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(Istanbul Convention)

Implementation report submitted by Malta on the conclusions adopted by the Committee of the Parties on 31 May 2024

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Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence:

Report by the Maltese Authorities on the Implementation of Conclusions adopted by the Committee of the Parties on 31st May 2024

GLOSSARY

CGBVDV	Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence
CPS	Child Protection Service
CRPD	Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability
CSA	Court Services Agency
DV	Domestic Violence
DVS	Domestic Violence Service
FSWS	Foundation for Social Welfare Services
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IMC	Inter-Ministerial Committee
LESA	Local Enforcement System Agency
MJR	Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector
MSPC	Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSO	National Statistics Office

OPM-ES	Office of the Prime Minister (Equality, Reforms and Social Dialogue)
PSP	Public Social Partnership
PSPs	Personalised Support Plans
SAV	Supervised Access Visits
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TPO	Temporary Protection Order
TWE	Together We Empower
VSA	Victim Support Agency

Recommendation 1: Strengthening co-operation with all non-governmental actors, including those providing specialist women's support services and ensuring their effective participation at various stages of the design of policies, legislative changes and programmes, that address violence against women, while upholding the Istanbul Convention's premise that all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, affect women disproportionately and are a form of discrimination against women.

Malta has increased its efforts to strengthen co-operation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including specialist women's support services, primarily through the development and adoption of the Third National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Domestic Violence (DV) (2023-2028).

The Third National Strategy introduces a dedicated forum for NGOs, a formal co-operation mechanism chaired by the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (CGBVDV), aimed at supporting structured and ongoing engagement with civil society. As a practice already established under Malta's Second National Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2022), CGBVDV continued to coordinate regular meetings between NGOs and the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) responsible for the implementation of the National Action Plan. This platform fosters regular co-operation and consultation with NGOs to promote their active participation in policy development, legislative changes, service provision and programme development.

During the development of the Third National Strategy on GBV and DV (2023-2028), CGBVDV involved NGOs in the consultation process. This participation was essential for incorporating the perspectives of civil society and enhancing the representation of service users and victims of all forms of GBV and DV. Through this collaborative approach, NGOs actively contributed towards shaping the policy measures and actions within the five-year strategy.

Moreover, ongoing discussions between the IMC and NGO Forum ensure that necessary legislative changes are highlighted and addressed. Examples include the amendment to the legal definition of the 'family' and 'domestic unit', the establishment of femicide as an aggravating offence and introduction of electronic monitoring as a protection measure.

Through the NGO Forum, CGBVDV also held consultative discussions with NGOs relating to the implementation of strategy measures including the research on analysing Court Decisions in cases of DV, training for members of the judiciary and issues related to parental consent and the so-called 'parental alienation'. Furthermore, several updates regarding the first set of recommendations of the Family Court Reform and the transposition process for Directive (EU) 2024/1385 where shared during the NGO Forum meetings.

CGBVDV continues to strengthen collaboration with NGOs by actively engaging them in the design and delivery of training programmes targeting professionals working in the field of GBV and DV. An Expression of Interest is issued annually whereby NGOs, as well as other experts and academics, are invited to submit their specific areas of expertise. With the increased response over the years, in 2023, the ongoing Multi-Agency Training programme for professionals was extended to three days to allow for the incorporation of additional topics, including the intersectional element of violence. The expansion of this training programme further reinforces the capacity of frontline services to support victims effectively.

In the first quarter of 2025, CGBVDV implemented a project under the EEA and Norway Grants titled 'Enhancing Cross-Border Cooperation to Combat Gender-Based Violence'. The aim of this

initiative was to foster networking amongst organisations tackling GBV and DV in Malta and across participating countries, which included partner organisations from Norway and Iceland.

This project sought to identify challenges and promising practices implemented by various government and non-governmental organisations, engaged in combating GBV and DV. Through a range of activities and exchanges, participating countries were able to develop actions and approaches to address GBV and DV more effectively. Furthermore, the project facilitated bi-lateral discussions, enabling organisations to collaborate in a solution-focused manner on project development at the levels of service provision and policy making.

