

**Group of Experts on Action against Violence
against Women and Domestic Violence
(GREVIO)**



**Report submitted by Malta
pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1
of the Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(First thematic evaluation round)**

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**Maltese Authorities Report on the Implementation of the Council
of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence
against Women and Domestic Violence**

**1st Thematic Evaluation Round: Building trust by delivering support,
protection and justice**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
GLOSSARY	3
INTRODUCTION	11
PART I: CHANGES IN COMPREHENSIVE AND CO-ORDINATED POLICIES, FUNDING, AND DATA COLLECTION IN THE AREA OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	12
<i>Article 7: Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Article 8: Funding</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Article 11: Data collection and research</i>	<i>23</i>
PART II: INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED PROVISIONS IN PRIORITY AREAS IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND PROSECUTION	28
<i>Article 12: General obligations.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Article 14: Education</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Article 15: Training of Professionals.....</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Article 16: Preventive intervention and treatment programmes</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Article 18: General obligations.....</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Article 20: General support services.....</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Article 22: Specialist support services</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Article 25: Support to victims of sexual violence.....</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>Article 31: Custody, visitation rights and safety.....</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>Article 48: Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Article 49 and 50: General obligations and immediate response, prevention and protection</i>	<i>76</i>
<i>Article 51: Risk assessment and risk management</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>Article 52: Emergency barring orders</i>	<i>83</i>
<i>Article 53: Restraining or protection orders.....</i>	<i>83</i>
<i>Article 56: Measures of protection.....</i>	<i>85</i>
PART III: EMERGING TRENDS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	88
PART IV: ADMINISTRATIVE DATA AND STATISTICS	92
CONCLUSION	94
APPENDIX I	I
TABLE 1: INITIAL TRAINING (EDUCATION OR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING)	I
APPENDIX II	XXII
TABLE 2: IN-SERVICE TRAINING	XXII

GLOSSARY

AACC	Active Ageing and Community Care
ACTS	Agency for Community and Therapeutic Services
AG	Office of the Attorney General
AS	Aġenzija Sapport
AWAS	Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers
CCWR	Consultative Council for Women's Rights
CFC	Office of the Commissioner for Children
CGBVDV	Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence
CI&A	Central Intelligence & Analysis
CMIS	Centralised Management Information System
CMS	Case Management System
CPS	Directorate for Child Protection Services
CRPD	Commission for the Rights of People with Disability
CSA	Court Services Agency

CSA	Correctional Services Agency
CSS	Child Safety Services
CVSA	Care for Victims of Sexual Assault
DA	Danger Assessment
DAC	Directorate for Alternative Care
DAIP	Domestic Abuse Intervention Programme
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence Risk Identification Checklist
DIER	Department for Industrial and Employment Relations
DLAP	Department for Learning and Personal Development
DMO	Designated MARAM Officer
DoJ	Department of Justice
DPO	Data Protection Officer
DPP	Department of Probation and Parole
DSO	Designated Safeguarding Officer
DV	Domestic violence

DVS	Domestic Violence Services
DVU	Domestic Violence Unit
EBO	Emergency Barring Order
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
EOs	Education Officers
ESP	Employee Support Programme
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FSWS	Foundation for Social Welfare Services
GBDVU	Gender-Based Domestic Violence Unit
GBV	Gender-based violence
GEMSAP	Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
GT	Guidance teacher
GU	Genito-urinary Clinic

HA	Housing Authority
HBTS	Home-Based Therapeutic Services
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRD	Human Rights Directorate
IFSS	Intake and Family Support Services
IMC	Inter-Ministerial Committee
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPA	International Protection Agency
IPV	Intimate partner violence
IRRPD	International Relations, Research and Policy Documentation
ITS	Institute of Tourism Studies
JRS	Jesuit Refugee Services
LAM	Legal Aid Malta
LGBTI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer
MAP	Morning After Pill

MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MARAM	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meetings
MCAST	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology
MDH	Mater Dei Hospital
MEYR	Ministry for Education, Sports, Youth, Research and Innovation
MFET	Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade
MGP	Ministry for Gozo and Planning
MGRM	Malta Gay Rights Movement
MHA	Ministry for Health and Active Ageing
MHS	Mental Health Services
MHSE	Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment
MIV	Ministry for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector
MJR	Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPF	Malta Police Force

MSPC	Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights
MWAM	Migrant Women Association Malta
NAPPI	Non-Abusive Psychological and Physical Intervention
NCFHE	National Commission for Further and Higher Education
NCPE	National Commission for the Promotion of Equality
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NMC	National Minimum Curriculum
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSSS	National School Support Services
OPRES	Online Police Reporting System
PAP	Personalised Action Plan
PBS	Public Broadcasting Services
PDPI	Policy Development and Programme Implementation Unit within MHSR
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
PES	Public Employment Services

PHC	Primary Healthcare Clinics
PO	Protection Order
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PSCD	Personal, Social and Career Development
PSP	Public Social Partnership
RO	Restraining Order
ROC	Result of cases
TPO	Temporary Protection Order
SARA	Spousal Assault Risk Assessment
SAV	Supervised Access Visits
SCSA	Social Care Standards Authority
SFCE	Secretariat for Catholic Education
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SOGIESC	Sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics

SOGIGESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Unit
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAW	Violence against women
VO	Voluntary organisation
VSA	Victim Support Agency
VSM	Victim Support Malta
VSU	Victim Support Unit
WAGGS	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
WWP EN	Working with Perpetrators European Network

INTRODUCTION

Malta ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) in 2014. The Convention was fully transposed into national legislation in 2018 through the enactment of the [Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act](#) (Chapter 581) of the Laws of Malta. This led to the widening of the remit of the Commission on Domestic Violence, previously governed by the [Domestic Violence Act](#) (Chapter 481), to include gender-based violence in addition to domestic violence. Thus, the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence was established as national coordinating body in line with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention.

Since the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention, Malta adopted three National Strategies and Action Plans to ensure the implementation of the Convention at national level; [Society's Concern: Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan \(2018-2020\)](#), [Malta's National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2021-2022\)](#) and [UNITE. ENAGE. ELEVATE. National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#). Through its five-year timeframe, the third National Strategy seeks to sustain the achievements of the preceding two strategies whilst also incorporating a more longitudinal vision in its measures and actions.

The Maltese Authorities submitted its first country report to the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) in 2019. A country visit by the GREVIO delegation took place in February 2020 as part of the evaluation process and GREVIO's baseline evaluation report was published in November 2020. Malta has considered and included the recommendations put forth by GREVIO in the development of the subsequent strategies' action plans to continue to strengthen the prevention, protection and support as well as prosecution of gender-based violence and domestic violence through coordinated policies and efforts.

This report reflects the commitment, progress and continued action to prevent and combat gender-based violence and domestic violence undertaken by the Government of Malta since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report in 2020. The Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence was responsible for coordinating the collection of information and compilation of this country report in response to GREVIO's first thematic round: 'Building trust by delivering support,

protection and justice'. The report was compiled in cooperation and collaboration with the relevant Ministries and governmental stakeholders.

The structure of the document follows the chapters, articles and questions as presented by GREVIO in the thematic questionnaire. All questions have been answered in detail, however there were instances where a joint comprehensive answer for subsequent questions or sections was provided. For clarity purposes and to avoid repetition, reference between questions was made explicitly.

Part I: Changes in comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, funding, and data collection in the area of violence against women and domestic violence

Article 7: Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies

1. New policy developments

Since GREVIO's baseline evaluation report received in 2020, Malta has continued upholding its commitment to prevent and combat gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence (DV). This was achieved through the adoption and implementation of the [Second National Strategy and Action Plan on GBV and DV \(2021-2022\)](#). As national coordinating body, the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (CGBVDV) was tasked with coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan through monthly meetings with the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), quarterly meetings between the IMC and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and requests for documented feedback from the respective stakeholders.

In 2022, Malta's first [Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan \(2022-2027\)](#) (GEMSAP) was launched. The strategy focuses on eight strategic objectives. GEMSAP informs the Action Plan by adopting a dual approach. Firstly, through the introduction of gender mainstreaming - that is, applying a gender perspective into all stages and all sectors of policymaking. Secondly, the commitment to direct, targeted measures to achieve full gender equality. Objectives in the strategy include:

1. Strengthening of Institutional Mechanisms for Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Equality.
2. Guaranteeing equal access to employment in all sectors, combat segregation and ensuring Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value.
3. Enhancing women's economic independence.
4. Strengthening the principle of gender equality & mainstreaming in the education system and challenging gender stereotypes.
5. Promoting co-responsibility and balance of work, private and family life.
6. Achieving gender balance in political and public decision-making.

7. Promoting gender equality in social well-being and healthcare policies.
8. Eliminating gender imbalance in the field of justice by addressing gender bias and gender stereotypes.

On 29 November 2023, Malta launched its third [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#). Like the preceding strategy, the Action Plan is built on the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention and incorporates recommendations addressed to the Maltese authorities by GREVIO in 2020. The National Action Plan was developed in consultation with relevant government stakeholders and civil society organisations. Through its five-year timeframe, the Action Plan includes numerous measures and actions targeting the implementation of coordinated policies, the prevention of GBV and DV, victim protection and support and the prosecution of perpetrators.

The third National Strategy incorporates the development of targeted policies to address female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, stalking, sexual violence, sexual harassment, economic violence, psychological violence, and gender-based cyberviolence. The relevance of cyberviolence across different forms of GBV and DV is taken into consideration through discussions. The CGBVDV has already established communication with multiple stakeholders, including the Cyber Crime Unit and GBDV Unit within the MPF and experts within the University of Malta to develop a project specifically focused on gender-based cyberviolence. Moreover, in July 2024, CGBVDV initiated a collaboration with HRD and the Office of the Commissioner for Children (CFC) to explore the reality of child marriage in the local context. Legal amendments are already being discussed while addressing the cultural practices and community outreach will be followed up with future discussions.

Additional policies related to the above-mentioned forms of violence shall be coordinated and developed in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, including civil society, and reflected across the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention. Measures and actions planned and/or implemented on a national level to address these forms of violence are mentioned in greater detail throughout this report.

Malta also launched the first [National Strategy and Action Plan on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Malta \(2024-2030\)](#) on 1 August 2024 which addresses issues related to forced prostitution and exploitation for sexual purposes as a crime. Specific measures include research initiatives, tackling sexual exploitation in high-risk operations, and supporting victims of trafficking of human bodies for sexual exploitation through targeted exit programmes. The most recent case of human trafficking for sexual exploitation saw [nine being charged](#) for running a human trafficking and prostitution ring in Malta.

A significant change in the multi-agency approach adopted by entities was through the establishment of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meeting (MARAM). MARAM was set up in July 2023 with fortnightly meetings taking place, with continuous discussions between professionals and Designated Maram Offices (DMOs) taking place as required to ensure that immediate action and safety planning is conducted in high-risk cases. The MARAM Manual of Procedures was drafted and finalised in June 2023, and a list of stakeholders were identified to form part of the MARAM.

The entities involved include Malta Police Force (MPF), the National School Support Services (NSSS), Ministry for Health and Active Ageing (MHA) (Accident & Emergency Department, Primary Health

Care, and Mental Health Services), the Department for Probation and Parole (DPP), Directorate for Child Protection Services (CPS), Victim Support Agency (VSA), Domestic Violence Services (DVS), Aġenzija Sedqa, and Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS) Gozo. All entities are responsible for collecting and presenting comprehensive information on the victim, perpetrator, and children for all cases referred to MARAM. The DMO representing the identified stakeholders working with victims and perpetrators of DV and Violence Against Women (VAW) were identified and data sharing agreements were communicated with the stakeholders.

Regularly scheduled meetings ensure that all relevant parties are present and actively participate in discussions and safety planning of individual cases based on the information gathered from the risk assessment. This comprehensive view helps in accurately assessing the level of risk. Since its launch, 40 MARAMs have been held and all 661 high-risk cases were discussed, and action plans were developed to enhance the victims' safety.

The Chairperson and vice-chairperson of MARAM and the two MARAM coordinators participated in a study visit and training in the UK in July 2023. The first three days of the training were carried out by the Bedfordshire Police who contributed to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in their area, and the last day of the training was delivered by MK Act in Milton Keynes who provided training on how to chair the MARAM and the necessary policies and procedures to be put in place for MARAM to be effective.

Furthermore, one of the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry carried out by retired Judge Geoffrey Valenzia, included a review of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence Risk Identification (DASH) risk assessment tool. The Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights (MSPC) engaged an independent expert to carry out a scoping exercise to identify an appropriate and evidence-based risk assessment tool. The result of the scoping exercise identified the Danger Assessment (DA) as the most appropriate tool, and training by the author of this tool was carried in November 2023. Following the training, the independent expert and two research assistants engaged in the validation process of the DA risk assessment tool for the local context prior to implementation. This process also included the translation of the risk assessment tool into the Maltese language, as well as a validation study to ascertain the validity of this translation. The tool began being used in July 2024.

Specific policy areas that have also seen improvement include health and education. The Ministry for Health and Active Ageing (MHA) has been working on the Sexual Assault Pathway. The advanced draft of the sexual assault policy at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH) takes a comprehensive approach to managing patients who present after alleged sexual assault. Its objectives are as follows:

- Defining the patient care pathway across various clinical specialties involved in assessing alleged victims/perpetrators.
- Providing guidance on collaborating with other professionals, such as crisis workers, forensic experts, and police officers.
- Establishing hospital policies for managing patients following alleged sexual assault.
- Offering guidance on legal issues related to these scenarios.
- Clarifying the roles of each individual involved in the process to ensure optimal care for victims.

Extensive feedback has been gathered from both internal and external stakeholders. At the time of submission of this report, pending legal queries are being addressed before proceeding with the launch of the policy.

Moreover, Primary Health Care Services use the following document as a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with DV and GBV, dated 18th August 2020: Pathway for Victims of Domestic Violence Information Booklet for Primary HealthCare professionals.

Through collaboration with Aġenzija Appoġġ within FSWS, entities such as MPF and Legal Aid Malta (LAM) strive to increase awareness about women's rights by referring clients to other appropriate agencies which provide wellbeing services to victims. During the past year, LAM continued to provide legal services to victims, including those affected by GBV and DV. As of January 2024, the Agency created two specialized panels: one panel of legal aid lawyers tasked with the provision of advice to victims and another legal aid panel for victims' representation and assistance in Court.

In the area of education, the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR) is committed to updating its policies and service provision, if required, to address all forms of VAW beyond DV. In 2023, NSSS revised the working practices between NSSS and DVS within FSWS which were published in a [Collection of Services](#) directory which was compiled and promoted by CGBVDV as part of the 16 Days of Activism 2023 campaign as outlined in question 25(f).

Church Schools operate autonomously and hence design their own policies. However, when it comes to areas of well-being and addressing abuse, all schools follow guidelines provided by the Secretariat for Catholic Education (SFCE) and key persons within the school attend regular professional development opportunities provided, organised and/or recommended by SFCE. There is a streamlined reporting procedure in all schools. The person entrusted to act as Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) in each school is the point of reference to report any kind of abuse experienced by students and members of staff. Both victims and third parties (educators /colleagues receiving a disclosure of abuse) are encouraged to report to the DSO. When the alleged perpetrators are non-staff members, the DSO liaises with the school social worker who works collaboratively with the Directorate for CPS. When staff members are alleged to be perpetrators of any abuse, the case is referred by the DSO and Head of School to the Safeguarding Commission. The latter carries out the investigation in collaboration with the Police and CPS. SFCE's management collaborates with these parties and supports the school in handling the situation.

The above policies are included in the SFCE document, [Safeguarding Children in Our Schools](#), which was published in 2019. The document is currently being updated and it is planned to be officially launched in October 2024. Chapter 2 of the updated version, which focuses on 'Dealing with Concerns and Allegations of Abuse', outlines the different forms of abuse and reporting obligations and systems in place. Reference to this policy is made in the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Directorate for CPS, the NGO Victim Support Malta (VSM) and the Safeguarding Commission.

Services and outreach have also improved drastically in Gozo. Both FSWS and VSA operate in Gozo. VSA has two centres in Xewkja and Għarb to ensure a comprehensive geographical catchment. Furthermore, VSA has co-operation agreements in place with various Gozitan entities with regular

meetings with all stakeholders, participation in events organized in Gozo, an annual event with a selected topic for discussion which includes interventions from professionals, representatives from local councils and all relevant stakeholders in Gozo. The Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS) established a specific service provision for DV in Gozo, including an emergency after hours on-call service to carry out risk assessments and assist victims at any time of the day. Moreover, the MPF are currently exploring the possibility of establishing an additional GBDV Hub in Gozo.

The [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) incorporates specific actions targeting the protection and support of victims in Gozo, such as, the coordination of discussions amongst service providers, including the Ministry for Gozo and Planning (MGP), MHA, FSWS, VSA and MPF, to ensure that any barriers to reporting which are encountered by victims residing in Gozo are addressed and minimised. MGP has initiated internal discussions and collaboration between stakeholders has ensued. Moreover, CGBVDV ensures that informational material developed are disseminated amongst service providers to raise awareness about the different forms of GBV and DV amongst the Gozitan community.

2. National legislation

Malta continues to maintain its gender-neutral stance as enshrined in the [Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act](#) (Chapter 581) of the Laws of Malta. The fact that GBV disproportionately affects women is a central principle held in all discussions with both governmental and non-governmental entities. It is also the basis of training programmes for professionals and information sessions provided to different target groups.

Amendments to the [Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act](#) (Chapter 581) to amend the legal definition of family and domestic unit in accordance with the Istanbul Convention to enable a specialised focus on cases of GBV and DV have been implemented through [ACT No. XXII of 2024](#). These amendments were done based on recommendations made by GREVIO as well as to reduce the backlog of GBV and DV cases in Court.

Furthermore, significant amendments have been affected to the [Criminal Code](#) (Chapter 9) of the Laws of Malta. With the introduction of the [Gender Based-Violence and Domestic Violence Act](#) (Chapter 581), the Criminal Code was amended in 2018 through [ACT No. XIII of 2018](#). FGM was introduced into the Criminal Code through the amendment of Article 251D.

More recent amendments to the [Criminal Code](#) (Chapter 9) included: [Act No. X of 2022](#) which established femicide as an aggravating offence and excluded the use of the defence strategy of the so-called ‘crime of sudden passion’; and [Act No. X of 2024](#) which amended Article 251F of the Criminal Code entitled enforced sterilization to protect women with disability from undergoing enforced sterilization; and [Act No. XI of 2024](#) which saw the introduction of Virginitly Testing as a criminal offense.

[Act No. XVIII of 2023](#) was also introduced as a preventive measure with the intent of breaking the cycle of violence. Through this legal amendment, and subsequent established procedure by the VSA, those who may deem themselves at risk of domestic violence may request information on their intimate partner's history of convictions related to GBV and DV.

VSA was also established through [S.L. 595.37 of 2020](#) entitled, Victim Support Agency (Establishment) Order. VSA has proposed amendments to the [Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme Regulations LN186/2012](#) and Article 15A of the [Criminal Code](#) (Chapter 9). Discussions on the Restorative Justice Act (Chapter 516) are still underway.

Ongoing discussions with respective entities and non-governmental organisations as established in the [Third National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023 - 2028\)](#) ensure that necessary legal amendments are identified and addressed accordingly. A current ongoing discussion is in relation to the legal amendments required to introduce electronic tagging as a protection measure, described in more detail in question 54.

3. Ensuring women's rights and enhancing intersectionality of policies on GBV and DV

The Public Service of Malta abides by the [Employee Wellbeing: A Harassment & Bullying Free Workplace](#) which aims to safeguard "the wellbeing of employees by providing and maintaining an inclusive and productive work environment which promotes equality, diversity, mutual respect, integrity and professional conduct."

The third [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) prioritises the intersectional element of GBV and DV through the implementation of evidence-based policies to ensure that the rights of all persons experiencing GBV or DV are protected and that they are able to access services without discrimination. Specific actions include research, consultation with national equality bodies, accessibility audits for services to victims of GBV and DV, as well as awareness raising on the intersectional elements of violence. Stronger collaboration with the Commissioner for Children (CFC) and the Active Ageing and Community Care Agency (AACC) has also been established to continuously reflect on the specific needs of the younger and older generations. The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) has also started preliminary work on an audit of DV shelters to give advice on training requirements to professionals and to assess the degree of mainstreaming that exists to allow women with disabilities to access DV Shelters. These measures build on several national campaigns implemented by the CGBVDV aimed at raising awareness on the intersectional aspect of GBV and DV, discussed in question 9.

Similarly, [GEMSAP](#) calls for the systematic inclusion of a gender perspective within every policy area, as well as the implementation of intersectionality, to ensure that no one is left behind, and that national actions address the widest range of discriminatory practices possible. Gender mainstreaming also ensures the redistribution of power, influence, and resources in a fair and gender-equal manner, tackling inequality, promoting fairness, and creating true equality of opportunity. The [GEMSAP](#) adopts intersectionality throughout, taking into account other personal characteristics or identities, ensuring that gender mainstreaming truly results in equality for all. In addition, all Ministries are committed to

addressing the intersectional aspect of gender with other grounds of discrimination in policy making, as guided by the respective established IMC, which will ensure the necessary monitoring and evaluation of the policy framework together with the adequate collection of gender-disaggregated data.

In 2023, HRD embarked on a year-long campaign focusing on intersectionality. This started by preparing a video and infographics about what constitutes intersectionality. A podcast was also produced which targeted intersectionality in sports given Malta's hosting of the Small Nations Games. Two 'Regatta' players spoke about their experiences in this male-dominated sport which involves working daily towards eliminating gender stereotypes. During the Human Rights Conference organised in September 2023, attendees from diverse backgrounds were asked to write down their perspectives on intersectionality and what it means to them. In addition, a video was uploaded onto social media in collaboration with Consultative Council for Women's Rights (CCWR) where council members were asked to define the meaning of being a woman.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) also strives to address intersectionality through its work and included the topic of intersectional discrimination during the NCPE Annual Conference organised on 8 June 2022. Prof. JosAnn Cutajar from the Department of Gender and Sexualities within the University of Malta led a discussion pertaining to the experiences of intersectional discrimination from the perspectives of persons who lived or witnessed such forms of discrimination.

In addition, NCPE developed [sexual harassment](#) and [equality policy](#) templates to assist organisations with the drafting of such policies, and uploaded them on the NCPE's website. The equality policy template explains that, as per the Laws of Malta, no one should be treated unfairly because of their sex, family responsibilities, age, religion or belief, racial or ethnic origin, gender identity, expression or sex characteristics, and sexual orientation and that the sexual harassment policy template should be read in conjunction with the equality policy template.

With regards to service provision, all FSWS services are accessible to victims of all forms of VAW and DV. This is achieved through active collaboration with specialist services and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that work with specific minority groups, such as refugees and migrants, trans persons, the elderly, amongst others. In fact, several Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are in place between FSWS and specialist services working in the areas of disability, ageing, health and others to strengthen accessibility of services for victims of DV and VAW whilst considering the various intersecting elements.

FSWS promotes all its services, including DV services, through various media and their promotion is available in different languages through cooperation with NGOs and entities, to ensure that the information is accessible to everyone living in Malta. Language and cultural interpreters are engaged to support and facilitate communication and ensure that migrant women and their children receive a service of quality that ensures their safety. This is done on a case-by-case basis, depending on the need of each identified service user.

CRPD is responsible, under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD), for monitoring the implementation of the articles of the UNCRPD. Article 6 relates to Women with Disabilities and Article 16 relates to Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse. In this regard, CRPD monitors and collaborates with other entities to ensure that the needs of women and girls with disability are included in discourse, services, policies and legislation. Such collaborations include CGBVDV, the NCPE and Aġenzija Sapport (AS) amongst others.

