jithallew jgħixu f'limbu legali. Din tista' tohloq sitwazzjoni perikoluża ta' persuni li jgħixu f'pajjiżna mingħajr ebda sens ta' obbligi u ebda drittijiet. Il-post ta' detenzjoni li fih jinżammu dawn l-immigrati għandu jkun wieħed aċċessibbli għall-media u esperti f'dan il-qasam. Huwa pożittiv li dawn iċ-ċentri diġà huma miftuħa għall-iskrutinju ta' għaqdiet non-governattivi. F'dan il-qasam huwa importanti li jkunu involuti l-partijiet interessati kollha inklużi l-NGOs, l-armata u l-immigranti infushom b'mod li deciżjonijiet ma jiġux imposti minn fuq iżda jittieħdu b'konsultazzjoni.

L-ebda immigrant m'għandu jinżamm f'ċentru ta' detenzjoni għal iktar minn 6 xhur. Dan it-tul ta' żmien għandu jitqies bħala wieħed eċċezzjonali, f'każijiet partikolari fejn ma jistax isir mod ieħor. Dan hu biżżejjed biex jintlaħaq bilanċ bejn is-sigurtà tal-pajjiż u d-dinjità umana. F'każ li l-awtoritajiet iħossu li hemm bżonn aktar monitoraġġ ta' xi persuni, hemm alternattivi oħra bħal iffirmar

fl-għases tal-pulizija jew *check ups* mediċi mandatorji. Bl-istess mod bħal m'għandu jagħmel għal gruppi vulnerabbli oħra, il-gvern għandu jinvesti fi stokk ta' *housing* bil-kera għal immigranti li jkunu haġru mid-detenzjoni.

Ir-reat ta' traffikar ta' bnedmin għandu jitqies bħala reat kriminali serju u l-pieni f'dawn il-każijiet għandhom jidherx sostanzjalment. Għandu jkun hemm distinzjoni fil-liġi bejn ir-reat ta' "human smuggling" fejn persuni jkunu volontarjament hallsu persuni għal mezz biex jaqsmu l-fruntieri, u dak aktar serju ta' "human trafficking" fejn persuni jiġu sfurzati jmorru f'pajjiż ieħor għal skopijiet ta' xogħol sfurzat u prostituzzjoni.

Fl-iskejjel għandu jkun hemm enfasi fuq edukazzjoni kontra r-rażziżmu permezz ta' diversi għodod pedagoġiċi. L-Olokawst għandu jittfakkar kull sena permezz ta' attivitajiet fl-iskejjel.

Immigranti li qed jinżammu f'ċentri ta' detenzjoni jew li joqogħdu f'ċentri miftuħa jew li qegħdin fil-proċess ta' integrazzjoni fis-soċjetà Maltija għandu jkollhom aċċess b'xejn għal konsulenza psikoloġika. Dan minhabba t-traumi li jkunu esperjenzaw bosta persuni li jaħarbu minn pajjiżhom u li japplikaw għall-ažił.

Għandu jkun hemm politika soċjali li tħares il-bżonnijiet speċjali ta' immigranti li qed jinżammu f'ċentri ta' detenzjoni jew li joqogħdu f'ċentri miftuħa jew li qegħdin fil-proċess ta' integrazzjoni fis-soċjetà Maltija.

Immigration. You know where we stand.

The level of civilization and democracy a country has reached can be measured by how the country treats persons from other countries who ask for shelter from the persecution in their own countries. The worst atrocities in history such as the Holocaust and Nazism, cropped up because of hatred and ignorance towards foreigners. These are facts from history that our country can't, even for a single moment, forget.

The children of foreign residents that live legally in Malta, including persons who have worked in Malta with work permits who are updated regularly, refugees and people who were granted asylum in Malta, that were born in Malta and/or attended the cycle of school in Malta shall be granted citizenship automatically.

Malta should work for more responsibility sharing between European countries – a principle firmly held among families of green parties thanks to which all European countries should share responsibility in this regard. The European Greens have always called for the sharing of responsibility in the EU, for change in the Dublin Treaty as well as more attention towards the situation in small countries. At the same time Malta always need to adhere to international law and honour its international obligations. Malta also needs to look at immigrants as a resource for the country.

ETC should provide more training to people who applied for asylum so that they integrate in the work market legally. This makes sure that there is no unfair competition between Maltese workers and underpaid migrants. The complete integration of migrants in the place of work will be a strong blow to the black economy.

Immigrants whose claim for asylum is denied but for some other reason cannot be sent back should also be granted a work permit. The position of migrants who have been in Malta for more than 6 years and can't be sent back needs to be regularized. At present these people live in a legal limbo. This may create a dangerous situation of people who live in our county without any rights and obligations.

Detention Centres for immigrants need to be adequate for the media and professionals in the field. It is positive that these places are already open for the scrutiny of Non Governmental Organizations. In this regard it is important that all stakeholders including NGOs, the army and immigrants themselves are involved in a way that decisions are not imposed from above but taken after consultation.

No immigrant should be held in a Detention Centre for more than 6 months. This length of time should be considered as exceptional, in particular cases where things cannot be done otherwise. This is enough to reach a balance between the country's security and

human dignity. In the case of persons who authorities feel need more monitoring, alternatives such as signing at police stations and mandatory health check ups should be used.

In the same way that needs to be done with other vulnerable groups, government needs to invest in a stock of housing for immigrants who just came out from detention.

The crime of human trafficking needs to be considered as a serious one and penalties should be harsher. There needs to be a legal distinction between the crime of "human smuggling" where people voluntarily pay persons for means of crossing borders to the more serious one of "human trafficking" where people are forced to go to another country for reasons of forced labour and prostitution.

In schools there needs to be an emphasis on education against racism using diverse pedagogical tools. The Holocaust needs to be remembered each year with activities at schools.

Immigrants who are kept at detention centres or live in open centres or who are in the process of integration in Maltese society should have free access to psychological consultations. This is due to the traumas many have experienced when fleeing their countries or applying for asylum.

There needs to be a social policy that looks at the specific needs of immigrants who are being held in detention centres or live in open centres or who are in the process of integrating in Maltese society.

21

L-Internet 138-141
Internet

L-Internet. Magħna taf fejn int.

Qatt ma kien hemm aċċess daqshekk faċli għall-għerf u l-informazzjoni daqs kemm hemm illum, grazzi għar-rivoluzzjoni fl-informatika u l-aċċess għall-internet.

Il-possibilitajiet u l-opportunitajiet li toffri din it-teknoloġija huma enormi. Jifhem l-orizzonti għall-kreattività u joffru mod kif iċ-ċittadini tad-dinja jieħdu sehem fi proċessi demokratiċi globali.

L-internet jiftaħ orizzonti ġodda fejn il-limiti tal-ispazju u d-distanza jinfumaw fix-xejn u jagħmlu d-dinja iżgħar u jgħibu lin-nies eqreb. L-internet inaqas il-bżonn tat-trasport u f'ċerti każi jagħmel il-kummerċ aktar eko-sostenibbli. Xorta, iżda, jeżistu ċerti riskji, speċjalment fejn tidhol il-privatezza, b'korporazzjonijiet u gvernijiet jiġbru kull tip ta' informazzjoni dwar dawk li jużaw l-internet – x'siti jżuru, xi prodotti jixtru, ma' min jikkomunikaw.

Hemm bżonn qafas legali li jipproteġi l-privatezza ta' min juża l-internet u jipproteġi d-drittijiet diġitali tagħhom. Dan il-qafas legali għandu jissejjes fuq dawn il-prinċipji:

Aċċess hieles għall-internet. M'għandu jkun hemm l-ebda xkiel għall-aċċess għall-internet minn l-ebda awtorità, sakemm ma jkunx hemm sentenza mill-qorti, skont il-liġi.

Newtralità tal-internet. Kulhadd għandu d-dritt ikollu konnessjoni għall-internet, mingħajr xkiel, filtri, limiti jew imblukkar ta' kontenut.

Privatezza. L-ebda informazzjoni m'għandha tinzamm f'sistema tal-informatika mingħajr il-kunsens tal-utent. L-utent għandu jingħata l-informazzjoni sħiħa dwar liema informazzjoni u liema dejta se tinzamm u tiġi proċessata u għal liema skop se tintuża. Awtoritajiet pubbliċi għandhom iżommu l-inqas informazzjoni possibbli biex jaqdu l-funzjoni pubblika tagħhom. M'għandhomx iżommu informazzjoni dwar kif qed jintuża l-internet minn individwi sakemm ma jkunx hemm suspetti raġonevoli ta' ksur ta' liġi.

Sigurtà. Kulhadd għandu jinżamm infurmat minnufih jekk ikun hemm xi suspett li xi informazzjoni dwaru tkun giet aċċessata illegalment jew li l-informazzjoni dwaru f'*databases* privati jew pubbliċi giet b'xi mod mimsusa jew kompromessa. L-użu ta' programmi jew kompjuters spija huwa inaċċettabbli.

L-ISPs m'għandhomx ikunu imġieghla jgħassu fuq l-utenti tagħhom. Ir-responsabbiltà tagħhom hija biss li joffru konnessjoni għall-internet u mhux kif l-utenti jużaw l-internet.

Drittijiet tal-Awtur.

Il-liġijiet tad-drittijiet tal-awtur ma ġewx imfassla għall-era diġitali. Hemm problemi kbar b'piraterija a skapitu tal-awturi, il-mużiċisti u l-artisti.

Flimkien mal-Florodor Ewropej nemmnu li hemm bżonn modernizzazzjoni tal-liġijiet dwar id-drittijiet tal-awtur. Hemm bżonn jinstab bilanċ xieraq bejn l-interessi tal-awturi, mużiċisti u artisti u dawk li jużaw l-internet. L-abbuż minn materjal u kontenut tal-artisti, l-awturi u l-mużiċisti, speċjalment għal skopijiet ta' profitt minn terzi, mhux sew. Għandhom jinstabu metodi kif dawn ikunu kumpensati għall-użu tal-kreazzjonijiet tagħhom fuq l-internet. Fl-istess hin ma naqblux mal-kriminalizzazzjoni ta' min juża kontenut għall-użu personali. Siti li jdaħħlu l-flus billi jzommu miżati għal kontenut li mhux tagħhom qegħdin jabbużaw.

Biex inżidu l-aċċess għall-kontenut nipproponu li d-drittijiet tal-awtur jonqsu minn sebgħin sena għal hames snin, b'għażla tas-sid tax-xogħol li jestendi d-drittijiet sa għoxrin sena.

Parti mill-miżata li tithallas lill-ISP għandha tintuża biex tikkumpensa l-artisti, awturi u mużiċisti għall-użu hieles, mhux kummerċjali, tax-xogħlijiet tagħhom fuq l-internet, fuq il-mudell tal-“performing rights” fil-mużika. Dan jgħin biex ikun hemm bilanċ bejn id-drittijiet diġitali tal-utenti u d-dritt tal-awturi, mużiċisti u artisti li jkunu kumpensati għal xogħolhom.

Kopji għall-Użu Privat.

Ikkuppjar ta' kontenut li jkun inxtara m'għandux jifxkel b'mezzi tekniċi bħal “digital rights management” (DRM), jew b'restrizzjonijiet legali.

Internet.

You know where we stand.

Knowledge has never been as accessible as it is today through the technological revolution of the internet. This technology has limitless potential not only to unleash the forces of creativity but also has vast democratic potential in the creation of an active global citizenship. The internet also frees the productive forces from the limits imposed by space thus contributing to the creation of a more cosmopolitan world. The internet also contributes to more eco-sustainable ways of life through the reduction of spatial transport. But this development also comes with risks like those posed by privacy issues resulting from the attempts by corporations and governments to collect, store and analyse information on users.

For these reasons we believe that a legal framework is necessary to safeguard privacy and digital rights. This legal framework must be based on the following principles:

Free access to the internet. No restriction shall be imposed on the right to access the internet without a prior ruling by a court in accordance with the law. Such measures may only be taken with due respect for the presumption of innocence, the right to privacy, the right to be heard and other fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons.

Net-neutrality.

Everyone has the right to an internet connection that is free of discrimination, whether blocking, limiting or prioritizing, with regard to content, service, application, sender or receiver address. Public authorities and service providers shall respect the neutrality of the internet.

Privacy.

No information shall be accessed, retrieved from or stored in an information technology system without the explicit consent of the user, having been provided with clear and comprehensive information about the purposes of the processing. Public authorities shall minimise the personal data they collect and store. They shall only use these data for the purpose for which they were collected. They shall not store or require storage of communications data unless there is a lawful suspicion against the person concerned.

Security.

Everyone has the right to be notified without delay of security failures in private or public databases which could result in his or her personal data being lost or otherwise compromised. We refuse the use of spy software and the spying of computers. A Comprehensive modernization of data protection, the expansion of free wireless networks and the maintenance of the use of pseudonyms in the internet are required for the future of the internet in order to assure openness and participation.

ISP shall not become the watchdogs of the internet. Their responsibility shall be always limited to the internet access provision and network, they shall not be responsible on the contents of sites they give access too.

Copyright.

The existing, national, laws on the protection of intellectual property don't suffice anymore in the digital era. There are major problems because of the existing practice downloading music and films from the internet without proper regulation of payment. Emerging digital libraries face problems with property rights of orphan works. Therefore a solid new legislative framework is required.