Local NGOs were involved in several of the activities, commencing with the visit to Norway during which the Maltese delegation participated in a series of meetings with Norwegian authorities and NGOs providing services. The visit highlighted Norway's coordinated response in addressing GBV and DV.

In March 2025, CGBVDV hosted delegations from Norway and Iceland and coordinated visits to a variety of services operating at the national level, including a second-stage shelter managed by an NGO. The visits offered the foreign representatives the opportunity to gain insight into service delivery within the Maltese context and existing co-operation structures.

The visit concluded with a one-day conference titled, 'A Spotlight on Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls'. Participants included the representatives from the Norwegian and Icelandic delegations together with members of the IMC and NGO Forum who actively contributed towards the discussions on emerging challenges in the field of technology-facilitated violence during the structured workshops. The workshops focused on the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention and key recommendations which emerged were strengthening collaboration, improving legal and policy frameworks, enhancing victim support services and ensuring accountability of perpetrators.

This bi-lateral initiative was crucial in enhancing cross-border collaboration and the development of innovative approaches to combat GBV and DV. As a result, CGBVDV will be the lead beneficiary for a predefined EEA and Norway Grants project under the current programming period, scheduled for implementation from 2027 to 2028 to address the recommendations identified.

As the national coordinator of the international 16 Days of Activism campaign, CGVBDV actively involves NGOs in the events organised. During the 2025 campaign, NGOs working in the sector were invited to attend for the launch of the campaign, a conference highlighting the outcomes of the projects implemented by NGOs through the 'Together We Empower' programme during which, a second programming period for 2026 was announced, and the 16 Days of Activism closing conference. Being that one of the themes of the campaign was child witnesses of violence, a member from a specialist women's organisation served as a panellist during the closing conference to share the organisation's expertise on the legal representation of children in cases of DV.

Furthermore, NGOs were engaged to deliver a specialised training sessions for officers within the Local Enforcement System Agency (LESA) on how to handle cases of DV encountered during routine patrol duties. The session focused on strengthening officer's awareness, responsiveness and understanding the complexities of situations involving DV.

Earlier this year, CGBVDV collaborated with NGO-led women's shelters on an initiative for Valentine's Day, whereby a token with an empowering message was disseminated amongst women residents. Accompanying children were each given a teddy bear which had served as the mascot of the 16 Days of Activism campaign implemented in 2025.

In 2026, CGBVDV involved NGO representatives in the evaluation of creative works submitted by primary, middle and secondary students as part of the creative competition, 'We Have a Dream: A Future Without Violence'. This competition aimed to encourage children to reflect on what constitutes a healthy relationship.

Recommendation 2: Putting in place a dedicated, transparent and accountable public procedure under which all NGOs which provide specialist support services to victims of violence against women and their children can compete for sustainable and long-term funding; and offering women victims of violence the possibility to self-refer without requiring mandatory referral from Aġenzija Appoġġ.

Sustainable and long-term funding is provided to NGOs providing specialist support services to victims of violence against women and their children through Public Social Partnership (PSP) agreements administered by the Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights (MSPC). PSPs are valid for a three-year period, with the possibility of renewal.

The Victim Support Agency (VSA) is entrusted at law to promote a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach to maintain the holistic well-being of victims whilst ensuring continuity of services. Based on this legal obligation, it has official collaboration agreements set with different NGOs guaranteeing a common referral system and, in some cases, services referred are also funded. This structure also enables the sharing of good practices and expertise.

In 2024, CGBVDV with the support of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Equality and Reforms, launched the 'Together We Empower' programme to support NGOs in raising awareness about GBV and DV. The primary goal of this initiative is to actively assist NGOs in their efforts to raise awareness about GBV and DV. This programme provides NGOs with the opportunity to network, collaborate, and develop projects designed to enhance knowledge and build capacity within the sector.

During the launch event, CGBVDV outlined the application process and highlighted the key priority areas and types of activities the funding programme aims to support. The 'Together We Empower' programme facilitates stronger co-operation amongst NGOs, private entities, local councils and the government towards the effective implementation of Malta's National Strategy on GBV and DV (2023-2028). In 2024, a total of nine projects received funding, each awarded up to a maximum of €10,000.