As part of this work, CRPD was collaborated with the CGBVDV and other stakeholders in the project Breaking the Cycle of Violence which aimed to inform women with disabilities, amongst other social groups, of their rights, gave them defence and coping strategies and allowed them to express their feelings through the process of producing artwork. There were 17 women with disabilities who participated in this training.

Since assisting with criminal cases is not part of CRPD's remit, CRPD always advises women with disabilities to report any violent incidents to the Police and has also signed an MoU with VSA so that CRPD can also refer their cases (with their consent) to this Agency. Moreover, CRPD informs clients that they can report to VSA directly.

Aġenzija Sapport (AS), the national service provider for persons with disability, extends equal opportunities to all individuals without regard to race, religion, colour, sex, national origin, political affiliation, age, or disability. It is committed to the principles of fair employment and eliminating all vestiges of discriminatory or abusive practices that might exist. This approach extends to the AS's service users and professionals alike who are provided with information, training, and support to respect others and recognise their right to be treated justly. Several internal policies ensure fair treatment of staff and service users. AS has zero tolerance towards abuse, and its professionals and service users receive regular training on how to handle and report abuse, ask for help, and support victims of abuse in the various settings where persons work, live, or receive services. Furthermore, AS appointed a Whistleblower Reporting Officer, who is developing the Agency's Whistleblower Policy and framework to provide a safe method and environment to report any employment-related injustices.

To address measures within the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) on intersectionality, CGBVDV participated in a roundtable event organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for which various entities and organisations who work directly with migrant communities were present. This roundtable served to inform the actions concerning the conducting of a research study on the prevalence and barriers encountered by migrant communities in Malta to better shape policy.

Furthermore, intersectionality is incorporated into the ongoing Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals, which is coordinated by CGBVDV, through the inclusion of sessions addressing specific target groups including persons with disability, LGBTIQ+ and migrant communities. In addition, CGBVDV shall be developing training programmes for professionals working with migrants aimed at facilitating the early detection of abuse and identification of barriers encountered by migrant victims of GBV and DV.

In scholastic year 2024-2025, SFCE will prioritise the topics of GBV and DV through participation of the social workers team in the multi-agency training organised by CGBVDV. Moreover, SFCE is planning a workshop for Senior Management Teams on policy review to ensure focus on victims’ rights and intersectionality considerations. Additionally, a day seminar will be organised for Guidance Teachers and Personal, Social and Career Development (PSCD) teachers to provide a deeper understanding of the topic, and curriculum integrated approaches to sensitise and empower students speaking up when experiencing any form of violence.

SFCE psychosocial professionals, Heads of Schools and DSOs recognise that violence affects women differently based on intersecting factors such as race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. However, there is room for more investment in training and awareness on intersectionality considerations. The SFCE guidelines reflected in school-based policies are victim-centred, prioritising the rights and agency of survivors. School authorities encourage victims to report incidents and seek support. By empowering victims, authorities promote their active participation in seeking justice and accessing services.

Multi-agency and cross-sectoral collaborations continue to strengthen the intersectional approach in policy development and service provision. As national coordinating body to the Istanbul Convention, the CGBVDV, through the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#), aims to have ongoing discussions and promote consultations with national equality bodies on actions taken by entities involved in the GBV and DV services.

The policy developments and legal amendments in Malta’s legislation reflect the country’s commitment in upholding the Istanbul Convention to prevent and combat GBV and DV, including its intersectional elements, on a national level. As guided by several measures enlisted in the policy documents mentioned above, the Maltese authorities will continue dedicating efforts to monitor and implement developments in legal and policy areas related to gender equality and GBV and DV.

Article 8: Funding

4. Sustainable financial and human resources

CGBVDV has received consistent funding allocated for the necessary financial and human resources for the implementation of the National Strategy. CGBVDV has two separate line votes in the National Annual Budget; one for recurrent expenditure which includes funds for personnel and another for the implementation of the National Strategy as per below table:

Year	Vote 6038: Recurrent Expenditure	Vote 5246: GBV & DV National Strategy
2021	€300,000	€70,000
2022	€500,000	€70,000
2023	€500,000	€70,000
2024	€500,000	€70,000

Recognizing the need for enhanced capacity, MPF has increased the human resources dedicated to the GBDVU by 250% to 60 officers at different ranks. This expansion included the establishment of a DV Hub in Santa Luċija (southern region of the island) and the preparations for the opening of another hub in the northern region in the coming year. These hubs are specifically designed to centralize expertise and resources, ensuring a swift and coordinated response to all reported cases of DV. Risk Assessors employed by the FSWS are also allocated within these hubs. It is worth noting that adequate national funding has been allocated to support the operation and expansion of specialized DV hubs, ensuring that they are fully equipped to handle the complexities of DV cases.

FSWS and VSA also have recurrent line votes within the National Annual Budget. €400,000 have been allocated to line item 6036 entitled Victim Support Agency, whereas FSWS has an annual budget of €30M (vote number 6207) for the provision of all its services.

Since the last GREVIO baseline evaluation report, FSWS has continued to invest in capacity building of its victim and perpetrator services through an increase in professionals to meet the demands of the number of victims requesting support services, as well as services for perpetrators.

The DV Risk Assessment Service increased its capacity by 100% to meet the demand of an additional MPF GBDV Hub opened in the south of Malta. The initial Risk Assessment Service included 12 professionals which have been increased to 24. Thus, the DV Risk Assessment Service is currently operating from two hubs simultaneously.

The STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service now includes a Family Therapist, a Forensic Psychology practitioner, and a Neuro-Psychology practitioner to ascertain that support services for perpetrators of GBV and DV encompass a multi-disciplinary approach. Additionally, a number of dedicated professionals have been engaged with the FSWS Gozo Services to provide specialist services to victims of DV and GBV.

The table below reflects the budgets specifically allocated for the DVS within FSWS:

	Domestic Violence Unit & Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service	Għabex Emergency Shelter	STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service
2024	€2,352,252	€652,916	€276,932
2023	€2,146,350 <i>(increase in capacity building of the Domestic Violence Risk</i>	€626,568	€204,839

	<i>Assessment Service as from 2023).</i>		
2020	€1,567,345	€529,061	€84,322

Additionally, LAM has invested heavily in the establishment of specialised legal aid lawyer panels for victims, however, more full-time administrative staff is required to efficiently cater for administrative work.

5. *Appropriate and sustainable funding and human resources for NGOs*

Since GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, MPSC has allocated funds to finance Public Social Partnerships (PSPs) for a duration of three years, with a possibility of renewal, with the below Voluntary Organisations (VOs) and NGOs which, directly or indirectly, provide support to victims of DV as well as specialised services for women and their children:

- VSM which runs the Care for Victims of Sexual Assault (CVSA) service: €292,500 (2021 - 2023), €420,000 (2024 – 2026),
- Dar Merħba Bik (DV first stage shelter) and Dar Santa Bakhita (DV second stage shelter): €1,074,195 (2022 – 2024),
- St Jeanne Antide Foundation (SOAR) which provide various services in the sector including community social work and a family service centre for DV victims among others: €162,240 (2024 -2026),
- Il-Milja Programme (DV second stage shelter) which is run by Fondazzjoni Sebħ under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Malta: €1,013,070 (2021 – 2023). Negotiations are underway for another 3-year renewal.

In April 2024, MSPC renewed the PSP for Care for Victims of Sexual Assault (CVSA) with VSM (VO141/08) for another three years. CVSA is a service which caters for individuals who have been affected by a sexual assault.

The Ministry further sponsors other organisations which offer more generic services including homeless shelters which extend emergency services to distressed women and their children, and who eventually are transferred to the more specialised services/homes mentioned above.

Moreover, in 2015, MGP signed a tripartite contract with MSPC and Fondazzjoni Kenn u Tama with regards to the management of Dar Emmaus which serves as an emergency shelter for DV and homelessness. As part of this contract, the MGP provides €40,000 in funding to Fondazzjoni Kenn u Tama for the administrative management of this shelter. Services are not restricted to women with

children. Gender-neutral victims are similarly catered for through a tailor-made agreement, which was negotiated in 2023 with the Association of the Friends of Thouret. The association supports and assists vulnerable persons, particularly those involved in prostitution, through their services at Dar Hosea.

As part of its vision to further collaborate and benefit from expertise provided by the NGO sector in the field of GBV and DV, CGBVDV has started preliminary work on establishing a fund that enables VOs to implement awareness raising campaigns addressing different forms of abuse, social groups and priorities from the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#).

The country's investment in the field of GBV and DV is reflected in the allocation of human and financial resources for both governmental and non-governmental entities and service providers to implement and deliver operations, services and policy measures which comprehensively address GBV and DV.

Article 11: Data collection and research

6. Data collection

Prior to the establishment of the Crime Statistics Unit within the National Statistics Office (NSO) in 2021, CGBVDV was responsible for collecting data on GBV and DV from the various service providers for the yearly harmonisation exercise carried out by NSO. This statistical data was published in CGBVDV's [annual reports](#). During this period, CGBVDV engaged in several meetings with the NSO, national stakeholders and NGOs to discuss this yearly exercise towards the improvement of the data collected. The NSO subsequently developed MoUs with the respective service providers to ensure data collected is in line with the guidelines issued by EIGE and as required by the Istanbul Convention.

The NSO has maintained an annual data collection exercise on DV since reference year 2016. This collection is administered with stakeholders that provide services for persons experiencing DV and perpetrators of DV. In addition to demographic information on persons experiencing DV and perpetrators, data collected also includes the type of violence and the relationship to the perpetrator. This annual exercise includes figures on cases tackled by the respective stakeholders and provides information on the unique number of persons accessing such services during a given calendar year.

Data processed and disseminated by the NSO is governed by the provisions of the [Malta Statistics Authority Act](#) (Chapter 422) which delineates the NSO's right to collect and process information for statistical purposes. Notwithstanding, this legislation also binds the NSO from providing any identifiable information and to mitigate the risk of identification from the data through suppression methods. Disseminated results and methodological information on this exercise is available online through [NSO's website](#). Moreover, CGBVDV continues to present statistical data collected and harmonised by NSO from governmental and non-governmental service providers in its [annual reports](#).

The NSO also participated in the EU-GBV grant project which involved the implementation of a population-based survey on victimisation and experience of GBV. Results were published online in the

[Survey on Safety and Well-being 2022](#) report. Results were also published by Eurostat through their online database, Eurobase.

6.1 Malta Police Force

The Gender-Based Domestic Violence Unit (GBDVU) within MPF is responsible for the collection of all DV-related statistics. MPF is planning to update its systems in the near future through collaboration with Central Intelligence & Analysis (CI&A) through new software which will facilitate and harmonise data inputting.

6.2 Foundation for Social Welfare Services

The data collected by FSWS features data gathered on service provision in both Malta and Gozo, in relation to victims of VAW and DV.

A Case Management System (CMS) is utilised within FSWS whereby frontline workers input information regarding the case and some of the variables are extracted for analysis and publication. The publicly available information is available online in the [Statistical Reports](#) e.g. for Domestic Violence (pg. 43-89).

The DVS are the collection of services provided by FSWS to victims and perpetrators of GBV and DV and encompass the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU), the Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service, the STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service, the Child-to-Parent Violence Service and Għabex Emergency Shelter. The DVU is the specific unit that offers social work support to victims of GBV and DV.

The online [Statistical Reports](#) provide information on cases worked with, individuals worked with, number of cases referred, cases opened and closed, and outcome of the case (e.g., active cases or intake cases). The cases worked with and the cases opened in the reporting year are also stratified by key demographic details (i.e. gender, age category, nationality category and district of residence). The breakdown of the cases worked with by demographics (i.e., age, gender, nationality, and district of residence) was introduced within the publicly available report in 2023. The sections within the online reports regarding DV also include information on referrals by type of alleged abuse and, in the case of the Għabex shelter, the number of accompanying minors and information on length of service access is also included. The publicly available report incorporates the global number of interventions conducted within the service but information regarding type, location and duration of interventions is available internally.

In 2022, FSWS started to publicly report on the new service, Child-to-Parent Violence (Aġenzija Appoġġ's [Yearly Statistical Report](#)). In May 2023, the CMS was amended to include further breakdown of abuse categories. Due to the small sample size, FSWS publishes the umbrella level of abuse in the

FSWS online reports and does not currently publish the exact type of abuse specified (e.g., denied education) to limit the risks of identifying service users through public data. However, the data is collected and can be reported for internal purposes. Since 2023, the publicly available report also includes information about referred cases by type of alleged abuse category (i.e., DV, GBV and Honour-based violence).

In 2023, FSWS also added to its publicly available statistical reports a section regarding the DV Risk Assessment Service where FSWS provides the number of interventions conducted by place e.g., Police Headquarters, as well as the age, gender and nationality categories of the individuals who underwent risk assessments. Additionally, in 2023 FSWS started to publicly report on the new service on DV offered by the FSWS Gozo Branch.

Finally, from the Case Management software data used by FSWS, the research office extracts and recodes variables for the annual data collection exercise on DV which is managed by the NSO. The project entails combining anonymised data from various service providers, including information on service provision to victims and to perpetrators.

6.3 Victims Support Agency

VSA has a data collection mechanism which is then evaluated periodically to target developing trends to offer timely and professional intervention. Through the various MoUs and cooperation agreements, VSA has access to other data, thus, enabling data sharing in a regulated manner.

Furthermore, VSA has developed a CMS for all cases and has lately introduced new fields within the system to collect information about the perpetrator and relationship with victim.

6.4 Ministry for Health and Active Ageing

Disaggregated information on GBV and DV is collected from Gozo General Hospital and MDH through an injuries database, which is a national register, and also from DV registers within Primary Healthcare Clinics (PHC). This data is reported to the NSO on a yearly basis to be included in the annual data collection exercise.

MHA also engaged in a National Sexual Health Survey in 2022/2023 which revealed some outcomes related to the experiences the Maltese resident population with regards to sexual violence.

6.5 Department of Probation and Parole

DPP collects annual data in line with the requirements of the NSO as part of the yearly data collection exercise across services.

7. Disaggregated data collection

A. Number of emergency barring and protection orders and the number of breaches and the resulting sanctions

Statistics on the number of emergency protection orders issued by the courts have become available since the last GREVIO baseline evaluation report. As yet, convictions on the breaches of protection orders are not recorded, however, with the introduction of the proposed new court management system, all the disaggregated data will be made available.

B. Number of times custody decisions have resulted in the restriction and withdrawal of parental rights because of violence perpetrated by one parent against the other.

The Courts Services Agency (CSA) is not currently collecting this data, however, the tender for the new Court Information Management System is about to be published, and once the contractual relationship is established, CSA can discuss whether such disaggregated data can be compiled.

8. Measures to track cases of GBV and DV

To ensure comprehensive tracking of cases of VAW and DV from reporting to conviction, several measures have been implemented. Stages of proceedings can be tracked by MPF and the Law Courts utilising dedicated online systems that allow for the continuous monitoring and management of cases at all stages of judicial proceedings. All cases of DV are registered and statistics on the presentation of new cases and settled cases are collated monthly.

The collection of the data regarding the justice journey of victims of DV, from the point of reporting till judgement, is still a priority on the agenda of the Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector (MJR). However, this step can be actualised once the new CMS is in place amongst the key justice entities, in this case, the Office of the Attorney General (AG) and CSA. This will allow the tracking of cases and the correct and valid extraction of the required data. Currently, the tenders for the CMS of both entities are underway and it is expected that both tenders will be published and awarded by next year. In the meantime, collaboration with MPF through the GBDVU will be undertaken to initiate the streamlining of this data.

Furthermore, VSA has a unique mechanism which can be accessed by the Police from Victim Support Unit (VSU) within the Agency. Police generate a daily report of all Police reports with criminal charges filed and initiate contact with the victims. This enables the Agency to keep track of all cases from inception which are then followed by other victim support services.

Through the creation of the specialized panel for Court representation of victims within LAM, legal aid lawyers assist their clients up to the final stages of judicial proceedings.

Overall, developments in data collection methods and the efforts reported above continue to aid in obtaining relevant indications about the realities of GBV and DV experiences including emerging forms of violence, providing an informed approach when formulating policy and delivering service provision.

Measures implemented, legal amendments and policy changes, together with improvement of financial and human capacity and restructuring of services, and new research and data collection aim to inform and provide foresight for continuous progression in the field of GBV and DV through a comprehensive and co-ordinated multi-agency approach, to safeguard victims, improve their well-being and break the cycle of violence.

Part II: Information on the implementation of selected provisions in priority areas in the field of prevention, protection and prosecution

Article 12: General obligations

9. Primary prevention measures

A. Addressing harmful gender stereotypes and prejudices

The [GEMSAP](#) aims to address harmful gender stereotypes and prejudices across various sectors such as health, justice, and education. For instance, measures in the strategy aim to:

- Strengthen positive gender representation in formal education of all subjects to tackle gender stereotypes and to ensure that the content of the curriculum includes values and attitudes of gender equality.
- Promote co-responsibility between women and men, and tackle gender role stereotypes and care responsibilities in families to instil a cultural change.
- Raise awareness among professionals in health and social services on gender stereotypes and gender-specific health risks.
- Monitor and follow up court decisions to raise awareness and ensure a better understanding among legal professionals of issues related to women's access to justice, including judicial stereotypes and the protection against gender-based violence and discrimination.

The National Minimum Curriculum (NMC) (1990) was the first legal framework which embraced different aspects of human development and the diversity of each and every student. The NMC placed emphasis on teaching experiences that allow children and young persons to develop skills and attitudes which help them debate sexual topics in a mature way, so that they cultivate an unbiased and non-judgmental attitude towards sex and sexuality and “act responsibly and positively in this regard” (NMC, 1990, p.36). [A National Curriculum Framework for All](#) (2012) and the [Guidelines on Sexuality and Relationships Education in Maltese Schools](#) (2013) documents continued to build on this notion of inclusivity.

Additionally, the Department for Learning and Personal Development (DLAP) introduced the Girls4STEM Summer Camp 2023 initiative. The STEM team at Maria Regina College Żokrija Secondary School introduced the concept of a STEM café initiative, which offers all students the opportunity to explore various careers in the STEM field. This project is spearheaded by women representatives who not only oversee its implementation but also conduct informative sessions.

As a primary prevention measure, in 2022, CGBVDV in collaboration with MEYR, implemented a pilot study titled, ‘Implementation of the ‘Safe Dates programme’ in PSCD lessons in four Maltese State Schools: A Pilot Project’. The ‘Safe Dates’ programme (Foshee & Langwick, 2021) is an evidence-based dating abuse prevention programme consisting of educational material tackling attitudes and behaviours related to dating abuse whilst promoting safe and healthy relationships. The material

incorporated forms of violence referred to in question 1, namely sexual violence, sexual harassment, stalking, psychological violence and gender-based cyberviolence. The 'Safe Dates' programme, which was adapted to the local context, was piloted in four secondary state schools with Year 10 PSCD students. The primary aim was to assess the programme's effectiveness in changing adolescents' beliefs and attitudes towards dating violence. The research involved a pre- and post-test evaluation questionnaire which was disseminated to students before and after the implementation of 'Safe Dates'. The same questionnaire was also administered to students who followed the current PSCD curriculum on dating abuse, enabling a comparison of their beliefs and attitudes with those of students who participated in the 'Safe Dates' programme. Moreover, focus groups were conducted with PSCD educators who implemented 'Safe Dates' during their lessons to gather their feedback on the programme's implementation. Although the findings from the pre- and post-test evaluation questionnaire indicated that the changes between the two groups were not significantly different, the findings from the focus groups with PSCD educators suggest that 'Safe Dates' helped students to better understand psychological violence and handling situations of dating abuse. Discussions on the future implementation of the 'Safe Dates' programme were initiated.

Moreover, in May 2023, CGBVDV endorsed the graphic novel 'Aqla' Kjass', a Maltese adapted version of the Italian graphic novel 'Fai Rumore'. 'Aqla' Kjass' entails stories depicting adolescents' experiences of GBV and DV, including aspects of intersectionality and stigma associated with experiences of GBV and DV. This comic book was disseminated by CGBVDV during the KSU Freshers' Week 2023 at the University of Malta. During the KSU Freshers' Week 2023, CGBVDV promoted and distributed several leaflets on gender-stereotypes, GBV and DV and business cards with contact details of support services with students. In October 2023, CGBVDV also delivered an information session with PRISMS Malta to raise awareness with young adults on GBV and DV.

Between 2020 and 2023, CGBVDV also coordinated and implemented a drawing competition in primary and secondary schools across Malta and Gozo. The main aim of this initiative was to inspire children to reflect on positive and healthy relationships during the 16 Days of Activism annual campaigns. In 2021, several submitted drawings were promoted through a national billboard campaign to spread awareness about DV and GBV amongst the general public. In 2022 and 2023, the competition was extended to include a category for poems and compositions. With the support of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Reforms and Equality, award ceremonies were held in 2022 and 2023 to celebrate the students' achievements and to continue raising awareness among students on the importance of healthy relationships. In 2022 and 2023, a booklet containing the students' entries was published to commemorate the students' achievements.

Furthermore, the NCPE raises awareness on the importance of equality and non-discrimination vis-à-vis the grounds that fall within its remit, including sexual harassment, through traditional and non-traditional social media platforms, articles in local newspapers, conferences, and events as well as awareness- campaigns. Furthermore, the NCPE marks international days that are in line with equality and non-discrimination, such as the 16 Days of Activism, on an annual basis.

Sexual harassment at the workplace was one of the topics addressed at the NCPE's International Women's Day conference in 2023. A presentation on sexual harassment was followed by a panel that discussed the challenges, rights and duties of the employers and employees, as well as what could be

done moving forward to foster safer workplace environments. Leaflets on sexual harassment in English and Maltese were developed and distributed during the conference. In the previous year, the NCPE created and distributed two posters on sexual harassment; one on sexual harassment at the workplace, whilst the other highlighted inclusivity irrespective of gender, explaining that everyone can be a victim of sexual harassment.

Following the femicide of Paulina Dembska in 2022, the NCPE organised an online forum *Għaliex Femicidju?* discussing the strong link between gender inequality and femicide which is the worst form of GBV. This webinar was organised to reflect the recognition of femicide as an aggravating offence which was introduced to Malta's [Criminal Code](#) in February 2022.

Furthermore, the NCPE publishes Press Statements to address topical issues related to equality:

- In 2022, following the femicide of Paulina Dembska, a press statement called for examining and addressing the unequal power relations between women and men in Maltese society through a concerted effort from all. Gender-sensitive policy making, the eradication of sexism, and the integration of gender equality in education contribute to address gender inequalities.
- Following the femicide of Bernice Cassar née Cilia in 2022, the NCPE called for deep institutional and societal changes to address the root causes of violence against women, underlining that femicide is the extreme end of a continuum of violence emanating from a patriarchal society where some men feel entitled to exert power and control over women.
- In 2023, the NCPE highlighted the importance of prevention of victim blaming and shaming following a Court judgement in a case of alleged rape and sexual harassment.

B. Heightened exposure to GBV by women and girls at risk of intersectional discrimination

Between 2020 and 2024, CGBVDV has continued coordinating and implementing several campaigns to raise awareness about the intersectional dimensions of GBV and DV. In 2020, CGBVDV organised a specialised training programme on elderly abuse for front-line professionals including police, legal aid lawyers, social workers and health care professionals. This training, delivered by an international expert in the field of domestic abuse, elderly and the LGBTIQ+ community, intended to raise awareness among professionals on violence against the elderly. In 2020, through the [Breaking the Cycle of Violence](#) EU-funded project, CGBVDV, in collaboration with cross-sectoral partners, continued highlighting intersectional realities by implementing awareness raising with migrant women, LGBTI women, and women with disabilities.