We Greens are committed to a modernisation and reform of copyright law and to a fair balance between the interests of copyright owners and users; that is, for all Internet participants. We want to strengthen the copyright owners and artists against the exploitation and marketing of their content, but also to provide adequate financial compensation for the free use of their copyrighted content on the Internet. At the same time we want to end the criminalization of non-commercial use of copyrighted works on the Internet and facilitate access to them. If copyrighted material is offered directly on a website

or platform, which has a significant (higher than cost recovery) income from contributions from members or through advertising or links, then this counts as commercial scale.

In line with the position adapted by the European Greens we want to reduce the copyright term from 70 to 5 years, with an option for copyright holders to extend it to a maximum of 20 years.

Part of the fee paid by digital users to internet service providers should be used to compensate artists. This will create a balance between compensating artists and “respecting the right to informational self-determination and the privacy of telecommunications.”

Private Copying.

Private copying should not be prevented by technical measures, such as digital rights management (DRM), or by legal restrictions.

It must always be legal to circumvent DRM restrictions, and we should consider introducing a ban in the consumer rights legislation on DRM technologies that restrict legal uses of a work. Such a copy for private use and the right to copy it to personal devices, be it a laptop, an MP3 player, a tablet PC, or transferred to a smartphone, does not automatically include the right to share it with others publicly.

22

Ġustizzja u Intern. Magħna taf fejn int.

Faċilità Korrettiva.

L-iskopijiet ewlenin tal-Faċilità Korrettiva ta' Kordin għandhom ikunu dawk ta' rijabilitazzjoni, deterrent u/jew kastig b'enfasi partikolari fuq ir-rijabilitazzjoni. Dan jiżgura li l-faċilità ma sservix bħala università ta' kriminalità fejn min jidhol fiha joħroġ aghar minn meta jkun daħal, iżda post fejn wieħed isib possibiltajiet ta' xogħol, taħriġ u programmi ta' edukazzjoni u integrazzjoni soċjali bla ma jiġu mittiefsa d-drittijiet tal-vittmi tal-kriminalità. Jeħtieġ li d-divizionijiet kollha jkollhom in-neċessitajiet u kumditajiet adegwati għall-ħabsin.

Is-servizz tal-gwardjani tal-ħabs għandu jiġi żviluppat u professjonalizzat b'tali mod li jkun f'qagħda li jimmaniġġja s-servizz korrettiv. Dan iwassal biex ma titkompliex il-prattika li s-servizz jitmexxa minn ex-uffiċċjal tal-pulizija jew tal-armata.

Il-bord tal-ħabs għandu jkun aktar rappreżentattiv tas-soċjetà ċivili u jkollu awtorità akbar.

Persuni li jagħtu prova li qed isegwu programm ta' rijabilitazzjoni b'suċċess għandhom jingħataw faċilitajiet bħal possibiltà ta' studju, taħriġ u xogħol kontrollat barra mill-faċilità korrettiva, kif ukoll żjarat ikkontrollati fid-djar tal-familja tagħhom. Dawn il-faċilitajiet ikunu jistgħu jitneħħew f'każ ta' mġiba ħażina jew abbuż. Kull priġunier għandu jkollu l-opportunità li jitqies għall-*parole*.

Fil-preżent, l-edukazzjoni li tiġi offruta lill-priġunieri mhix tilhaq l-għanijiet mixtieqa u l-aċċess għandu jkun wieħed effettiv. Mhux qed isir assessjar ta' ħabsin biex isir magħruf x'jistgħu jgħallmu l-priġuniera biex jiżviluppaw il-personalità tagħhom u sabiex meta joħroġu jkunu jistgħu jerġgħu jintegraw fis-soċjetà. Ir-residenti tal-Faċilità Korrettiva ta' Kordin għandu jkollhom id-dritt tal-vot.

Ir-residenti tal-Faċilità Korrettiva ta' Kordin għandu jkollhom id-dritt li waqt il-ħin tal-viżti jiltaqgħu mal-persuni l-iktar qrib tagħhom (bhall-membri tal-familja)

Il-ħabs għandu jkunu taħt l-iskrutinju ta' Għaqdiet Non-Governattivi (NGOs) kompetenti fil-qasam, ta' ġurnalisti akkreditati u esperti fil-qasam billi dawn jingħataw aċċess għan-nies miżmuma f'dawn il-postijiet u b'hekk ikollhom iċ-ċans jiddokumentaw il-kundizzjonijiet f'dawn il-postijiet. Dan il-pass għandu jżid il-kontabilità ta' min imexxi dawn il-postijiet. Dan jgħodd ukoll għaċ-ċentri ta' detenzjoni u postijiet oħra fejn jinzammu l-immigranti irregolari.

F'każijiet fejn il-liġi tagħmilha fakultattiva fid-diskrezzjoni tal-Qorti sabiex tinfliggi jew piena pekunjarja (multa jew ammenda) jew inkella piena ta' ħabs (kemm sospiża jew operattiva), il-Qrati għandhom, sakemm dan huwa possibbli u sakemm dan ma joħloqx periklu għall-vittmi jew għas-soċjetà jew inkella periklu

ta' reċidiviżmu, tinfliggi l-piena li mhix ta' ħabs u, preferibbilment, dik li permezz tagħha tippermetti illi l-ħati jagħti servizz lill-komunità.

Parti importanti mill-proċess ta' rijabilitazzjoni għandha tkun li min jinstab ħati ta' reat jikkumpensa lill-vittmi tar-reat. Dan il-kumpens jista' jkun wieħed dirett lejn il-vittma nnifisha jew f'forma ta' servizz fil-komunità f'każ ta' reati li jolqtu s-soċjetà kollha kemm hi. Għandu jkun hemm programmi li jgħinu fir-rikonċiljazzjoni bejn il-vittma u min ikun ikkommetta r-reat.

Meta jingħata l-*bail*, il-vittmi u x-xhieda (b'mod partikolari f'każijiet ta' reati fuq minorenni) u gruppi vulnerabbli oħra għandhom jingħataw kull protezzjoni neċessarja mill-Istat.

Huwa l-obbligu tal-istat li, bi shab mas-soċjetà ċivili, jiffaċilita' r-rintegrazzjoni tal-ħabsin fis-soċjetà. Il-priġunieri kollha għandu jkollhom pjan ta' reintegrazzjoni minn meta jidhlu l-ħabs biex jiġi żgurat li wara li jhallu l-faċilità jkunu jistgħu jerġgħu jintegraw fis-soċjetà u jsibu xogħol. Dawk l-aktar qrib tal-ħabsin (bħal membri tal-familja), esperti, dawk li potenzjalment jistgħu joffru xogħol u rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili għandhom ikunu involuti f'dan il-proċess.

B'referenza għall-kapitlu 318 tal-Liġijiet ta' Malta, sezzjoni 91, jeħtieġ li tispiċċa l-politika li permezz tagħha l-pensjoni kontributorja tal-ħabsin titnaqqas bin-nofs (fil-każ tal-miżżewġin) jew saħansitra titneħħa fil-każ ta' min mhux miżżewweġ. Dan hu kastig ieħor fuq is-sentenza, b'konsegwenzi negattivi fuq il-familjari tal-priġuniera.

Hemm bżonn ukoll politika sistematika li permezz tagħha, bi dritt, ħabsin ikunu jistgħu jagħmlu programm ta' rijabilitazzjoni mid-droga, u mhux jiddependu mid-diskrezzjoni tal-awtoritajiet konċernati.

Wara li jiskontaw is-sentenza tagħhom, il-ħabsin ma jkollhomx assistenza soċjali immedjata imma jkollhom jistennu sitt ġimgħat biex jibdwu jingħataw xi għajnuna. Din il-proċedura amministrattiva għandha tinbidel biex b'hekk ikunu jistgħu jieħdu assistenza immedjata.

Jeħtieġ li l-istat jara li ħabsin bla dar ikollhom residenza temporanja wara li jiskontaw is-sentenza tagħhom. Fil-preżent dan qed isir biss mill-volontarjat.

Kondotta tal-Pulizija.

Galadarba persuna tkun serviet iż-żmien tagħha fil-ħabs, u allura tkun pattiet għal dak li għamlet, ir-reat għandu jitneħħa mill-kondotta tal-pulizija wara perġodu ta' tranżizzjoni adegwata u fuq ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet ta' bord rikonoxxut mill-Gvern. Dan jgħin biex jitnaqqas il-preġudizzju, l-istigma, n-nuqqas ta' opportunitajiet ta' xogħol u d-diffikultajiet ta' ex-priġunieri biex jerġgħu jintegraw fis-soċjetà.

Ġustizzja.

Il-ġustizzja tibqa' ġustizzja biss jekk isseħħ bla tnikkir. Alternattiva Demokratika tħaddan viżjoni ta' ġustizzja bbażata fuq distinzjoni ċara bejn il-poter eżekuttiv, il-poter leġislativ u l-poter ġudizzjarju. Nemmu f'ġustizzja li tpoġġi fuq quddiem il-ħarsien tad-drittijiet tal-individwu.

Għandu jinqata' d-dewmien fil-proċess ta' kawżi kriminali u ċivili, u wieħed mill-modi biex dan isir hu li l-qrati jiffunzjonaw sew fis-sajf. Sistemi bħall-għeluq tal-qrati fis-sajf għandhom jinbidlu b'mod li l-Qrati jkunu jistgħu jiffunzjonaw anki fis-sajf, b'sistema ta' roster bejn imħallfin, maġistrati u impjegati.

Il-maġistrati u l-imħallfin għandu jkollhom il-ħin u l-faċilitajiet biex jagħmlu r-riċerka meħtieġa biex il-ġustizzja tabilhaq titwettagħ.

Biex id-dewmien jitnaqqas, għandu jiżdied in-numru ta' maġistrati u mħallfin. Għandu jkun hemm faċilitajiet oħra ta' arbitraġġ barra l-qorti fejn wieħed ikun jista' jsib rimedju għal kwistjonijiet kummerċjali.

Il-politika mħaddna mill-gvern preżenti li jnaqqas il-każi pendenti permezz ta' zieda fit-tariffi tal-qrati tista' twassal għal ingustizzja soċjali billi tiżvantaġġa lil min ma jiflahx iħallas. Għaldaqstant, dawn it-tariffi għandhom jitnaqqsu.

L-imħallfin u l-maġistrati m'għandhomx jibqgħu jinħatru mill-gvern iżda mill-President u soġġett għall-konferma mill-Parlament. Dan jiżgura sistema ta' *checks and balances* bejn is-setgħa eżekuttiva (eżerċitata f'dan il-każ mill-President) u l-leġislatura. Il-maġistrati inkwirenti għandu jkollhom il-faċilitajiet effettivi biex jinvestigaw fuq inizjattiva tagħhom u fuq rapporti tal-pubbliku fuq kwalunkwe kwistjoni ta' ksur tal-liġi.

Is-sistema tal-ġurija preżenti għandha tinżamm.

F'ċerti każijiet li wasslu għal verdett ta' "mhux ħati" u fejn l-Imħallef sedenti jiddetermina illi jissusistu wieħed mis-segwenti fatturi, il-persuna liberata għandha tingħata kumpens pekunjarju likwidat

mill-Imħallef stess: (a) każ ta' frame-up (b) fil-każ ta' holqien qarrieqi ta' provi foloz u (c) f'każ fejn l-Imħallef jidhirlu li lanqas biss kellha tgħaddi ġuri għaliex qatt ma kien hemm każ prima facie kontra l-persuna u għaldaqstant ma kellux jinħareġ l-att tal-akkuża.

Iż-żmien li wieħed jinżamm il-ħabs qabel il-ġudizzju mill-qrati, għandu jkun limitat u jintuża biss f'każi eċċezzjonali. Kull proċess għandu jibda wara ammont raġonevoli ta' żmien.

Għandu jiżdied il-koordinament bejn il-membri tal-ġudikatura biex kemm jista' jkun ma jkunx hemm anomaliji fil-pieni f'każi li jinvolvu l-istess reat jew reati simili. Din għandha twassal għal politika formali ta' sentenzjar li tiżgura li limiti diskrezzjonali relatati ma' sentenzi ta' ħabs ma jiġux infurzati b'mod arbitrarju.

Is-suspettati għandhom jingħataw id-dritt ta' aċċess għal avukat waqt il-proċeduri kriminali inkluż waqt l-interrogazzjoni, u id-dritt li jikkomunikaw, hekk kif jiġu arrestati, skont il-Qorti Ewropea tad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem u l-proposti tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea. Il-pulizija għandu jkollha d-dmir li tagħti l-evidenza li jkollha lill-avukat li jkun qed jirrappreżenta lill-issuspettat (*duty of disclosure*).

Għandu jitwaqqaf kumitat professjonali speċjali biex janalizza l-vojt leġislativ li jeżisti dwar id-drittijiet tat-tfal fil-qrati.

Modi ta' mgħieba mhux aċċettabbli ta' persuni li jaqgħu taħt il-mandat tat-Tribunal għall-Investigazzjoni tal-Ingustizzji jew tal-Kummissjoni Permanenti Kontra l-Korruzzjoni għandhom jiġu penalizzati, filwaqt li tiġi kunsidrata il-*Whistleblower Act* u ċirkustanzi attenwanti oħra. Fi kwistjonijiet li jikkonċernaw fondi pubbliċi, l-Awditur Ġenerali għandu jżomm il-poteri diskrezzjonali tiegħu.