Following the success of the initial cycle, the programme was re-launched for a second cycle in December 2025. In this subsequent round, eight projects have been awarded funding of up to €10,000 each, with implementation spanning between April and October 2026. This programme aims to continue to enhance cooperation and support impactful initiatives addressing GBV and DV.

With regards to self-referral, while the rationale behind allowing self-referral is appreciated, mandatory referrals through Aġenzija Appoġġ remain important to ensure accountability and transparency, particularly given the Personalised Support Plans (PSPs) in place. These

mechanisms allow for proper tracking of admissions, monitoring of service provision, and clarity on termination of shelter stays. Additionally, structured referrals ensure continuity of care. Without them, it is unclear who would assume responsibility for ongoing support and aftercare once a GBV victim exits the shelter, and whether shelters, including NGOs, would be held accountable for this follow-up.

The Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS) is currently working towards the establishment of a second-stage shelter, which is expected to increase capacity and help address growing demand.

Furthermore, it is being acknowledged that shelters should be adequately designed and resourced to accommodate women with diverse needs, including those with disabilities and those experiencing substance misuse, thereby ensuring accessibility and the provision of appropriate support services. Furthermore, the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) is currently undertaking a holistic audit of DV shelters, the resulting recommendations of which are intended to not only address physical accessibility but also training requirements for the staff in the shelters.

Recommendation 3: Prioritising the implementation of the strategic goal on data collection of the 2023-2028 National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence and ensuring the comprehensive collection of disaggregated data in relation to all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention at all stages of criminal justice, disaggregated by sex, age, type of violence as well as the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim and ensuring the data collection of data on protection orders issued under civil and criminal legislation, their breaches and consequences of such breaches.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) currently collects data in relation to all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, disaggregated by sex, age, type of violence as well as the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, where available. The data collected is largely dependent on administrative data held by other Maltese entities. The NSO annually publishes a news release on users of DV services, providing a local context of victims of and cases involving DV. Information on the relationship between perpetrator and victim is not published at this time due to low counts, and an inconsistency in the annual provision of this data across all data sources. Data on GBV is also collected through the EU-Gender Based Violence survey, which is conducted every five years by the NSO.

The Courts Services Agency (CSA) on the other hand, collects data on protection orders. However, the information is not necessarily aligned with the obligations of the Istanbul Convention or the National Strategy on GBV and DV (2023-2028).

Furthermore, the Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector (MJR) remains committed to strengthening the analytic and data management capabilities across justice entities, including through the set-up and roll-out of dedicated case management systems. An ongoing tendering process for such systems is currently underway across different justice entities which are at different stages of development. These systems are intended to support more structured, reliable and interoperable data collection and analysis, thereby enabling justice entities to honour the data collection obligations outlined in the Istanbul Convention across the different stages of the criminal justice process.

These efforts build on the initial steps already taken towards digitalisation within the justice sector and are pursued in line with the strategic objectives and implementation framework of the Malta Digital Justice Strategy 2022-2027.

Recommendation 4: Taking a number of priority actions in the area of custody and visitation rights to ensure the safety of victims and their children, including by verifying that measures that are available to prevent victims and perpetrators from meeting during supervised visitation and implemented in practice; and ensuring that family courts take into account episodes of domestic violence effectively, in particular by fully investigating allegations of domestic violence and recognising the harmful impact on domestic violence witnessed by children and offering a legal basis to restrict visitation where this is warranted.

In situations involving women victims of DV and their children, the Domestic Violence Service (DVS) within FSWS liaises directly with the Supervised Access Visits (SAV) service to facilitate visitation arrangements with the perpetrator, particularly when such visits are ordered by the Family Court. The DVS ensures that the mother receives the necessary support and protection throughout the process. Where required, DVS workers accompany or transport the children to the SAVs to avoid any direct contact between the mother and the perpetrator.

SAVs are closely monitored by social workers and, should any incidents of violence or concerning behaviour reoccur, these are communicated to the Court through the mother's lawyer, requesting the immediate suspension of access where necessary. In the majority of cases, SAVs proceed without incident.