Furthermore, in 2021, CGBVDV delivered two social media campaigns on same-sex intimate partner violence (IPV) and violence against persons with disability. The 'We Are All Human' campaign aimed to highlight intimate partner violence within the LGBTIQ+ community by sharing video clips of LGBTIQ+ individuals and survivors promoting messages against same-sex IPV. The campaign aimed to draw attention to IPV within the LGBTIQ+ community by sharing video clips of LGBTIQ+ individuals and survivors promoting messages against same-sex IPV and challenging the stereotype that DV only

occurs in heterosexual relationships. This campaign was designed in consultation with LGBTIQ+ activists. The campaign titled, 'My Disability does not Mean Consent for Abuse', in collaboration with CRPD, aimed to inform the public about violence against persons with disability, particularly forms of violence which are exclusive to persons with disability. This social media campaign featured numerous video clips where people with disability promoted messages highlighting double discrimination, specific forms of abuse and stereotypes related with disabilities and GBV and DV.

Emphasis on intersectional discrimination was also included in the 'Safe Dates' pilot project with Year 10 PSCD students in four state schools. The educational material and resources in the 'Safe Dates' sessions reflected the intersectional nature of dating abuse, including case scenarios that depicted abuse in same-sex intimate relationships.

In 2022, CGBVDV coordinated an awareness-raising campaign on migrants' experiences of GBV and DV. The campaign, titled, 'All Humans Have Dignity. RESPECT. PROTECT.', aimed to spread awareness about the experiences and barriers that individuals from migrant communities encounter when experiencing GBV and DV. The campaign involved online and physical dissemination of multilingual posters, designed in collaboration with UNHCR Malta, mainly to the Migrant Women Association Malta (MWAM), MGP, state schools and PHCs and community clinics. Focus groups were held with professionals working with migrants to gather information about the experiences of both professionals and migrants when experiencing cases of GBV and DV. Moreover, CGBVDV in collaboration with MWAM, provided outreach sessions focusing on harmful gender stereotypes, GBV and DV. One session was delivered for families residing at Hal Far Family Centre and another session was organised for men residing in Hal Far Centre.

Furthermore, during the EuroPride Valletta 2023, CGBVDV promoted awareness on GBV and DV experienced by individuals within the LGBTIQ+ community. CGBVDV organised a community discussion titled, 'Family violence against persons from the LGBTIQ+ community' and invited professionals from the NCPE, the Faculty of Social Wellbeing within the University of Malta, VSA, Rainbow Support Services, the DVS of FSWS and Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM) to discuss abusive experiences that LGBTIQ+ individuals encounter due to their gender identity and/or sexual orientation within their families and with intimate partners. CGBVDV also published an article in a local magazine to further highlight the forms of violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ persons and to encourage victims to seek professional support.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism 2023 campaign, CGBVDV and the Parliamentary Secretariat for Reforms and Equality, in collaboration with MFET, held the 'Beat the Silence' conference to gather Honorary Consuls and Ambassadors representing various countries in Malta to engage in insightful discussions on the experiences of migrant and expat communities with GBV and DV. The conference also aimed to share information about professional support services with Honorary Consuls and Ambassadors.

To foster awareness within elderly communities, CGBVDV in collaboration with Active Ageing and Community Care, VSM and Fondazzjoni Sebħ, is currently coordinating information sessions in all active ageing centres across Malta to inform elderly communities about early signs of DV, particularly violence against the elderly, and the existing support services. Additionally, CGBVDV intends to

collaborate with Aġenzija Support to organise information sessions specifically for individuals with disabilities in the future in day centres for persons with disability.

Additionally, CGBVDV annually commemorates several international days designated by the United Nations that are in line with its remit by creating awareness-raising material which is shared on its social media platforms.

In the campaigns designed and implemented by CGBVDV, the 179 helpline and the 112-emergency line were promoted to inform and encourage the public to contact support services. In several material, subtitles and sign language was incorporated.

The CGBVDV continues to hold the concept of intersectionality central to its policy formation and awareness raising initiatives, particularly throughout the implementation of the National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence as referred to in question 3.

C. Encouraging participation and promoting the participation of women and girls in politics and in the labour market

In March 2022, CGBVDV in collaboration with Men Against Violence, organised an online awareness campaign focusing on the role of men and boys in preventing GBV and DV and challenging harmful gender stereotypes. This campaign involved several video clips showcasing male public figures discussing the role of men and boys in preventing GBV and DV. CGBVDV also partnered with Lovin Malta, a popular local news portal, to promote various posters that reimaged discriminatory proverbs to address gender stereotypes and norms. The campaign ended with a national conference where various professionals exchanged views on masculinities, gender stereotypes and the contributions of men and boys in violence prevention. Among these professionals, CGBVDV invited eMANcipator from the Netherlands and MÄN Organisation from Sweden to discuss their work with men and boys. Following these initiatives, CGBVDV with the support of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Reforms and Equality, held a roundtable discussion with academics, experts, and stakeholders to continue the discussions and formulate policy recommendations on the involvement of men and boys in violence prevention. This roundtable discussion was held as part of the 16 Days of Activism 2022 campaign and CGBVDV invited an international expert to share his experience of working with male victims and perpetrators of DV and GBV.

Furthermore, two of the objectives in [GEMSAP](#) focus specifically on achieving gender balance in political and public decision-making and guaranteeing equal access to employment in all sectors, combat segregation and ensuring Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value.

In order to increase the participation of women in politics, in 2021, [Act No. XX of 2021](#) amended the Constitution of Malta to establish a Gender Corrective Mechanism so as to have additional seats for the under-represented sex. In the 2022 General Election, 15% of the elected members were women and the Mechanism that was triggered increased the representation of women in Parliament to 28%.

In March 2024, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit within HRD organised an informative conference to provide an update on the progress of [GEMSAP](#) and launch the [GEMSAP Annual Report 2023](#). The conference included two-panel discussions on the topics of women in decision-making and women in politics. The panelists discussed the stereotypes and challenges that women face in these fields, with the aim of raising awareness on these important issues. Moreover, a document was published in April 2024 with a set of recommendations to be led by different stakeholders to achieve more balance between women and men in local councils. Bilateral internal Ministerial meetings are currently ongoing to finalise the implementation of the Women on Boards Directive of the European Union.

Throughout 2023, Jobsplus continued providing several training courses, exposure/placement schemes, social partner agreements, and guidance services to its clients, including vulnerable females. Jobsplus conducted outreach activities through popular TV programmes and radio interviews to promote its services, including the Inclusive Employment Services Unit, Lino Spiteri Foundation, ESF.02.048 VASTE Programme, and AMIG 11.01 Employment Services for Migrants project. Jobsplus also held outreach meetings with relevant stakeholders to inform them about its services and collaborate on ad hoc projects.

Various measures taken throughout the years contribute to increase the participation of women in employment including the free childcare scheme, breakfast club, Klabb 3-16 and work-life balance arrangements that facilitate the reconciliation of work and family life. These measures amongst others led to an increase of 35% in the employment rate of women since 2013, increasing from 37% in 2013 to 73.5% in 2023.

Additionally, the issue of equal pay for equal work is being addressed by different entities. The Department for Industrial and Employment Relations (DIER) provides legal advice and information to clients regarding equal pay for equal work discrimination. Throughout 2023, seven investigations were conducted for alleged breaches of this principle. These complaints included instances of wage discrimination between foreign and local workers, class discrimination, and gender discrimination. DIER officials provided guidance to ensure compliance where irregularities were detected. Moreover, the NCPE has launched an equal pay for equal work tool to support private companies in establishing equal pay and address discrimination. Companies that comply with the NCPE's verification mechanisms received certification.

The [Social Security Act](#) (Chapter 318) and its related Subsidiary Legislations underwent an internal review. Legal amendments to modify Chapter 318 of the Laws of Malta were implemented to comply with the Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services. As a result, the legislation no longer includes unnecessary references to either a 'man' or a 'woman', but instead refers only to 'persons'.

The prevention measures highlighted above mirror efforts across governmental entities, in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, that aim to prevent numerous forms of GBV and DV and their intersectionality while emphasizing the importance of receiving professional support when experiencing GBV and DV. Several preventive initiatives are planned to continue raising awareness in Maltese society particularly with children, youth, ethnic minorities and migrants, people with disability, LGBTIQ+ community and elderly communities.

Article 14: Education

10. Teaching and prevention programmes, materials or initiatives in formal education

A. Education on equality, the right to personal integrity, mutual respect and non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, including the notion of consent

The PSCD learning outcomes syllabus includes learning outcomes related to healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships. The subject, which is compulsory for all students and is taught in both the primary and secondary sectors, places emphasis to the teaching of healthy relationships, so that students can recognize and foster positive interactions and are less likely to accept unhealthy or abusive behaviour as normal. These lessons also aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to build and maintain healthy relationships. Understanding the characteristics of positive relationships—such as respect, trust, and communication—helps students create and sustain these in their own lives.

“Sex...Think!?...” is a prevention programme which is delivered on a national level with Year 9 students in state schools. The aim of this three-hour seminar is to help adolescents adopt a healthy, positive approach towards relationships and sex education in the teenage years. Throughout the programme, students have the opportunity to discuss diverse issues related to relationships including consent, self-esteem, responsibility, assertiveness, gender stereotyped roles and prevention methods related to early sexual experimentation. The ‘Safe Dates’ pilot project, a dating abuse prevention curriculum aimed at secondary school students was aligned and introduced in the PSCD subject in Year 10 as a pilot study in four secondary state schools. As previously mentioned, discussions need to take place to determine how the programme is to be woven into the current PSCD learning outcomes syllabus to enhance learning outcomes.

SFCE has worked with the Stop the Violence Team within the Malta Girl Guides to provide non-formal educational programmes to students aged 5 to 16. The activities are part of an international programme, *Voices against Violence*, designed by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS) in collaboration with UN Women and encompasses a variety of activities covering topics under four sections:

- *Identify*: addresses different forms of GBV, signs, gender stereotypes, self-awareness, assertiveness, integrity, boundaries, etc.
- *Speak up*: focuses on empowerment, reporting and asking for help.
- *Support*: targets how to seek help for self and others.
- *Take Action*: deals with advocacy-related activities.

Such programmes are delivered during live ins and activities are chosen based specifically on the needs of the particular cohort. The two SFCE youth workers have been trained to use this programme either as a whole covering all four pillars or singular activities as part of the detached youth work.

Additionally, CFC regularly promotes awareness and advocates for children’s rights, including equality, the right to personal integrity, mutual respect and healthy relationships. In 2022, the NCPE delivered a talk to 96 students on gender stereotypes and gender roles. A 4 year art-based competition was also implemented within schools across Malta and Gozo by the CGBVDV as mentioned in question 9.

An exercise to analyse the ongoing educational efforts and their impact and effectiveness is also being planned by the CGBVDV in the future.

B. Addressing forms of GBV covered by the Istanbul Convention

MEYR was responsible for distributing leaflets on the different forms of GBV amongst secondary students. The table below reflects the number of students reached between 2019 and 2024.

Scholastic year	Number of students
2019-2020	175
2020-2021	292
2021-2022	292
2022-2023	344
2023-2024	338
Total	1441

In addition to the prevention programme delivered in collaboration with the Malta Girl Guides, the same organisation will be contributing to a professional development seminar for PSCD teachers working in Church schools in January 2025.

With an emphasis on sexual harassment, the NCPE delivers training sessions upon request, including to the education sector. These focus on definitions of sexual harassment as per legislation, emphasizing it may constitute a criminal offence and explaining ways to prevent sexual harassment as well as how to address it. NCPE officers also disseminate informative leaflets on sexual harassment during such training sessions. In 2023, the NCPE delivered a training session to 180 teaching staff of a private school.

Specific initiatives and actions on primary prevention measures to address the different forms of GBV implemented by CGBVDV, through the wide dissemination of awareness-raising posters and the implementation of a pilot project on dating violence prevention with students, are outlined in detail in responses to questions 9(a), 25(f) and 56(d).

C. Inclusion of digital literacy and online safety in formal curricula

The 'Safe Dates' pilot project, which was implemented with Year 10 PSCD students in four state schools, incorporated material addressing online gender-based violence and the use of technology in perpetuating dating abuse. The activities and case studies facilitated discussions on various topics, including online violence. Moreover, in the 'Consent Matters: Stop Sexual Violence' campaign, CGBVDV incorporated forms of cyberviolence in infographics and posters about consent and sexual violence.

Education on online safety and digital literacy is the main aim of the [BeSmartOnline!](#) project, led by FSWS in collaboration with CFC and other entities/partners. The aim is to empower and protect young persons from cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, and other forms of online violence, by creating awareness about the risks that exist online and how to protect children from such abuse.

DLAP has taken an initiative called 'Code.Sprint' to promote coding skills and diversity in the technology industry. This collaborative coding competition is open to individuals of any gender to showcase their coding abilities. DLAP has introduced the Best Female Performance Award to recognize and encourage outstanding female participants. The initiative aims to promote diversity and acknowledge excellence, believing that anyone can excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields regardless of their gender. Similarly, the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) prepared an all-female team to participate in an international robotics competition, promoting women's involvement in STEM fields.

A group of educators and psychosocial professionals from SFCE have attended the UN ITU accredited course on online safety offered by the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society. As part of the final assignment, each participant had to choose an action plan/training session for one of the following cohorts – students, educators, SLT and parents. This pool of qualified trainers has started delivering educational sessions in their respective schools. This plan is coordinated by SFCE and will continue to evolve in the coming years.

In April 2023, CGBVDV delivered an information session with MCAST creative media production and journalism students reflecting the role of the media in influencing perceptions of GBV and DV. Students were also informed about the [Reporting of Domestic Violence Guidelines for Journalists and Media Content Producers](#) issued by CGBVDV in 2018 to emphasise ethical coverage when reporting or producing material related to GBV and DV. Additionally, CGBVDV was invited to record a live podcast with MCAST students to discuss the various forms of violence and to explain the processes of reporting and seeking support services.

D. Ensuring that teaching material does not convey negative gender stereotypes of women and men of all ages

One of the objectives of [GEMSAP](#) is focused on strengthening the principle of gender equality and mainstreaming in the education system and challenging gender stereotypes. Measures under this objective are mainly led by MEYR. The measures focus on raising awareness, investing in training, STEM and the education structure.

During the first year of implementation of the strategy, MEYR held discussions with Education Officers (EOs) to identify areas that require attention and improvement, such as the inclusion of human rights and gender representation/stereotypes in curricula, the introduction of diverse families and sexual preferences to primary school students, addressing gender disparities in STEM education and careers, developing inclusive science learning paths, addressing gender imbalance in physical education, promoting women in peace and security, providing career guidance initiatives for all students,

breaking down barriers in traditionally female-oriented sports, and ensuring gender representation in teacher engagement.

DLAP provided various materials to support the teaching of PSCD in schools. Among these resources were materials promoting inclusivity in the LGBTIQ+ community, tailored resources for Year 5 students to navigate the challenges of growing up, and resources for sports such as basketball and gymnastics to ensure inclusivity for all. DLAP also addressed the unique needs of migrant learners by providing specialized materials to help them understand STEM subjects.

DLAP regularly updates books promoting respect for diversity in Social Studies, in both Maltese and English, to ensure educational resources embrace different perspectives. In collaboration with HRD, DLAP has identified a significant resource called the '[Dizzjunarju Queer Terminologija u Definizzjonijiet](#)', which is an LGBTIQ+ dictionary of terms in the Maltese language. This collaboration enhances understanding and inclusivity by providing a comprehensive reference for relevant terminology.

In line with this, SFCE is committed to working with the curriculum department and schools to address and implement this exercise.

E. Tailored interventions to prevent GBV

MEYR developed a Child Protection Policy in 1999, titled [Child Protection Procedures for Schools](#), which provided guidance to educators on referral procedures and mandatory reporting. An updated MoU was signed in 2016 and, with the enactment of the [Minor Protection \(Alternative Care\) Act](#) (Chapter 602) in 2020, this MoU was revised accordingly. NSSS also joined the Child Protection Technical Sub-Committee established to address child protection issues which led to the publication of [Mandatory Reporting Guidelines](#).

SFCE professionals providing psychosocial support to schools attended training on GBV offered through an EU funded-project, [Full Cooperation: Zero Tolerance](#). Hence, when supporting the schools through guidance and intervention, these professionals are knowledgeable regarding intersectional discrimination and preventing and/or identifying GBV. Refresher training will take place in the upcoming scholastic year.

Additional awareness raising initiatives, that specifically address the issues of GBV and DV have been referred to in question 9.

The measures pertaining to educational projects, programmes and initiatives presented in relation to Article 14 (Education) are a crucial element in the government's roadmap to address primary prevention with young persons and tackle abuse experienced or perpetrated by children and youth.

Article 15: Training of Professionals

11. Initial and in-service training

Information on the various professional groups that receive initial and in-service training on the different forms of GBV and DV is provided in Table I and Table II (Appendix).

As national coordinating body, CGBVDV is committed to providing ongoing training initiatives for professionals as part of its work under the pillar of prevention. To organise and coordinate training opportunities for professionals working in the field of GBV and DV, CGBVDV conducts an annual training needs analysis with the IMC to identify themes and topics for training programmes.

In 2020, CGBVDV coordinated the following training initiatives:

- 'Multi-agency training on elderly abuse' for professionals focusing on the effects of violence against the elderly. This training was delivered by an international expert through two online sessions held in December 2020. Social workers, risk assessors, psychiatrists, doctors, nurses, lawyers, probation officers, police from the GBDVU and representatives from NGOs and DV shelters were invited to participate in this training programme.
- The 'Services, Signs of Domestic Violence and the Effect on Children' training was delivered by local experts to General Practitioners and Medical Practitioners in November 2020. The session aimed to raise awareness about identifying and dealing with cases of DV with their patients and the impacts of DV on children. Moreover, the training involved information on existing services and the referral pathways one may employ when encountering cases of DV.
- CGBVDV organised a training session titled 'Types of Violence and Services' for MCAST student mentors in November 2020. Participants were provided with an overview of the various forms of violence and information about support services.
- In November 2020, CGBVDV coordinated the training session titled, 'Calling Home a Safe Space', targeted at Legal Aid lawyers. This session, delivered by a local expert, delved into the social aspects of GBV and DV and perpetrator interventions.
- 'Safer Families, Safer Society' was a training session organised for Probation Officers. This session, delivered by a local expert in November 2020, focused on working with perpetrators and protecting families.
- As part of the EU-Funded Project titled '[Improving Support Structures for Victims of Gender-Based Violence](#)', CGBVDV implemented an online course titled, 'Award in Gender-Based Violence Support for HR Professionals'. This programme was accredited by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE) and it was accredited with 2 ECTS credits at EQF/MQF Level 5. The course was designed for professionals working in human resources to learn how to handle experiences of GBV and DV at the workplace. During the project's timeframe, 3 intake sessions were conducted.

Following the training needs analysis with the IMC in 2021, CGBVDV organised the below training programmes in 2021:

- Three separate training sessions on DASH in May and a total of 80 professionals were trained. Participants included social workers, risk assessors, counsellors, psychologists, probation officers, police from the GBDVU, lawyers, doctors, nurses and representatives from DV shelters and NGOs.
- A two-day online training on the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) was delivered by an international expert in July. Professionals working within the STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service at Aġenzija Appoġġ, the GBDVU within MPF and the DPP were invited to attend. A total of 46 professionals received this training.
- Two separate training sessions on Child-to-Parent/Carer violence were held online. A total of 84 professionals participated, including counsellors, social workers, police from the GBDVU, risk assessors, probation officers and representatives from DV shelters and other NGOs.
- A training seminar for the obstetrics and gynaecology department highlighted the legal aspect of managing cases of sexual assault. For this training, several healthcare professionals attended including, doctors and nurses from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Accident and Emergency Department, GUM, Forensic Medicine and Public Health, along with social workers from Aġenzija Appoġġ. Top management personnel from law enforcement, the Court Services Agency and a member of the Judiciary delivered presentations during this one-day seminar.

In addition, CGBVDV has been coordinating the delivery of multi-agency training on GBV and DV for various frontline professionals since 2022. This training programme targeted newly recruited professionals or those who have received limited training on GBV and DV and spanned over two days. The aim is to foster multi-agency cooperation amongst the different professionals which included police officers, social workers, risk assessors, doctors, nurses, counsellors, guidance teachers, psychologists, probation officers, lawyers and representatives from other government agencies (VSA, HRD) and NGOs. The topics covered focused on gender stereotyping, the Istanbul Convention, national legislation on GBV and DV, understanding GBV and DV, risk assessment and risk management, the psychological aspect of GBV and DV on victims, working with perpetrators understanding and dealing with trauma and multi-agency cooperation and referral pathways.

In 2023, this training programme was extended to three days to support the introduction of additional topics as per feedback received from participants themselves as part of the evaluation process undertaken by CGBVDV. New topics included interventions on the experiences of GBV and DV within the LGBTIQ+ community, migrant communities and amongst persons with disability.

Twelve rounds of multi-agency training on GBV and DV have been organised to date and a total of 335 professionals have attended. CGBVDV plans to accredit the training and develop a second level of training which will target the provision of information by the various service providers on services available. The aim is to ensure ongoing training for professionals as well as facilitate inter-agency referral mechanisms whilst promoting multi-agency cooperation.

In 2022, CGBVDV also coordinated the delivery of a training programme for PBS journalists which focused on the ethical and intelligent reporting of DV and GBV in the media. Furthermore, CGBVDV collaborated with the Judicial Studies Committee on the organisation of a one-day seminar for the members of the judiciary, topics incorporated into the programme included understanding the

dynamics of IPV from a victim-perspective and children’s experiences of witnessing DV. Through the TEMI Digital Justice Platform, which stems for the [Digital Justice Strategy](#) (2022-2027), further training opportunities will be developed for the judiciary, MPF, AG and legal professionals on various topics related to GBV and DV. Discussions are underway between CGBVDV and MJR on the creation of training material, while the platform has been made available to members of the IMC chaired by CGBVDV so that stakeholders are able to plan and upload targeted training to all professionals working with DV cases.

Between 2022 and 2024, CGBVDV oversaw the delivery of four COPE sessions entitled ‘Self-Awareness for Educators on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence’ for educators working in primary and secondary state schools. These sessions were held in collaboration with VSM and Fondazzjoni Sebħ, who delivered the content to primary and secondary school teachers, learning support educators, kindergarten educators and members of the SLT. A total of 193 professionals participated in these sessions.

Furthermore, CGBVDV has delivered multiple information sessions with educators, including guidance teachers and Heads of Schools to give an overview of CGBVDV’s work, the various forms of violence, existing support services and handling students’ disclosures of experiences with GBV and DV. Most of these sessions also engaged professionals from the DVS within Aġenzija Appoġġ and the GBVDU within MPF to provide more in-depth information about their services.

Information session with the Heads of Schools of St Benedict’s College (2023)
Information session with educators of St Margaret College Cospicua Primary School (2022)
Information session with educators of St Margaret College Cospicua Middle School (2022)
Information session with Heads of College Network (2022)
Information session with Heads of Schools of San Ġorġ Preca College (2022)
Information session with MCAST student mentors (2020)

CGBVDV also presented three information sessions at three National Guidance Meetings to inform guidance teachers and the education psycho-social staff about the role of CGBVDV, the Istanbul Convention and the various forms of GBV and DV. Representatives from HRD and Aġenzija Appoġġ were also invited to provide an overview of national law and support services.

In-service information sessions for professionals were delivered by CGBVDV to highlight the importance of adequate and timely responses when encountering cases of GBV and DV with their clients. In addition to the information sessions with educators already mentioned, CGBVDV conducted the following information sessions with professionals:

Information webinar with employees within the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children’s Rights (2021)
Information session with employees within the Ministry for Finance and Employment (2021)
Information session with the Employee Support Programme (2021)
Information session with FSWS Gozo Branch (2023)
Information session with employees within the Ministry for Public Works and Planning (2023)
Information sessions with Premier Restaurants Ltd. (2024)

11.1 Malta Police Force

MPF has introduced comprehensive reforms to equip police forces with the necessary knowledge and powers to respond promptly and appropriately to all forms of VAW. This includes legislative updates to align with the Istanbul Convention, ensuring all forms of VAW are covered. Additionally, funding has been allocated for specialized training programmes and resources to support police in their expanded roles (ESP).

