



L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

UNITY⁷

Department of **Child & Family Studies**

2023

FREE

ISSN NUMBER: 2522-378X

“
Alone we
can do so little,
together
we can do
so much”

Helen Keller

“There is only one way of doing this - ‘together’! We are as good as our ability to keep people in power feeling uncomfortable as we breath down their necks. The moment people start getting comfortable around us, it means we have lost our scope, that of ensuring social justice for all.”



PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI
Dean

Whilst reflecting about what the Faculty for Social Wellbeing means to me, I think there are a number of meanings that come to mind.



What stays with me most is how the different disciplines and areas of specialization within this Faculty are all inter-related, interacting with and influencing each other all the time. The Faculty is a representation of this integration, striving to give a voice to the voiceless, creating a sense of justice and influencing policy makers and the public at large.

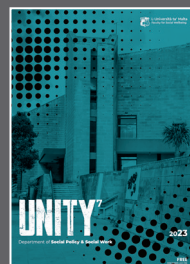
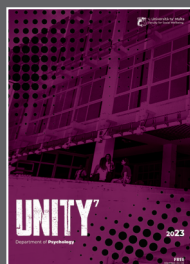
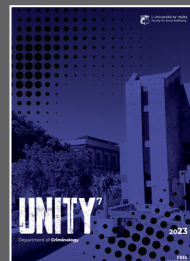
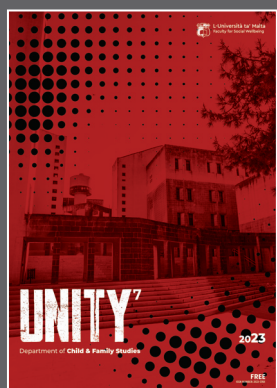
DR INGRID GRECH LANFRANCO
Head of Department

“It is important to remain focused on our objective, that of making our communities better places.”



CHARLENE FABRI
Editor

UNITY⁷
2023



All the content of this magazine was written by Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and Charlene Fabri unless indicated otherwise.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the Faculty for Social Wellbeing Unity 7 magazine do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Faculty.

Contact us on: socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

COVER STORY

This year's art work concept focuses on the notion of intersectionality and connectedness together with a sense of vision. Moving into our 12th year since the setting up of the Faculty in 2012, this colour palette helps us blend uniqueness and individuality of disciplines and areas of study and yet identify as one organisation with a corporate outlook. The innovative design of having a number of mini-mags, for the first time a magazine completely dedicated to children and packed in a unique way to convey the message of freshness, compactness and a drive to go forward. The personalized and interactive element of the magazine combines well with the theme of **UNITY** of this year, namely that of, 'What does the Faculty mean to you?'



From left to right: Dr Christian Borg Xuereb, Colette Farrugia Bennett & Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane

Colette Farrugia Bennett
Alumnus, Master in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice

Colette has been volunteering with MGRM since 2001 as an activist for equal rights of the LGBTIQ+ community, as well as providing support services to members of the community. In 2013, Colette and another social worker founded the Rainbow Support Service. During the past 10 years, Colette assisted MGRM to secure funding to ensure sustainability of services.

**Social Commitment
Awardee**

Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi
**Social Engagement
Awardee**



From left to right: Dr Gottfried Catania, Claire Zerafa and Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco

Claire Zerafa

Claire Zerafa is a Senior Practice Midwife in Perinatal Mental Health at Mater Dei Hospital. She is a role model as a professional. Claire seeks to keep abreast with the latest knowledge in the field. Her continuous professional development in the area is a testament to the importance she gives to cutting-edge research in her area.

The Department of Child and Family Studies has been operating from the setting up of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing way back in 2012, with its inception being before that as a Centre for Family Studies. Through its research, courses and training of professionals, and its continued collaboration with scholars, students, practitioners and policy makers, the Department's core mission is that of creating a link between the University of Malta and the community.

Department of
Child & Family Studies

Faculty for **Social Wellbeing**

Master of Arts in Contemporary Family Studies

Part-time (evening)/ 3 years

Master in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice (Top-up Degree)

Part-time (evening)/ 2 years

Master in Family and Systemic Practice

Part-time (evening)/ 4 years

Award in Clinical Supervision

Part-time (evening)/ 1 year

CPD Course

Working with Families and Organisations
(A Preparatory course in systemic psychotherapy)

CPD Course

FSD5512 - Introduction to Intimate Partner Violence and Family Violence during the Perinatal Period

CPD Course

FSD5514 - Trauma-informed practice for practitioners

M.Phil./Ph.D.