Children residing with their mother in DV shelters and who attend SAVs are carefully monitored before and after the visits for any behavioural changes, signs of distress, or disclosures indicating that the experience was not positive or as safe as intended. Such observations are reported back to the Court when necessary. In these situations, close collaboration is maintained between the DVS, Child Protection Services (CPS), children's therapists, and the mother's lawyer.

Following the Family Court Reform, legal amendments were drafted based on the recommendations which emerged during the consultation process. ACT No. VII of 2026 amends the Criminal Code (Chapter 9), the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Chapter 12) and the Civil Code (Chapter 16). A central component of the reform is the establishment of the Family Court as a fully independent court within the judicial system, tasked exclusively with handling family cases.

The legal reform also includes the revision of Subsidiary Legislation 12.20 which regulates mediation proceedings. The amendments introduce clear timeframes for both parties as well as the Court alongside simplification of mediation and sentencing procedures. Furthermore, the role of mediators shall be strengthened and it is foreseen that mediators will be integrated within the Mediation Centre to support ongoing training and continuous professional development.

The Family Court Proceedings Regulations of 2025 (S.L. 12.35) provides for the suspension of mediation proceedings where evidence of DV is brought to the attention of the Court. This ensures that cases involving DV are not treated as ordinary family disputes and that protective measures may be considered at an early stage.

The Regulation also strengthens the procedural framework applicable to family proceedings in the areas of care and custody, residence and access to minors. In proceedings involving minors,

the Court is required to determine matters in accordance with the best interests of the child, taking into account the particular circumstances of the family. Within this framework, incidents of DV may be considered by the Court when determining custody, residence and access arrangements, including where protective or special measures are required.

Where concerns arise regarding family dynamics, parental conduct or the emotional well-being of the child, the Court may rely on professional assessments and support mechanisms to inform its decision-making. This is intended to ensure that decisions are based on the circumstances of the case and on the best interests of the child, while limiting the risk that harmful stereotypes or concepts are used in a manner which may re-victimise women or children.

On matters relating to child access and maintenance, the provision of 'continuous offence' has been introduced which aims at delivering more effective and timely remedies over recurring failure to meet maintenance obligations and repeated breaches of access decrees.

The reform also introduces a provision through a Commencement Notice concerning 'in absencia', outlined in Article 360 of the Criminal Code. This Article grants the Criminal Court the authority to proceed with cases involving child access, care, custody and maintenance when the accused party does not attend court proceedings. Nevertheless, the Court will offer opportunities for the absent party to participate, ensuring that decisions are not made without due consideration.

The implementation of this Article aims to address situations where parties intentionally fail to attend court proceedings, often used as a tactic to delay the final judgement. By enabling the Court to move forward in failure to appear in hearings, the reform seeks to eliminate unnecessary delays caused by minor or trivial acts of avoidance to ensure timely resolution of cases concerning children's welfare.

Additionally, under the 'Community of Acquests', a new provision allows either party undergoing separation to rent or purchase property, with Court approval and if certain conditions are met, without affecting ongoing proceedings.

The Regulations also provide for child-focused mechanisms, including the appointment of a Children's Advocate and persons of support acting as court experts or therapists, to assist the Court in assessing the needs and best interests of the child in a structured manner. Children's Advocates will receive targeting training to handle cases involving DV on a case-by-case basis, enabling them to adopt a victim-sensitive approach and minimise the risk of re-victimisation during their engagement with children and parents.

During mediation proceedings, the appointment of a Child Advocate may be requested by either parties or by the mediator when it is deemed that the best interests of the child are not being adequately protected, even in instances when both parties are in agreement. At the sentencing stage, the presence of a Child Advocate shall be mandatory to ensure that the child's interests are duly taken into account.

The reform also envisages further training for professionals involved in family proceedings to ensure that DV, its impact on children and the risks of secondary victimisation are properly understood and addressed in practice. This will be supported by one of the activities under the EEA and Norway Grants predefined project aimed at strengthening the capacity of legal professionals, including members of the judiciary. The initiative will be led by MJR and shall focus

on the development and delivery of training targeting victim protection, perpetrator accountability and timely access to justice.