In addition, MPF has implemented mandatory initial and continuous in-service training programmes for all police officers. These programmes are designed to cover all forms of VAW, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence, ensuring that all officers, regardless of their role, are knowledgeable and prepared to handle these cases effectively. Training sessions are regularly updated to incorporate new findings and best practices.

MPF personnel have also engaged in training that focuses on understanding the concept of consent. Officers are trained on evidence collection techniques, including the assessment of surrounding circumstances and the state of individuals involved. This training aims to enhance the ability of investigators to accurately evaluate cases of alleged rape, ensuring that justice is served in accordance with the principles of fairness and a victim-centred approach. Training is also planned for its DMOs to ensure they are well-equipped to handle these sensitive cases.

Furthermore, SOPs have been established to guide officers on how to receive reports and conduct interviews in a victim-sensitive manner. Specialized training sessions focus on trauma-informed approaches, ensuring victims are treated with dignity and respect, and their experiences are validated without causing additional trauma.

11.2 Foundation for Social Welfare Services

All professional members of staff of the DVS within Aġenzija Appoġġ receive induction training and undergo an observation period at the start of their employment. The initial in-service training includes training on legislation, the Istanbul Convention, the standards of practices within the service, the risk

assessment tool, which is used locally, how the MARAM works, and the effects of DV and GBV on the victims and their children, amongst others.

The professional staff of the DVS continues to receive on-going training throughout the year on different topics and areas related to GBV and DV, including the multi-agency training provided by CGBVDV.

Senior members of the professional staff also deliver training to other professionals within FSWS and outside of the organisation, to continue to sensitize and disseminate knowledge about how to identify the signs and support a victim of GBV and DV. Professionals working within the Supervised Access Visits (SAVs) service were given training on DV and GBV which included the risk factors, identifying issues of power and control in the relationships of parents they work with, and how to refer victims and perpetrators to the DVS. The training was entitled 'Domestic Violence and Abuse'.

Other training sessions were organised for professionals working with entities of FSWS on the identification of GBV and DV and such entities include: AS, Jobsplus, psycho-social teams in various educational colleges around Malta and Gozo, Mental Health Community Clinics, MPF, and Perinatal Mental Health Service.

The STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service team delivered a workshop on 'Working with Child-to-Parent Violence' during the annual conference of 'Working with Perpetrators – European Network' (WWP-EN), and this workshop was later re-delivered as a stand-alone workshop amongst other members of the same network. Further training was also provided to students following the Health & Social Care Course at MCAST and the Foundation Course at the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS).

VSA provides both internal training opportunities to its employees as well as training sessions organised by other entities, such as, the multi-agency training organised by CGBVDV.

11.3 Educators

On the 7th and 21st May 2024, approximately 250 PSCD teachers working in Middle and Secondary state, church and independent schools were provided 6 hours of training on various themes related to GBV and DV. The sessions focused on the signs of abuse and a brief overview of all types of abuse, ways of empowering students to speak up, presentations of two research studies led by CGBVDV on child witnesses and the 'Safe Dates' pilot project as well as a legal overview of duties of teachers in cases of DV and GBV in relation to the national education policy guides for teachers.

NSSS is committed to provide in-service training on GBV to newly recruited support service practitioners within their first year of employment. Several NSSS professionals completed the 'Full Cooperation: Zero Violence' Train the Trainer component and, in 2021, two professionals facilitated an in-service course for 13 new employees within NSSS. All new recruits compulsory attend the multi-agency training on GBV and DV organised by the CGBVDV. In addition, NSSS also nominates staff to participate in other training initiatives organised by other entities, such as that addressing Child-to-Parent Violence, the DASH risk assessment and, most recently, the DA risk assessment tool. NSSS representatives on the IMC have also liaised with CGBVDV to provide in-service training for educators through COPE sessions.

A total of 78 professionals working within NSSS received training on FGM during the summer of 2023. This training was delivered by TAMA, a Maltese NGO funded by the American Embassy. Further training is planned to target further professionals and educators during the scholastic year 2024-2025.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, the NCPE delivered training sessions to 198 management and teaching staff at a private school, covering issues related to equality, stereotypes, harassment and sexual harassment. In 2024, 39 career guidance teachers and career advisors received a training session on gender equality issues in career guidance.

SFCE organises a five-hour Safeguarding Training which incorporates the topics of GBV and DV. This training is mandatory for all employees and volunteers within any Church entity and, thus, all employees within SFCE and Church schools need to attend this training every three years. Two mixed sessions are held every year for newly recruited staff. In-service training is due in October 2024 – December 2024 for social workers, counsellors, psychologists, inclusion support professionals, curriculum leaders and the finance and administration team.

This training is school-based and delivered by the Safeguarding Commission and the school social worker. All social workers attend regular train the trainer courses. The training covers all forms of violence, including the different forms of GBV, with reference to the different legislations and obligations to support victims. It also includes practical components on how to receive a disclosure from a student or a colleague, reporting procedures and/or guidance towards seeking help.

11.4 Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers

Staff and professionals working with the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) received regular training on issues related to sexual abuse and DV, which included the following topics: Victims of Torture, Applicants with Diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identities, or Sexual Characteristics (SOGIESC), Working with Vulnerable Groups, Working with Human Trafficking Victims and sessions related to better understanding FGM. This training was delivered by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and other EU Agencies.

11.5 Housing Authority

The Housing Authority's (HA) social work section includes a senior social worker and social welfare professionals, who are employed and trained by FSWS. These professionals are well-trained in multiple areas. An agreement has been reached between the CGBVDV and HA to ensure that professionals from the HA are also invited to participate in the multi-agency training coordinated by CGBVDV which focuses on dealing with victims and perpetrators of all acts of violence covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention.

11.6 Jobsplus

Jobsplus Employment Advisors (EAs) receive regular training on various subjects, including DV. During the first quarter of 2024, EAs participated in two sessions which focused on DV, and staff members were also advised on how to handle cases of victims of abuse. EAs are not social workers and hence,

their role involves guiding clients, who are victims of abuse, to VSA, should the victims not already be followed by professionals.

Moreover, the Law Compliance Unit (LCU) within Jobsplus conducts labour inspections in line with the [Employment and Training Services Act](#) (Chapter 594) to ensure that employers comply with employment requirements, including the prevention of worker exploitation in the labour market. Inspectors in the LCU are trained to identify victims of human trafficking and report such cases to the appropriate legal authorities.

12. Involvement of NGOs in design and implementation of training

Training programmes organised by CGBVDV are designed in collaboration with relevant experts in the field of GBV and DV, through the yearly issuance of an expression of interest, which includes women's rights organisations and specialist support services. Prospective trainers are invited to provide their area/s of expertise and specialisation which can be integrated into the design and implementation of various training programmes targeting different professionals.

MPF officers have received specific training delivered by an activist for gender equality and VAW from the Department of Gender and Sexualities within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta.

MDH has worked closely with VSM in the sexual assault policy development as well as the planning of training provided to those healthcare professionals providing care to victims of sexual assault.

Additionally, FSWS has engaged trainers from outside the organisation to provide training to its professionals. These included experts from local women's rights organisations and specialist support services, as well as foreign experts. The training programme focused on the Istanbul Convention and national legislation on GBV and DV.

SFCE is in initial stages of planning a day training seminar for guidance and PSCD teachers. In addition to our current collaborators, Malta Girl Guides and VSM, Women's Rights Foundation (WRF) will be consulted to include their contribution into the design of such training.

The NCPE invites NGOs to participate projects under its remit. NGOs are regularly invited to NCPE's seminars for discussion and consultation. The outcome of this work strengthens the training content.

As national Public Employment Services (PES), Jobsplus is invited to deliver information sessions about its services to NGOs. Moreover, Jobsplus, provides free of charge training courses to all individuals residing in Malta which are demand driven. This service is extended to NGOs dealing with vulnerable groups who seek specific training modules. Such training modules are designed and delivered by Jobsplus' trainers to meet the specific requirements of NGOs.

The delivery of training programmes and initiatives mentioned above and in Appendix I and Appendix II of this document illustrate close collaboration with NGOs and experts in the field of GBV and DV. Essentially, most NGOs with expertise in the field of GBV and DV are engaged at some level and throughout different stages of various training initiatives being held by the different entities. As part of this monitoring exercise, the CGBVDV plans to identify gaps in training through training needs analyses with relevant stakeholders and continue to enhance its collaboration with experts within NGOs to strengthen its capacity for delivery of training.

Article 16: Preventive intervention and treatment programmes

13. Available preventive intervention and treatment programmes for perpetrators

Professionals from the DVU within FSWS are present during DV & GBV court sittings and information about the available services for victims and perpetrators is communicated to both parties in Court. This presence has enabled an easier referral process and offers a timely response for victims and perpetrators to receive support services. Such outreach during DV & GBV court sittings led to an increase in referrals of convicted male perpetrators for treatment orders for the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programme (DAIP).

The STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service is the main perpetrator programme that aims to create awareness, understanding and accountability amongst perpetrators, while creating a safer environment for women and victims by breaking the cycle of violence. The service has had an increase of 150% in its capacity building since the last GREVIO baseline report, with the addition of three new professional staff. The service is now being delivered from a multi-disciplinary approach which is complemented by other professional training on GBV and DV which every team member receives.

The additional capacity within the STOP! Services has made it possible to review the DAIP for male perpetrators of intimate partner violence (IPV), and changes have been made to its format to allow for the running of two programmes every year. An additional programme was introduced within the Corradino Correctional Facility (CCF), whereby the STOP! Service and professionals from the Correctional Services Agency (CSA) worked together to develop a programme tailored specifically for male perpetrators of GBV and DV serving a prison sentence for a related crime.

FSWS developed another programme that is being run in the youth prison which focuses on supporting young people serving a prison sentence who have a history of perpetrated or witnessed GBV and DV. All the programmes run by the STOP! Service are rooted in the principles of preventive interventions and the treatment of perpetrators of DV and GBV.

The STOP! Service team has also increased its outreach with different services and entities, who are likely to encounter perpetrators of DV and GBV. The team is currently in discussion with MPF on how to reach out to alleged perpetrators during police interventions.

A programme specific to working with Child-to-Parent Violence was developed for the local context by an international expert and training was delivered to the professionals working with both the victims and perpetrators of Child-to-Parent Violence.

Another point of contact with perpetrators is through the DPP. The DPP employs psychologists to assist the probation officers in their work to address issues pertaining to cognitive management and anger management during their sessions with clients. When the probation officer who is supervising the case deems that the client needs the assistance of a psychologist, the officer refers the case. The psychologist then assesses the client and works on addressing the identified needs and catering interventions to those needs. Should the client not attend the sessions with the psychologist, the probation officer considers the case and informs the referral authority, that is, the Courts of Justice or the Parole Board accordingly. DPP also conducts sessions with perpetrators of DV and GBV.

14. Measures taken to:

- A. Increase the number of men and boys attending perpetrator programmes for domestic and sexual abuse*

This question has mostly been addressed in the previous answer.

Additionally, CGBVDV has been advocating on the importance of perpetrator programmes with the Judiciary. During the one-day seminar for the members of the judiciary, CGBVDV invited the coordinators of the STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service to deliver an intervention on the programme. The presentation also focused on the importance and preventive role of perpetrator programmes and their incorporation into the criminal justice system as a tool to reduce recidivism.

Earlier this year, during a meeting with the Chief Justice, CGBVDV also emphasized the importance of perpetrator programmes and how these can be better utilized through sentencing in the Courts. The third [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) also incorporates actions pertaining to the training of lawyers and the judiciary on the importance of preventive programmes for perpetrators.

- B. Ensure that the perpetrator programmes apply standards of best practice*

The DAIP was internally evaluated using the WWP-EN Standards for Perpetrator Programmes which were launched in December 2023. The DAIP is currently being evaluated through the WWP-EN's IMPACT Toolkit. The STOP! Service team has received training on how to evaluate the progress of each participant of the programme through the IMPACT Toolkit.

An experienced professional from STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service was involved in the development of these WWP-EN standards and was actively contributed to the evaluation of the programme.

The third [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) also incorporates actions pertaining to the continuous evaluation of the existing programmes.

C. Ensure the safety of victims and cooperation with specialist support services

The STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service works closely with the specialist support services for victims, and the aim of all interventions by this service is to ensure the safety of victims and their children. In addition, FSWS has its own in-house lawyer who assists victims in court on a pro-bono basis to ensure that a holistic and seamless service is provided to its service users. The CMS ensures collaborative interventions across victim safeguarding services, both those working with adults and minors, to ensure that a coordinated approach is in place to support victims and work with perpetrators.

DPP professionals working with women experiencing DV or VAW always ensure that negative repercussions do not ensue from their interventions. Moreover, DPP raises awareness amongst victims through its professionals who inform their clients about available support programmes, including those provided by NGOs.

Representatives of both entities as well as others are present during MARAM to ensure a multi-agency approach in protecting and supporting the victims while also adopting a preventive approach in working with perpetrators.

Additionally, the publication of the [Handbook for Victims of Domestic Abuse](#) by MPF offers essential information and guidance, further enhancing collaborative efforts to protect and empower those affected by DV to make informed decisions about seeking justice and support.

D. Ensure that the outcomes of the programmes are monitored and evaluated

As previously mentioned, the DAIP is being evaluated through the WWP-EN's IMPACT Toolkit. Additionally, FSWS also commissioned an independent review of its DV services by an expert group of the European Social Network in 2023.

DPP is accountable to the referral authorities, namely the Courts of Justice and the Parole Board. Any issue which is raised by the said referral authorities is evaluated and tackled by the Department.

In conclusion to questions pertaining to Article 16 (Preventive intervention and treatment programmes), a holistic and multi-agency approach to ensure victim safety and rehabilitation of perpetrators is adopted. Continuous evaluation and revision of the content of the programmes and services involved is considered crucial for Malta to continue progressing towards the full implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 18: General obligations

15. Multi-agency cooperation mechanisms, structures or measures in place designed to protect and support victims of any of the forms of GBV against women covered by the Istanbul Convention

A. The state agencies involved in their functioning

CGBVDV chairs monthly meetings with the IMC responsible for implementing the National Action Plan on GBV and DV. This Committee is composed of various high-level representatives from the different ministries, departments, entities and agencies which provide protection and support to victims of all forms of GBV and includes:

- Office of the Attorney General (AG)
- Court Services Agency (CSA)
- Department of Justice (DoJ)
- Department of Probation and Parole (DPP)
- Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS)
- Human Rights Directorate (HRD)
- Legal Aid Malta (LAM)
- Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR)
- Ministry for Gozo and Planning (MGP)
- Ministry for Health and Active Ageing (MHA)
- Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector (MJR)
- Malta Police Force (MPF)
- Policy Development and Programme Implementation (PDPI) under the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment (MHSE)
- Victim Support Agency (VSA)

In addition to the monthly meetings with the IMC, CGBVDV coordinates *ad hoc* one-to-one meetings with the various committee members to follow-up on and support any challenges in the implementation of measures, which may also involve the organisation of bi-lateral meetings between different entities. The Multi-Agency Training approach has also proved to be effective in enhancing networking and exchange of experiences between front-line professionals.

As mentioned earlier, Malta has established the MARAM. CSA and MJR are not part of the MARAM, however, CSA together with the judiciary, have established an internal procedure whereby cases discussed during MARAM are prioritised, thereby ensuring that identified victims are given due attention by the judicial system. Furthermore, when cases discussed at MARAM involve children attending Church schools, the respective school social worker provides information.

VSA has initiated a 'Victim Support Network' which is composed of diverse representatives from Ministries across government. This Network discusses any possible gaps in national legislation and administrative procedures which may require attention and proposes ways forward. MPF is also represented within VSA, through the Victim Support Unit (VSU) and provides support and assistance to victims of DV. VSA has several agreements in place to ensure a seamless referral system between entities ensuring complementary rather than overlapping or duplication of processes. This proved to be more efficient, timely and victim centred.

Prior to the drawing up of the draft Sexual Assault Pathway, two stakeholder groups were established (one including internal MDH stakeholders and the other involving also external stakeholders) which met several times to discuss existing concerns and issues that needed to be addressed by the pathway. This also helped to establish a network of professionals involved in the care of such cases that facilitated communication and the flagging of specific cases of concern, enabling feedback and continuous improvement to the care provided along the pathways.

In the case of sexual assault or other forms of abuse involving minors, the Child Protection Guideline from the Department of Child and Adolescent helps outlines the pathway and procedures to be followed. Similar to the adult pathway, this involves the Police and court experts and keeps in view reporting obligations pertinent to these scenarios. In the case of minors, social workers from FSWS are also called in. MDH has also participated in discussions with VSM regarding lowering the age threshold above which they can offer their services to also include victims who are 13 years and above.

The GBDVU, NSSS management (Principal Social Worker and EO Counselling) and the SFCE team of social workers engage in ongoing cooperation with the DVS and other services provided by Aġenzija Appoġġ.

MEYR has always prioritised the safeguarding of children, primarily through the Child Protection Policy of 1999. The [Child Protection Procedures for Schools](#) define four types of child abuse and also outline clear referral procedures and mandatory reporting for all education staff. A revised MoU was signed in 2016 as an addendum to the National Policy issued in 1999. The MoU was revised in 2018 and both documents are still active to date.

Following the enactment of the [Minor Protection \(Alternative Care\) Act](#) (Chapter 602), NSSS were invited to join the National Child Protection Investigative Network which is aimed at building a local integrated child protection system. The first task was to revise the MoU signed in 2016 to reflect the legal definition of child abuse amended by [Act No. XXXVII of 2020](#) to include a wide-encompassing definition of "significant harm" to include abuse, neglect, harassment, ill-treatment, exploitation, abandonment, exposure, trafficking, fear of violence, FGM as well as experiencing and witnessing DV, as indicated in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9). The revised MoU is in its final stages of approval. SFCE

is also represented in the Child Protection Investigation Network to ensure representation of children attending Church Schools.

In 2020, NSSS representative attended the Child Protection Technical Sub-Committee responsible for implementing tasks related to child protection as directed by the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights. The first task was to issue [Mandatory Reporting Guidelines](#) which states that child abuse and maltreatment are usually associated with episodes of physical violence unto a minor; inappropriate sexual actions unto a minor; neglect unto a minor; and episodes of belittlement, humiliation and emotional derogation unto a minor; sexual exploitation; FGM; exposure to violence or risks; fabricated induced illnesses; forced marriage; online abuse; human trafficking; child labour; etc. The same document includes FGM under harmful practices that causes physical harm and hence constitute abuse. It also specifies that if one suspects that a minor is known to be at risk of FGM; underage marriage; exposure to violence; exposure to risks associated with addictions; child labour; human trafficking; prostitution; fabricated illnesses; etc. one is obliged to immediately refer the minor to CPS.

The AG is responsible for the prosecution of sexual offences and the Prosecution Unit works with two systems, prosecutions conducted by the Office and prosecutions conducted by the Police. The AG assigns prosecutors by offence to ensure specialisation through the provision of ongoing training in the area of specialisation and in the general field of criminal law. Prosecutors from the AG are involved in a case from the early stage of investigations and are responsible for the decision to prosecute a case assigned to them, drafting of charges against the accused and carrying out the prosecution in all its phases. In cases involving prosecutions conducted by the Police, the prosecutors oversee the committal proceedings, indicate the articles in the law under which the accused is to be found guilty or file the Bill of Indictment as required by the case.

Jobsplus has in place numerous cooperation agreements, through which staff members can refer clients for the necessary assistance. For instance, Jobsplus works closely with CGBVDV which consulted Jobsplus prior to launching the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#).

B. Involvement of specialist support services provided by civil society organisations, especially women's rights organisations

On a quarterly basis, CGBVDV invites NGOs working in the field of GBV and DV to participate in meetings held with the IMC to strengthen multi-agency cooperation and coordination amongst government and non-governmental services and to ensure consultation with civil society in the design of policies, legislative changes, and programmes. As outlined in the strategy, CGBVDV is committed to holding regular meetings with NGOs to incorporate the representation of service users and victims in its work as coordinating body.

The DVS works collaboratively with the specialist support services run by NGOs, including in the process of referral to MARAM, obtaining feedback and giving back feedback following the MARAM.

The administration of MARAM may opt to invite NGOs to be present during MARAM on a case-by-case basis as may be required from time-to-time, however professionals from FSWS collaborate closely with such professionals in the best interest of the victims and their children. Similarly, VSA has agreements in place with various NGOs to ensure further co-operation.

Currently when an alleged victim or perpetrator of sexual assault presents at MDH, the support of a crisis support worker from VSM, the NGO supporting victims of crime, is provided. This service is available on a 24/7 basis. If the case is being reported to the Police, the forensic pathway is triggered and police officers as well as court experts are involved in the case and collaborate to minimise repeated history-taking, examination, and so on.

Civil society and NGOs, including women's rights organisations, work closely with Jobsplus' personnel. In previous years, Jobsplus administered the VASTE where such organisations were invited to attend information sessions, conferences and consultation meetings to ensure that services offered by Jobsplus are mainstreamed to the needs of as many vulnerable groups as possible. Moreover, raising awareness about available services amongst entities, ensures that the latter are able to contact Jobsplus for tailor-made services or make referrals to Jobsplus services as and when required by individual clients.

C. Adoption of a gender-sensitive approach to VAW

MPF and FSWS adopt a gender-sensitive approach that prioritises the safety and empowerment of women and girl victims. MPF ensures victim confidentiality and security while implementing victim-centred procedures which emphasise empathy and support. Every intervention carried out with victims of GBV and DV across all FSWS services always prioritises the safety of the female victims, and together with the adult victim, takes measures to ensure the female victim and her children's safety.

The Sexual Assault Pathway places greater emphasis on a victim-centred approach, and collaboration between involved specialists as well as external stakeholders to provide more holistic and coordinated care. This includes establishing a procedure whereby victims receive care in specially equipped rooms with necessary specialists attending to the victim in a fixed room, rather than the victim needing to move around the hospital, thus increasing privacy and dignity for victims. Victims are offered further specialised support through the VSM crisis support worker who gives information regarding support services available, including psychological, psychiatric, and legal support.

D. Financial and human resources dedicated to their implementation

The implementation of the multi-agency and cross-sectoral initiatives generally derive from human resources, which are supported by the funding provided from the national budget, as indicated in question 4.

Additionally, the Sexual Assault Pathway at MDH is the subject of an ongoing Budgetary Measure since 2020. For the upcoming financial year, a budget has been requested to fund items required for forensic cases of sexual assault and for the provision of training on this topic.

E. Any available information on the evaluation of their outcome or impact

The GBDVU within MPF is involved in regular evaluations conducted to assess DV cases within a multi-agency mechanism.

Furthermore, an evaluation of the DVS within FSWS was carried out in 2023 by foreign independent experts engaged through the ESN who were tasked with this evaluation. Outcomes were communicated in a DV Services Evaluation Report. One outcome which emerged was the collaborative practices between victim services across FSWS. Moreover, the CMS was highlighted as a resource that facilitates such collaborative practice and coordinated approach.

VSA has just conducted an internal study in the form of a SWOT (self) analysis to ensure a thorough evaluation of services and the development thereof to effectively address gaps and trends.