Disclaimer: Not all courses listed are offered every academic year

socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt
+356 2340 2693

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

 @um.socialwellbeing

 @Facultyforsw

“YOU NEVER REALLY KNOW ME!”: THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF ‘NEET’ YOUNG PEOPLE IN MALTA

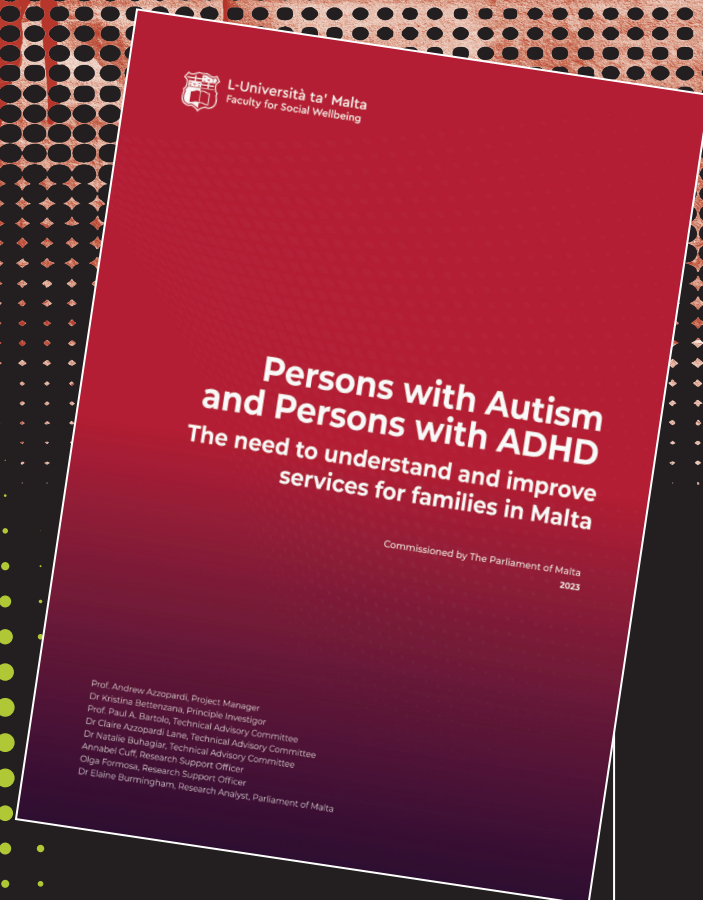


Young people who are disengaged from education, employment, or training (NEETs) are more likely to ‘drop off the radar’ once they leave compulsory schooling, and thus become a mystery to policymakers and researchers.

This Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) privileges the NEET participants' focal concerns and views about their school experiences, their current situation and their future. The findings reveal the research participants' interpretations of their life experiences in relation to their educational trajectories and path into adulthood and problematize the validity and usefulness of the term “NEET” given its failure to embrace the complexity of the young people it refers to.