This project output aims to address key gaps identified at the national level, specifically, the limited specialised training on the substantive and procedural provisions of the Istanbul Convention, inconsistent understanding of the dynamics of GBV and DV and insufficient application of trauma-informed approaches in questioning. This lack of understanding often results in delays and inconsistent use of protective measures which can lead to re-victimisation and reduced trust in the judicial system. Furthermore, this modality seeks to strengthen professional knowledge on perpetrator accountability, including effective use of emergency barring orders, restraining orders and coordinated responses to prevent repeat offending and femicide. While acknowledging that good practices exist at national and international levels, these are not always systematically shared or integrated into training and judicial practice.

Thus, the training seeks to strengthen judicial responses in line with Articles 51, 52 and 53 of the Istanbul Convention. This project shall address these issues by strengthening judicial capacity through structured, accredited training and cross border exchange of good practices, ensuring that justice responses are effective, survivor-centred and fully aligned with international human rights obligations.

The specialised training curriculum that will be developed shall also incorporate the obligations concerning measures of protections under Article 56 of the Convention. Target groups shall include judges, magistrates, prosecutors, lawyers, court administrators, law enforcement and policymakers. This training will be delivered through in person sessions and uploaded onto the TEMI digital training platform by MJR to promote accessibility and sustainability of the material.

The project deliverable aims to achieve strengthened judicial capacity, improved consistency in victim protection and enhanced perpetrator accountability in cases of GBV and DV.

Recommendation 5: Taking legislative and/or policy measures to bring the Maltese legal framework and practice in line with Articles 52 and 53 of the Istanbul Convention, and setting up a centralised system that can record the issue of emergency barring orders and protection orders, as well as any breaches thereof.

As outlined in Recommendation 4, the EEA and Norway Grants predefined project will target improved knowledge on the effective use of emergency barring orders, restraining orders and protection orders.

Under national law, Article 412C of the Criminal Code provides for the issuance of protection orders where a person has been charged or accused with an offence before the Court of Magistrates. Under Article 412C(1), the Court may, either ex officio or at the request of any party to the proceedings, on reasonable grounds, for the purpose of providing for the safety of the injured person, or of other individuals, or for the keeping of the public peace, or for the purpose of protecting the injured person, or other individuals from harassment, or other conduct which will cause a fear of violence, issue a protection order against the accused.

Pursuant to Article 382A of the Criminal Code, a restraining order may be issued concurrently with a protection order, where the court considers it expedient to do so for any of the purposes mentioned in article 412C(1). Such an order may be imposed alongside any punishment adjudicated against the accused.

Article 3(7) of Chapter 636 provides that when the police suspect that a crime is being committed, or has been committed, they are bound to file a report in accordance with the criminal investigation procedures, giving rise to circumstances which can limit confidentiality. Article 5(3) outlines the procedure for the issuance of a DV risk warning whilst Article 6 further describes the legal powers granted to the police to make such a decision or otherwise.

A Temporary Protection Order (TPO) may be issued under Article 540 of the Criminal Code, obliging the Executive Police to notify within the shortest timeframe the Court of Magistrates (Malta or Gozo), or magistrate as the case may be, upon the receipt of any report, information or complaint for necessary direction. Article 540A outlines the TPO procedure. A TPO is granted based on immediate danger, interpreted as when the perpetrator is in physical proximity of the victim. Being that the TPO is issued by a court order, the time period needs to be extended until the order is formally issued. In situations involving high risk and where a victim declines to seek refuge in a shelter, refusal must be formally documented in writing by the victim.

Ongoing digitisation efforts within the justice sector are expected to support more structured and centralised data collection, including improved collation and visibility of court-related information on protection orders, breaches and related outcomes.

In parallel, the Office of the Prime Minister (Equality, Reforms and Social Dialogue) (OPM-ES) which is currently coordinating the transposition process of the Directive (EU) 2024/1385, has drafted an Omnibus Bill which includes new provisions under the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act (Chapter 581) to ensure the competent authorities draw the required Guidelines concerning criminal proceedings and that the necessary safeguards during referral of GBV and DV victims to support services are undertaken by the responsible authorities.

