

Other Events 2018

9.1 CAREERS EXPO 2018

The CLS participated in the Junior College Expo in January 2018. Here current and past students spoke about three of the leading courses offered by CLS. Franklyn Brincat spoke about the Honours Degree course in Work and HR. Brian Fenech gave an overview of the Honours Degree in Occupational Health and Safety and Illona Captur focused on the Diploma course in Gender Work and Society. Dr Anna Borg led the discussion.



Junior College students who attended the session, and current and past students on the panel at the Careers Expo 2018.

9.2 WORK LIFE BALANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dr Anna Borg, CLS Director was invited to speak by the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), during a public hearing on Work Life Balance for Parents and Carers.

During this hearing, proposals to improve work life balance for working parents were discussed by a panel of experts. The proposals suggest that fathers are granted ten days paid paternity leave, four months paid parental leave, five days of carers leave and the right to request flexible work arrangements (FWA's).



The work-life balance debate in the European Parliament.

9.3 GENDER PAY GAP

Dr Anna Borg participated in a debate on the Gender Pay Gap on 8 June 2018. The event was organised by the European Parliament Liaison Office in Malta and the Department of Gender Studies at the University of Malta. The event included a presentation by Ms Joslyn Magro from the National Statistics Office (NSO) who gave an overview of the situation in Malta and by Dr JosAnn Cutajar who spoke about the issues which need to be tackled.

The panellists included Mr Andrew Beane (CED), Dr Jean Paul Baldacchino (UMASA), Mr Silvan Agius (Human Rights and Integration Directorate, Ministry for European Affairs and Equality); and the MEP Dr Francis Zammit Dimech (PN).



Dr Anna Borg with the panellists discussing the Gender Gap.

9.4 BOOK LAUNCH: UNDER ATTACK

The CLS celebrated the launch of the book *Under Attack* by Dr Francis La Ferla, an ex-course coordinator of the Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety at the Centre. Written for undergraduates, adult students and practitioners of Safety and Health, the book provides basic knowledge of the ever-increasing number of substances that people at work are exposed to on a daily basis and their importance in Safety and Health. The book aids individuals to plan and implement approaches to identify the health implementations of potentially hazardous substances in the workplace environment.



Members of staff during the book launch (from left: Ms Josephine Agius, Prof Godfrey Baldacchino, Dr Manwel Debono, Dr Francis La Ferla, Dr Luke Fiorini, Dr Anna Borg, Ms Caroline Chetcuti)

9.5 COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING TODAY

On Friday, 28th September, 2018 the Centre for Labour Studies, in collaboration with the Association for Equality (A4E) and Dar Hosea organised a Public Seminar called "Combating Human Trafficking Today" at the University of Malta. This seminar included the support of the Swedish Ambassador to Malta, the British High Commission and the Times of Malta.

The conference discussed some of the most difficult questions relating to the trafficking of children and adults for commercial sexual exploitation. The conference was opened by Dr Anna Borg (CLS Director) and the Hon Julia Farrugia Portelli MP (Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms, Citizenship and Simplification of Administrative Processes) who spoke about the importance of combating Human Trafficking. The keynote speech was delivered by Ms Julie Bindel, Journalist, writer, broadcaster, researcher and author of the book: *The pimping of prostitution: Abolishing the sex work myth*. This was followed by a panel discussion with the audience chaired by Ms Helen Burrows, UK Top 100 Slavery

Influencer. The panel included Ms Julie Bindel, Inspector Joseph Busuttil, Vice Squad, and Dr Katrine Camilleri, JRS Malta.

Dr Anna Vella, a medical doctor and member of the Management Committee of Dar Hosea, a drop-in centre for women in prostitution, gave a presentation on the situation of women who are sexually exploited in Malta and What led to their exploitation. This was followed by a presentation by Dr Lara Dimitrijevic from the Women's Rights Foundation who spoke on the legal aspect of exploited and trafficked women in Malta. Dr Marceline Naudi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Gender Studies at the University of Malta, chaired the second panel which included Dr Anna Vella, Dr Lara Dimitrijevic, and Dr Neil Falzon, Aditus Foundation

The last keynote speaker was Ms Kajsa Wahlberg, a Detective Inspector, Head of the Swedish Police Authority's Human Trafficking Unit and Sweden's national rapporteur on human trafficking opposition activities. Her presentation focused on the Swedish experience since the implementation of the Nordic Model and whether the criminalising of the sex buyer reduce human trafficking. This was followed by a panel which was led by Nana Mallet Cardoza, a Swiss lawyer and researcher on trafficking. The panellists included: Ms Kajsa Wahlberg, Mr Andrew Azzopardi, Safeguarding of the Children Commission, Ms Marie Therese Gatt, Association for Equality (A4E), and Hardeep Walker, a manager at the UK National Crime Agency, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit.

Throughout the conference, short videos produced by Mr Pierre Ellul of Falkun Films depicting the harsh realities of prostitution, were shown to the audience. The conference was concluded by Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta.



Dr Anna Borg during the opening of the Combating Human Trafficking Conference

9.6 HONORIS CAUSA

The University of Malta conferred the Honoris Causa Degree of Master of Letters to Dr Francis La Ferla. The ceremony was held at the Church of the University, Valletta on Friday, 23 November 2018. This recognition was given in pursuit of the significant and sustained contribution that Dr La Ferla has given in the area of Occupational Health and Safety, as an area of academic study, research and professional practice, both in Malta and abroad.



Dr Francis La Ferla together with CLS members; (starting from the left) Mr Luke Fiorini, Dr Francis La Ferla, Dr Anna Borg and Dr Manwel Debono during the Honoris Causa ceremony.



Photo credit: Tufigno