

Solidarity, Social Justice and Racism

1. Beliefs

We believe that:

- Malta and the European Union should be a force for peace and a model of equality for the world, where human rights are truly celebrated as fundamental and universal rights.
- All people have the right to live in their country in peace and progress where they are not forced to emigrate in order to escape from military attacks, aggression, persecution, or torture.
- Every person should have the right to emigrate by legal and safe means in order to have a better life, even more so when that person is escaping from a country where there are wars, violence, and persecution.
- Every worker has the right to a decent wage and safe work. Indeed, living a decent and dignified life is a fundamental right.
- We are one human family that should enjoy the same rights to a dignified life free of inequalities, and, thus, live together in peace and prosperity.
- The world has enough resources to feed and create wealth for everyone as long as resources are managed rationally on a global level especially with respect to climate changes.

It is these beliefs that lead us to evaluate the two main causes of forced migration and refugees as military aggression and social inequalities. In the vast majority of cases, forced migration is wilfully created by military attacks and foreign intervention mostly by countries and international alliances which have interests in the armaments industry. In addition, climate change and both religious and ideological fundamentalism are among the main other reasons why millions of people have to leave their homes and homelands in search of peace and prosperity.

United Nation High Commission for Refugees statistics show that 82.4 million people were forced to leave their homes and homelands because of persecution, conflicts, violence and violations of human rights in 2020.

Forced migration is also affecting our country. Unfortunately, because of a lack of good information and also because of the fear spread by spokesmen with an inhuman agenda, racism is raising its ugly head on our islands and dividing us - with especially cruel effects on the most vulnerable people. In

particular, racists who want to divide and rule often use economic arguments to aggravate the situation.

2. Three Action Levels

We believe that migration issues in our country should be addressed on three levels:

2.1 The International Level:

- The Parliament of Malta should call on the European Union to launch a Summit in order to tackle military aggression and social inequalities in Africa, that are having a direct effect on Mediterranean countries. If military aggression and competition between the super powers for resources in Africa and the Middle East are not stopped, forced migration is an inevitable consequence.
- As the first step, the Government of Malta should strengthen its controls to prevent all sale of armaments from Malta to Mediterranean countries and Africa, and prevent Malta being used to transfer any type of armaments.
- The Parliament of Malta should oppose subsidies that the European Union gives to dictatorships and corrupt governments in Africa.

2.1 The National Level:

The Government of Malta together with the employers must take every necessary measure to stop cheap labour and precarious work. These widespread practices cause employees great hardships and increase discrimination between workers. Often, this exploitation also increases racist attitudes between workers. We remind the Government that when measures are taken to improve workers' rights, it is not only doing its social duty, but it is also stimulating the economy for the good of all.

In order for social inequalities to decrease and result in a reduction in racism, we demand that:

- a) The minimum wage is set at a level of pay that is decent for a family and for individuals (a living wage). The wage of every worker (both part-time and full-time) cannot be under the minimum wage for each hour of work.
- b) Serious and effective enforcement measures are taken against precarious work.

- c) When the Government authorises a company to enlist foreign works in bulk, the Government must impose, in advance and by law, conditions of work which are suitable and decent and with a contract which is legally binding.
- d) The Government creates an agency to act as a regulator on employers and to ensure that all employers respect and honour workers' rights. Primarily, the agency should promote the right to work and ensure all workers' conditions are protected and respected. The agency should be autonomous from the Government.

2.3 The Personal Level:

We believe that, on a personal level, no one can ever be judged based on their appearance. One can understand a person's character from their behaviour and from their work and not from the colour of their skin, their race, their ethnicity, their beliefs, or their identity.

We believe in multi-culturalism; however, we do not believe that any culture can or should be forced on someone in order for them to assimilate with other cultures. This applies equally to the culture in the receiving country and the culture in the country from which one departed. We believe in an obligatory integration programme for all immigrants and not just for those people who are economically desired.

3. Institutional Racism

3.1 The Government of Malta should:

- a) Take every action possible to save refugees and migrant people from drowning in our waters, as well as ensuring that when these people are in Malta, they are given humane and respectable treatment;
- b) Insist with Brussels that any migrants who wish to leave Malta are allowed, by right, to go to other countries in the European Union;
- c) Take initiatives, persist and collaborate with non-governmental organisations to launch educational programmes about the local history of migration, equality, respect, dignity and other fundamental human rights;

3.2 Recognise that the Government of Malta was mistaken when it did not vote in favour of the United Nations Resolution on 16th December 2020 which condemned the glorification of Nazism and

every form of racism. The Government of Malta should correct itself by officially informing the United Nations that it is endorsing this resolution.

3.3 Clearly state, through a resolution in Parliament, that Malta is not going to be a part of the army of the European Union.