As per Article 22 (Role of national bodies, including equality bodies) of the Directive, a new Legal Notice will be establishing the role of the designated authorities including the National Point of Contact for Victims of GBV and DV and Coordinator of the Referral of Victims and their dependents. The Legal Notice will be addressing matters related to Article 19 to improve its effectiveness. Through the establishment of these functions at law, Malta's obligation to improve national coordination and cooperation, particularly for the referral of victims, reporting and the collection of data and statistics, will be addressed.

With the enactment of the Electronic Monitoring Act (Chapter 651) in 2025, electronic monitoring is also considered as part of wider enforcement and protective measures. This Act introduces a comprehensive legal framework regulating the use of electronic tagging as a mechanism for monitoring individuals subject to criminal justice measures. The Act marks an important change to how Malta handles sentencing, parole, and enforcement, aiming to protect public safety while also supporting rehabilitation and proportionality principles.

The Act establishes an electronic monitoring system that uses secure electronic devices to track the movements of individuals under electronic monitoring orders. This system is intended to provide an alternative to custodial measures as appropriate, while also supporting effective supervision and enforcement.

Electronic monitoring may be ordered by:

- The Courts of Justice

A Court may issue an electronic monitoring order following a criminal judgement where the sentence imposed does not exceed one year of imprisonment. The Act does not apply to offences punishable by more than two years' imprisonment and to specific offences listed in Schedule III, including serious crimes and offences involving vulnerable persons.

If granted after sentencing, an electronic monitoring order suspends imprisonment, subject to the individual's consent, who must sign the prescribed form set out in Schedule I. However, consent is not required in certain situations as the Act permits mandatory electronic monitoring when issued alongside protection or supervision orders under Articles 382A, 383, 412C, and 540A of the Criminal Code. Additionally, the Act permits the electronic monitoring of victims, provided their consent is obtained and where it is deemed necessary for their protection.

- The Correctional Services Agency

The Chief Executive Office of the Correctional Services Agency can authorise electronic monitoring orders for prisoners who are granted prison leave. The monitoring functions as a supervisory tool aimed at facilitating gradual reintegration into society while maintaining oversight.

- The Parole Board

The Parole Board may impose electronic monitoring orders as a supervisory condition of parole.

Schedule I of the Act lists the standard conditions for electronic monitoring orders, including residence requirements, curfews, movement restrictions and specific banned areas. The Court retains discretion to adjust such conditions based on the case.

Under the Act, LESA is designated as the "responsible authority" tasked with procuring, installing and maintaining electronic monitoring equipment. LESA also has the power to conduct unannounced inspections, analyse suspected breaches and liaise with issuing authorities and the police when required. Any breach or suspected breach of the conditions imposed under an electronic monitoring order may result in a review or withdrawal of the order by the issuing authority. Urgent cases allow for the arrest of individual without a warrant and return to custody in accordance with applicable regulations.

Additionally, the Act establishes specific criminal offences. The act of tampering with or removing electronic monitoring equipment constitutes a serious offence subject to penalties including imprisonment ranging from six months to two years, a fine, or both. A limited defence is provided where removal occurs in a situation of emergency, provided that satisfactory proof is presented to the Court.

To ensure accountability, the Act establishes the office of the Electronic Monitoring Regulator. The Regulator is appointed by the President on Cabinet's advice to oversee implementation of the Act allowing for inspections, including unannounced visits of facilities operated by the responsible authority. The Regulator is required to submit an annual report to the Minister responsible for Home Affairs to be tabled in Parliament and may include legislative or operational recommendations.

Due to the invasive nature of electronic monitoring, the Act includes specific provisions for data protection. It safeguards Malta's data protection framework governing criminal justice

processing, requiring adherence to lawfulness, necessity and proportionality. Only essential personal data is processed and must be retained for no longer than one year following termination of the monitoring order. The Act also requires data protection impact assessments, audit trails and role-based access controls, underscoring the system's compliance with fundamental rights standards.

The Electronic Monitoring Act marks a decisive shift towards more flexible, technology-driven alternatives to imprisonment within Malta's criminal justice system. While its impact will ultimately depend on implementation and judicial prudence, the Act provides a structured and rights-conscious framework to support rehabilitation, reduce custodial pressure, and strengthen monitoring.