AUDREY FRIGGIERI

M.Phil./Ph.D. Candidate

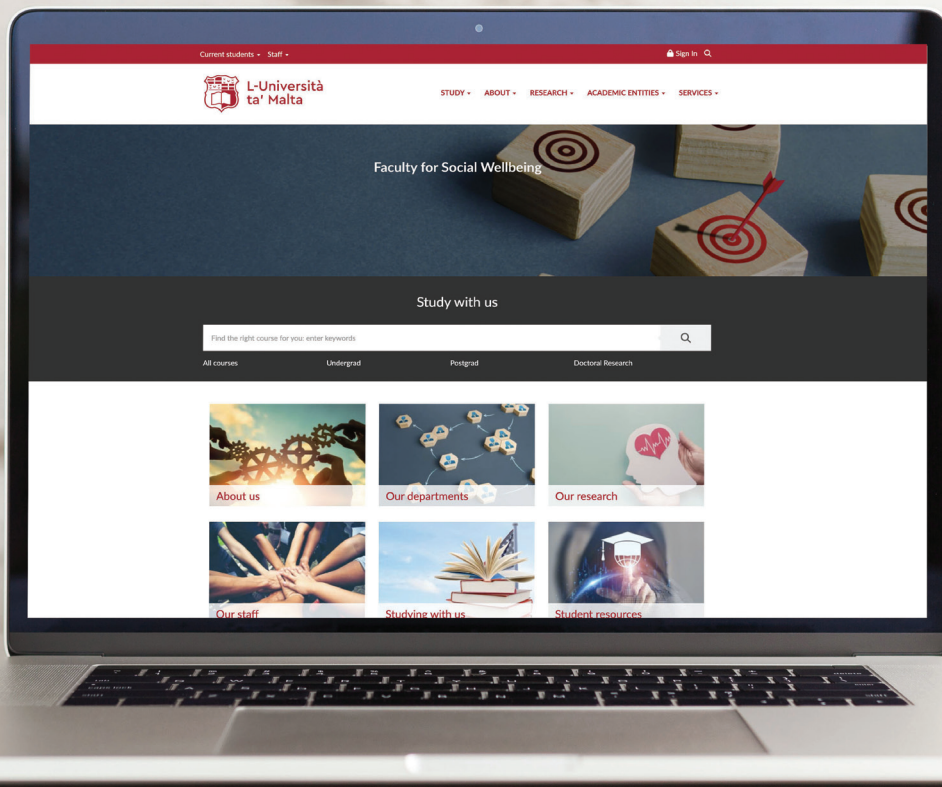


“80% of the adults interviewed said that they received their diagnosis during adulthood.”

Persons with Autism and Persons with ADHD:
The need to understand and improve services
for families in Malta - Commissioned by The
Parliament of Malta (2023)


The full report can be accessed from <https://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/ourresearch/researchprojects/>


um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing




www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing

+356 2340 2693

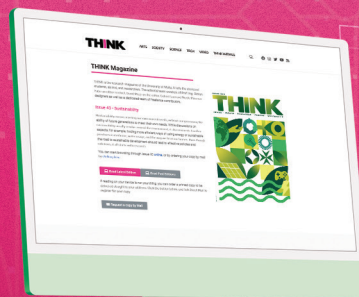
 socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

 [@um.socialwellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/um.socialwellbeing)

 [@Facultyforsw](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Facultyforsw)

Flip through all the
digital editions
of **THINK**

Now only on
thinkmagazine.mt





The Faculty provided a safe space to learn, hone new skills, and achieve my full potential. Within the Faculty I always found support from lecturers who also became mentors, and other students who became like family. It is one big supportive community!

TIVONA VELLA ABDILLA

Master in Family Therapy
and Systemic Practice



I found the Faculty for Social Wellbeing an excellent place where people can explore how they can help society and people from all walks of life whatever the different problems and issues they have. The Faculty enriches our society.

JOSETTE ABDILLA

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
in Social Wellbeing Studies

#LifeWithDignity

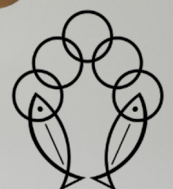
50,000 PEOPLE

340 CHILDREN

+356 79227570

soupkitchenofmvalletta

40, St Ursula Street, Valletta, Malta



SOUP KITCHEN
OFM VALLETTA



Why did the death of Loujin hit so close to home?

Why was 4-year-old Loujin left to die? The non-assistance and lack of coordinated action by European actors, have become part of a larger pattern of systematic non-assistance and pushbacks at Europe's maritime borders, leading to ever-dangerous migration routes and more loss of life.