CGBVDV monitors and coordinates the implementation of the National Action Plan through monthly IMC meetings, monthly meetings with NGOs and quarterly meetings between national stakeholders and civil society. As part of its monitoring role, CGBVDV also requests documented feedback from each stakeholder on a quarterly basis on the progress of their respective measures and actions. This information is analysed and bi-lateral meetings between different entities are coordinated as required to ensure implementation timeframes are adhered to. CGBVDV compiles an annual report which is used to evaluate as well as monitor the implementation of the strategy.

16. Legislation and policies advocating for cooperation mechanisms

Malta's third [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) outlines the strengthening of a coordinated and well-resourced multi-agency approach to increase capacity building across agencies in order to provide victims of all forms of GBV and DV with immediate, comprehensive and coordinated support. This is achieved through the IMC and other relevant actors which are tasked with implementing necessary legislative amendments and enactment of policies to ensure the timely legal and psycho-social support as well as the establishment and strengthening of the MARAM in handling high-risk cases.

As highlighted in the Action Plan, CSA is working towards developing a Centralised Management Information System (CMIS) to record bail conditions, protection orders, restraining orders and temporary protection orders when these are issued by the Courts and make the system readily available to law enforcement and the courts to ensure that violations are registered, and sanctions

are imposed within the shortest timeframe possible. The tender for the development of this system is about to be published.

At national level, a serious risk is identified through a risk assessment. When a victim lodges a report at the GBDVU, risk assessors from Aġenzija Appoġġ located at the MPF General Headquarters in Floriana or at the GBDV Hub(s), are tasked with conducting the risk assessment. A higher score signifies the presence of more risk-factors. Alternatively, a victim can also file a report at Aġenzija Appoġġ where social workers would perform a risk assessment and, if it is deemed high-risk, it will be referred to the MARAM. In cases of high-risk, MPF will remove the perpetrator from the victim/s' residence with subsequent detention under arrest and issuance of the relevant charges.

The services of FSWS that are represented at the MARAM hold a Data Sharing Agreement with MARAM to facilitate the sharing of information. A confidentiality agreement is signed at the start of every MARAM by all participants present, including the DMOs representing FSWS. A collaborative effort between entities is being adopted on the drafting of subsidiary legislation to support the set-up and mechanism of MARAM.

SFCE has a collaboration agreement with VSA which acts as a two-way collaboration. When schools encounter a situation of GBV against students, action is taken internally. However, when the victims are parents, the DSO and psycho-social professionals encourage the parent to seek support from VSA. On the other hand, when victims seeking support at VSA have children attending Church schools, the psycho-social services of both entities liaise together to decide on a care plan for the family.

Although MGP does not have direct remit with regards to legislative measures and service provision in relation to GBV against women, the Ministry is seeking to co-ordinate its efforts with other entities through communication and is willing to provide any assistance where and when possible.

Despite no direct reference in Jobsplus law, schemes and initiatives administered by the PES are in line with the powers conferred to it by the [Employment and Training Services Act](#) (Chapter 594). Furthermore, Jobsplus coordinates with NGOs since such cooperation is beneficial to its clients.

17. One-stop-shop approach

In addition to the support services offered to victims of GBV and DV at the central office of Aġenzija Appoġġ in Malta and at the offices of FSWS in Gozo, two teams of risk assessors are based in the GBDV Hubs. The presence of the DV Risk Assessment Services within the two GBDV centres allow the risk assessors to work in close collaboration with the Police in a one-stop-shop approach. Victims who file a police report are offered to undergo a risk assessment and further support by the specialist victim services – the DVU. The DV Risk Assessment Services serve as an intake for the DVU as most victims who carry out a risk assessment request to continue receiving support from the DVU social work service.

The DVS and STOP! The Violence and Abuse Service are housed in the same building within the central offices of Aġenzija Appoġġ, and this facilitates the collaborative practice and coordinated approach necessary to ensure victim safety.

In cases of sexual assault, services are offered within the general hospital in the acute setting, on the same day that the victim is assessed. The revised Sexual Assault Pathway within MDH policy emphasizes the continuity of care to maintain patient privacy and dignity by ensuring they are seen in one location. Urgent referrals to the Genito-urinary (GU) Clinic, however, typically take place on the next working day if the GU Clinic is not open at the time that the acute aspects of the case are being dealt with. Specialist follow-up consultations with VSM are scheduled separately, at different times and locations.

In instances where a victim of GBV requires medical attention, either from a health clinic or the main acute hospital, SOPs are in place to ensure that the accompanying police officer can alert medical staff to provide fast-tracked, victim-centred support and medical care when one accesses public health services.

VSA also operates a one-stop-shop service following its establishment as the national contact point for Victims of Crime in Malta. As part of its obligations, it has been entrusted to coordinate amongst different service providers with the aim of harmonising victim support service and possibly eliminating secondary victimisation. As a result, a number of MoUs have been signed with governmental services and those operated by NGOs for a common referral system. VSA also collaborates with the GBDVU through the provision of a team to assist victims in dealing with trauma and offers guidance on legal matters.

The theme of multi-agency cooperation, interministerial discussions for policy and legal amendments and a one-stop shop approach to services have been explained in detail in this section; however the collaborative efforts between all entities has been reflected throughout the report and throughout the process of this monitoring exercise.

Article 20: General support services

18. Programmes and measures for the recovery of victims of violence

The safety of victims is given priority. This is seen through the support provided in the initial stages of reporting, social work services, victim support by VSA, followed by the work done with perpetrators and the role of VSA and DPP in follow-up the perpetrators. Within MDH, referrals from the acute main hospital to VSM address these challenges. Additionally, referrals to MDH social workers are made when social issues are identified, which aim to link victims with available local support services.

In addition, the Migrant Liaison Unit within PHC engages with other stakeholders, such as Aġenzija Appoġġ, where regular meetings are organized to target the topics of human trafficking and sex workers.

The services provided to victims through the DVS address their recovery on an emotional, health, psychological, financial and educational level. The DVS professionals collaborate with other services within and outside to ensure that victims receive all the necessary support to facilitate their recovery. One such collaboration is with the Agency for the Community and Therapeutic Services (ACTS); whereby adult victims and their children receive therapeutic support to assist them in their recovery.

When safety issues have been eliminated, victims of violence are referred to other services within FSWS to provide support in employment, budgeting, and housing, amongst others. With their consent, social reports are provided to the HA to support the victims' application for affordable housing, through the specialized rent subsidy scheme offered to victims of DV and GBV. Similarly, the DVS professionals work closely with Jobsplus to support victims' in accessing continuous education and training opportunities, as well as employment.

VSA provides emotional support, legal guidance and information from the Police. VSA has also introduced two distinct services wherein a victim of crime is provided with the release date from custody of former perpetrator and informed and communicated with, whenever a convicted person related to their case, applies for parole.

One of the HA's initiatives most utilised by victims is the deposit and first rent assistance. This initiative is designed for vulnerable individuals and families who require financing to cover the deposit and first rent required to lease a privately owned dwelling, which is situated within an area where the victim has community support and away from the perpetrator. Payments of the deposit and first rent are paid back to the HA periodically. Subsequent rent payments may also be subsidized to ensure that victims do not pay more than 25% of their income towards rent. The income could emanate from employment as the HA supports empowerment and economic independence or from social benefits provided by the State. This initiative promotes empowerment, encourages economic independence and facilitates a new start away from the perpetrator.

Following this assistance, victims may opt to benefit from schemes provided by the HA whereby procedures do not discriminate against victims. Victims may benefit from social accommodation in a residence provided by the State once their court case for separation has been settled, however, to facilitate the process, documents related to their application are accepted beforehand. The social work team at the HA provides tailor-made assessments. Social workers engaged with the HA are employed directly with FSWS and are thus trained to give professional services to applicants and victims.

The HA, in collaboration with the Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers, has embarked on a competition aimed at supporting NGOs offering support services through the Sustainable Housing Projects. The ensuing projects fall under the remit of the Housing Development Fund which allocates funds for these projects to cater for assisting victims experiencing GBV.

Vulnerable women and women at a disadvantage of integrating effectively into the labour market were deemed eligible for the previously implemented VASTE Programme. The programme provided various training options and professional support which led to several participants entering employment. Through the VASTE Programme, individuals benefited from counselling, social work and

psychological assistance, specific employment-related training, motivational interviewing and mentoring services, amongst others.

If a victim of DV opts for a referral to the Inclusive Employment Services Unit, the EAs offer specific services upon registration as a jobseeker with the PES. An initial meeting between the individual and the EA is set up to discuss the current situation and the options available to develop a Personalised Action Plan (PAP). During this meeting, the EA provides information on where to search for jobs, local training opportunities and relevant Jobsplus services, such as, short courses, work exposure schemes, and other active labour market policies available.

Jobsplus has submitted an application to the managing authority for a new scheme -VASTE II under the new ESF+ programming period. While the scheme is not specifically directed at women victims of violence, subject to application approval, women will still be eligible for services relating to job mentoring, seminars which may be tailored to the needs of vulnerable women and, occupational competency workshops focusing on assessment and upskilling. Professional support is also envisaged on a one-to-one basis or through support groups.

Furthermore, Jobsplus provides free of charge training courses to all individuals of working age who reside in Malta, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. Courses offered by Jobsplus are demand-driven and pegged to the national qualification's framework. The aim of the training courses is to upskill and reskill individuals by providing them with the necessary transversal skills to enter the labour market and retain gainful employment. Moreover, self-employed individuals and employers alike can make use of the Investing in Skills which provides financial assistance in terms of wage costs, training costs and travel costs to individuals who want to upskill and reskill. Additionally, employers who employ vulnerable groups who were previously unemployed are offered financial assistance through the Access to Employment Scheme.

From a social security perspective, financial assistance may be awarded either through a Court decree if the victim is married and has not paid any social security contributions, or through the victim's own paid social security contributions.

19. Public health sector protocols

The Sexual Assault Pathway within MDH policy ensures that all safety and medical needs of women and girl victims are covered. This is further addressed through MHA's participation in the MARAM.

For cases of DV, MDH plans to work closely with the DVS within FSWS to develop pathways for different scenarios that present at MDH. Moreover, following a proposal by the CGBVDV, and subsequent bi-lateral meetings between MHA and MPF, an agreement was established which involves the support of a liaison office within PHC to ensure persons filing a police report who require immediate medical attention are prioritised.

20. Procedures within public health services

A. Identify victims through screening

MDH does not conduct active screening as screening questions are not asked. However, all doctors are sensitised to the topic through their training as Specialists in Family Medicine and are thus able to elicit further information if the suspicion arises. MHA routinely invites employees to attend training sessions organized by CGBVDV. This training aims to sensitize participants to recognize signs of DV and refer cases appropriately.

Nonetheless, an initiative implemented in 2020 in the Antenatal Clinic and Gynae Outpatient ensures that prospective mothers are interviewed by themselves during their booking visit. This change in procedure allows midwives to prospective mothers who are experiencing IPV to disclose with the professional and the professional to inform the client of services available through the provision of business cards with contact details of support services developed and disseminated by the CGBVDV. Posters and stickers with helplines are also located in different spaces, such as booking rooms, consultation rooms, bathrooms, and the Parentcraft Unit. When prospective mothers disclose or are identified to be experiencing DV, the social worker and her consultant are informed, and she is admitted to one of the obstetric wards should the need arise.

The PHC procedure is explained in the 'Pathway for victims of Domestic Violence Information Booklet for Primary HealthCare professionals.

B. Provide treatment for all the medical needs of victims in a supportive manner

MHA provides treatment to all patients in a supportive manner in line with general hospital procedures, which are reflected in the Sexual Assault Pathway. Procedures for the provision of medical treatment at PHC are outlined in the following document: Pathway for Victims of Domestic Violence Information Booklet for Primary HealthCare professionals.

C. Collect forensic evidence and documentation

Medical Police certificates are completed and issued for minor or grievous injuries which detail the type of injuries sustained and examined. Serious cases are additionally referred for secondary care for further assessment and collection of forensic evidence.

The [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) outlines efforts to explore the possibility of having in place the legislative framework that allows for medical evidence to be lifted from victims of sexual violence should they so wish whenever they seek medical assistance,

regardless of whether they have filed a police report. This particular action has been allocated a five-year timeframe to address the underlying challenges pertaining to implementation before proceeding with the necessary legal amendments.

D. Ensure that a clear message of support is conveyed to the victim

Informational posters and leaflets on GBV and DV, developed and disseminated by CGBVDV, are available in most of the healthcare centres including MDH and PHC. This material outlines the no tolerance to violence policies of PHC and provides information about the different support services available.

E. Refer to the appropriate specialist support services that form part of a multi-agency cooperation structure

As mentioned in response to question 18, Social workers stationed at MDH are involved in referrals when social issues are identified, and these professionals liaise with other professionals in multiple entities to support clients. Moreover, all cases of GBV and DV which present at PHC are referred to Agenzija Appogg via a special referral system which comprises a Referral Form whether the victim has given their consent or not. This aims to alert support services and offer further assistance and guidance to victims.

Additionally, AWAS is actively fostering a stronger connection with the GU clinic to facilitate clients' referrals to this clinic, especially in cases of FGM.

F. Identify children who may have been exposed to DV or other forms of GBV against women and girls and require further support

Prevention, protection and support are prioritized through the training of professionals previously referred to and further explained in the Appendix, as well as through procedures outlined in the Pathway for Victims of Domestic Violence Information Booklet for Primary HealthCare professionals and Sexual Assault Pathway. The MDH Child Protection Guideline also offers information on indicators of abuse and outlines ways to refer minors for further support.

At PHC level, girls at risk of FGM who are at a high risk of FGM should they return to their country of origin, are assisted during their asylum claim. The gynaecologist and paediatrician issue a certificate after examination outlining that the mother has been subjected to FGM and does not want to have this procedure performed on her daughters back home. The daughter/s is examined by the paediatrician to ascertain that FGM has not been performed.

21. Documentation and collection of forensic evidence

In cases of minor or grievous injuries, medical Police certificates are issued which describe the injuries assessed by medical professionals. More serious cases are referred for further care which includes the documentation and collection of forensic evidence. Professional health officers collect and document forensic evidence under the guidance of court-appointed forensic experts for victims of DV and sexual violence, including rape. These procedures ensure thorough and sensitive handling, adhering to legal standards, and maintaining confidentiality and care throughout the process.

In March 2021, the International Protection Agency (IPA) and AWAS signed an MoU on procedures regarding medical referrals of applicants for international protection with FGM-based claims. The MoU establishes an automatic referral mechanism whereby IPA can refer female asylum applicants, who base their protection claim on FGM grounds, to AWAS for onward referral to national health authorities. The goal is to secure a medical evaluation that yields a certificate that confirms whether the applicant has undergone FGM.

22. Measures to reduce legal or practical barriers to accessing regular healthcare services

Access to healthcare services do not discriminate on any of the grounds listed in Article 4 paragraph 3 of the Istanbul Convention as outlined in the [Patient's Rights Charter](#). MHA provides additional services targeting patients who may encounter intersectional vulnerabilities such as the Obstetrics and Gynaecology consultant and team with a special interest in Migrant Health. This team focuses on obstetric & gynaecological care for migrant women, including those who may have experienced FGM, which practice has been outlawed in Malta as outlined in question 2.

23. Measures for persons with disability, the elderly and asylum-seekers

AS is working towards the deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities as per the [UNCRC](#) with a clear understanding of the high risk of abuse and discrimination in such settings. To mitigate this within the residences managed by the Agency, residents with disabilities and support workers alike, no matter their sex/gender, are trained and supported to advocate for their rights and those of others and report any forms of abuse, discrimination, and unprofessional practice. CCTV cameras in common areas have also been installed to support any reports made by victims or witnesses as part of official investigations into the allegations made. The Agency's Data Protection Officer (DPO) is the only appointed official to view any footage when incidents are reported and the only person who can authorise extraction of this footage through the identified technical personnel to ensure footage is not tampered with.

Any employee accused of inappropriate or unlawful behaviour is suspended until the allegations are verified and that person's return to duty or dismissal from duty is actioned according to the outcome of thorough investigations. Where victims are identified, the necessary support and authorities are called to the scene to support the victims, investigate the situation, and take adequate action against the confirmed culprit(s)/perpetrator(s).

The Agency's NGO Services Department also monitors services offered by private entities and NGOs that fall under PSPs with the Ministry for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (MIV) and conducts spot checks on these premises to ensure transparent and consistent practice. Should allegations of abuse or violence be received, these are immediately escalated for further investigation by the relevant authorities, including Commissioners, Social Care Standards Authority (SCSA), and MPF, pertinent to the situation.

The [Social Regulatory Standards for Residential Services for Persons with Disability](#), as issued by the SCSA, provide clear guidelines to those overseeing such services to ensure the safety of the residents through individualised risk assessments (Standard 4, Quality Indicator 2). Additionally, management is obliged to implement a psycho-educational programme (Standard 5, Quality Indicator 1, Performance Indicator 1.3). Residents also have the right to access other services of their choice offered by other entities or individuals (Standard 6, Quality Indicator 3, Performance Indicator 3.1.4).

Furthermore, the proposed 'Social Regulatory Standards for Community-Based and Office-Based Services for Individuals Who Experience Gender-Based Violence or Domestic Violence', set to be launched for public consultation in 2024, will require service providers to sustain efforts to reach individuals in mental health facilities or those receiving mental health care, those in rehabilitation centres, those in residential services, ethnic minorities, migrants, asylum seekers, persons with disabilities, older persons, the LGBTIQ+ community, amongst others.

The AACC implemented a SOP titled 'Abuse of Older Adults in Government Care Homes' specifically targeting older adults in Government Care Homes. Furthermore, throughout 2023, specialised training was provided to older adults living in care homes on financial abuse and fraud. Separate training was provided to professionals working directly with older adults to be better informed on how to identify signs of abuse. Additionally, employees within care homes are always required to report any abuse they identify.

AWAS has its own assessment team which screens asylum seekers for vulnerability. As part of the assessment process, AWAS screens individuals for potential human trafficking, identifies victims of violence, and compiles a list of indicators. Assessments are voluntary and target undocumented migrants, but recently they have also included documented migrants who arrive in Malta by other means and register for asylum. AWAS has also established a central referral system through which the contact point receives referrals from any entity, NGO, AWAS internal services, or international organization that encounters a vulnerable person or individual in need, to identify their service needs. Assessments are conducted in reception centres, closed centres, and even with community-residing migrants. AWAS refers any individual it considers vulnerable to the appropriate services, including doctors for further assessment, psychological support, social workers, and legal aid to assist them in their asylum interview.

24. Full information to freely consent to medical procedures

As part of AS strategy to follow and implement the [UNCRPD Act](#) (Chapter 627), persons with disabilities and their support networks are provided with ongoing training and accessible information to ensure they recognise and advocate for their rights in all aspects of their lives, including their rights to family, relationships, sexual exploration and health, and the right to consent or refuse any procedure affecting their bodies. This information is provided according to the individual needs of each person or group, ensuring language accessibility and cultural sensitivity, through training, one-to-one support sessions, or support groups. AS is also working on outreach programmes for the communities and professionals within micro and macro networks of persons with disabilities to ensure common practice and awareness of their right to equal treatment and access to information.

As referred to in question 2, MIV, together with the Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality, presented a Bill to amend Article 251F of the Criminal Code, through [ACT No. X of 2024](#) to comprehensively ban enforced sterilization, with the only exception being in cases of medically necessary life-saving treatment. Emphasis was made on the importance of free and informed consent in line with the UNCRPD, particularly since forced sterilization disproportionately affects women with disabilities. Aggravated circumstances to one degree when fraud, false pretences and coercion are used to make the person consent have been introduced, in addition to already existing aggravating factors. As per Malta's Criminal Code (Amendment No.3) [ACT No. XXII of 2023](#), abortion is illegal unless the pregnant woman's life is at risk.

AWAS ensures the provision of ongoing sessions to inform women and girls about services. The health authorities typically deliver these sessions, as do FSWS and different NGOs that work directly with women, such as TAMA. These sessions cover a range of topics, including contraception and other reproductive health services. AWAS provides information in multiple languages and formats to ensure comprehension by women from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, material is tailored to make them accessible to women with disabilities. NGOs like TAMA offer free counselling and support groups, helping women understand their rights and the medical procedures available.

During the information sessions, NGOs also provide childcare services to ensure women can attend freely. Previous collaborations with organisations like the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) have focused on delivering information on sensitive issues, such as DV, within refugee and migrant communities. AWAS strives to deliver culturally sensitive information, respecting the backgrounds and specific needs of various ethnic and national groups. During such sessions, the women also receive detailed counselling about the procedures, including risks, benefits, and alternatives, to ensure they can make informed decisions. We provide interpreters and culturally competent counsellors to facilitate clear and accurate communication.

Intersex persons are protected by the [Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act](#) (Chapter 540) whereby any surgical intervention on the sex characteristics of a minor is prohibited until the minor is able to provide informed consent. A committee as indicated by the law has met and

a draft intersex medical protocol is at an advanced draft stage and awaiting endorsement and implementation in line with this Act.

General support services include crisis intervention services as well as those aimed at the recovery in the long-term. The CGBVDV together with other stakeholders continues to promote a holistic whole-family approach, intersectionality, accessibility, and mainstreaming of GBV and DV in various services targeting persons in vulnerable situations. This, and a commitment to implement the Istanbul Convention ensure that the well-being and rights of victims of GBV and DV are safeguarded.

Article 22: Specialist support services

25. Specialised support services

A. Shelters and/or other forms of safe accommodation

FSWS has continued to provide emergency shelter through Għabex in Malta for female victims of DV and GBV. In addition to this shelter, MPSC and FSWS hold several PSP agreements with NGOs who provide emergency and second-stage shelters for victims of DV and GBV. The PSPs are namely held with:

- The Good Shepard Sisters who run Dar Merħba Bik and Dar Santa Bakhita (emergency and second-stage shelter, respectively)
- Fondazzjoni Sebħ who run the second-stage shelter, Il-Milja
- Fondazzjoni Kenn u Tama who run the emergency shelter, Dar Emmaus in Gozo.

These shelters are open to victims of both GBV and DV, and the professionals and staff working within Għabex Emergency Shelter are highly trained in working with victims of such violence.

Services are not restricted to women with children. Gender-neutral victims are similarly catered for through a tailor-made agreement, which was negotiated in 2023 with the Association of the Friends of Thouret. The association supports and assists vulnerable persons, particularly those involved in prostitution, through their services at Dar Hosea.

Other shelters that cater for homeless persons are considered once safety issues are no longer present in the victim's life, and these also hold a PSP agreement with the said Ministry and FSWS – namely:

- Dar Tereza Spinelli,
- Dar Maria Dolores, and
- YMCA.

B. Medical support

MHA provides immediate medical support to victims of any form of GBV requiring medical assistance. FSWS holds an SOP with PHC allowing medical professionals to directly refer any victims of GBV and DV to the DVU. A similar protocol is being drafted with the Accident and Emergency Department at MDH. More detailed information regarding public health services was provided under question 20.

C. Short- and long-term psychological counselling

Victims of sexual violence are immediately referred to CVSA whereby VSM provides immediate psychological support in the short- and long term to victims who present at MDH. This specialised service is provided at no cost to users and includes counselling, psychotherapy, family therapy and psychiatric care. Through the extension of the PSP with MSPC, VSM is now able to provide these services to individuals aged 13 and above, in addition to adults.

CVSA supports individuals of any gender who have experienced sexual violence, whether the incident occurred recently or in the past, and regardless of whether it has been reported to the Police. In addition to directly assisting victims of sexual violence, CVSA extends its services to family members, friends, or bystanders who may be affected and require support.

General practitioners can refer victims of any forms of GBV to the Mental Health Services (MHS) within MHA for psychological counselling. MHS also runs the psychological services helpline, [1579](#).

Victims receiving support services from the DVS can access the psychological and psychotherapeutic services of the FSWS, run by the ACTS. The referral process was reviewed in the last year, which showed that the current practice is efficient and ensures that a victim receives such support services without additional delay. This service is accessible to victims of both GBV and DV.

