

Lara Dimitrijevic is a lawyer, human rights advocate and researcher with more than 20 years of experience in gender equality and women's rights. Her work focuses on family law, human rights, violence against women and domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual and reproductive rights. Through litigation, policy advocacy, research and professional education, she has contributed to the development of legal and institutional responses to gender-based violence in Malta and at European level.

She obtained her Doctor of Laws degree in 2008 and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Legal and Humanistic Studies from the University of Malta. Alongside her legal practice and advocacy work, she serves as a casual lecturer at the University of Malta, contributing her practical experience in human rights, gender equality and access to justice to legal and interdisciplinary education.

Dimitrijevic is the founder and director of the Women's Rights Foundation, a Maltese organisation that promotes women's human rights and provides specialist support and legal assistance. She also helped establish the Malta Observatory on Femicide. In these roles, she has worked directly with women affected by violence and discrimination while leading advocacy for stronger laws, policies and services. Her approach combines individual representation with efforts to address the structural barriers that prevent victims from obtaining protection, justice and effective remedies.

Her legal work has contributed to significant court decisions concerning gender discrimination, domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual and reproductive rights, and human trafficking. She has spearheaded campaigns for the recognition and prevention of femicide and for the protection of reproductive rights in Malta, including challenges to restrictive laws and policies concerning abortion. Her work is grounded in the practical application of international human rights standards and in strengthening state accountability for violence and discrimination against women.

At national and European level, Dimitrijevic has held a range of expert and representative roles. She has served as a member of Malta's Commission on Domestic Violence, a delegate to Women Against Violence Europe, and a member of the European Women's Lobby Observatory on Violence against Women. She is also part of the Council of Europe Network of Specialised Lawyers Assisting Women Victims of Violence, a member of the WAVE Legal Working Group, and a member of the European Women's Lobby task force on sexual and reproductive rights.

Her research experience includes work as Malta's national researcher for the European Observatory on Femicide and as a senior legal researcher engaged by the European Institute for Gender Equality on projects addressing femicide and victims' access to justice. This work has complemented her litigation and advocacy by examining how legal frameworks operate in practice and how justice systems can respond more effectively to women subjected to violence.