

## **Annual Report - 2001**

The new committee was appointed in January 2001. In addition to the members appointed by Council, Ms Patricia Camilleri, Principal Communications Officer and a representative of the KSU were co-opted on the Committee. It was also agreed to have representatives of the Commission for the Advancement of Women and National Council of Women, on the Committee. The chairpersons of the two groups were contacted and Ms Grace Attard and Dr Josann Cutajar were co-opted. This synergy helped to create excellent links with other gender related committees in Malta, avoid duplication of work effort and offer better utilisation of resources. The committee met for nine times from January to December 2001. The main tasks addressed by the Committee in this term were:

### **1. Monitoring Of Gender Desegregated Data With Respect To Students And Staff.**

The Committee considered it very important to monitor data with respect to gender, at the University. A database was set up by the Students Admissions Office in order to facilitate the collection of statistics for all students by course, year, part and full time, segregated by gender. This data will be collected regularly by the kind permission of the Registrar. The data available was updated in December 2001.

The data with respect to academic members of staff, by faculty and department, full and part timers, was submitted by the SDRO in December 2001, after kind permission of Rector. This data is still to be analysed and the possibility of compiling data for administrative and technical staff was also discussed.

The chair congratulated Dr Lydia Scriha who was appointed as Associate Professor in November 2001, bringing the total number of female professors now up to 3 at the University, although it is to be pointed out that this is far below the European average for female professors.

### **2. The setting up of a website**

The GIC now has a website which includes information about the Committee, the Annual Report, Policy Document and Sexual Harassment Procedures. The GIC email address is [gender@um.edu.mt](mailto:gender@um.edu.mt) and the website address is <http://home.um.edu.mt/gender>. 4000 information leaflets were also produced, designed by Mr Gorg Mallia and Ms Tricia Camilleri, which are to be distributed to staff and students.

### **3. Links with other relevant organizations.**

The co-option of the members of CAW and COW reinforced the close links with these organisations. Ms Tricia Camilleri was invited to attend a seminar on Gender and Journalism organised by the Gender Advisory Group of BA in March 2001. The GIC was invited to a seminar on the implications of EU membership on 25th May 2002 organised by MIC. The CAW invited the Chair to meet Ms Anna Diamantopoulou EU Commissioner for Employment during a lunch in October 2001.

#### 4. International meetings and international links

The Chairperson attended a meeting organized by the European Commission in Brussels on Gender and Research in November 2001. A committee had been set up under the auspices of the NCPO FP5, to co-ordinate Women and Science matters. Dr Irene Scriha co-ordinates this group, together with Ms Catherine Vella from Statistics Authority, and Ms Josette Sciberras from MATSEC. The GIC also supported such initiatives as the Women's Study Group that meets regularly and several members of the committee also attend these meetings in their personal capacity.

#### 5. Seminars

a. One seminar was held in conjunction with Quality Assurance Unit. It was co-ordinated by Mrs Claudia Psaila and discussed interactions in an examination of gender stereotypes; and of 'who I am'; the nature of social institutions; gender and power moving from the personal to the political. The seminar was held for both academic and technical and administrative staff on 3rd April 2001. 10 persons attended.

b. Another seminar was organised for Law students on 18th December 2001 entitled 'Is there life after University?' in order to try to encourage gender awareness among students. Two lawyers were invited: Dr Ann Fenech and Dr Richard Camilleri. The interactive seminar was attended by around 20 students.

#### 6. Database of dissertations

The Committee has also started to compile a database of any gender related dissertations and research that were produced by the respective departments and faculties as they provide unique sources of information about such gender issues in Malta. Over 500 titles have been collected to date.

#### 7. Plans for 2002

- Production of GI awareness Radio programmes on Campus FM
- Employment of an equal opportunities officer at the University to be shared with Student with Disabilities Committee
- Organisation of more GI awareness seminars for students
- Devise mentoring programmes for staff.