Short- and long-term psychological counselling services of VSA are provided both in-house and through the outsourcing of such services. Whenever a service user gets in touch with VSA, either through the helpline 116 006, or via the internet or as a walk in, the service user is given the option to choose the type of support required. When accessing emotional support, the service user is presented with an intake assessment and a number of emotional support sessions. If the professional in charge considers further therapeutic support, the service user is referred for therapeutic sessions.

D. Trauma care

The provision of trauma care is given through both the DVU and Għabex Emergency Shelter within FSWS, as well as through other services provided by the Foundation, such as, psychological services, and health and mental health services, amongst others; and within shelter services involved in PSPs.

More specifically, with regards to victims of sexual violence, internal procedures within MDH and the agreement between MSPC and VSM ensures that those experiencing sexual abuse receive immediate psychological support. Further details on these measures and protocols have been outlined in previous questions, while more specific information on support to victims of sexual violence will be outlined in question 28.

E. Legal counselling

The provision of legal counselling is provided by LAM and VSA, and SOPs are held with both entities to facilitate the referral process for victims of GBV and DV that are being followed by the DVS. LAM provides legal services to victims, including victims of GBV and DV. As highlighted in question 1, LAM has recently set up two specialised panels to ensure more efficient and specialized service provision.

VSA provides legal advice free of charge to victims through its in-house lawyer and FSWS also has its own lawyer who also supports victims in Court (at their request) on a pro-bono basis. Services provided by CVSA also provides legal representation and legal information to individuals affected by sexual assault.

In addition to the above, victims are provided with other contacts of NGOs who run legal counselling, along with the contacts of the services provided by the State. The contacts can be found on a business card issued by CGBVDV which contains the numbers of all governmental and non-governmental services.

F. Outreach services

The multi-agency approach adopted throughout service provision, collaboration with NGOs and the various allocation of multi-agency professionals in different entities all serve as cross-sectoral outreach methods. Practical examples include DVS social workers present in the Malta Law Courts, CVSA social workers present at the Emergency Department, risk assessors present at the MPF Hubs, and MPF officials present at the VSA all serve as outreach to victims between entities. The MARAM also ensures that a cross-sectoral support system is available for victims with high-risk cases.

Other measures such as the “Beat the Silence” campaign by the CGBVDV and collaborators specifically aimed at reaching out to victims, bystanders and others to seek professional support services and to report abuse. CGBVDV published numerous posters containing a QR code which, when scanned, directs users to an online directory titled, [Collection of Services](#), on the CGBVDV website. These posters were distributed across the island including in supermarkets, grocery shops, bars, restaurants, local councils, churches, active ageing centres, private clinics, pharmacies, barber and salon shops, the GBDV Unit, the IMC and NGOs.

Outreach is also conducted through continuous media presence and awareness raising campaigns by the various entities and the voluntary sector too, as outlined throughout different sections of this report.

G. Telephone helpline

The Supportline 179, run by FSWS on a 24/7 basis, provides support to victims of GBV and DV, along with child victims of abuse. The operators of the Supportline 179 are highly trained in this area and receive both in-service and ongoing training on how to support victims. The operators receive supervision from senior and experienced social workers and have an on-call system so that they can consult with supervisors when necessary. The Supportline 179 also has a direct line with MPF to assist victims of such violence in a timely manner.

Furthermore, on the 1st of May 2023, the 116 006, a European-wide free helpline aimed at assisting victims of crime was launched in Malta. The service is run by the VSA as the agency responsible in supporting victims of crime, and victims of GBV and DV are also provided the necessary support through this helpline. The service is available from 07:30 to 19:30 daily.

H. Other forms of support

Victims of DV and GBV can access group programmes offered by the Intake and Family Support Services (IFSS) of Aġenzija Appoġġ, as well as other services delivered in the community by the ACTS. These services offer several group programmes, including budgeting and parenting groups. Additionally, VSA provides information to victims who have filed a Police report to ensure they are kept updated with developments.

Other forms of support beyond the immediate protection and support required in the initial stages of getting out of the cycle of abuse, include services for recovery in the long-term. Reference and further details in question 18 was specifically made to support provided by the HA and Jobsplus.

Jobsplus also offers more specific services which include career tests, mock interviews, CV building and the Outcome Star tool which focuses on the current state of the individuals and the milestones expected to reach following initiation of contact with Jobsplus. Jobsplus also organises activities, such as, *ad hoc* information sessions and developmental workshops to targeted audiences. These workshops/information sessions, which may be organised in collaboration with other entities, tackle different themes related to employment. The jobseeker advisory services are offered from the regional offices (5 in Malta and 1 in Gozo).

26. Specialist support service for children

Education is generally a first point of contact for all children in Malta and Gozo. The Education Psycho-Social Services within the NSSS seek to provide quality service by qualified personnel to clients within the educational system according to the specific needs of learners. Hence, students who are exposed to DV or GBV can benefit from counselling, psychotherapy, child safety service and assistance from guidance teachers. Child Safety Service (CSS) within the Safe Schools Programme: a specialized service working in the area of child abuse. It is an educational, coordinating, and therapeutic unit, offering

interventive and preventive services to students, parents and school staff. These professionals follow the [working practices between NSSS and the DVS within FSWS](#) published in the Collection of Services by CGBVDV to ensure seamless service provision.

The psycho-social team within SFCE, specifically social workers and therapeutic professionals, are offered regular professional development on DV. Our team of five educational psychologists is primarily focused on work related to inclusive education. Notwithstanding that the service capacity does not allow in-depth intervention with children, they still receive training. Hence, most of the work with child victims of DV or other forms of GBV is carried out by the therapeutic team (counsellors, psychotherapists and play therapists). This team is also stretched thin considering the increase in students struggling with mental health issues.

Recently, SFCE has signed a collaboration agreement with Moviment Cana for subsidised counselling services for both students and parents, which has a multidisciplinary psycho-social team of professionals. Following an initial interview and further information from the school, an appropriate professional to follow the client is identified. Throughout the intervention, there is regular collaboration, possibly involving a joint care plan between Moviment Cana and the respective school.

FSWS provides specialist support services to children who have been exposed to DV through the Directorate for CPS and the ACTS. The latter provides therapeutic and psychological interventions to children through specialised psychological teams, which also include Home-Based Therapy Services, Family Therapy services and individual therapeutic services. The DVS works collaboratively with the above-mentioned services and referrals are based on their support needs. The Directorate for CPS also operates the Children's House, for which information is provided in question 35.

Emotional support services and legal services provided by VSA, together with other relevant stakeholders, have worked towards promoting child-friendly reporting mechanisms and services for child victims.

27. Specialist support services for migrant or national or ethnic minority women

On 2 May 2024, the IPA launched an updated Country Information and Guidance Note regarding the examination of applications for international protection lodged by Syrian nationals, by which it adopted the EUAA Country Guidance: Syria of 15/04/2024. The latter contains guidance notes regarding the assessment of international protection needs of, inter alia, Syrian women/girls facing gender-based/politically motivated violence, forced/child marriage, and violence based on divorced/widowed status in Syria. Meanwhile, the Agency continued to implement its supplementary policy, launched on 7 August 2023 and updated in July 2024, regarding the assessment of international protection needs of Syrian women/girls vis-à-vis sexual violence of an arbitrary nature in Syria.

MDH provides general services that cater for all individuals in need of medical assistance, without specific focus on migrant women and girls. However, translation phone services are available within

the hospital to facilitate access for persons with linguistic barriers. Moreover, there is a specific antenatal clinic that addresses the needs of migrant women. At PHC level, registered migrants are given medical attention free of charge. Migrant centres also have their own dedicated medical services.

AWAS works closely with different entities that assist victims of violence to ensure support which includes legal aid, psychological counselling, safe housing, and assistance with integration into the community. Similarly, the DVS within FSWS works closely with other government entities and NGOs that specialise in working with migrant communities, especially with migrant women. These include AWAS, JRS, UNHCR, Aditus Foundation, and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Malta.

CFC collaborates with the various entities and NGOs, where necessary, to push forward changes for improvement but CFC does not actually provide services.

Malta recognizes its obligations towards providing general and specialist support services to victims of all forms of GBV and DV. While recognizing that change and improvements are always possible, all entities providing services in the sector work collaboratively towards identifying and addressing gaps in services and strive for advancement in the sector.

Article 25: Support to victims of sexual violence

28. Available services

- A. Sexual violence referral centres*
- B. Rape crisis centres*

In Malta, there is currently one sexual violence crisis/ referral centre which operates within the Emergency Department at MDH. This service provides specialized support services, medical care as well as forensic examinations. Presently, medical care and forensic examinations are conducted at MDH within the Emergency or Gynaecology Departments. Regrettably, there is currently no specific area designated for victims of sexual violence, however, in the short-to-medium term, two rooms within the current footprint of the Emergency Department have been identified and will be prioritised for the care of victims of sexual assault. Moreover, these rooms are being equipped to be utilised for this purpose. In the longer term, the planned new footprint of the enlarged Emergency Department includes a room dedicated to cases of sexual violence. Furthermore, victims of sexual violence are provided with the Morning After Pill (MAP) and the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) medication to protect victims against Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) following sexual assault. These medications are prescribed even if the patient does not wish to submit a police report.

A training plan has been formulated for clinical staff across the different departments involved in the care of victims of sexual assault aimed at addressing identified lacunae in knowledge and skills in this area. Training is already being delivered and MHA is liaising with the training coordinators of the different specialities further develop training initiatives.

However, VSM provides comprehensive crisis intervention services to victims of sexual violence through the CVSA programme, supported by MHA through a PSP.

The crisis intervention service includes the following:

1. Explaining the medical examination process.
2. Obtaining the victim's consent for medical and legal procedures.
3. Clarifying the implications and process of reporting the incident to help the victim make an informed decision.
4. Prioritizing the dignity of the victim.
5. Ensuring proper adherence to procedures.
6. Providing emotional support and guidance throughout the process.
7. Supplying clothing and essentials if forensics have taken the victim's items.
8. Assisting with shelter or transportation if needed.

These services aim to provide comprehensive support to victims of sexual violence and ensure that their immediate needs are met with compassion and professionalism.

C. Specialised services offering short-term and/long-term medical, forensic and psychosocial support to victims of sexual violence

As outlined in the previous question, one sexual violence crisis/ referral centre, which provides sexual assault services, is available and operates within the Emergency Department at MDH, which is the main acute hospital in Malta. Psychosocial support services are available on a 24/7 basis through the CVSA.

Furthermore, the third [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023–2028\)](#) includes an action that specifically seeks to “explore the possibility of having in place the legislative framework that allows for medical evidence to be lifted from victims of sexual violence should they so wish whenever they seek medical assistance, regardless of whether they have filed a report with the police”.

29. Number of women and girls supported annually

The number of clients supported by the CVSA programme is provided below:

- In 2020, CVSA had 42 new client referrals.
- In 2021, CVSA supported 122 clients (total servicing all genders and clients from previous years) and 77 out of 122 were new referrals.
- In 2022, CVSA supported 115 (total servicing all genders and clients from previous years) and 68 out of 115 were new referrals. Out of 68, 61 were females.
- In 2023, CVSA had 61 new cases, comprising both females and males who sought assistance from the CVSA service.
- 2024 – to date 114 clients were supported (total servicing all genders and clients from previous years) and 50 out of 114 were new referrals.

30. Procedures and time frames for collecting and storing forensic evidence in cases of sexual violence

Procedures undertaken in collecting forensic evidence are governed by empathy and professionalism. The Sexual Assault Pathway outlines procedures for collaboration with other professionals involved in the management of patients of alleged sexual violence, including the police officials and forensic experts.

In almost all sexual offences requiring a forensic examination, following the filing of a Police report, a Magisterial inquiry would be launched, and it is up to the inquiring Magistrate to co-ordinate the procedures related to the collection and storing of forensic evidence with the assistance of court-appointed experts.

31. Applicable access criteria for use of services

There are no access barriers for persons who have experienced or been exposed to sexual violence to make use of such services in cases where emergency medical care is required. They are offered care irrespective of affiliation with national health insurance, [residence status](#) or prior reporting to the MPF. In cases involving minors who have experienced sexual violence, healthcare professionals follow the Child Protection Guideline which details pathways and procedures to be followed.

The CVSA service provided by VSM is accessible to individuals aged 13 or above and includes the provision of free therapeutic support, psychiatric sessions and legal consultation and representation as required. Moreover, FSWS offers therapeutic services to the entire family through family therapy, including minors under the age of 13 and their family, and CPS would be informed in accordance with the Child Protection Guidelines.

Support services in relation to sexual violence continued to improve since the previous GREVIO report, in line with the recommendations presented and towards the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. A strong collaboration between governmental entities and non-governmental organisations and a multi-agency approach are evident; and a vision and commitment to further

enhance protocols and procedures is held between the various stakeholders in view of the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#).

Article 31: Custody, visitation rights and safety

32. National law and custody and visitation rights of children

A. Explicitly list DV as a criterion to be taken into account in decisions

Over the past year, MJR and CSA have been working on the reform of the Family Court. The first round of recommendations in this reform focuses on the matters related to Family Civil Court which include custody and visitations rights. Currently there is no legislation or other document that specifies that the Court has to take DV into account when deciding custody or visitation rights in cases involving DV. In the determining of custody and visitation rights, DV is taken into consideration in the assessment carried out by FSWS in conjunction with other significant factors.

B. Acknowledge the harm that witnessing violence by one parent against the other has on the child

In 2023, CGBVDV presented the findings of the [Safety in Childhood: A Prevalence Study of Childhood Abuse Experiences in Malta](#) research study in a national conference organized by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Reforms and Equality and CGBVDV. The Department of Child and Family Studies within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing was commissioned by CGBVDV to conduct the first local study on the prevalence rate of childhood abuse experiences with the aim of formulating informed policies addressing children witnessing violence. A representative sample of 433 participants aged between 18 to 24 years responded to a quantitative retrospective survey on experiences of DV, maltreatment, peer and sibling violence, sexual violence, and neglect during their childhood. The findings revealed that the most prevalent forms of abuse experienced during childhood were peer and sibling victimization (75.3%), child maltreatment (61.4%) and children witnessing/exposed to DV (52%). Additionally, this study indicates that children who experience one form of violence are at risk of experiencing other forms of violence, with 70.2% of respondents reporting experiences of two forms of abuse or more. Following the presentation of the findings, the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights and the Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality emphasized the significance of collective action across stakeholders to prioritize policy development and implementation, informed by this research study, to tackle experiences of childhood abuse experiences in Malta effectively.

Findings emanating from this research study motivated measures in the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) and informed the ongoing Family Court Reform. With regards to the strategy, specific actions focus on addressing issues in relation to parental consent

for access of children’s services, and the provision of support services and awareness raising efforts to target adults who have witnessed DV between their parents as children in an effort to break the cycle of violence. Strengthening court orders, including those in relation to supervision during access arrangements in cases of DV, and identifying any additional barriers to recognizing child witnesses as victims shall also be identified.

C. Ensure that custody with the non-violent parent is preferred over foster-care

The Directorate for CPS works under the authority of the [Minors Protection \(Alternative Care\) Act](#) (Chapter 602) which indicates that relatives are the preferred option when this is viable. This ensures the safeguarding of the best interest of the child. Hence, if the non-violent parent is a viable parent, the possibility of a placement with this parent is always explored and prioritized. In Family Court assessments, professionals put forward recommendations to the Family Court in the best interest of the minors after having investigated and assessed the case.

D. Foresee the screening of civil proceedings related to the determination of custody or visitation rights for a history of DV among the parties

A history of DV is taken into account in civil assessments and investigations. Maltese Law stipulates that DV cases filed before the Family Court might not go through the compulsory mediation process. In the proposed reform, MJR and CSA are recommending that all cases of DV should not go through mediation and are fast-tracked to the Family Court.

E. Foresee that judges conduct risk assessments or request the disclosure of risk assessments for victims of DV

Through the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#), CGBVDV together with the relevant stakeholders, is committed to providing training opportunities to the judiciary on the role of risk assessments in breaking the cycle of violence as well as promoting their use as a form of evidence in court.

The proposed recommendations under the reform also address the necessary structures and resources required towards the setting-up of a support system that includes professionals from the psycho-social field, in order to carry out risk assessments and evaluations on all families filing before the Family Court. The intention is to ensure that all parties receive the adequate attention throughout the judicial process and that, if there are previously unknown cases of violence, they are immediately brought to the attention of the Court.

33. *Measures in place to ensure judges, court-appointed experts and other legal professionals:*

- A. *Have sufficient knowledge of the law and understanding of the dynamics of IPV, including psychological impact of witnessing violence as a child*

Reference to training provided and foreseen for the judiciary and other professionals involved in the justice process, particularly through the TEMI Digital Justice Platform and the multi-agency training, has been highlighted in question 11. Through the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#), CGBVDV commits to providing training opportunities to judges, legal professionals and law enforcement on the prosecution of several forms of violence, including psychological violence, stalking, sexual violence and economic violence based on the national legislative framework.

Within the Family Court Reform, considerable emphasis is being placed on the training of professionals in matters related to DV, shared parenting and other aspects that impinge on the well-being of the parties. In addition, the judges receive ongoing training by the Judicial Studies Committee in all matters relating to the specifics of their remit.

- B. *Duly take into account victims' grievances in cases of DV and hear children/witnesses*

To further strengthen the protection and support of victims of DV, Malta's [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#), highlights the regular collection of data and the carrying out of research, including from a victim's perspective, on the effectiveness of measures in place to avoid repeat victimisation through the justice system. This action is complemented by ensuring that risk assessors, the Police and the Courts implement the necessary measures to minimise the risk of secondary victimisation during judicial proceedings.

The Courts already have procedures in place which allow child victims/witnesses of DV to be heard in a safe and secure environment. Currently, the main venue being used is located within the Law Courts in Valletta, but the Children's House in St Venera is also sometimes used. Within the proposed Family Court Reform, some of the key recommendations address the rights of children to be legally represented separately from the legal representatives of the parents. It is being recommended that in the determination of custody and visitation rights, such sensitive cases will not only be aided by a legal professional but by a team of legal and psycho-social professionals who would be able to assist the Court with its decision.

- C. *Are informed of the unfoundedness of notions of "parental alienation"*

The [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) includes a measure on the exploration of good practices to protect victims and child witnesses of GBV and DV from perpetrators who use false notions of parental alienation to continue to exert power and control. Coordinated discussions with relevant entities and NGOs are underway.

34. Procedures to ensure that court for family-related issues cooperate with other relevant bodies

Presently communication between civil courts and criminal courts dealing with family issues are managed through the issuing of court decrees, orders or judgements. No legal framework is in place to oblige the registrar to inform one court to another unless it is communicated through a decree specifying such. Since the case pertains to the parties, as it stands today, they have to inform the respective courts in front of whom they are appearing with regards to any decrees being issued by the court. This shall be addressed by the proposed CMIS in accordance with action 3.2(a) of the third [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#).

35. Procedures, in the exercise of custody and visitation rights, to:

A. Eliminate the risk for the abused parent to be subjected to further violence

Whenever necessary, CPS makes recommendations for Treatment Orders and/or Removal Orders as authorised through Chapter 602 of the Laws of Malta.

The competence of CSA lies when there is a decree or order of the Court requesting the protection of any party to violence. CSA is solely responsible for the execution of orders by the Court. Additionally, CSA is an active participant within the reform group and within this sphere, it is envisaged that specific procedures will be drafted so that all Courts operate in a unified manner when dealing with victims of DV.

B. Eliminate the risk for the child to witness or experience violence

In cases where children may be at risk of witnessing or experiencing violence, FSWS ensure that SAVs ordered by the Court are carried out at the premises of Aġenzija Appoġġ, where a police officer is allocated to ensure the children's safety during visitation.

The Children's House, which also forms part of the Directorate for CPS, is a child-appropriate setting where judicial investigations of violence involving minors as victims or witnesses may be conducted. The Children's House was set up for Malta to be in line with the Lanzarote Convention and FSWS staff has received the relevant and appropriate training. This supports the judicial system by making it more

child-friendly, whilst providing a safe space where children may receive the support they need and safeguard them against secondary victimisation, without jeopardising justice.

C. Ensure that responsible personnel are trained and that facilities are suited to enable safe supervised visitation

Staff responsible for SAVs is regularly trained. In addition, when there is a known risk, SAVs are carried out at the Aġenzija Appoġġ premises where a police officer is always present.

SAVs fall under the remit of the Directorate for Alternative Care (DAC). Nonetheless, when an order is issued, and CPS are providing SAVs, it is ensured that a safe environment is provided for the minor to meet his/her parent/s in a supervised but supportive environment where the workers focus on rebuilding the relationship and coaching parents to enhance their parenting skills. Such sessions are carried out in a safe, child-friendly environment.

36. National provisions and withdrawal of parental rights in criminal sentences

In Family Court assessments, once again following a thorough assessment, there have been recommendations put forward to the Honourable Court recommending the change in custody from one parent to the other, in the best interest of the child. In such situations, it is ultimately the Court which decides on whether to accept these recommendations or not. There have been situations which called for the withdrawal of care and custody following a thorough assessment which deemed this to be in the best interest of the child.

Article 31 (Custody, visitation rights and safety) focuses on the well-being and rights of children as victims and witnesses of GBV and DV, while ensuring that victims are not revictimized through imposed obligations related to the parental rights of perpetrators. Since its previous GREVIO report, Malta has enhanced its focus on the role and rights of children in situations of GBV and DV; and aim to continue to address any lacunae through the implementation of the [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) and the proposed Family Court Reform.

Article 48: Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing

Criminal law:

37. Measures to ensure mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes are prohibited in criminal cases

According to national law, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are not related to criminal proceedings. On the other hand, in civil proceedings, mediation is compulsory. However, as explained in question 32, it is being recommended through the Family Court Reform that known cases of DV do not go through mediation and are brought before the Family Court immediately.

38. Safeguards incorporated to ensure the free and informed consent of the victim

As outlined in question 37, there are no alternative dispute resolution mechanisms related to criminal offences.

Civil law:

39. Measures to ensure that alternative dispute resolution processes are not used in family law proceedings where there is a history of violence

In Malta, mediation is compulsory in Family Court proceedings. Presently, if an application is filed during mediation whereby it is highlighted that there is a case of DV, the Court can, if it determines that there is DV, issue a decree to acquiesce that the mediation is closed and to proceed with the case. Within the proposed Family Court Reform, it is recommended that such cases do not go to mediation but are heard directly by the Courts. Upon filing of a case before the Family Court, and even before mediation starts, the parties must submit testimonials or proof that this is a DV case in order to ensure that the case is fast-tracked to the Court. In cases where the mediator becomes cognisant of the abuse during the mediation process, it is recommended that the mediation is stalled, and the case is referred for assessment. To this end, the provision of psycho-social professionals is being studied to ensure an adequate provision of this service. The predominant objective of these recommendations is to ensure that victims of DV are not made to go through the mediation process.

At this stage, these are still recommendations that still must undergo the scrutiny of a public consultation process that should be concluded by the end of 2024. However, there is the commitment to review and implement the necessary changes.

Article 49 and 50: General obligations and immediate response, prevention and protection

40. Human, financial and technical resources provided to law enforcement agencies

MPF have already opened the Santa Luċija Hub as well as initiated the establishment of a specialized hub focused on addressing DV and another hub is scheduled to open next year. MPF aims to have the necessary expertise and resources in these units, ensuring a prompt and coordinated response to all reported cases of violence. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders and community organisations will be pivotal to its effectiveness in providing comprehensive support to victims and ensuring accountability for perpetrators.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced in Gozo, MPF is implementing innovative measures to remove barriers to the reporting of VAW. These efforts include improving access to support services, expanding outreach initiatives, and establishing community partnerships aimed at fostering trust and confidence among potential victims. In collaboration with local authorities, MPF is in the process of identifying officers dedicated to handling DV cases. Moreover, a dedicated facility away from the traditional police station will be established to provide a more supportive environment for victims reporting abuse.