Iżda għal skopijiet ta' investigazzjoni tal-modi ta' mgħieba msemija qabel, minbarra l-Pulizija, għandu jitwaqqaf kumitat indipendenti u imparzjali magħmul minn tliet avukati biex jeżamina u jinvestiga allegazzjonijiet ta' korruzzjoni fis-settur privat u dak pubbliku. Il-membri tal-kumitat għandhom jinħatru – wara proċess ġust u trasparenti u sejha pubblika għall-applikazzjonijiet – minn Bord tal-Għażla magħmul minn dawn il-persuni: (i) il-Prim Imħallef, (ii) il-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija, (iii) id-Dekan tal-Fakultà tal-Liġi, (iv) ġurnalist

serju magħżul mill-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Ġurnalisti, (v) imprenditur prominenti magħżul mill-Kamra tal-Kummerċ, (vi) il-President tal-Kamra tal-Avukati u (vii) ċittadin Malti magħżul bil-polza mil-lista ta' ġurati potenzi.

Dan il-kumitat għandu jkollu l-għan li jikkumpla u jibni fuq il-funzjonijiet u l-poteri diġa stabbiliti mil-liġi, tal-Awditur Ġenerali, fejn l-Awditur Ġenerali għandu ġurisdizzjoni jew kompetenza esklussiva f'sitwazzjoni jew każ partikolari. Għalhekk, minbarra ir-rwol investigattiv tagħhom, il-membri ta' dan il-kumitat għandu jkollhom rwol eżekuttiv u għandu jingħatalhom *locus standi* quddiem il-qorti bħala uffiċjali tal-prosekuzzjoni.

Unjin tal-Korp tal-Pulizija ta' Malta/Shubija f'Unjins mill-Pulizija.

Il-forzi tad-dixxiplina (il-korp tal-pulizija, l-armata, il-protezzjoni ċivili u l-gwardjani tal-ħabs) għandu jkollhom id-dritt li jiffurmaw unjin, b'limitazzjoni waħda – li ma jkollhomx id-dritt tal-istrajk.

Il-forzi tad-dixxiplina (il-korp tal-pulizija, l-armata, il-protezzjoni ċivili u l-gwardjani tal-ħabs) għandu jkollhom aċċess għal taħriġ biex jifhemu aħjar is-soċjetà diversa u pluralista ta' llum.

Liġi Penali.

Il-provvedimenti tal-liġi li tikriminalizza l-oxxenità, il-pornografija u l-vilifikazzjoni tar-reliġjon – li kollha potenzjalment imorru kontra l-provvedimenti konstituzzjonali li jħarsu l-libertà tal-espressjoni – għandhom jiġu riveduti. B'mod partikolari Artikli 163, 164 u 208 tal-Kodiċi Kriminali, Artiklu 7 tal-Att dwar l-Istampa u Artiklu 13 tal-Att tax-Xandir għandhom jiġu riveduti.

Ċerti liġijiet, li jidhru li huma ta' natura ċivili għandhom jiġu penalizzati taħt it-Titlu VI tal-Kodiċi Kriminali. B'mod partikolari, kredituri li jkun ingħatalhom ġudizzju minn qorti ċivili fejn tkun giet ikkonfermata talba għal ħlas ta' aktar minn €10,000 imma li ma jkunx irnexxielhom jesegwixxu s-sentenza la b'mandat ta' qbid u lanqas b'mandat ta' sekwestru, għandu jkollhom id-dritt li jipprezentaw kwerela.

Uffiċjali tal-Prosekuzzjoni għandhom jiġu mitluba jiehdu taħriġ bażiku fil-prinċipji tal-liġi kriminali fil-Fakultà tal-Liġi u fl-Istitut tal-Kriminoloġija fl-Università ta' Malta.

Dritt Internazzjonali.

Għandu jitwaqqaf Kumitat ta' Esperti fil-Liġi Internazzjonali bl-għan li jiġu aġġornati linji ta' politika li jinkludu:

(i) Politika dwar id-drittijiet tal-bniedem li tikkonforma mal-liġi internazzjonali tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem u l-liġi umanitarja internazzjonali;

(ii) politika għal kontra t-terroriżmu u pjan ta' kontinġenza;

(iii) politika aġġornata tal-migrazzjoni b'koperazzjoni mas-sħab tagħna Ewropej;

(iv) politika koerenti dwar il-klawsola tan-newtralità li tagħmel parti mill-Konstituzzjoni ta' Malta; u

(v) politika aġġornata dwar ir-rwol ta' Malta bħala medjatur fir-reġjun tal-Mediterran.

Votanti Maltin Barra minn Malta.

Alternattiva Demokratika - The Green Party se tagħfas għall-possibilità li l-Maltin espatrijati jkunu jistgħu jivvutaw barra minflok joqgħodu jinżlu Malta. Il-Maltin li jghixu barra, li jkunu irreġistraw mar-rappreżentanzi diplomatiċi Maltin barra, ikunu jistgħu jivvotaw fl-eqreb amabaxxata jew konsolat.

Justice and Home Affairs. You know where we stand.

Correctional Facility.

The main aims of the Corradino Correctional Facility should be those of rehabilitation, deterrent and/or punishment with particular emphasis on rehabilitation. This would ensure that the facility will not serve as a university for crime where inmates come out of it worse than when they went in, but a place where one finds possibilities for work, training and educational programmes and social integration without jeopardising the rights of victims of crime. All divisions should have all the necessities and adequate facilities for inmates.

The prison warden service should be further developed and professionalised such that it is in a position to manage the correctional service. This will lead to a discontinuation of the current practice of having a former police or army officer managing the service.

The prison board should be more representative of civil society and have increased authority.

Inmates who prove that they are following a rehabilitation programme successfully should be offered possibilities for study, training and work in a controlled environment outside the facility, as well as controlled visits to their family at home. These facilities could be withdrawn in cases of bad behaviour or abuse.

All inmates should have the opportunity to be considered for parole.

At present, the educational programmes offered to prisoners are not reaching the desired aims and access to them should be more effective. No assessment is being done to establish what prisoners can learn to develop their personality and to ensure that when they leave prison they would be able to reintegrate in society. The residents at the Corrective Facility should have the right to vote.

The residents at the Corrective Facility should have the right to meet those closest to them (such as family members) during visiting hours.

The prisons should be under the scrutiny of competent Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), qualified journalists and experts in the field who should be given access to people held in these facilities so that they will have the opportunity to document the conditions in such places. Such a move would increase the accountability of those in charge of these facilities. This applies also to detention centres where irregular immigrants are kept.

In cases where the Courts can mete out a pecuniary sentence (such as a fine) or a prison sentence (either suspended or operative), the Courts should, as long as this is possible and as long as this will not create danger to the victims or to society or increase the likelihood of recidivism, inflict a non-prison sentence, and preferably one through which the convicted person would be able to perform a service to the community.

An important part of the rehabilitation process should be for convicted persons to compensate the victims of the crime. This could either take the form of direct compensation to the victim or in the form of community service in the case of crimes which affect the whole society. There should be programmes which facilitate the reconciliation between the victim/s and those who commit a crime.

When bail is granted, the victims, the witnesses (particularly in cases involving crimes against minors) and other vulnerable groups should be given all the necessary protection by the state.

It is the duty of the state, in partnership with civil society, to facilitate the reintegration of prisoners in society. All inmates should have a resettlement plan as from when they enter prison, to help ensure that after leaving the facility they can reintegrate into society and find employment. Those closest to inmates (such as family members), experts, potential employers and civil society representatives should be involved in this process.

With reference to Chapter 318 of the Laws of Malta, section 91, the policy whereby the contributory pension of prisoners is reduced by half (in the case of those married) or completely taken away in the case of those who are not married, should be revised. This is another punishment over and above that given by the court with negative consequences on the prisoner's family.

There should be a systematic policy through which, a prisoner, will have the right to engage in a drug rehabilitation programme. This should not depend on the discretion of the authorities. After having served their sentence, prisons do not receive immediate social assistance but would have to wait for six weeks until they receive their first welfare benefit. This administrative procedure should change to enable those who exit prison to receive immediate assistance.

The state should ensure that homeless prisoners are offered a temporary residence after serving their sentence. At present this is only being done by the voluntary sector.

Police Conduct.

Once an inmate has served his/her term and thus paid back to society for his/her crimes, the crime committed should be removed from the police conduct after a suitable transitional period and following recommendations by a state-recognized board. This will help do away with labelling, stigma, lack of employment opportunities and lack of social integration.

Justice.

Justice delayed is justice denied. Alternattiva Demokratika holds a vision of justice which is based on a clear distinction between executive, legislative and judiciary powers. We believe in justice which gives priority to the rights of individuals.

Delays in the process of criminal and civil cases should be curbed. One way in which this could be done is for the courts to function fully in summer. Systems such as the closing of the courts during the summer months should be changed so that courts would be able to operate effectively also in summer, using a roster system for judges, magistrates and employees.

Magistrates and judges should have the time and the facilities to conduct the necessary research so that justice will truly be carried out.

In order to reduce delays, the number of magistrates and judges should be increased. There should be other means of arbitration for commercial cases where one may settle outside the court.

The policy of the present government to reduce pending cases by an increase in court tariffs may lead to social injustice since those who cannot afford such tariffs will be disadvantaged. Thus, these tariffs should be reduced.

Judges and magistrates should no longer be appointed by the government but by the President and subject to confirmation by Parliament. This would ensure checks and balances between executive power (exercised in this case by the President) and the legislature.

The inquiring magistrate should have effective facilities to carry out investigations on his/her own initiative and on the basis of reports by the public on any illegal matter. The existing jury system should be kept.

In certain cases leading to a verdict of "not guilty" and where the presiding judge determines that in the case of one of the following factors, the acquitted person should be given financial compensation liquidated by the same judge: (a) cases of frame-up (b) in cases of creation of false proof and (c) in cases where the judge is of the opinion that the person should not have been brought to trial since there was never a prima facie case against the person and therefore the person should have never been charged.

The time during which a charged person is kept in prison before a court's judgement should be limited and used only in exceptional cases. Every process should start after a reasonable period of time.

There should be better coordination among members of the judiciary so that as much as possible, there will be no anomalies in the sentences meted out in cases which involve the same offence or similar offences. This should lead to a formal sentencing policy which would ensure that discretionary thresholds relating to the infliction of terms of imprisonment are not arbitrarily enforced.

Suspects should be granted the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings, including during interrogation, and the right to communicate upon arrest in line with European Court of Human Rights case law and the European Commission proposal on this matter. The police should have the duty to disclose to the lawyer representing the suspect the evidence available (duty of disclosure).

A special professional committee should be set up to review the legislative vacuum about the rights of children in the law courts.

Modes of conduct of persons falling within the remit of either the Tribunal for the Investigation of Injustices or the Permanent Commission Against Corruption should be expressly penalized, due regard being given to the provisions of the Whistle-blower Act and other mitigating circumstances. In matters concerning public funds, the Auditor-General should retain his discretionary powers.

However, for the purpose of investigations of the modes of conduct mentioned in the point above, besides the Police Force, an

independent and impartial committee composed of three lawyers should be constituted to examine and investigate allegations of corruption within the private and public sectors. The committee members should be selected - following a fair and transparent process and a public call for applications - by a Selection Board composed of the following persons: (i) the Chief Justice, (ii) the Commissioner of Police, (iii) the Dean of the Faculty of Laws, (iv) a reputable journalist chosen by the Malta Association of Journalists, (v) an eminent businessman selected by the Chamber of Commerce, (vi) the President of the Chamber of Advocates and (vii) a citizen of Malta chosen by lot from the list of potential jurors.

Such committee shall be intended to supplement and complement the functions and powers already established by law of the Auditor General, where the Auditor General has exclusive jurisdiction or competence over an identifiable situation or case. Thus committee members should, besides their investigative role, perform an executive role and shall be granted locus standi before the courts as prosecuting officers.

Malta Police Force Union/Police Unionization.

The disciplined forces (police force, army, civil protection, and prison wardens) should have the right to join or form a trade union, with one limitation – not having the right to strike.

The disciplined forces (police force, army, civil protection, and prison wardens), should have access to training for the understanding of a plural and diverse society.

Penal Law.

The provisions of the law criminalising obscenity, pornography and the vilification of religion – which all potentially contravene Constitutional provisions safeguarding freedom of expression – should be revisited. In particular Articles 163, 164 and 208 of the Criminal Code, Article 7 of the Press Act and Article 13 of the Broadcasting Act must be reviewed.

Certain acts seemingly of a civil nature should be penalized under Title VI of the Criminal Code. In particular, creditors who have obtained a judgement from a court with civil jurisdiction upholding a claim for payment exceeding 10,000 euros but who have unsuccessfully sought to execute such judgement by filing a warrant of seizure (mandat ta' qbid) and/or a garnishee order (mandat ta' sekwestru), should be entitled to file a complaint of the injured party (kwerela).

Prosecuting officers in court should, as a prerequisite, follow a course on the basic principles of criminal law at the Faculty of Laws and the Institute of Criminology at the University of Malta.