4. Institutional Racism

4.1 Brussels shoulders the biggest responsibility for military actions which are the leading cause for the creation of millions of refugees and as a result, racism. Therefore, the Government of Malta should:

- a) Take any action possible so that no refugee is allowed to die in our waters, as well as ensuring that when these refugees are in Malta, they are given humane and respectable treatment;
- b) Insist with Brussels that any migrants that wish to leave Malta are allowed to, by right, go to other countries in the European Union;
- c) Insist that Malta receives the financial compensation from the European Union for the expenses for housing migrants and refugees in Malta;
- d) Insist that Malta is given financial compensation for how much it has lost with the destruction of Libya due to military actions of various Member States of the European Union.

4.2 The Government of Malta was mistaken when it did not vote in favour of The Resolution of the United Nations of 16th December 2020 which condemned the glorification of Nazism and every form of racism. The Government of Malta should correct itself by officially informing the United Nations that it is endorsing this resolution.

4.3 The Government of Malta should state, through a resolution in Parliament, that Malta is not going to be a part of the army of the European Union. The mission statement of this army is built on political impositions through military aggressions. Apart from the many other significant reasons that determine why Malta should never be a part of this army, its operations continue to increase forced migration and racism, both in Malta and in the rest of the European Union.

5. The Future

- We believe that Malta and the European Union should be a force for peace and a model for equality for the world, where human rights are truly celebrated as fundamental and universal rights.
- We believe that every person has the right to live in their country in peace and progress and that they are not forced to emigrate in order to escape from military attacks, aggression, persecution, or torture.
- We believe that every person should have the right to emigrate in a secure manner in order to have a better life, even more so when that person is escaping from a country where there are wars, violence, and persecution.
- We believe that every worker has the right to a decent wage. Indeed, living a decent and dignified life is a fundamental right.
- We believe in one human family that should enjoy the same rights, a dignified life, away from inequalities, so that the different peoples can live together in peace and prosperity.
- We believe that the world has enough resources to feed and create wealth for everyone.

Signatories:

Aleks Farrugia, Educator and Author

Alex Vella Gera, Awtur

Alfred Micallef, Former elected Deputy Chairman of Malta Drydocks.

Andrè Bonello, Alleanza Kontra l-Faqar

Andre Callus, Attivist tal-Moviment Graffitti

Andrew Camilleri, Edukatur

Angela Caruana, Attivista Socjalista

Anna Zammit, Junior College

Bernard Cauchi, St Albert the Great College

Caroline Morales, Business Partner

Ċetta Mainwaring, Academic and Author

Christine Cassar, Attivista tal-Moviment Graffitti

Claudio Bezzina, Educator

Daniel Mainwaring, Foreign Affairs Consultant

David Pisani, Attivist Xellugi

Dr Alfred Sant, KUOM MEP, Former Prime Minister of Malta, Former Leader of the Labour Party

Dr Andreana Dibben, Academic and activist

Dr Angele Deguara, Akkademika u attivista

Dr Colin Calleja, Dean Faculty of Education

Dr Desiree' Attard, Avukat u Attivista

Dr Francois Mifsud, Lecturer Department for Inclusion and Access to Learning

Dr Joseph Gravina, Senior Lecturer - UOM

Dr Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici, Former Prime Minister of Malta, Former Leader of the Labour Party

Dr Louise Chircop, Faculty of Education
Dr Maria Pisani, University of Malta
Dr Mario Cardona, Educator, MCAST
Dr Mary Grace Vella, Attivista u akkademika
Dr Mary-Louise Coleiro Preca, KUOM GCMG, Former President of Malta, Former Minister of Labour Government
Dr Michelle Attard Tonna, Faculty of Education
Dr Yana Mintoff, Socialist
Gilbert Zahra, Educator
Immanuel Mifsud, Awtur
Ivan Attard, Alleanza Kontra l-Faqar
Johanna MacRae, Attivista
Kevin Saliba, Awtur
Mario Mallia, Edukatur u Attivist
Mark Camilleri, Kittieb
Martin Abela, Attivist
Matthew Borg, Alleanza kontra l-Faqar
Matthew Vella, Ġurnalist
Nathalie Grima, Social Activist
Noel Agius, Lecturer
Omar Rabahah, Activist
Patri Ġwann Xerri
Prof Adrian Grima, Faculty of Arts
Prof Andrew Azzopardi, Dean Faculty of Social WellBeing
Prof JosAnne Cutajar, Lecturer
Prof. Yosanne Vella, Academic
Professor David Buhagiar, Academic
Professor Ronald Sultana, Faculty of Education
Rafel Grima, Membru tal-GRAFFITI
Roger Mamo, Attivist
Ruth Cauchi, Educator
Shirley Galea Riani
Tina Braxton, Historian and Activist
Victoria Pisani, Ċittadin