MPF has approximately 60 officers within its GBDVU, who are focused on GBV report taking, investigations and prosecutions.

Additionally, the MPF's VSU is located at the VSA premises, which enables the VSA to assist victims in filing Police reports and provide legal assistance in connection with written complaints to the police, known as *kwereli*.

41. Measures to ensure the premises of police stations are accessible and suitable for interviewing

To enhance the accessibility and suitability of receiving and interviewing victims of violence, MPF has established and is working on opening further specialized GBDV hubs as previously mentioned throughout this report. These hubs are designed with dedicated facilities to ensure privacy and provide a supportive environment for victims. They are equipped to handle sensitive cases with the utmost respect and confidentiality. In addition, persons wishing to file a police report may also do so remotely through the [Online Police Reporting System](#) (OPRES).

42. Specialist police/prosecution units to investigate and prosecute VAW:

A. Which forms of VAW they are competent for;

Recognizing the critical need for specialized police prosecution, MPF has undertaken significant steps to strengthen its response by establishing the GBDV Unit, investing in training and enhancing case management by assigning two Police Inspectors to prosecute all cases of GBV and DV before a team of specialized Magistrates. This approach allows for greater familiarity with the dynamics involving victims and perpetrators, facilitates better evaluation of case history, and promotes consistency in judicial decisions. MPF is also committed to ongoing collaboration with stakeholders and continuous improvement in our efforts to combat VAW and uphold justice in Malta. Additionally, the GBDV Unit collaborates closely with other units within MPF for their expertise depending on the form of violence, for example the Vulnerable Victims Unit, Cyber Crime Unit and the Major Crime Unit.

The AG is competent to prosecute the below forms of VAW:

- Traffic of a person of age for the purpose of exploitation in the production of goods or provision of services,
- Sexual offences,
- Crimes relating to the reciprocal duties of the members of a family,
- Threats, private violence and harassment,
- Wilful offences against the person,
- Involuntary homicide or bodily harm.

B. Whether such units exist in all police/prosecution districts throughout the country

MPF has established specialized units to investigate and prosecute all cases of GBV and DV, operating within the designated Hubs. In accordance with the MPF's SOP on GBV and DV, access to these Hubs is provided should a victim report to a local police station and wish to be transported to one of the centres.

The Prosecution Unit with the AG is specialised according to the type of offence. Thus, there is a specialized unit within the Office that deals with the prosecution of crimes related to VAW.

43. Measures to ensure swift investigation into and effective prosecution of cases of VAW and DV

To ensure swift and effective investigation and prosecution of VAW and DV cases, MPF has implemented prioritization measures including fast-tracking procedures and dedicated investigating inspectors. These initiatives aim to streamline the process while maintaining standards for carefulness and accuracy in investigations and prosecutions.

As the prosecuting body, the AG coordinates with MPF as the investigative body. This coordination is in line with the SOP entered into by both entities to ensure swifter and focused investigations, together with effective and robust prosecutions. Both the AG and MPF have specialized officers

dealing with these types of offences who receive continuous training in this area of law. One of the primary methods in ensuring the swift prosecution of cases of VAW and DV is the risk assessment of victims. Furthermore, this coordination is important to ensure that the investigation is thorough, whilst overseeing that it does not go into unnecessary details to avoid any undue delays. The same principle is applied once prosecution commences. Witnesses and evidence are all produced in a timely manner to avoid any unnecessary delays.

44. Measures to encourage women and girls to report incidence of violence to the authorities

Measures to encourage reporting of cases of violence include also mentoring, procedural assistance, and specialized training for professionals to address the needs of migrant women, asylum-seekers, women with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.

Outreach initiatives and awareness raising campaigns previously highlighted also aimed at building trust in governmental entities. The 'Beat the Silence' campaign focused on empowering and encouraging women and girls who may be experiencing any form of GBV or DV, their support networks and bystanders to report. Additionally, the establishment of a dedicated GBDVU has helped to build trust and confidence in the MPF. These collective efforts between various stakeholders, aim to overcome barriers and ensure that all women and girls can report incidents of violence safely and effectively. VSA, for instance, provides an accompaniment service to assist victims who wish to file a police report.

45. Protocols/SOPs or guidelines for police officers

MPF has an internal SOP in place which governs the operation of the GBDVU particularly when dealing with cases of sexual violence, DV, psychological violence, stalking and sexual harassment. Violations of protection orders have to be reported by the victims themselves and procedures adopted in relation to such violations are governed by the SOP.

Moreover, police officers are equipped with body cams to strengthen the collection of evidence when they are called on location to further support the victim's testimony.

46. Efforts taken to identify and address all factors that contribute to attrition

Under Article 55 of the [Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act](#) (Chapter 581), it is held that the investigation and prosecution of such offences may continue even if the victim withdraws his/her statement or complaint. This ensures that justice is served when such a crime is committed.

MPF strives to assist victims in taking their cases to justice, but it is important to note that the law allows victims to request a stay of proceedings if they choose. Despite this provision, MPF particularly through the VSU, remain committed to providing comprehensive support to ensure that victims are informed and empowered throughout the process.

47. Legislative or other measures to issue a renewable residence permit to migrant women who are victims of violence

Currently, the Maltese Immigration Act is being revisited and it is being proposed that such provisions are statutorily provided for in the said legal instrument. Such amendments to national legislation and administrative procedures aim to avoid any impediments to migrant victims from leaving violent relationships due to the fear of deportation, loss of legal status or revoked custody of children have been included as a measure in Malta's [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#).

Law enforcement authorities have specifically invested in their personnel and structures to improve services in the field of GBV and DV. This is reflected in the increased trust in entities such as the MPF, as more victims of GBV and DV choose to report incidents of violence and abuse, as shown in Part IV (Administrative data and statistics) of this report.

Article 51: Risk assessment and risk management

48. Standardised and mandatory risk assessment tools and red flags

With the change in the legislation that came into effect in mid-2018, the DVU started making use of the DASH Risk Assessment Tool with all victims to assess the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation, and the risk of repeated violence with the aim to prevent further violence. The same Risk Assessment Tool was used by the DV Risk Assessment Service when it started operating in January 2019.

In July 2024, the risk assessment tool used with all victims reporting GBV and DV was changed to the DA tool. Again, this risk assessment tool assesses the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation, and the risk of repeated violence with the aim to prevent further violence.

The [Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act](#) (Chapter 581) mandates that all persons reporting acts of GBV and DV to the Police are to have a risk assessment carried out, which is carried out by the DV Risk Assessment Service of Aġenzija Appoġġ within FSWS. This however is subject to the victim's consent to do the risk assessment.

A. The possession or access to firearms by the perpetrator

The possession of or access to firearms by perpetrators is considered as a red flag when carrying out the risk assessment.

B. The filing for separation/divorce by the victim or the break-up of the relationship

The filing for separation/divorce by the victim or the break-up of the relationship are considered as red flags when carrying out the risk assessment.

C. Pregnancy

Pregnancy is considered to be a red flag when carrying out the risk assessment.

D. Previous acts of violence

Previous acts of violence are considered as red flags when carrying out the risk assessment.

E. The prior issue of a restrictive measure

The prior issue of a restrictive measure is considered to be a red flag when carrying out the risk assessment.

F. Threats made by the perpetrator to take away common children

Threats made by the perpetrator to take away common children are considered as red flags when carrying out the risk assessment.

G. Acts of sexual violence

Acts of sexual violence are considered red flags when carrying out the risk assessment.

H. Threats to kill the victim and her children

Threats to kill the victim and her children are considered as red flags when carrying out the risk assessment.

I. Threat of suicide

Threats of suicide are considered red flags when carrying out the risk assessment.

J. Coercive and controlling behaviour

Coercive and controlling behaviour are considered to be red flags when carrying out the risk assessment.

49. Effective cooperation between statutory authorities and specialist women's support services in risk assessments

As indicated in earlier sections of this report, the DV Risk Assessment Service is run by FSWS within the two premises of the GBDV Police Hubs to ensure that there is timely and effective cooperation in the best interest of the victim. The Risk Assessment team provides immediate intervention by carrying out risk assessments and formulating safety plans, which include the identification of appropriate and safe shelter for victims who need it. All victims who undergo a risk assessment are offered the possibility of being followed by the DVU of Aġenzija Appoġġ. Should the victim consent, immediate support is provided by the DVU intake team. Additionally, the DV Risk Assessment Service refers children it assesses to be at risk as a result of being exposed to DV and GBV to the Directorate for CPS. All victims whose risk assessment results in high-risk are referred to the MARAM. Regularly scheduled meetings ensure that all relevant parties are present and actively participate in discussions and safety planning of individual cases based on the information gathered from the risk assessment. The entities involved include CPS, DVS, Aġenzija Sedqa, MPF, FSWS Gozo, DPP, VSA, MHA and NSSS which are responsible for collecting and presenting comprehensive information on the victim, perpetrator, and children for all cases referred to MARAM. This comprehensive view helps in accurately assessing the level of risk. Other entities, apart from the DVS, may also refer cases to MARAM.

Based on the information shared during the MARAM, the Chairperson, MARAM coordinators and all DMOs develop a coordinated action plan tailored to the individual needs and safety of the victim and their children. This often includes safety planning and support services. MPF typically provides comprehensive information, including details on access to weapons (registered, confiscated, or

otherwise), the date of the Court hearing, the perpetrator's history of offences (beyond DV), and details of charges issued or pending according to the latest DV report. If the Chairperson deems a victim to be at extreme high-risk, these cases are flagged to the Court so that they are prioritised, enhancing the victim and children's safety.

CPS provide comprehensive feedback from the social worker assigned to each referred case. This includes detailed information on the status and safety of the minors involved. Information is also provided on whether CPS are aware of the minors involved or if they are currently being followed by a social worker. Detailed assessments of the minors' safety, including any protective measures in place, are shared with the multi-agency team. Continuous collaboration with CPS ensures that any changes in the children's situation are promptly addressed.

Apart from CPS, DMOs from NSSS also provide information on victim's children who have been referred to MARAM. Schools provide detailed information about the children's attendance, progress, and any concerns related to their well-being. NSSS also provides information from the school counsellor in relation to cases being followed by this service.

When perpetrators of DV or GBV are referred to DPP, if the order enables the probation officer to make contact with the victim, the officer always informs the victim of the victim support services available.

Continuous training is provided to the MARAM entities and training was also delivered by the MARAM administration to other professionals who are not part of the MARAM, including NGOs. A confidentiality agreement is signed at the start of every MARAM, to make sure that all information disclosed is kept confidential. The MARAM administration uses the media platform to promote the MARAM and explain its functionality to the public. Currently, legislative amendments are in progress.

50. Analysis of cases of gender-based killings of women

MPF conducts analysis of previous cases of gender-based killings to identify systemic gaps in institutional responses. This process involves reviewing case files and evaluating investigations in order to implement improvements to prevent future occurrences and enhance MPF's response to VAW.

Furthermore, following the femicide of Bernice Cassar née Cilia in 2022, the Maltese Government appointed retired Judge Geoffrey Valenzia to conduct an Independent Inquiry investigating systematic inefficiencies related to the femicide. The report illustrated the lack of resources in the field of GBV and DV and increased workload mainly, in courts, the police force and social work. The inquiry highly recommended amending the legal definition of the family and domestic unit in line with the Istanbul Convention to enable the Police and Courts to dedicate specialised focused and immediate action for victims of GBV and DV and to reduce the backlog of GBV and DV cases. The Government has been working on implementing several recommendations that arose from the inquiry report, many of which have been reported throughout this document.

The femicide of Ms Nicolette Ghirxi by her ex-partner, who was later shot dead by the police, in August 2024, is also being investigated through an independent inquiry led by retired Judge Lawrence Quiantano and an independent police review board led by retired Judge Geoffrey Valenzia.

Femicide is the worst form of GBV and DV. Malta is committed to continue working towards preventing femicide, but more importantly, preventing all forms of GBV and DV to avoid escalations resulting in women dying at the hands of their perpetrators. Legal and procedural changes are reflected above, however the analysis of every femicide and continuous evaluation of services and policies enable stakeholders to strengthen collaborative efforts against GBV and DV.

Article 52: Emergency barring orders

51. Legislative or other measures governing emergency barring orders

52. Measures to enforce and respond to violations of such orders

While Chapter 581 includes Emergency Barring Orders (EBOs) as means of protection for victims of GBV and DV, EBOs have not yet been included as part of the [Criminal Code](#) (Chapter 9) of the Laws of Malta. Therefore, law enforcers have not been granted the authority to issue EBOs.

Malta is aware of its obligation to the Istanbul Convention and is also in the process of transposing the Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

As part of its efforts to ensure that EBOs are part of Malta's criminal law and that the competent authorities are granted such powers; CGBVDV, MJR and MPF, as part of the Family Court Reform, will be holding discussions in the near future to ensure that improvements are made at the procedural, operational and legislative level in respect of emergency barring orders and that they are consensually agreed upon between all stakeholders.

Furthermore, as mentioned in question 16, Malta's third [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) includes reference to an action plan which focuses on the implementation of a centralised system whereby court orders are registered to be immediately available for law enforcement for better monitoring and sanctions to be imposed in the shortest timeframe possible.

Article 53: Restraining or protection orders

53. Legislative or other measures governing restraining and protection orders

Discussions to further strengthen measures related to restraining and protection orders will take place within the second phase of the Family Court reform.

If yes, please specify whether:

A. Restraining or protection orders are available

The [Criminal Code](#) provides for two types of protection orders, namely the protection order (Article 412) and the temporary protection order (Article 540A). Article 412C of the Criminal Code stipulates the way that protection orders are issued in Malta. The same Article specifies that the Courts are responsible to issue protection orders after due consideration of a number of risks relating to the victims, and the accused. Sections 5, 7 and 8 of Article 412C, relate to the restrictions and prohibitions that the Court may deem fit given the circumstances of the case. Restraining Orders are government by Article 382A and Treatment Orders by Article 412D.

Once issued, the Courts are to immediately liaise with MPF to ensure the monitoring of the protection order and its related barring conditions. The temporary protection order (Article 540A of the Criminal Code) procedure is initiated by the executive police once they receive information or a report on the alleged abuse. A risk assessment is immediately carried out by professionals as mentioned in more detail in questions pertaining to Article 51 (Risk Assessment and Risk Management), and if it results that there are persons at risk of harm, the Police will notify the duty magistrate and initiate the procedures for the temporary protection order. A temporary protection order is issued by the Courts within 8 hours from application and this remains in force for 30 days or until the date of the first sitting, whichever comes first.

Discussions to further strengthen measures related to restraining and protection orders will take place within the second phase of the Family Court Reform.

B. Children are specifically included in protection orders

C. Any exceptions to contact bans are made and, if so, in which circumstances these may be made

The legislative tools mentioned in answer to question 53A are used by the executive police and the courts in cases of domestic violence, to protect the victims of abuse from the alleged perpetrator at different stages of the judicial process. The law also stipulates that in issuing TPOs, Pos and Restraining Orders, the courts need to take cognisance of the protection of the vulnerable people, including children, and any risk assessment that has been carried out. However, in cases of Pos, the courts also need to take into consideration the accommodation needs of all the persons being affected by this order, including those of the alleged/ perpetrator.

Whilst these legislative structures make it possible for the police and the courts to protect vulnerable victims of DV, a review of the whole system surrounding the processes involved in issuing these orders

will be undertaken as part of the second phase of the Family Court Reform. A thorough analysis will require the Reform Working Group to go beyond the legislative tools and work with different stakeholders in order to ensure a safe and efficient justice journey to victims of DV.

54. Measures to enforce and respond to violations of such orders

When protection orders are breached, immediate action is taken by the prosecuting officer to address the violation and enforce the legal consequences. This ensures swift and effective responses to safeguarding victims and uphold the integrity of protection orders. A probation officer supervising an offender who is also subject to the restrictions of a protection order, explains the importance of the protection order and the potential repercussions of a breach.

The Maltese Authorities are committed to introducing electronic tagging and panic alarms to further safeguard victims of DV. This is reflected in [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) whereby these measures will be used to monitor breaches of bail conditions, protection orders, restraining orders and temporary protection orders issued, in addition and complimenting the proposed CMIS.

Through interministerial discussions and the various planned initiatives, the Family Court Reform and as established in the Third National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, Malta is committed to strengthen provisions in relation to EBOs, POs, TPOs and ROs.

Article 56: Measures of protection

55. Measures to ensure:

- A. The relevant state agency informs the victim when the perpetrator escapes or is released temporarily*

VSA is responsible for the provision of this service and informs the victim when their perpetrator is no longer in custody. VSA has an established mechanism with CSA known as Early Date of Release from Custody. The scope of this exercise is to inform victims about the date of release from custody of their former perpetrator. The aim is to reduce the risk of secondary victimisation or imminent danger. When such information is given to professionals working with the DVS of FSWS, they communicate with the victims who are being followed by this service.

To date, there have been no cases wherein the perpetrator may have escaped or released on temporary basis. However, if such a case were to occur, there is the faculty by which VSA is informed and contacts the victim.

B. The protection of the privacy and the image of the victim

Maltese entities are regulated under the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. This ensures that consent is required from service users and victim confidentiality throughout interventions and record keeping.

C. The possibility for victims to testify in the courtroom without being present or at least without the presence of the allegedly perpetrator

Facilities for teleconferencing and video conferencing and the Children's House, described in question 35, are all facilities available to protect the victims, including children, from revictimization. The decision for the victim to testify by using these facilities lies with the Court following a request made by a lawyer.

VSA, together with the Police and the Judiciary, have coordinated specific court witnessing using online video conferencing in special cases and without the presence of the alleged perpetrator. However, this is still not the norm and VSA supports the idea to extend this methodology in support of victims. Furthermore, VSA offers its premises for victims to testify via video conferencing and recently proposed legislative amendments, which were accepted and incorporated in the [Criminal Code](#) (Chapter 9), to enable victims to be able to even tender their evidence outside of Court building.

Additional support is provided by the DVS whereby victims who need to attend court sittings and are at high risk are supported by an accompanying professional to court, as well as pays for the accompaniment of a police officer, to further ensure their safety.

D. The provision of appropriate support services for victims so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account

As National Contact Point for Victims of Crime, VSA has been entrusted with two primary objectives (a) to advocate in support of victims' rights and (b) to assist and offer support services to victims. More recently, VSA published an Internal Corporate Strategy (2024-2027) wherein the objectives of the Agency are divided under three main pillars – Prevention, Response and Support. Through this, the Agency is aiming to increase awareness and deliver educational campaigns to prevent crime, take immediate action as a response to crime through its services and continue to offer support to service users to safeguard victims' well-being and quality of life. The Agency's services vary from the provision of information and following up on Police reports to the provision of legal advice and emotional support. VSA also provides notification services to inform victims when the perpetrator applies for parole or shall be released from custody.

Although, so far, VSA does not have the legislative provisions to enable actual legal representation in Court, VSA does offer legal advice and has a direct referral system with LAM to ensure that victims are provided with legal representation. Legal aid lawyers within LAM do their utmost to provide professional services to safeguard the rights of the victim.

Professionals from the DVS are present during DV Court sittings to ensure that immediate support can be given to any victim who is not in contact with the service. Additionally, it is common practice for the Magistrate presiding in the DV Court to consult, ask for feedback, and request follow-up and reporting back through the professionals present.

In 2024, MJR has also seen to increase the number of child advocates in the Courts, strengthening representation of children, particularly when there are conflicts between parents as well as in cases of DV. The upcoming Family Court Reform shall delve into this matter too, as the CSA is committed to recognizing the various needs of children in vulnerable situations and ensure their representation.

Protection of victims and their families are essential throughout the whole justice process. Malta is committed to continue to make the necessary amendments in its legislation to strengthen the implementation of methods and tools to enforce court orders through a better understanding, use of modern technology and improved financial and human capacity.

In conclusion, the overview provided in Part II of this report, which focuses on specific priority areas in the field of prevention, protection and prosecution reflect the improvements made since Malta's first GREVIO monitoring exercise till present. It is also evident that entities continue to contemplate on the improvements that are still required to safeguard the well-being and rights of victims of GBV and DV.

Part III: Emerging trends on violence against women and domestic violence

56. New developments concerning:

A. Emerging trends in VAW and DV, including its digital manifestations

Since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, an increase in cases of Child-to-Parent Violence has been noted. FSWS, DPP and VSA identified a patterns that show a decrease in the age of the perpetrator. FSWS collects separate statistics pertaining to the Child-to-Parent Violence Service which started being collated as of April 2022, and thus FSWS cannot comment on trends of the service as yet. In this category, the services include children who are still minors and those who are adults and are abusive towards their elderly parents. In many of the latter cases, the perpetrators also have a substance misuse problem. Discussions concerning this trend and general child-to-child violence and abuse are ongoing.

An increase in the perpetration of VAW that is more calculated and premeditated has also been observed. Perpetrators appear to be perpetuating violence in ways that prevent them from being caught. Online GBV is also on the increase, particularly online stalking, harassment, and sextortion.

Another emerging trend is the decrease of face-to-face socialisation. Children and adolescents feel more comfortable behind a screen. Vulnerable children and adolescents who potentially struggle to socialise with other peers are more subjective to online harassment, manipulation, and digital threats. SFCE noted cases of mainly boys, but not exclusively, asking girls even at the young age of 9 and 10 to share nude photo which they then share or threaten to share such photos. An increase in exposure to pornography, trending more in boys, leads to further sexual experimentation at a very young age. Much of the time, this experimentation is non-consensual by both parties.

With changes in policy, MHA has noted an increasing trend in cases of sexual violence, however, further examination and time is required to be able to confirm this trend and whether it is as result of better communication and the policy changes effected.

The [NSO](#) (2023) stated that "In 2011, there was approximately one foreigner for every 20 residents in Malta region, while during 2021 this has changed to one foreigner per four inhabitants" (p. 16). On the other hand, it has been noted that the demand for service provision relating to foreign expats and migrants has increased drastically. Particularly, FSWS has noted that statistics relating to non-Maltese service users at Għabex Emergency Shelter has been higher than the national average, with percentages reaching up to 35% in 2021, 47% in 2022, and 44% in 2023.

B. Emerging trends in domestic case law related to VAW

Addressing DV during the judicial process has become a priority for MJR. In this respect, actions have been taken to address identified lacunae, such as, the appointment of more judiciary members to the Court of Magistrates, Criminal Jurisdiction (family cases), which has shortened the length of time for cases to be heard by the Court. The Family Court Reform has been launched with one of the main objectives being the support of vulnerable parties within family disputes. In themselves, whilst not directly addressing DV cases, the recommendations being levelled target secondary forms of victimisation. MJR is also seeking to enhance the provision of training to all professionals working within the family sphere in order to ensure the best level of service delivery possible.

VSA has observed a decreasing trend in the Court's acceptance of withdrawal of complaints by victims of GBV and DV.

C. Emerging trends in the allocation of funding and budgeting by state authorities

Information about funding of state authorities and funding support for NGOS through various initiatives and PSPs has been provided in questions related to Article 8 (Funding). Since GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, funding allocated to CGBVDV has increased to ensure the necessary financial and human resources for implementing [National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence \(2023-2028\)](#) as outlined in question 4. In the case of FSWS, funding has been consistently made available.

Similarly, MPF has received an increase in national funding to support the opening of the Santa Luċija DV hub and another hub in the northern region of Malta within the next year. The necessary human resources required for the operation of these hubs has also been allocated to ensure the hubs are adequately equipped to deal with cases of DV. The level of funding has increased in an unprecedented manner across the board, which is proof that there is political commitment to preventing and combatting GBV and DV.