International Rights.

A Committee of International Law Experts should be constituted with the aim of updating a number of policies including:

(i) a human rights policy which conforms with international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

(ii) a counter-terrorism policy and a proper contingency plan;

(iii) an updated migration policy in cooperation with our European partners;

(iv) a coherent policy with regard to Malta's constitutionally entrenched neutrality clause and

(v) an updated policy with regard to Malta's mediator role in the Mediterranean region.

Maltese Voters Abroad.

Alternattiva Demokratika - The Green Party will push for the possibility for Maltese expatriates to be able to vote abroad instead of coming down to Malta. Maltese living abroad, who have previously registered with Maltese diplomatic representations abroad, will be able to vote in their nearest embassy/consulate.

23

Pensjonijiet. Magħna taf fejn int.

Fis-soċjetà ta' llum rajna bidla fil-gruppi tal-etajiet, pereżempju zieda fi numru ta' anzjani u tnaqqis fi numru ta' tfal, kif ukoll fix-xerjiet ta' xogħol u fl-istil tal-ħajja. Minħabba dawn ix-xerjiet, jehtieġ li terġa' tiġi maħsuba l-politika dwar l-ugwaljanza u l-opportunitajiet indaqs bejn il-ġenerazzjonijiet, speċjalment f'dak li huma servizzi għall-anzjani.

Bħala *Green Party*, Alternattiva Demokratika temmen f'sistema ta' pensjonijiet ġusta u ekonomikament sostenibbli li tgħaqqad drittijiet ma' responsabbiltajiet u li tħares fit-tul.

Fiċ-ċirkustanzi preżenti, taħlita tal-pensjoni tal-istat flimkien ma' skemi privati saret b'żonn għal ħafna nies, peress li dan jista' jiżgura kemm livell stabbli ta' kontribuzzjonijiet kif ukoll skema ta' pensjoni li toffri kwalità ta' ħajja tajba.

Iżda biex issir ġustizzja soċjali, il-pensjoni statutorja tal-istat trid tkun ibbażata fuq rata li tirrifletti l-għoli tal-ħajja u l-aspettattivi ta' livell ta' għixien diċenti.

Eventwalment, il-pensjoni statutorja ibbażata fuq il-kontribuzzjonijiet tas-sigurtà soċjali se jkollha tevolvi f'forma usa' ta' assikurazzjoni għaċ-ċittadini kollha bi kwalunkwe tip ta' dħul u kwalunkwe tip ta' xogħol biex tiżgura li gruppi soċjali vulnerabbli ma jiġux diskriminati meta jsiru pensjonanti.

Ir-riforma fis-sistema tal-pensjoni ma ssolvix problemi f'dak li għandu x'jaqsam ma' inugwaljanzi fost pensjonanti, minħabba li l-pensjonijiet huma bbażati fuq id-dħul li persuna tirċievi matul il-ħajja. Din is-sistema hija rigida u inflessibbli, b'riżultat li jiżdiedu l-inugwaljanzi fost nies bħal ma huma dawk li jieħdu ħsieb persuni oħra bħal tfal, anzjani u nies b'diżabilità, nies li ma jaħdmux b'sistemi u ħinijiet tradizzjonali, u ħaddiema part-time. In-nisa jsibuha aktar diffiċli biex isibu bilanċ bejn ir-regolamenti tal-kontribuzzjonijiet u r-responsabbiltajiet tal-familja, it-trobbija tat-tfal u x-xogħol part-time li ma joffrix wisq sigurtà.

Il-politka tal-pensjonijiet m'għandhiex tkun ibbażata fuq mudell wieħed ta' familja, imma għandha tinkludi tipi ta' familji differenti bħal koppji miżżewġin, dawk li jikkoabitaw, familji b'ġenitur wieħed, koppji tal-istess sess u persuni li jgħixu waħedhom.

Proposti fit-Tul

Rigward il-pensjoni tal-istat, AD temmen f'għan li jista' jintlaħaq fuq medda taż-żmien, Pensjoni Universali taċ-Ċittadini. Minflok ibbażata fuq il-kontribuzzjonijiet tal-bolla, din hija bbażata fuq l-idea li ċ-ċittadini kollha jagħtu kontribut siewi lill-ekonomija u lis-soċjetà permezz tal-ħidma tagħhom kemm bi ħlas kif ukoll dak li mhux imħallas, b'riżultat li kulhadd jirċievi pensjoni indaqs li

tirrifletti l-għoli tal-ħajja. Din il-pensjoni jista' jkollha effett multiplikanti fuq l-ekonomija peress li jiżdied l-infieq minn pensjonanti fl-iskaluni soċjo-ekonomikament baxxi. Dawk li meta jsiru pensjonanti jixtiequ li jżommu l-istess livell t'għixien li għandhom bħalissa għandhom jiġu mħajra jinvestu fi skemi privati ta' pensjoni biex iżidu fuq il-pensjoni li jirċievu mill-Istat. Nifhemu li riforma bħal din ikollha impatt fuq il-finanzi tal-Istat u għalhekk l-introduzzjoni tagħha għandha ssir bil-mod.

Proposti Immedjati.

Is-sistema tal-pensjonijiet ma tistax tibqa' kif inhi, għaliex dan fl-aħħar mill-aħħar se twassal għal falliment finanzjarju u pensjonanti ifqar. Għalhekk aħna naqblu li minbarra l-ewwel pilastru li jithallas minn kull min jaħdem bi ħlas, għandu jiġi introdott it-tieni pilastru biex il-Gvern ikun jista' jassigura sostenibilità fis-sistema tal-pensjonijiet u jara li n-nies ikunu qegħdin iġemmgħu ammont żejjed ta' flus li jiġi użat biss għal skop ta' pensjonijiet, u li ma tintużax mill-Gvern għal skopijiet oħra. Aħna nemmnu li t-tieni pilastru għandu jiġi introdutt b'mod responsabbli, biex jiġu evitati xokkijiet fil-kwalità tal-ħajja tan-nies. Mhuwiex aċċettabbli li t-tielet pilastru jsir obbligatorju bħala sostitut għat-tieni pilastru.

AD ma taqbilx mar-regolament li biex persuna tkun intitolata għall-pensjoni kontributorja, tkun trid tkun ħadmet għal 40 sena, speċjalment illum il-ġurnata meta x-xogħol prekarju qiegħed jiżdied, meta żdied l-individwalizmu fl-istil ta' ħajja, fl-impiegi, kif ukoll realtajiet oħra bħal ċaqliq fis-suq tax-xogħol minħabba qgħad jew ħarsien ta' persuni b'diżabilità, anzjani jew tfal. Kumpens mill-Gvern biex ipatti għat-telf fil-kontribuzzjonijiet tas-sigurtà soċjali lill dawk li jkun jridu jieħdu ħsieb persuni oħra għandu jirrifletti l-kontribut siewi li jkun taw dawk li jinterrompu l-karriera tagħhom biex jieħdu ħsieb tfal, anzjani u persuni morda jew b'diżabilità. Ħafna nies jidhlu u joħroġu

mid-dinja tax-xogħol għal diversi raġunijiet, min għax irid u oħrajn għax ma jkollhomx għażla oħra. Għalhekk irrispettivament min-numru ta' snin li persuna tkun hadmet, kulhadd għandu jingħata d-dritt ta' pensjoni xierqa. B'mod partikolari, dawk li għandhom dħul baxx jew medju għandu jkollhom garanzija ta' pensjoni diċenti meta jikbru fl-età. Għandha ssir aktar enfasi biex il-pensjoni l-aktar baxxa tkun imfassla fuq kalkolu ta' livell ta' għixien realistiku. Għandha tingħata prijorità lill-ġustizzja soċjali.

Il-pensjonanti li kienu intitolati għal pensjonijiet kontributorji li minnhom ġew eventwalment imċaħħda (bħall-pensjonanti tas-Servizzi jew ta' dak li kien il-Bord tal-Elettriku) għandhom jiġu kkompensati għall-pensjoni li ġew imċaħħda minnha.

Membru Parlamentari tal-AD elett iressaq mozzjoni fil-parlament sabiex iċ-ċittadini Maltin jiġu ttrattati ugwalment fir-rigward tal-pensjonijiet, u fejn il-membri parlamentari ma jkollhomx drittijiet privileġġati tal-pensjoni.

Il-Pensjoni Minima Garantita ta' mhux anqas minn 60% tad-dħul medju nazzjonali għandha tingħata lil kulhadd u mhux biss lil dawk li twieldu wara l-1962.

Tul l-aħħar tletin sena, l-Oghla Dħul Pensjonabbli (ODP) stabbilit fl-1981 ma żdiedx skont l-inflazzjoni. Dawk li twieldu qabel l-1962 għandu jkollhom l-istess ODP bħal dawk li twieldu fl-1 ta' Jannar 1962 jew wara mingħajr diskriminazzjoni. L-ammont għandu jirrifletti ż-żidiet tal-COLA tul dawn l-aħħar 20 sena.

Fuq medda qasira ta' snin – mhux aktar minn 10 – il-pensjoni tas-servizz għandha tispicċa tiġi kkalkulata biex tkun stabbilita l-pensjoni tal-Irtirar tas-Sigurtà Soċjali. Il-pensjoni tas-servizz m'għandhiex tibqa' titnaqqas mill-pensjoni tas-Sigurtà Soċjali.

Fond tal-Pensjonijiet.

Biex ikun hemm aktar sostenibilità, għandu jitwaqqaf fond tal-pensjonijiet biex jintuza biss għall-ħlas tal-pensjonijiet jew investimenti li jiġġeneraw profitti għall-istess fond. Il-fond għandu jiġi iffinanzjat mill-kontribuzzjonijiet tas-sigurtà soċjali u jkun immexxi mill-Istat imma l-bord tiegħu għandu jkollu rappreżentanti tal-imsieħba soċjali li huma rappreżentati fil-Kunsill Malti għall-Iżvilupp Ekonomiku u Soċjali (MCESD). Dan il-fond għandu jkun taħt il-kontroll tal-Awditur Generali filwaqt li t-tmexxija tiegħu ta' kuljum għandha tkun f'idejn nies professjonali.

L-Età tal-Pensjoni.

Il-ħaddiema kollha għandhom ikunu eliġibbli għall-pensjoni tal-istat meta jagħlqu 65 (60-64 għas-snin tranżitorji sa' 2018, skont il-liġi tal-pensjoni) mingħajr ma jtilfu d-dritt li jibqgħu jaħdmu. AD taqbel ma' sistema ta' età tal-irtirar volontarja biex b'hekk kulhadd ikun liberu li jaħdem sakemm jixtieq. Iżda fl-istess ħin ħadd m'għandu jkun imġiegħel jaħdem wara li jagħlaq 65 (60-64 għas-snin tranżitorji sa' 2018, skont il-liġi tal-pensjoni). Kummissjoni indipendenti għandha tikkunsidra jekk għandux ikun hemm età differenti biex persuna tkun eliġibbli għall-pensjoni għal dawk li jagħmlu xogħol manwali li jinvolvi tbatija fiżika.

Il-Gvern għandu wkoll jintroduċi skemi li jheggu lill-industrija tirrekluta lil dawn il-persuni f'xogħlijiet li mhumiex ta' strapazz fiżiku jew mentali.

AD taqbel mad-deċizzjoni tal-gvern li jħalli l-pensjonanti jkomplu jaħdmu jekk ikunu jixtiequ hekk. Dan madankollu għandu jhegge l-inizjattiva u mhux johnoqha bl-ostakli burokratiċi.

Il-Ħaddiema.

M'hemmx dubju li n-numru ta' ħaddiema f'Malta jrid jiżdied biex tkun garantita sostenibilità fil-pensjonijiet. B'mod partikolari, il-partecipazzjoni baxxa tan-nisa, ta' nies li kibru fl-età u tal-immigranti hija inkwetanti. Il-politika soċjali għandha għalhekk tkun riveduta biex thajjar aktar nisa joħorġu jaħdmu billi jiġu offruti aktar miżuri favur il-familja. Ta' importanza kbira hija li jiżdied l-involvement tal-irġiel fi rwoli ta' ħarsien ta' persuni oħra.

L-Edukazzjoni.

L-edukazzjoni għandha rwol importanti fil-kwistjoni tal-pensjonijiet. B'mod partikolari, iż-żgħażaġh għandu jkollhom viżjoni aktar ċara tal-ħtiġijiet tal-futur u ta' affarijiet oħra li se jaffettwawhom aktar tard fil-ħajja tagħhom. Din l-edukazzjoni hija partikolarment importanti minħabba li qeghdin ngħixu f'soċjetà konsumista li tgħix għall-preżent u ma taħsibx wisq fil-futur.

Pensions.

You know where we stand.

The make-up of age groups in society has changed. So have occupational patterns and life-styles. In view of these changes the question of equitable treatment across the generations needs to be reformulated, particularly in the area of old age provision.

As a Green Party, Alternattiva Demokratika believes in a socially just and economically sustainable pensions system which matches rights with responsibilities and which takes long-term interests into consideration.

In the current circumstances, a combination of statutory state pension insurance and private provision has become a must for many people, as this can guarantee both a stable level of contributions and a pension scheme ensuring a good quality of life.