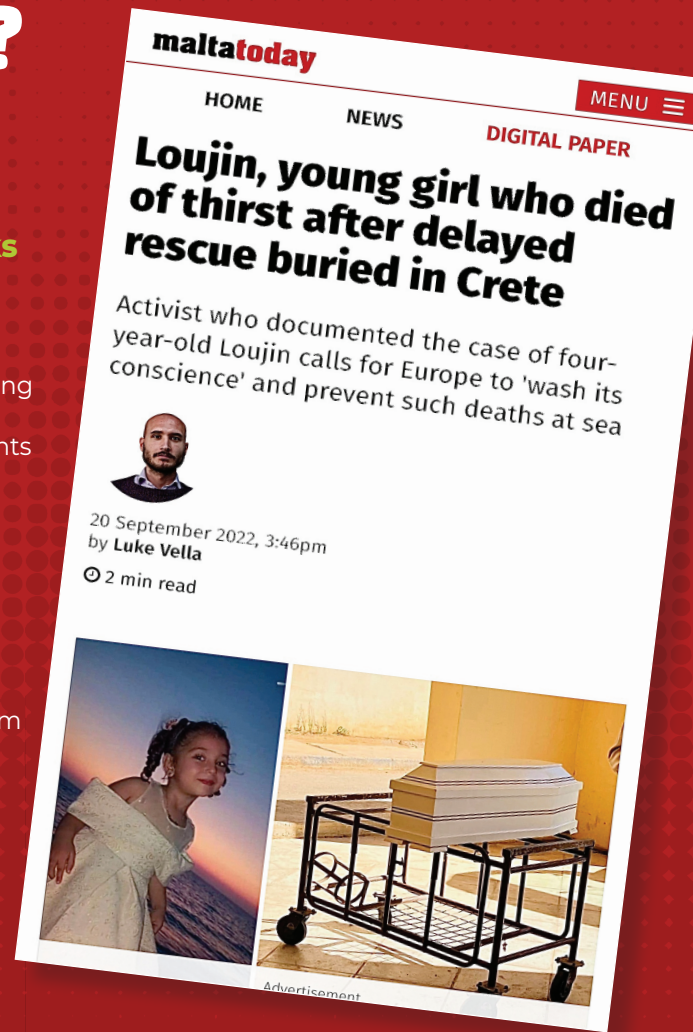
There are many individuals and organisations in Malta actively working to address refugee and migration issues and advocate for more compassionate and effective policies. However, this incident highlights areas of concern with the collective response to humanitarian crises and the treatment of refugees and migrants within Maltese society. How effective and efficient are Malta's emergency response mechanisms? Where are our compassion and empathy that would have led us to assist the distressed boat promptly? What systemic problems with our rescue response systems broke down our communication and collaboration with other players? We demand accountability, compassion, and practical measures to protect and support people seeking safety, rather than turning our backs on them in their most vulnerable moments.

DR NATALIE KENELY
Academic

Loujin was a young girl who was looking for a better future with her family and died of thirst because of delayed rescue.

The Maltese people have long been known for their generosity and willingness to assist those in need; however, Loujin's death raises concerns about our collective response to those who were not born on our shores. The very essence of humanity compels us to help those in need, regardless of their origin. Basic human needs, especially the fundamental right to life, should never be overshadowed by borders. As a society we should reaffirm our commitment to the principles of compassion and empathy. It is essential that we extend a helping hand to those who seek safety and a better life, irrespective of their origins. Only by embracing our shared humanity and standing together in times of adversity can we create a compassionate society that upholds the values of kindness, justice, and love for all. It is in our collective responsibility to ensure that no one else suffers the same fate as Loujin - let us remember that every life matters.

LORELLA GATT
Stakeholder



I often wonder whether the narrative surrounding the rescue of asylum-seekers is primarily a case of 'out of sight, out of mind'.

When, a few months ago, a group of bystanders witnessed the tragic death of a woman in rough seas in Sliema, they responded by shouting, waving at emergency personnel and waiting in hope that this stranger would be safe. Had it not been for the dangerous conditions, I'm sure a few would have jumped in to save her themselves. Loujin got no such treatment. Despite the frequently xenophobic commentary on the issue of migration, if Loujin had been dying within sight of bystanders, I am convinced that ordinary people would have rushed to her aid.

She wasn't dying within the sight of bystanders, though. She died of thirst in the Mediterranean because those who could actually see her, looked the other way. Because those who supposedly represent 'Malta ħanina', did no such thing.

MAYA D'UGO
Student



edukazzjoni

Stipend Applications **NOW OPEN**

Apply now

education.gov.mt

**FOUNDATION FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE
SERVICES**

Here for you



“ I am Loraine Borg

Social Worker at FSWS - Gozo

PREGNANT ON CAMPUS?

...You are not alone!
Call us on **2033 0023**

WE HELP WITH:

- UNPLANNED PREGNANCY
- ABORTION PILL REVERSAL
- POST-ABORTION HEALING

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- FREE PREGNANCY TEST
- MATERIAL ASSISTANCE
- FREE COUNSELLING SESSION

CONTACT US ON

☎ **2033 0023**

✉ **LIFELINE@LIFENETWORK.EU**



LifeLine
MALTA



SCAN THE **QR CODE**
FOR MORE INFORMATION