But to ensure social justice the statutory state pension must be set at a rate which reflects the cost of living and expectations for a decent standard of living.

In the long-term, the statutory pension insurance will have to evolve into an enhanced form of insurance for all citizens, all types of income and all occupational groups to ensure that vulnerable social groups are not discriminated against in old age.

Malta's reformed pension system does not solve problems regarding inequalities amongst pensioners, whereby pensions are based on income received during one's life course. Such a system is rigid and inflexible, resulting in further inequalities for people such as carers (for example carers of children, of elderly persons and of persons with disability), people with nontraditional working patterns, and part-time workers. Women, in particular find it difficult to balance contributory requirements with the competing demands of family life, childbearing and insecure, part-time work.

Malta's pension policy should not be based on one family model, but should be inclusive of different types of families including marriage, cohabitation, single-parents, same-sex couples and single persons.

Long Term Goal.

As regards the State pension, AD believes in the long term goal of a universal Citizen's Pension, which, rather than being based on National Insurance contributions, is based on the belief that all citizens make positive contributions to the economy and society through their paid and unpaid work, thus resulting in equal pensions which reflect the true cost of living. Such a pension can have positive multiplier effects on the economy due to increased spending power for pensioners from lower socio-economic strata.

Prospective pensioners who want to keep the same standard of living they currently have should be encouraged to supplement this citizen's pension by investing in private pension funds. We understand that this reform will have an impact on state finances and therefore its introduction should be gradual.

Short Term Proposals.

Keeping the pensions system as it is is not an option, as this will ultimately lead to financial collapse and to poorer pensioners. We therefore agree that in addition to the compulsory first pillar, a second pillar should be introduced wherein Government ensures the sustainability of the pensions system and ensures that people save an extra amount of money which will be used solely for pension purposes, and will not be used by the Government for other reasons. We believe that the second pillar should however be introduced in a responsible manner, thus avoiding shocks in people's quality of life. It is not acceptable that the third pillar will be made compulsory as a substitute to the second pillar.

We do not agree with the requirement wherein one would have to have worked 40 years to be entitled to contributory pensions, especially in this day and age of precarious employment, individualization of lifestyles and employment, as well as other realities such as having people moving in and out of the labour force due to factors such as unemployment, care work (for example with persons with disability, children and elderly persons) and parenthood. Any credits given by the State to compensate for lost social security contributions due to caring responsibilities should reflect the essential contribution made by those who interrupt their work trajectory to care for children, the elderly, the sick or persons with disability. Many people tend to enter and exit the labour market, as well as change jobs, for various reasons, some out of choice and

others due to constraints over which they have no say. Hence, irrespective of the number of years worked, one should be guaranteed the right to a decent pension. In particular, low and middle income earners should be guaranteed a decent quality of life in their later years. More emphasis should be made on having the lowest-paid pensions based on realistic cost-of-living calculations. Social justice should be a priority.

Pensioners who were entitled to contributory pensions of which they were eventually deprived (e.g.: ex British Services pensioners and ex-Electricity Board pensioners) should be compensated for having been deprived of the pension they were due.

An elected AD MP pledges to present a motion in parliament whereby all Maltese citizens should be treated equally with regards to pensions, and whereby members of parliament will not have privileged pension rights.

A minimum guaranteed pension of not less than 60% of the average national income should be given to everybody and not only to those born after 1962

Over the last thirty years, the highest pensionable income established in 1981 has not increased to account for inflation. Those born before 1962 should have the same highest pensionable income as those born on the 1st of January 1962 or later without discrimination. The amount must reflect the COLA increases over the last 20 years.

Over a short span of time of not more than ten years, the Services pension should no longer be calculated for the purpose of establishing the Social Security Pension. The services pension should no longer be deducted from the Social Security Pension.

Pension Fund.

To ensure sustainability, a pension fund should be established which is used exclusively for payments of pensions or investments which generate profits for the same fund. The fund should be financed through social security contributions. The fund should be administrated by the state but its board should include representatives of the social partners represented in the Malta Council for Social and Economic development. It should be subject to the scrutiny of the Auditor general. The day to day running of the fund should be in the hands of a professional management.

Pension Age.

All workers should be eligible for a state pension at the age of 65 years (or 60-64 for those in transitional years to 2018, in accordance with Malta's pension legislation) without losing their right to remain part of the workforce. In this sense AD favours a voluntary retirement age system to ensure that everyone is left free to work for as long as she or he likes but at the same time nobody should be forced to work beyond the age of 65 years (or 60-64 for those in transitional years to 2018, in accordance with Malta's pension legislation). An independent commission should consider whether a different age for pension eligibility should be set for physically or mentally demanding jobs.

The government should also introduce schemes which encourage industry to recruit these persons in occupations which are not physically or mentally demanding.

AD agrees with Government's decision to allow pensioners to keep working should they choose to do so. However, this should encourage initiative, rather than stifle it with bureaucratic hurdles.

Labour Force.

It is evident that the size of Malta's labour force should increase in order to guarantee sustainable pensions. In particular, Malta's low participation rates of females, ageing workers and immigrants is of concern. Malta's social policy should be reformed accordingly. For example it should encourage increased participation of females by having more family-friendly social policies. Increased involvement of men in caring roles is also of utmost importance.

Education.

Education plays an important role in the pensions issue. In particular the younger generations should be made more aware of future needs and long-term issues which will affect them in later years. This is of particular importance especially since we are living in a here-and-now consumerist society.

24

Politika Soċjali. Magħna taf fejn int.

Welfare state soċjalment ġust u sostenibbli jeħtieġ li jkollu għanijiet universali filwaqt li fl-istess hin jikkunsidra ċ-ċittadini bħala individwi b'realtajiet u stili ta' ħajja partikolari.

L-istat fil-livelli differenti tiegħu għandu jggarantixxi liċ-ċittadini kollha l-possibiltà ta' emanċipazzjoni, li jfasslu ħajjithom f'soċjetà diversa u li jipparteċipaw fil-ħajja soċjali. Is-soċjetà ċivili għandu jkollha sehem dirett fis-sistema tal-welfare.

Iċ-ċittadini jeħtieġ li jkollhom opportunitajiet u drittijiet indaqs u li jgawdu minn politika soċjali attiva u protezzjoni soċjali robusta. Is-solidarjetà u r-responsabbiltà għandhom ikunu l-pedament ta' soċjetà inklussiva u magħquda li tagħraf l-eżistenza ta' diversi identitajiet. Is-sistema tal-welfare m'għandhiex tkun mibnija fuq il-mudell tar-raġel li jaħdem u l-mara li toqgħod id-dar imma trid tindirizza tipi differenti ta' familja u *households*.

L-istat soċjali għandu jgħin lin-nies jemanċipaw irwieħhom filwaqt li jiżgura li hadd ma jgħix fil-faqar u li tiġi evitata l-prekarjetà.

Dan huwa speċjalment importanti peress li fis-soċjetajiet moderni kontemporanji, l-individwalizmu qed jiżdied fl-oqsma kollha tal-ħajja. Dan qed iwassal għal aktar libertà u għal aktar prekarjetà fl-istess hin f'ħafna oqsma, mill-ħajja fil-familja għall-impieg. Għalkemm aħna niġu influwenzati minn fatturi bħall-klassi, il-ġeneru, it-tradizzjoni u l-kultura, qed insiru aktar awtonomi u riflessivi fl-għażliet tagħna fil-ħajja. F'dan il-kuntest, l-istat soċjali jrid jiżgura li n-nies ikunu jistgħu jaffaċċjaw l-opportunitajiet, ir-riskji u l-isfidi ta' dan il-proċess ta' individwalizzazzjoni.

L-idea tagħna ta' inkluzjoni soċjali tinkorpora drittijiet soċjali bażiċi, inkluz qliegħ diċenti, *housing* li persuna tiflaħ thallas għalih, aċċess għall-kura medika, għall-edukazzjoni, għal ambjent san, għall-kultura kif ukoll garanzija ta' sigurtà soċjali. Din tinkludi qliegħ ġust, kundizzjonijiet xierqa ta' xogħol u aċċess għax-xogħol, benefiċċji biżżejjed għal min jeħtieġhom, pensjonijiet sostenibbli u universali, servizzi pubbliċi u soċjali bħall-ħarsien tat-tfal b'xejn jew bi prezz li jilħqu kulhadd, sistema ta' trasport pubbliku imfassla u żviluppata tajjeb, spazji pubbliċi għat-tfal u ż-żgħażaġħ biex ikunu jistgħu jiżviluppaw l-ideat tagħhom, appoġġ lil min ikun irid jaddatta appartamenti jew spazji pubbliċi b'mod ekoloġiku, ikel tajjeb għas-saħħa u livell għoli ta' servizzi meħtieġa mingħajr ħafna ostakli.

Jeħtieġ li ssir reviżjoni tas-sistema tal-welfare biex jiġi żgurat li l-gruppi vulnerabbli kollha jintlaqtu b'mod effettiv. Apparti minn gruppi tradizzjonali bħal pensjonanti u nies qiegħda, l-istat irid jara li gruppi vulnerabbli "ġodda" bħal familji b'ġenitur wieħed u dawk li qed ifittxu l-ażil ikunu koperti wkoll mill-iskemi ta' protezzjoni offruti. Jeħtieġ li jkun hemm aktar kooperazzjoni u koordinazzjoni bejn dawk li jipprovdu s-servizzi soċjali biex dawk li jirċievu dawn is-servizzi jkollhom servizz aħjar. Is-servizzi soċjali offruti mill-

komunità, familji u NGOs għandhom ikunu appoġġjati u mħajra mill-istat.

Għal dan l-għan qegħdin nipproponu li:

Servizzi ta' ħarsien tat-tfal (*child care*) għandhom ikunu universalment accessibbli u f'kollaborazzjoni mas-settur privat, il-Gvern għandu jipprovdi servizzi bla ħlas lil min għandu bżonnhom.

AD temmen li l-paga minima għandha tiżdied u li għandha tiġi estiża għall-ħaddiema *part-time* u kuntrattwali. Din ittejjeb il-kwalità tal-ħajja tal-ħaddiema u jkun hemm iktar flus fl-idejn. Din tkun ukoll ta' inċentiv biex iktar persuni jaħdmu formalment, għax ikun jaqbel, u dan ikun inċentiv għal iktar produttività. Il-gvern għandu wkoll iżid il-hidma biex jonqos xogħol mhux iddikjarat.

Il-*leave* tal-ġenituri għandu jiġi mtawwal għal 20 ġimgha. Il-ġenituri l-ieħor għandu jibbenefika minn ġimagħtejn. L-istat għandu joħloq fond flimkien mas-settur privat biex jgħin kumpaniji żgħira u medji fl-implimentazzjoni ta' din ir-riforma.

Irid ikun jaqbillek taħdmu. Persuni li jixtiequ jidhlu fis-suq tax-xogħol b'mod formali m'għandhomx ikunu skuraġġiti milli jagħmlu dan. Is-sitwazzjoni preżenti qed tħajjar id-dipendenza fuq il-welfare minhabba li m'hemmx differenza kbira bejn il-qliegħ mill-benefiċċji soċjali u mix-xogħol. Għalhekk, għandu jogħla l-limitu li persuna tista' taqla' meta taħdem bi ħlas u tkun tirċievi l-benefiċċji u/jew li jkun qed jirreġistraw għax-xogħol biex b'hekk persuni bi dħul baxx bħal familji b'ġenitur wieħed ikunu mħajra jfittxu xogħol jew li jaħdmu aktar sigħat mingħajr ma jittnaqqsulhom il-benefiċċji.

Hemm bżonn li aktar nies jagħtu importanza lill-kwalità tal-ħajja u li din tkun riflessa fil-politika soċjali. Il-kultura tas sahra u ħinijiet twal ta' xogħol jeħtieġ li tinbidel għal waħda fejn il-ħin ħieles jingħata l-importanza li tistħoqq.

In-nisa u l-irġiel jeħtieġ li jkunu parteċipanti attivi f'kull qasam tal-ħajja, mix-xogħol sal-ħajja fil-familja. F'dan ir-rigward, għalkemm l-effiċjenza hija importanti biex ikollna sistema soċjali b'saħħitha, din m'għandhiex tħajjar ħinijiet ta' xogħol bla rażan biex wieħed ikun jista' jlaħhaq ma' suq ta' servizzi liberalizzat, speċjalment f'dawk li huma servizzi soċjali bażiċi.

Il-kunċett ta' riskju għandu jkun rifless fil-politka soċjali. Pereżempju, kemm l-istat kif ukoll min iħaddem għandhom jieħdu ħsieb (fis-sens finanzjarju, edukattiv, eċċ) jagħmlu tajjeb għall-ħaddiema f'każ li dawn jitkeċċew minħabba nuqqas ta' xogħol.

L-integrazzjoni u l-inklużjoni tal-immigranti fis-soċjetà Maltija għandhom ikunu aspetti importanti tal-istat soċjali. Politika bħal din għandha sservi biex tippromwovi l-emanċipazzjoni ta' dawn il-persuni u biex jiġi evitat il-ħolqien ta' *ghettoes* soċjali. Il-politika ta' integrazzjoni għandha tkun imfassla ma' immigranti stess jew rappreżentanti tagħhom, u għandha tħaddan il-multikulturaliżmu kif ukoll tiġġielel il-fundamentaliżmu.

F'dawn l-aħħar snin, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll f'pajjiżi oħra, l-abbuż tal-anzjani qiegħed jingħata aktar importanza hekk kif il-politiċi qed jagħrfu li dan qed jiżdied ġmielu. AD temmen li filwaqt li din il-problema forsi mhix daqstant viżibbli, jeħtieġ miżuri fil-politka soċjali biex din tiġi indirizzata b'mod sħiħ. Għalkemm hemm diversi artikli fil-liġi Maltija li jitrattaw il-problema tal-abbuż tal-anzjani b'mod dirett jew indirett, jeħtieġ li jkun hemm definizzjoni aktar ċara tal-kunċett tal-abbuż tal-anzjani.

Social Policy.

You know where we stand.

A socially just and sustainable welfare state should be universal in scope, yet should consider citizens as individuals with particular realities and lifestyles.

The state at its various levels should guarantee all citizens the possibility to emancipate themselves, to establish their own lives in diversity and to participate in society. Civil society should be directly involved in Malta's welfare system.

Citizens must enjoy equal opportunities and equal rights and benefit from an active social policy and a robust social protection. Solidarity and responsibility must be the cornerstones of an inclusive and cohesive society which acknowledges the existence of plural identities. Our welfare system should not be based on the male breadwinner model but should cater for different family and household types.

The welfare state should empower people to emancipate themselves while ensuring that nobody lives in poverty and that precariousness is avoided.

This is especially important since in contemporary modern societies, individualisation is becoming increasingly common in all aspects of life, resulting in increased freedom and increased precariousness at the same time, in all aspects of social life, from family life to employment. Though we are influenced by factors such as class, gender, tradition and culture, we are increasingly autonomous and reflexive in our life choices. In such a context, the welfare state should ensure that people are equipped to face the opportunities, risks and challenges of individualisation.

Our idea of social inclusion comprehends the basic social rights, including a decent income, affordable housing, access to health care, to education, to work, to a healthy and safe environment, to culture and a guarantee of social security. It includes a fair working income, good conditions of work and work accessibility, sufficient benefits for those who need them, sustainable and universal pensions, free or affordable access to social and public services like child-care, mobility supported by a well developed public transport-system; public spaces for children and young people to realize their ideas, public support in adapting apartments and public space in an ecological way, healthy food and a high level of useful and barrier-free social support-services.

A revision of the welfare system is needed to ensure that all vulnerable groups are being targeted effectively. Apart from the traditional target groups such as pensioners and the unemployed, the state has to ensure that "new" vulnerable groups such as lone parents and asylum seekers are also covered adequately by the protection schemes. There should be more coordination and cooperation among welfare providers so that welfare recipients

will receive a better service. Welfare services offered by the community, families and NGOs should be encouraged and supported by the state.

In view of this we propose that:

Child care services should be universally accessible and, in collaboration with the private sector, the State should provide free services to those who need them.

AD believes that the minimum wage in Malta should increase and should be extended to part time and contractual workers. Such an increase would help improve the quality of life of the workers and give them more spending power. Such an increase would also encourage more people to enter the formal labour market, making work pay, acting as an incentive for increased productivity. At the same time, the Government should step up its efforts to reduce "underground" unemployment.

Parental leave should be extended to 20 weeks. The other partner should benefit from 2 weeks. The state should create a joint fund with the private sector to assist small and medium businesses in the implementation of this reform.

Work should pay. Persons willing to enter formal employment should not be discouraged from doing so. The present situation is encouraging welfare dependency because of the small gap between welfare and paid employment. Therefore, the minimum income threshold for persons who receive welfare benefits and/or who are registered unemployed should be raised so that people on low income such as lone parents will be encouraged to find employment or to work a longer number of hours without having their benefit deducted.

Quality of life should be mainstreamed in Maltese social policy. The culture of overtime and long working hours should be replaced with one where free time and

leisure are given the importance they deserve. Men and women should be considered to be active participants in all spheres of social life, from employment to family life. In this respect, though efficiency is important for a strong welfare system, the latter should not encourage an economic race-to-the-bottom through liberalisation of essential social services.

The concept of risk should be factored in social policy. For example, the state and employers alike should make sufficient provisions (financial, educational, etc) for workers in the eventuality of redundancies.

The integration and the inclusion of migrants into Maltese society should be an important aspect of the welfare state. Such a policy should actively promote emancipation and prevent the creation of social ghettos. Integrationist policies should be drawn up with migrants and their representatives, should welcome multiculturalism but should draw a line against fundamentalism.

Over the past years, both in Malta and abroad, the abuse of older persons is increasingly being given due consideration as its rapid growth is recognised by policy makers. AD believes that while this growing problem may not be so visible, social policy measures are sorely needed to address it in a holistic manner. Although there are various articles in Maltese legislation which deal with the problem of elderly abuse either directly or indirectly, the concept of elderly abuse should be clearly defined.

25

Sports.

Magħna taf fejn int.

L-isports għandu valur importanti kemm fl-iżvilupp tal-personalità u s-saħħa individwali u kemm bħala attività li tgħaqqad il-komunità. Għalhekk, l-isport għandu jkun aċċessibbli għal kulhadd u mhux ristrett minhabba raġunijiet ta' aċċess jew finanzi.

Il-kunsilli lokali jew il-kunsilli reġjonali għandhom ikunu involuti fl-amministrazzjoni ta' faċilitajiet sportivi fi shubija mal-klabbs u l-assocjazzjonijiet sportivi. B'hekk tingħata spinta lill-isport fil-livell ta' komunità filwaqt li l-kunsilli lokali ġirien jibdew jaqsmu l-faċilitajiet sportivi fir-reġjun tagħhom.

Assocjazzjonijiet sportivi li ma jitolbux ħlas mill-ispettaturi għandhom jingħataw għajna finanza mill-istat skont kriterji stabiliti.

L-edukazzjoni fiżika u l-isport għandhom jingħataw importanza akbar fl-iskejjel. Il-lezzjonijiet tal-edukazzjoni fiżika għandhom jiżdiedu u għandhom ikunu mmirati biex jinkludu studenti b'abilitajiet differenti permezz ta' taħriġ fi sports għall-persuni b'diżabilità. Sports mhux kompettitiv li għandu valur għall-iżvilupp tal-persuna għandu jingħata preċedenza.

Il-Gvern, flimkien mal-awtoritajiet lokali u *sponsors* privati, għandu jkompli jattwa u jsaħħaħ proġetti għall-ġid tal-komunità billi jżid l-impjanti sportivi f'dawk iż-żoni fejn dawn huma nieqsa, ħalli jkunu jistgħu jintużaw fuq bażi reġjonali. Eżempji jinkludu pixxina magħluqa u msaħħna f'Għawdex u swali għal għanijiet differenti (*basketball*, *volleyball*, *handball* eċċ) fl-4 reġjuni ta' Malta.

Il-Pixxina Nazzjonali f'Tal-Qroqq għandha tkun tista' tissaqqaf fix-xitwa. Dan biex jiġu ffrankati għexieren ta' eluf ta' Ewro mill-kont tal-enerġija.

Għandu jsehh programm gradwali biex kull impjant sportiv eżistenti jisfrutta għall-massimu it-teknoloġija biex jieħu parti mill-enerġija tiegħu mix-xemx u minn sorsi oħra ta' enerġija rinovabbli/effiċjenti, waqt li kull impjant ġdid li jinbena, jinbena b'mod ekoloġiku.

Sports.

You know where we stand.

Sports has an important value in both the self-development and the personal health of the individual as well as for the unity of the community. For these reasons sport activities need to be accessible for everyone and not restricted by access or financial barriers.

Local or regional councils need to be involved in the administration of sport facilities and the integration with sports clubs and associations. In this way sports will be better represented in the community, at the same time neighbouring local councils would be able to share the sporting facilities in their regions. Sport associations that do not request payment from the spectators should be given backing from the state according to established criteria.

Physical education and sport need to be given greater importance in schools. Physical education lessons should increase and should target the inclusion of students with a diversity of abilities due to sporting activities for persons with disability such as wheelchair racing, hand cycling and wheelchair handball amongst others. Non-competitive sports which is of value for the person's development should be given precedence.

Government, together with local authorities and private sponsors, should further strengthen projects for the benefit of the community, by increasing sporting facilities in areas where they are lacking, to allow usage on a regional basis. Such examples are an indoor pool in Gozo and multi-purpose (basketball, volleyball, handball) courts in the four Maltese regions.

The National Pool at tal-Qroqq needs to be able to be covered in winter so as to save tens of thousands of euro on energy bills. There should be a gradual programme so that every existing sport facility to make the best out of technology and generate part of the energy consumed from solar energy or other renewable and efficient sources, while all new facilities built work on such criteria.

26

Trasport 167-171
Transport

Trasport. Magħna taf fejn int.

Il-politika tagħna fis-settur tat-trasport tagħti prijorità lit-trasport pubbliku u lil min jimxi jew jagħmel użu mir-rota. L-użu tal-karozzi f'Malta żdied b'mod allarmanti u dan qed iwassal għal aktar konġestjoni u tniġġis.

Id-drittijiet ta' min jimxi għandhom jitharsu u għalhekk għandhom jizdiedu ż-żoni pedonali speċjalment f'żoni kummerċjali u fiċ-ċentri tal-irhula u l-ibliet. Għandha tiżdied l-aċċessibilità tat-toroq tagħna għal persuni b'diżabilità, anzjani u ġenituri bi tfal żgħar. Il-limitu tal-velocità f'żoni residenzjali għandu jkun 30 km/h u dan biex jonqos il-periklu għal kulhadd u t-toroq residenzjali jingħataw lura lill-komunità.

L-ippjanar għandu jassigura li proġetti residenzjali ġodda ma jżidux il-konġestjoni u ma joħolqux il-bżonn ta' toroq ġodda li biex isiru tkompli tonqos il-kampanja.

Waqt li f'ċerti postijiet huwa inevitabbli li jkun hemm parkeġġi għall-karozzi, l-ewwel prijorità għandha tkun dejjem l-użu tat-trasport pubbliku u t-tnaqqis tal-karozzi fit-toroq.

Għandu jkun hemm sforz biex it-toroq residenzjali jiġu disinjati u ppjanati aħjar, b'attenzjoni lejn il-kunċett ta' 'shared space' f'żoni residenzjali.

Ħafna toroq u bankini f'Malta huma ta' kwalità inferjuri, għad-detriment tal-persuni mexjin fit-triq, sewwieqa, persuni b'diżabilità, it-tfal u l-anzjani, ġenituri bil-*pushchairs*, u oħrajn.

Ġestjoni ħazina minn *Transport Malta* u ħafna kunsilli lokali qiegħda tħalli l-kuntratturi tal-bini jagħmlu xogħol ta' kwalità inferjuri, per eżempju billi jużaw materjal ħazin għall-kisi tat-toroq u bini ta' bankini, u billi jintużaw trakkijiet b'taġħbija iktar milli jifilhu t-toroq. Jeħtieġ li r-regoli eżistenti jiġu infurzati u li jkun hemm iktar riżorsi għal dan l-iskop.

Jeħtieġ li l-gwardjani lokali jibdew jagħtu kontravvenzjonijiet lill-mezzi tat-trasport li jniġġsu iktar minn dak permess bil-liġi.

Ikun inkoraġġit iċ-ċiklizmu u jingħataw inċentivi biex dan isehh. B'mod partikolari tingħata attenzjoni biex tkun żviluppata l-infrastruttura neċessarja biex l-użu tar-roti jkorr. L-użu ta' muturi b'ċilindrata baxxa għandu jingħata preferenza fuq vetturi oħra, filwaqt li tinżamm is-sistema li tiskoraġġixxi l-użu ta' karozzi kbar u li jaħlu.

Għandha tiġi stabilita skema għal kiri ta' roti. Membri ta' din l-iskema jkunu jistgħu jagħmlu użu ta' roti ipparkjati f'postijiet apposta u jpoġġu lura wara li jagħmlu l-vjaġġ tagħhom.

Riforma fit-Trasport Pubbliku.

Alternattiva Demokratika tirrikonoxxi li kien hemm bżonn riforma tas-sistema tat-trasport pubbliku. Nirrikonoxxu ċerti bidliet pożittivi bħall-użu ta' karozzi tal-linja moderni Euro 5, li jnaqqsu t-tniġġis, u xi titjib f'xi postijiet bħal f'Għawdex. Madankollu l-mod kif saret din ir-riforma kien diżappunt għax ma saritx b'mod gradwali b'konsultazzjoni pubblika ħajja li tagħraf kemm il-bżonnijiet ta' dawk li kienu jużaw is-servizz u dawk li jistgħu jibdew jużaw is-servizz jekk dan jitjeb. Is-servizz mhux qed ilaħħaq mad-domanda speċjalment filghodu u meta n-nies tispiċċa mix-xogħol. Ninnutaw ukoll li ċerti rotot huma twal iż-żejjed u li m'hemmx karozzi tal-linja biżżejjed biex isostnu sevizz effiċjenti; dan jgħajjem is-suspett l-iskop huwa biex jitnaqqsu l-ispejjeż tal-kumpanija u biex jitnaqqsu s-sussidji. Għalhekk nipproponu:

Is-sussidju li jingħata lit-trasport pubbliku għandu jirrifletti l-bżonnijiet ta' soċjetà moderna li tirrikjedi li n-nies tasal minn post għall-ieħor fl-iqsar żmien possibbli.

Taht id-direzzjoni tal-awtorità responsabbli mit-trasport u bl-involvement tal-Kunsilli Lokali għandu jiġi appuntat kumitat permanenti li jkun responsabbli minn pjanar fit-tul tar-rotot. Dan jiżgura li jkun hemm konsultazzjoni deġġiema dwar tibdiliet li jirriflettu l-bżonnijiet li jinbidlu minn żmien għal żmien.

Il-karozzi tal-linja kollha għandhom ikunu b'magni Euro 5 u Euro 6, kif dawn jidhru fis-suq. L-użu ta' fjuwils alternattivi aktar nodfa għandu jiġi esplorat.

Għandu jsir studju biex jiġu identifikati iktar *bus lanes* biex min juża tal-linja jasal fid-destinazzjoni tiegħu fl-iqsar ħin. Is-servizz tal-linja b'lejl għandu jiġi estiż. L-ewwel pass għandu jkun li dan is-servizz jiġi estiż fl-aktar żoni popolati u traffikużi tal-pajjiż.

Għandu jkun hemm skema għal kumpaniji pubbliċi u privati li jhajru l-impjegati tagħhom jużaw it-trasport pubbliku biex imorru x-xogħol, speċjalment fiż-żoni l-aktar traffikużi. Dawn għandhom jibbenefikaw minn inċentivi. B'mod partikolari entitajiet li jimpjegaw numru sostanzjali ta' persuni għandhom ikunu inkoraggiti jifformulaw pjan ta' mobilità sostenibbli għall-impjegati tagħhom. Din hi inizjattiva li diġà qed tkun inkoraġġita kemm mill-Università ta' Malta kif ukoll mill-MCAST b'intenzjoni li tapplika kemm għall-impjegati kif ukoll għall-istudenti.

Min iħaddem għandu jiġi inkuraġġit permezz ta' inċentivi fiskali sabiex jagħtu lill-impjegati tagħhom vouchers għall-użu fuq il-mezzi ta' trasport pubbliku.

Is-sistema ta' tariffi differenti fil-konfront ta' ċittadini oħra tal-Unjoni Ewropea u turisti għandha tispicċa. Dan qed joħloq ineffiċjenzi kbar fit-tħaddim tas-sistema. Ikun jagħmel iktar sens li kull turist iħallas tariffa l-ajruport kif jidhol Malta jew meta jirriżerva l-vjaġġ li tintuża speċifikament biex jitjiebu servizzi pubbliċi partikolarment it-trasport pubbliku.

Għandu jsir pjan komprensiv dwar trasport fil-portijiet permezz ta' laneċ u dgħajjes. Dan il-proġett m'għandux ikun limitat għall-Port il-Kbir biss. Sabiex dan il-proġett jirnexxi għandu jsir xogħol infrastrutturali biex jiffaċilita dan it-tip ta' trasport. Dan is-settur għandu jkun kompletament liberalizzat u regolat biex jiġi żgurat li jinżammu standards ta' sigurtà.

Is-servizz tat-*taxis* u l-*mini buses* għandu jiġi kompletament liberalizzat. Kull min japplika għal-liċenzja u jissodisfa kriterji bażiċi ta' sigurtà, kumdità, kondotta, standards ambjentali tal-vettura, u livell ta' ospitalità aċċettabbli, għandu jingħata l-permess biex jopera.

Għandu jsir studju definittiv biex jistabilixxi il-sostenibbiltà finanzjarja u ambjentali ta' mezzi ta' trasport taħt l-art bħal metro jew mezzi simili u moderni bħal *light railway* addattati għal Malta.

Transport.

You know where we stand.

AD's political ideology prioritises use of public transport and cycling. Private vehicle use has increased at an alarming rate, leading to an increase in road congestion and pollution.

Pedestrian's rights are to be safeguarded. As such, more pedestrian zones should be created, especially in commercial areas and in our village and town centres. The accessibility of our roads for the disabled, the elderly and parents of young infants is to be improved. Maximum speed limits in residential areas should be reduced to 30km/h, with a view to keeping all pedestrians safer while giving back the use of such roads to the communities which inhabit them.

Urban planning ought to ensure that new residential projects do not add further to road congestion and do not necessitate building new roads which make further incursions into our remaining countryside.

While recognising the need for parking spaces in certain areas, priority should always be given to public transport use and ways of decreasing traffic in our roads. Effort should be made for better designed and planned residential roads, with particular attention being paid to the concept of shared spaces in residential areas.

Many roads and pavements in Malta are of an inferior quality to the detriment of drivers, the disabled, children, the elderly, parents with pushchairs and pedestrians in general. Careless conduct by Transport Malta and various local councils is allowing various contracted construction companies to get away with bad workmanship, for instance by utilising inferior material for road and pavement surfaces and by overloading their vehicles with supplies, thereby damaging existent road surfaces in their travels. Existing regulations need to be enforced and more resources allocated towards this end.

Traffic wardens need to start fining vehicles with pollution levels exceeding those permitted by law.

Cycling should be encouraged through a series of incentives. Particular attention should be paid to the development of the necessary infrastructure for the proliferation of bicycle use. Use of low-power motorcycles should be encouraged over the use of other types of vehicles, without discarding the current system which discourages the use of bigger vehicles with lower mileage.

A bicycle hire scheme should be implemented. Subscribers would be able to make use of one of various bicycles, left in specially-designated spaces, which they will bring back on their return.

Public Transport Reform.

Alternattiva Demokratika acknowledges the necessary nature of the past public transport reform. We acknowledge that certain changes have been for the better, such as the introduction of the cleaner Euro 5 buses and the improved service in some regions, such as Gozo. Nonetheless the reform's implementation has in itself been a disappointment since it was not carried out gradually or in active public consultation with existent and potential users. The service is currently not satisfying demand, especially during peak times when most people are commuting to and from work. We have also noticed that certain bus routes are unreasonably long and that not enough buses are being used to provide a reliable service. All this lead us to think that such shortcomings may be a result of a focus on driving down costs and decreasing state subsidies. We therefore propose that:

Public transport subsidies should reflect a modern society's needs, which require people to travel from one place to another in the shortest time possible.

A permanent committee which would be responsible for long-term route planning is to be appointed under the guidance of the state authority responsible for transport and in collaboration with local councils. This would ensure that continuous consultation is available for changes which may need to be applied to any route from time to time according to exigency.

Buses should all be equipped with either Euro 5 or Euro 6 engines as soon as they are introduced into our network. The use of cleaner alternative sources of fuel should be explored.

A study should be conducted with the aim of identifying more roads which can support a bus lane in order to allow public transport users to arrive at their destination in the shortest possible time.

The bus night service should be extended. First and foremost this service should be extended in the country's more populous and congested areas.

A scheme should be set up that rewards those public and private companies, especially those located in our more congested areas, which encourage their employees to use public transport when commuting to work. Such companies should benefit from incentives. Those entities which employ a considerable workforce should be particularly encouraged to formulate a sustainable mobility plan for their employees. Such an initiative which targets both the workforce and the student body is already being encouraged at the University of Malta and MCAST.

Fiscal incentives should encourage employers to supply their employees with a number of public transport vouchers. The current practice of higher bus fares for EU citizens from other countries and tourists should be discontinued. Such practice is creating increased inefficiency in the public transport system. A more logical alternative would be charging every visiting tourist a tariff upon entry or upon flight reservation, with proceeds from such a tariff being allocated specifically for the betterment of public services, in particular public transport.

A comprehensive maritime transport plan for our ports, utilising ferries and boats, ought to be drawn up. Such a project should not be limited to just the Grand Harbour. For such a project to succeed, some infrastructural work must be carried out in order to facilitate this kind of transport. This sector should be completely liberalised and regulated to ensure that minimum safety standards are complied to.

The taxi and mini bus service should be completely liberalised. Whoever applies for a license and satisfies all the basic requirements for safety, comfort, past conduct, vehicle environmental standards and professional courtesy should be given the necessary permits to operate as a business.

A conclusive study should be conducted to determine the financial and environmental sustainability of underground modes of transportation such as the metro as well as similar and more modern methods of mass transit, such as the light railway, which are adaptable to Malta's needs.

27

Turiżmu. Magħna taf fejn int.

L-impatt tat-turiżmu ma jistax itkejjel biss mill-effett pożittiv fuq l-ekonomija, imma għandu jitqies ukoll il-livell ta' sostenibilità. It-turiżmu jtejjeb il-kwalità tal-ħajja tagħna u l-aspetti kulturali li mżejjen bihom pajjiżna; dawn iż-żewġ aspetti jmorru id f'id. Ma nistgħux niġbdu turisti ta' ħames stilel jekk il-kumpliment tal-pajjiż joffri ambjent inferjuri. Għalhekk l-akbar investment fit-turiżmuturiżmu hu l-ħarsien tal-ambjent u l-provvista ta' servizzi tajbin li minnhom igawdu l-Maltin ukoll.

Għandu jsir moratorju fuq bini ta' lukandi ġodda f'żoni barra l-konfini tal-iżvilupp u fuq kull parti tal-kosta mhux mibnija. Dan għandu japplika wkoll għall-estensjonijiet ta' lukandi eżistenti u kumplessi residenzjali marbuta magħhom li m'għandhomx jithallew jiehdu iktar art milli għandhom illum.

La darba lukandi ġew żviluppati bħala riżultat ta' konċessjonijiet f'postijiet strateġiċi, dawn m'għandhomx jerġgħu jiġu żvilupati għal raġunijiet oħra.

L-iżvilupp ta' lukandi żgħar, speċjalment *boutique hotels* fl-ibliet u rħula għandhom jiġu mhegħa f'qafas tal-pjanijiet lokali li għandhom jirregolaw dan l-iżvilupp b'rispett għar-residenti tal-madwar.

Il-gvern għandu jwaqqaf fond li permezz tiegħu ikun jista' jespropja art li fuqha sar żvilupp turistiku u li illum tinsab mitluqa, sabiex l-iżvilupp jitwaqqa' u l-ambjent jigi rijabilitat.

Għandha ssir revizjoni tal-konċessjonijiet mogħtija lil-lukandi u operatori oħra fuq il-kosta b'mod li tiżgura l-aċċessibilità ħielsa għall-kosta kollha: prinċipju li diġà inkluż fil-pjan ta' struttura.

Dawn il-lukandi għandhom jintalbu jinstallaw sistemi ta' enerġija rinovabbli u effiċjenti kif ukoll sistemi ta' riċiklaġġ tal-ilma biex jonqos l-impatt negattiv tal-industrija.

Għandhom jinħolqu inċentivi biex bini mhux użat li jinstab fil-qalba tal-ibliet u l-villaġġi jintuża għal skop turistiku u rikreazzjoni.

Għandu jissaħħaħ it-turiżmuturiżmu speċjalizzat partikolarment fix-xhur tax-xitwa.

Malta għandha tiġi riklamata bħala post ta' niċċeċ partikolari bhal sport, kultura, arti, kunċerti ta' stili differenti, ċinema, agri u ekoturizmu.

L-iżviluppi l-kbar li huma insostenibbli u għaljin bħall-korsi tal-golf m'għandhomx jingħataw permess.

Kull raħal u belt għandu l-postijiet ta' interess. Dawn għandhom jiġu sistematikament identifikati permezz ta' sinjali bl-ispjegazzjonijiet f'lingwi differenti.

Eko-turiżmu u Agri-turiżmu.

Ikun imhegħeġ turiżmu li jkollu l-inqas impatt possibbli ambjentali, speċjalment lejn żoni rurali kif ukoll lejn żoni fejn joperaw is-sajjieda. Dan billi l-bdiewa u s-sajjieda (kemm dawk li jaħdmu *full-time* kif ukoll dawk li jaħdmu *part-time*) ikunu megħjuna biex irziezet mitluqa u faċilitajiet eżistenti qrib il-baħar ikunu użati għal akkomodazzjoni turistika fuq skala żgħira.

Pjan Nazzjonali għal Turiżmu Aċċessibbli għal Kulħadd.

Galadarba t-turiżmu huwa element essenzjali tal-ekonomija Maltija, għandu jkun hemm skema nazzjonali li tipprovdi viżjoni għall-turiżmu aċċessibbli.

Skema nazzjonali għandha jkollha dawn l-instrumenti:

(i) il-ħolqien ta' Bord dwar Turiżmu Aċċessibbli li jirrapreżenta lil dawk konċernati f'dan il-qasam u li jkun immexxi mill-MTA, bir-responsabilità li jippromwovi turiżmu aċċessibbli,

(ii) l-iżvilupp ta' tiketta ta' aċċessibilità b'sistema ċara u kredibbli ta' klassifikazzjoni – kull sistema għandha tkun komparabbli mal-istandards tal-UE; u

(iii) Fond għal Turiżmu Aċċessibbli ddedikat għal stabilimenti pubbliċi u privati tat-turiżmu sabiex isiru l-bidliet neċessarji għall-aċċessibilità.

Tourism.

You know where we stand.

Tourism cannot be measured on the positive impact it will have on the economy only, but also on its level of sustainability. Tourism improves our quality of life and improves the cultural aspects which our country is endowed with; these two aspects go hand in hand. We cannot attract 5-star tourists when the rest of the country offers substandard environment. For this reason the biggest investment in tourism would be environment protection and the provision of quality services which the Maltese will enjoy as well.

There should be a moratorium on new buildings in outside development zones and undeveloped coastal areas. This also applies for extensions of already existing buildings and other related residential complexes which should not be given more land other than what they already have.

Once hotels are developed as a result of concessions in strategic places, they should not be redeveloped for other purposes.

The development of small hotels such as boutique hotels in towns and villages should be encouraged to follow the local plans which regulate these developments with respect to the residents in the vicinity.

The government should start a fund to be able to expropriate land which was developed for tourism purposes and is now abandoned, in order to be demolished and rehabilitate the environment.

A revision of the concessions given to the hotels and other operators should be carried out to ensure accessibility to the whole coast; a principle which is already included in the structure plan.

These hotels should be asked to install efficient and renewable energy sources and water recycling facilities so as to reduce the negative impacts of the industry.

Schemes should be introduced through which unused buildings in town centres are used for touristic and recreational purposes.

Specialized tourism should be strengthened particularly in the low season.

Malta should be advertised as a place for particular niches such as sport, culture, art, concerts representing different styles, cinema and agro-tourism and eco-tourism. Expensive and unsustainable developments like golf courses should be not be permitted.

Every town or village has its places of interest. These should be systematically indicated through sign posts with explanations in different languages

Eco-tourism and Agri-tourism.

Tourism with the least impact on the environment should be encouraged, especially in rural and fishing zones. This will help farmers and fishermen (those who work full-time and part-time) to make use of those farms and other existing facilities near the sea for accommodation and small scale tourism.

Accessible Tourism for All (ATA) National Plan.

Considering that tourism is an essential element of the Maltese economy, a national scheme is needed to provide a vision of accessible tourism in Malta.

Tourists with access needs will only increase in the future and there are areas where accessibility is in dire need for improvement.

A national scheme will incorporate the following instruments:

- (i) the creation of an Accessible Tourism Board representing the stakeholders for accessible tourism and chaired by MTA with the responsibility to promote accessible tourism;
- (ii) the development of an accessibility label with a clear and credible classification system; and take into account that it must be comparable to other EU standards; and
- (iii) an Accessible Tourism Fund dedicated to private and public tourism establishments to carry out the necessary improvements for accessibility.

28

Żgħażaġh. Magħna taf fejn int.

Iż-żgħażaġh m'għandhomx jitqiesu sempliċiment bħala l-futur ta' pajjiżna, iżda għandhom jitqiesu bħala parti integrali tal-ħajja soċjali, kulturali u politika preżenti tal-pajjiż. Fid-dawl ta'dan nipproponu li:

L-età tal-vot fl-elezzjonijiet tal-kunsilli lokali, l-elezzjonijiet Ewropej u fl-elezzjonijiet ġenerali għandha titnaqqas minn 18 għal 16-il sena. Biex dan id-dritt jittiehed bis-serjetà li jisthoqqlu, għandu jkun hemm enfasi akbar fuq formazzjoni politika responsabbli għall-istudenti sekondarji u post-sekondarji, b'mod speċjali f'suġġetti b'temi relatati bhall-Istudji Soċjali, l-Iżvilupp Soċjali u Personali u l-Oqsma tal-Għerf (*Systems of Knowledge*).

Għandu jkun hemm politika ċara biex Malta żżid in-numru ta' studenti li jkomplu l-edukazzjoni tagħhom wara l-edukazzjoni obbligatorja, li hu wieħed mill-inqas fl-Ewropa. Dan għandu jsir permezz ta' attenzjoni ikbar lil żgħażaġh mill-klassi tal-ħaddiema u/jew li ġejjin minn familji b'kundizzjonijiet żvantaġġati u ffukkar ikbar ta' riżorsi f'reġjuni fejn insibu rata baxxa ta' studenti li jkomplu jistudjaw wara li jagħlqu 16-il sena.

Għandu jkun hemm iktar opportunitajiet ta' taħriġ għal studenti li joħorġu mis-sekondarja mingħajr ma jkollhom biżżejjed ċertifikati biex ikomplu l-edukazzjoni tagħhom fil-*Junior College* jew l-MCAST. Huwa pożittiv li l-MCAST qed tippovdi *foundation certificate course* għal studenti li joħorġu mis-sekondarja mingħajr ċertifikati tal-MATSEC. Din l-inizjattiva għandha tissaħħaħ sabiex ikun żgurat li dawk li jispiċċaw is-sekondarja mingħajr ma jkollhom biżżejjed *O-Levels* ikunu jistgħu isegwu korsijiet varji li jwassluhom biex isibu impjeg.

Għandu jkun hemm investiment akbar f'servizzi edukattivi offruti filgħajja għal żgħażaġh li diġà jkunu bdew jaħdmu.

Skemi ta' apprendistat u taħriġ li jinvolvu s-settur privat għandhom jiġu inkoraġġiti sakemm dawk li jipparteċipaw jithallsu l-paga shiħa u ma jkunx hemm sfruttament ta' *cheap labour*.

Għandu jkun hemm skema għal żgħażaġh li jkunu għalqu 16-il sena li jkunu se jipparteċipaw f'xogħol volontarju, attivitajiet sportivi, kulturali u artistiki f'pajjizi oħra tal-Unjoni Ewropea li jqarrbuhom lejn żgħażaġh oħra. L-istat għandu jiffinanzja 50% tal-ispiża relatata mal-ivjaġġar u l-akkomodazzjoni. F'każ ta' studenti minn familji bi dħul baxx, l-għajjnuna għandha tkun shiħa.

Għandu jiġi ppreżentat Att dwar is-Servizzi taż-Żgħażaġh li jiżgura li ċentri taż-żgħażaġh ikunu licenzjati u regolati b'mod li jkun hemm ħarsien ċar kontra diskriminazzjoni fuq bażi ta' twemmin, sess, orjentazzjoni sesswali jew razza kif ukoll garanziji ċari kontra indħil

kummerċjali. Il-liġi għandha tiżgura li dawn iċ-ċentri jitmexxew minn nies kwalifikati flimkien ma' NGOs u ż-żgħażaġh infushom.

Għandu jkun żgurat li f'kull lokalità jkun hemm centru taż-żgħażaġh li jkun miftuħ għal kullhadd. F'lokalitajiet fejn m'hemmx ċentri taż-żgħażaġh licenzjati mill-istat, il-kunsill lokali għandu jingħata għajjnuna biex jibni centru ġdid. Ċentri eżistenti għandhom iżommu l-identità tagħhom iżda għandhom jaderixxu mal-liġi regolatorja. Iż-żgħażaġh għandu jkollhom sehem qawwi fit-tmexxija ta' dawn iċ-ċentri flimkien ma' *youth and community workers* professjonali.

Għandu jkun hemm rikonossiment professjonali għal *youth and community workers*. F'kull kunsill għandu jinħatar kumitat immexxi minn *youth and community worker* professjonali li jinvolvi l-NGOs u ż-żgħażaġh tal-lokalità.

Ix-xandir pubbliku għandu wkoll jaħtar kumitat magħmul minn professjonisti biex jiggwidah fil-ħolqien ta' programmi mmirati għaž-żgħażaġh u fil-protezzjoni taż-żgħażaġh minn sfruttament kummerċjali.

Għandha titwaqqaf skema ta' għajjnuna għal gruppi ta' żgħażaġh involuti f'attivitajiet artistiki, bħal gruppi mużikali, teatru, eċċ. Din għandha tinkludi rati mnaqqsa ta' dawl u ilma u għajjnuna għall-kiri ta' strutturi meħtieġa.

Għandu jkun hemm politika nazzjonali dwar żgħażaġh bejn l-età ta' 12 u 16-il sena. Din il-politika għandha tistudja l-ħolqien ta' alternattivi ta' divertiment għal dawn iż-żgħażaġh permezz ta' attivitajiet kulturali u użu ta' spazji pubbliċi. Ma nistgħux nippretendu li dawn iż-żgħażaġh jibqgħu magħluqa d-dar. Fl-istess ħin għandu jiġi evitat l-isfruttament kummerċjali ta' din il-faxxa vulnerabbli.

Teen parties organizzati minn entitajiet kummerċjali għandhom jiġu regolati b'

mod strett biex jiġi żgurat li ma jkunx hemm sfruttament. L-istess għandu japplika għall-partecipazzjoni ta' żgħażaġh fil-festi fejn għandu jiġi żgurat li ma jsirx abbuż ta' alkohol u drogi.

Il-kunsilli tal-istudenti f'istituzzjonijiet terziarji għandhom jiġu eletti b'sistema proporzjonali li tiggarantixxi rappreżentanza wiesgħa.

Youth. You know where we stand.

Youth are not to be regarded simply as the future of our country but are rather to be considered as an integral component of today's social, cultural and political environment. In light of which we hereby propose that:

The voting age for local council, general European elections should be lowered from 18 to 16. In order to ensure that this right is taken seriously by its wielder, there is to be a greater emphasis on the formation of secondary and post-secondary school students' political consciousness, in particular regard to subjects with related content such as Social Studies, PSD and Systems of Knowledge.

Clear policies need to be put in place to ensure that Malta increases its student retention rate from compulsory education to post-secondary and tertiary education, which is one of the lowest-rated in Europe. This can happen by increasing help for youths from working class and/or economically disadvantaged backgrounds and by channelling more resources into those regions identified as having a lower than average retention rate.

More opportunities for further training ought to be offered for those students whose qualifications are insufficient for entry into Junior College or MCAST. MCAST's foundation certificate courses which are on offer for such students are a step in the right direction. This initiative ought to be further strengthened in order to ensure training and eventual skilled employment for students who finish secondary education with an insufficient number of O-level passes.

There should be more investment in evening education for youths already forming part of the workforce.

Apprenticeship and training schemes which involve the private sector should be encouraged as long as participants are paid their full wages and such schemes are not abused as a means for acquiring cheap labour.

There should be in place a scheme for youths 16 and over participating in the voluntary sector or sports, cultural or artistic activities abroad in the European Union which brings them closer to other youths. The state should subsidise 50% of travelling and accommodation related costs. Such subsidy should be 100% for students hailing from low-income families.

A Youth Services Act should be implemented which enforces the regularisation and licensing of youth centres in order to safeguard against discrimination on belief, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity as well as commercial interests. Such a law should also ensure that centres be run by appropriately qualified individuals

working in collaboration with NGOs and their own youth membership.

It should be ensured that a non-exclusive youth centre is operating in every locality. In such localities in which a state-licensed youth centre is not present, the local council is to be given the necessary assistance to set up a new centre. Existent centres should be allowed to retain their identity as long as they adhere to said regulatory law. Youths should have a strong say in the running of these centres together with professional youth and community workers.

Professional recognition should be given to youth and community workers. A committee led by professional youth and community workers and working in collaboration with NGOs and local youth should be appointed by every local council.

The Public Broadcast Authority should also appoint a committee made up of professionals to be consulted in the creation of television programmes and for the purpose of protecting youth from commercial exploitation.

A financial aid scheme should be implemented to help young people actively involved in the artistic scene, such as musical band members, theatrical actors etc. Among other initiatives, this should include reduced utility tariffs and rent subsidies.

A national political strategy should be implemented for youth between the ages of 12 and 16. Such a strategy should study the possibility of creating alternative recreational activities for our youth through cultural activities and use of public spaces. Our youth should not be expected to remain cooped up at home. At the same time, the commercial exploitation of this vulnerable sector of society is to be avoided.

Teen parties organised by commercial entities are to be strictly regulated in order to ensure no exploitation takes place. The same should apply for youth participation in village feasts, during which substance abuse such as that of alcohol and other drugs is to be prevented.

Student Councils at institutions of further education are to be elected on a proportional representation system which guarantees wide representation of the student body.

Book Design by 2point3

www.2point3.com

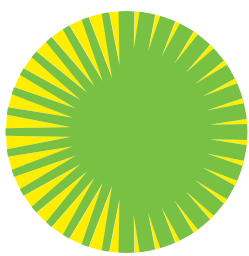
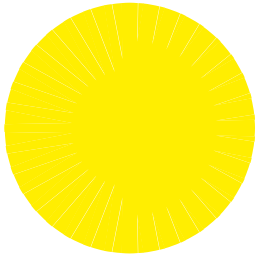
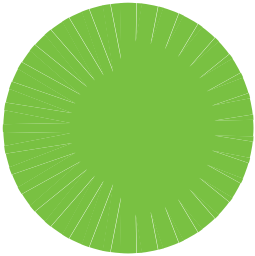
info@2point3.com

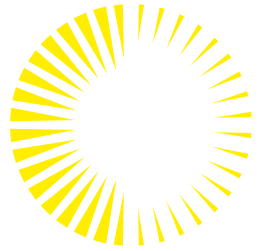
Copyright Text © Alternattiva Demokratika

No part of this document may be reproduced.

Typeset in Helvetica.

Further information:
www.alternattiva.org.mt
info@alternattva.org.mt





Magħna taf fejn int.
You know where we stand.