The Office of the Permanent Secretary within MHSE is providing all the possible support to assist DPP in the recruitment of new professional staff, namely probation officers and psychologists. This support is likely to have a positive effect on the allocation of funding and budgeting which is to be obtained from central government.

D. Innovative approaches to primary prevention

A community-based approach to outreach and awareness raising has become more ingrained in the primary prevention efforts by the various entities, as described in questions related to education and awareness raising. Intersectionality has been prioritized over the years and mainstreamed through the different entities operating in the field of GBV and DV.

The CGBVDV has particularly adopted different methods to engage children, young people, the elderly, persons with disability, migrants, men and boys, victims, survivors, professionals, and bystanders – emphasizing that GBV and DV are everyone’s business. As discussed in questions 9 and 10, through the use of social and mass media, but more specifically artistic competitions, such as drawing, poetry, writing, and photography, the Commission engaged different social groups.

Further to initiatives mentioned earlier, in 2020, CGBVDV organised a photography competition for the 16 Days of Activism 2020 campaign to raise awareness on GBV and DV. Under the theme, ‘Not every home is a haven – Reach out for the life you deserve’, participants submitted photographs depicting the journey of leaving abusive relationships. The top ten photographs, which were chosen by experts in collaboration with the Malta Institute of Professional Photography, were exhibited in Malta’s capital city Valletta during the 16 Days of Activism 2020 campaign to raise awareness about GBV and DV amongst the general public.

For the 16 Days of Activism 2021 campaign titled, ‘Your voice can set you free’, CGBVDV conducted informal interviews with residents in domestic violence shelters to formulate video clips depicting the realities and complexities of DV. These video clips were adapted and animated in order to protect the identities of the residents. The video clips were promoted on CGBVDV’s social media platforms and on national television during the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

As a primary component of the ‘Consent Matters: Stop Sexual Violence’ campaign, CGBVDV filmed and distributed various video-interviews with service providers from Aġenzija Appoġġ, MHA, VSM, LAM and MPF to raise awareness on the procedures that ensue when an individual seeks professional assistance from services following experiences of sexual violence. These video-interviews, which included sign language and subtitles in English, were shared on social media and a set of infographics were developed to address frequently asked questions related to accessing services.

Through the primary prevention initiatives mentioned in question 10, SFCE advocates for the investment in the upskilling of adolescents to explore their self-identity, strengths and vulnerabilities, to be more aware of initial signs of dating violence, fighting the cultural stereotypes including acceptable violence, such as, emotional abuse and manipulation. Every session carried out with the students reinforces the great need of such educational sessions.

FSWS engages in ongoing campaigns of primary prevention through various media platforms, targeting different age groups as well as minority groups. One such campaign has been ongoing for the past three years, whereby students attending the Institute for Tourism Studies participated in a session that addressed healthy relationships and identifying red flags in relationships.

The multi-agency approach in services provision to promote prevention, support and protection can also be considered relatively innovative in the Maltese and Gozitan contexts – particularly in relation to data sharing, which is implemented through the MARAM; which enables prevention of escalated situations of violence. As a result of the multi-agency approach and collaboration, networks between professionals and management have continued to be strengthened, leading to more initiatives to address generally unspoken realities, such as the matter of child marriages as mentioned earlier.

E. Emerging trends related to access to asylum and international protection for women victims of VAW

During the last months, AWAS has seen an increase in the number of women originating from South America applying for asylum and who were referred to AWAS for financial assistance or accommodation. In almost all cases, it was noted that DV or another type of violence was present. All cases were subsequently referred for psychological support.

Due to international concerns in relation to sexual violence amongst Syrian nationals / migrants the IPA updated its procedures to improve the assessment for international protection needs of Syrian women and girls facing GBV & DV, as indicated in question 27.

VSA has worked towards increasing its list of available interpreters as well as the languages offered to support women victims of VAW seeking asylum and international protection.

Stakeholders involved in the provision of services for support and protection, prosecution and prevention of GBV and DV will continue to follow trends through research, data collection and evaluation exercises to ensure progress with foresight to the future needs and realities of GBV and DV.

Part IV: Administrative data and statistics

57. Annual statistics on administrative and judicial data on:

A. Number of reports, investigations opened, prosecutions, final convictions secured and sanctions imposed

MPP data:

<u>Year</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
No. of Reports Lodged	1334	2232
No. of Investigations	1322	1737
No. of Investigations with Prosecutions	1258	1656
No. of Investigations with No Prosecutions	74	576
No. of Cases with ROC Deceased	7	-
No. of cases opened with DV unit but prosecuted from different units due to other high crime in same report	11	6

Judicial data:

<u>Data till year 2023</u>	
No. of Prosecutions	1826
No. of Decided cases	780

DPP data:

<u>Year</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
No. of Parole Licenses	-	1
No. of Probation Orders	33	31
No. of Community Services Orders	4	-
No. of Provisional Order of Supervisions	17	26
No. of Parole Reports	3	3
No. of Pre-Sentence Reports	10	11
No. of Social Inquiry Reports	13	7
No. of Suspended Sentences with Supervision	4	5
No. of Treatment Orders	21	27
No. of Verbal Reports	1	-

These cases cover all types of physical and psychological abuse including present family members and ex partners.

B. Number of emergency barring orders issued by the competent authorities, the number of breaches of such orders, and the number of sanctions imposed

No data.

C. Number of protection orders issued, the number of breaches of such orders and the number of sanctions imposed

Judicial data:

<u>Year</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
No. of Protection Orders	135*	53*
No. of Temporary Protection Orders	53	64

Note: * This data is not disaggregated by the Courts and the figures do not solely reflect Protection Orders issued in cases related to DV. The provision of disaggregated data will be addressed once the CMIS is in place.

MPF data:

<u>Year</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
No. of Restraining Orders Issued	3	37
No. of Breaches of Restraining Orders	3	20
No. of Breaches of Protection Orders	25	38

Regarding breaches of Restraining orders: 1 was sentenced and 2 were acquitted in 2022; and 1 was sentenced, 2 were acquitted and 11 sub-judice in 2023.

D. Data on the number of decisions issued by family courts on custody/visitation/residence of children that have expressly taking into account incidents of DV

Data on the number of decisions issued by the Family Court on custody/visitation/residence of children that have expressly taken into account incidents of DV is currently not available. Matters related to custody and visitation rights will be addressed through the first round of recommendations of the Family Court Reform as there is no legislation in place that specifies that the Court has to take DV into account when determining custody or visitation rights in cases involving DV.

Conclusion

Malta's extensive overview provided to GREVIO's first thematic evaluation is a reflection of the country's commitment towards the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Preventive measures such as awareness raising, incorporation of GBV and DV initiatives in formal curriculum and continuous training of professionals highlight the value assigned to the role of people, knowledge, and education in reducing GBV and DV. Research and data collection provide for evidence-based policies and changes in procedures to further improve provision of support and protection services.

Victim safety and rehabilitation of perpetrators are central to the GBV and DV ecosystem, with a whole-family approach bringing children's experiences of abuse to the forefront of policy development, particularly in the areas of protection and prosecution. Adopting an intersectional approach throughout the four pillars also ensures that the diverse realities and greater risks of women with intersecting identities are considered and that support and protection services and information are made accessible for all.

Since its previous GREVIO evaluation, Malta has adopted a more robust multi-agency approach at all levels of decision-making, whether dealing with high-risk cases through MARAM, or addressing policy issues through the interministerial committee. Various strategies and action plans that directly or indirectly address violence against women and girls also show the commitment to address longstanding issues in the field and new and emerging trends.

It is through such commitment, these collective efforts and monitoring exercises that Malta can continue to build trust, provide support and protection, serve justice and uphold its obligations to human rights and social wellbeing at large.

APPENDIX I

Table 1: Initial training (education or professional training)

Please fill in the table and list the professionals (in the area of healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice, social welfare, education, asylum and migration, media/journalism and support services) which have received initial training on violence against women. Please place each category of professional in a separate line.

Professionals	Do they benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is this training mandatory?	Are training efforts supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who funds the training?	Please describe the content and the duration of the training.
<p>MPF:</p> <p>Induction training for Police within the GBDVU organised by CGBVDV in 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>CGBVDV.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> CGBVDV coordinated this induction training for officers who were recruited within the GBDV Unit when it was established in 2020. The training focused on specialised support services for victims of GBV and</p>

<p>2021</p> <p>- 42 Basic Training Course (39 officers)</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Disciplinary Forces.</p>	<p>DV. The session was delivered by professionals from VSM and DVS together with Ms Maria Aquilina from ESP, Ms Maria Mangion from Fondazzjoni Sebħ and Dr Desire Attard from HRD.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> In MPF's Career Progression Courses the following topics are covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (25 hours). - Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit (4 hours).
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12th Officer Cadets – Course Leading to the Promotion of Inspector (27 officers) 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Armed Disciplinary Forces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundamental Human Rights (9 hours). - Sexual and Domestic Violence (6 hours). - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reserve Police Constables Induction Course (33 officers) 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Armed Disciplinary Forces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Victims (1.5 hours).
<p>2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 Basic Training Course (56 officers) 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Armed Disciplinary Forces.	<p><u>Content:</u> In MPF's Career Progression Courses the following topics are covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (25 hours).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 44 Basic Training Course (27 officers) - Course Leading to the Promotion of Police Sergeants (64 officers) 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces.</p> <p>Armed Forces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit (4 hours). - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (25 hours). - Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit (4 hours). - Victims of Crime (3 hours). - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights & Ethics (6 hours).
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<p>- 13th Officer Cadets – Course Leading to the Promotion of Inspector (17 officers)</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundamental Human Rights (9 hours). - Sexual and Domestic Violence (6 hours). - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours).
<p>- Reserve Police Constables Induction Course (26 officers)</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable victims (1.5 hours).
<p>2023</p> <p>- 45 Basic Training Course (40 officers)</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> In MPF's Career Progression Courses the following topics are covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (10 Lectures). - Domestic Violence &

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 46 Basic Training Course (38 officers) 	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p>	<p>Victim Support Unit (12 Lectures).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (10 Lectures). - Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit (12 Lectures).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 47 Basic Training Course (55 officers) 	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (10 Lectures). - Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit (12 Lectures).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course Leading to the Promotion of 	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims of Crime (3 hours).

<p>Police Sergeants (36 officers)</p> <p>- 14th Officer Cadets – Course Leading to the Promotion of Inspector (18 officers)</p> <p>- Reserve Police Constables Induction Course</p> <p>2024</p> <p>- 47 Basic Training Course (55 officers)</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p> <p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p> <p>Armed Forces. Disciplinary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (9 hours). - Fundamental Human Rights (9 hours). - Sexual and Domestic Violence (6 hours). - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable victims (1.5 hours). <p><u>Content:</u> In MPF's Career Progression</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 48 Basic Training Course (51 officers) - Course Leading to the Promotion of 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Disciplinary Forces.</p> <p>Armed Disciplinary Forces.</p>	<p>Courses the following topics are covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (10 Lectures). - Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit (12 Lectures). - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (25 hours). - Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit (8 hours). - Victims of Crime (3 hours).
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<p>Police Sergeants (15 officers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15th Officer Cadets – Course Leading to the Promotion of Inspector (6 officers) - Reserve Police Constables Induction Course (18 officers) 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Armed Forces.</p> <p>Disciplinary Forces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Fundamental Rights (9 hours). - Fundamental Human Rights (9 hours). - Sexual and Domestic Violence (6 hours). - Women, Peace & Security (1.5 hours). - Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Victims (1.5 hours).
<p>MEYR (NSSS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Workers - ESP (Safe School Programme) - Counsellors 	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>CGBVDV.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psychotherapists 					<p>Professionals provides information on the Istanbul Convention and Maltese legal framework, multiple forms of abuse, services, working with victims and perpetrators, and specifically focuses on diverse social groups including persons with disability, LGBTIQ+ individuals and migrants. The training is coordinated by the CGBVDV and training is provided by experts in the respective fields, generally representatives of NGOs, academics and governmental officials.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days.</p>
<p>SFCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School staff - Counsellors - Psychologists 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	SFCE.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training adopts an interactive approach using multiple media.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion Support Professionals - Curriculum Leaders - Finance & Administration 					<p>Content includes information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different forms of violence - Consent - Legislation - Reporting procedure - Receiving a disclosure - Provide/seek support <p><u>Duration:</u> 5 hours.</p>
<p>AG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lawyers 	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes, for nominated prosecutors.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>FSWS.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> Professionals attended to the FSWS Annual Conference: 'Break the Cycle, Be the Change'. Here, professionals were informed about the importance of supporting GBV and DV victims when leaving abusive relationships and the role of perpetrator programmes. The</p>

					<p>conference also included a presentation by WWP EN.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Aġenzija Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All professionals and staff members 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Aġenzija Support.	<p><u>Content:</u> During engagement of employees, in-house professionals provide new recruits with documents on sexual harassment and abuse policies. All employees are also invited for induction training whereby all employees are introduced and informed about the codes of ethics, disciplinary policy, sexual harassment policy and abuse policy in more detail.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days.</p>

<p>FSWS:</p> <p>Initial Training for Designated MARAM Officers & MARAM Stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 Senior Social Workers - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 2 Senior social workers - Addictions Community Team - 1 Senior social worker- Court Services DCP - 1 Senior social Worker- Leader Domestic Violence Unit - 2 Senior social workers - Leader CPS - 1 Senior social worker- Service Manager DVS - 1 Senior social worker- STOP! 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	FSWS.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training aimed to introduce MARAM procedures for Designated MARAM Officers and MARAM stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours.</p>
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<p>The Violence & Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior social worker- Coordinator CPS - 1 Service Manager- Court Services DCP - 1 Social worker - Coordinator DV Gozo Directorate - 1 Social worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social worker- Coordinator CPS - 1 Social worker- Leader CPS - 1 Social worker- Leader- Gozo Directorate - 3 Social Workers -Coordinator CPS 					
<p>Initial Training for Risk Assessors – Children at Risk and Linking Clients to other Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 Social Welfare Professionals – Domestic 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	FSWS.	<p><u>Content:</u> Specialized Induction Training for Risk Assessors within the Domestic Violence Service provided by in-house professionals.</p>

<p>Violence Risk Assessment Service</p> <p>Initial Training for Risk Assessors – Court Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 Social Welfare Professionals – Domestic Risk Assessment Service 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	FSWS.	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> Specialized Induction Training for Risk Assessors within the Domestic Violence Service provided by in-house professionals.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Initial Training for Risk Assessors – Guidelines and Techniques for Working with Vulnerable Client Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 Social Welfare Professionals - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	FSWS.	<p><u>Content:</u> Specialized Induction Training for Risk Assessors within the Domestic Violence Service on working with vulnerable clients provided by in-house professionals.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Initial Training for Risk Assessors – Helping Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Social Welfare Professionals – Domestic Violence Risk 	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	FSWS.	<p><u>Content:</u> Specialized Induction Training for Risk Assessors within the Domestic Violence Service on skills utilised when supporting clients provided by in-house professionals.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>

<p>Assessment Service</p> <p>Initial Training for Risk Assessors – MARAM: - 4 Social Welfare Professionals – Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service</p>	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	FSWS.	<p><u>Content:</u> This Initial Training was specialised for Risk Assessors within the Domestic Violence Service provided by in-house professionals.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Initial Training for Risk Assessors – Safety Planning and Admission to Shelters: - 5 Social Welfare Professionals – Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service</p>	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	FSWS.	<p><u>Content:</u> This initial specialised training for Risk Assessors focused on procedures and skills related to safety planning and admission to shelters provided by in-house professionals.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Initial Training on MARAM Chairing and Procedures: - 1 Senior Social Worker – Service Manager DVS</p>	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	MSPC.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training specialised in MARAM procedures and chairing.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 days (8 hours).</p>

<p>DPP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Probation Officers - Psychologists 	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>CGBVDV.</p>	<p><u>Content</u> For information on the Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals refer to page ix.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days.</p>
<p>MHA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government representatives and professionals in-practice. 	<p>Yes. These training sessions are part of the module on Health (related to Cultural Competence and GBV) within the Diploma of Education and Cultural Mediation.</p>	<p>Professionals may opt to enrol in the Diploma in Education and Cultural Mediation at the University of Malta.</p>	<p>Where available.</p>	<p>Students apply for the diploma at UoM (Faculty of Education).</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> Cultural Mediation in Health Care including GBV amongst migrants: FGM, human trafficking, DV. The course is also available for Maltese and non-Maltese citizens.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>IPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managers 	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>No but recommended.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>		<p><u>Content:</u> The training involves courses on:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior Protection Officers - Protection Officers <p>Protection officers working within the Protection Unit also</p>		<p>The training is part of the Induction Training for Senior Protection Officers and Protection Officers.</p>		<p>European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender, gender identity and sexual orientation: Identifying gender, gender identity and sexual orientation factors when a claim for international protection is processed. <u>Duration:</u> 20-30 hours. 2. Trafficking in human beings (Level 1 and Level 2) <u>Duration:</u> 18-20 hours. 3. Introduction to Vulnerability <u>Duration:</u> 12 hours.
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<p>attended the training on courses 4, 5 and 6.</p>					<p>4. Interviewing Vulnerable Persons</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 25-30 hours.</p> <p>5. Victims of Gender-Based Violence</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 17 hours.</p> <p>6. Applicants with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 17 hours.</p>
<p>LAM:</p> <p>- Legal Aid for Lawyers Advice</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>CGBVDV.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> For information on the Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for</p>

- Legal Aid Lawyers for Court Representation					Frontline Professionals refer to page ix. <u>Duration:</u> 3 days.
Armed Forces of Malta (new recruits) – Training organised by NCPE.	Following training delivered to all AFM staff, the NCPE was then requested to deliver training to new AFM recruits.	NCPE delivers training upon request. It is up to the organisation/entity requesting training to decide whether the session would be mandatory for its employees.	Yes.	NCPE.	<u>Content:</u> The training focused on equality issues and sexual harassment. Training was by NCPE trainers. <u>Duration:</u> 1.5 hours.
Healthcare staff at Mater Dei Hospital – Training organised by NCPE.	On a regular basis the NCPE is invited to deliver training during the induction sessions for healthcare staff at MDH.	NCPE delivers training upon request. It is up to the organisation/entity requesting training to decide whether the session would be mandatory for its employees.	Yes.	NCPE.	<u>Content:</u> The training focused on equality at the workplace and sexual harassment. Training was by NCPE trainers. <u>Duration:</u> 1.5 hours.

<p>VSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Police Officer - 2 Case Officers - 2 Support Officers 	Yes.	No.	Yes.	CGBVDV.	<p><u>Content:</u> For information on the Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals refer to page ix.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days.</p>
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APPENDIX II

Table 2: In-service training

Please fill in the table and list the professionals (in the area of healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice, social welfare, education, asylum and migration, media/journalism and support services) which receive in-service training on violence against women. Please place each category of professional in a separate line.

Professionals	Number of professionals trained.	Is this training mandatory?	Frequency	Training efforts supported by guidelines and protocols.	Please describe the content and the duration of the training.
<p>Training initiatives organised by CGBVDV for professionals:</p> <p>Multi-agency Training on Elderly Abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doctors - Nurses - Lawyers - Psychiatrists - Risk assessors - Social workers - Probation officers - Police within the GBDVU 	38 professionals.	No.	One session in December 2020.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training intended to raise awareness among several professionals on the impacts of violence against the elderly. The training was organized by CGBVDV. CGBVDV engaged Prof Trish Hafford-Letchfield, a professor of Social Work at the</p>

<p>- Representatives from NGOs and DV shelters.</p> <p>Award in Gender-Based Violence Support for HR Professionals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Resources professionals 	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>Yes, for students who applied.</p>	<p>Three online intakes between 2019 and 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>University of Strathclyde, to deliver this training.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The online course was accredited with 2 ECTS credits at EQF/MQF Level 5. The content involved specialised training on referral pathways and supporting colleagues experiencing GBV and DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 intakes were carried out during the Improving Support Structures for Victims of Gender Based Violence (GB-VSO) project timeframe.</p>
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<p>Webinar for HR Professionals on GBV and DV.</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in September 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The webinar was organised as part of the 'Breaking the Cycle of Violence' EU-funded project, and it delved into understanding GBV and DV and how these impact the workplace. It also provided information for HR managers and staff on tackling GBV cases at the workplace.</p>
<p>Services, Signs of Domestic Violence and Effects on Children Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General practitioners - Medical practitioners 	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This training was delivered by Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri and Ms Maria Mangion (Fondazzjoni Sebħ). It served to inform participants about existing services and the referral pathways when encountering</p>

<p>Types of Violence and Services Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCAST student mentors 	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>experiences of GBV and DV with their patients. The training also included information about the effects of DV on children as well as identifying and handling signs of DV with their patients. The training was organised by CGBVDV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3.5 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The session, organised by CGBVDV, provided information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different forms of violence - Overview of existing support services
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<p>Calling Home a Safe Space Training: - Legal Aid lawyers</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>- How to help victims of GBV and DV</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The session focused more on social aspects of GBV and DV with a specific focus on interventions with perpetrators. The session was organised by CGBVDV and delivered by Ms Maria Mangion from Fondazzjoni Sebh.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1.5 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The session primarily addressed working with perpetrators from a whole-</p>
<p>Safer Families, Safer Society Training: - Probation officers</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The session primarily addressed working with perpetrators from a whole-</p>

<p>The Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honor-Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification Checklist Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk assessors - Social workers - Counsellors - Psychologists - Probation officers - Lawyers - Police within the GBDV Unit - Doctors - Nurses - Representatives from NGOs and DV shelters. 	80 professionals.	No.	Three separate online sessions held in May 2021.	Yes.	<p>family approach. The session was delivered by Ms Maria Mangion (Fondazzjoni Sebħ) and was organised by CGBVDV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1.5 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The programme aimed to train participants on the role and use of the DASH risk assessment tool. The training was delivered by Ms Beverly Gilbert and Ms Rachel Wilde.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>The Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STOP! The Violence and 	46 professionals.	No.	One session in July 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The course provided an understanding of the SARA risk assessment tool. Dr</p>

<p>Abuse professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police within the GBDV Unit - Probation officers <p>Multi-Agency Training on Child-to-Parent Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police within the GBDV Unit - Social workers - Risk assessors - Counsellors - Probation officers - Representatives from NGOs and DV shelters. 	84 professionals.	No.	Two online training sessions in November and December 2021.	Yes.	<p>Ruth Tully delivered this training.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> Two-day course.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The programme focused on identifying signs and impacts of child-to-parent violence and provided an understanding of this form of abuse through a whole-family approach. The sessions included case studies that facilitated discussions on good practices when handling child-to-parent violence cases. The training was organised by CGBVDV and delivered by Dr Cheryl Davies.</p>
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<p>Training for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doctors and nurses from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Accident and Emergency Department, GUM, Forensic Medicine and Public Health. - Social workers from Aġenzija Appogg. 	<p>Approx. 70 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> N/A.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training seminar primarily dealt with the legal aspect of sexual assault management. The training was organised by CGBVDV. Magistrate Lara Lanfranco, Insp. Joseph Busuttil, Forensic Scientists Dr Marisa Cassar and Assistant Court Registrar Mr Franklin Calleja delivered the training.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> One-day seminar.</p>
<p>Information webinar with employees within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the 	<p>Approx. 65 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>1 online session with the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights in November 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> These sessions focused on identifying and supporting colleagues experiencing GBV</p>

<p>Family and Children's Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Ministry for Finance and Employment - ESP 			<p>2 online sessions with the Ministry for Finance and Employment in December 2021. 1 session with ESP in December 2021.</p>		<p>or DV and participants were informed about the existing support services. The webinars were organised by CGBVDV and were delivered by Ms Maria Mangion from Fondazzjoni Sebh.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Information session with Heads of College Network:</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in September 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> In this session, CGBVDV provided an overview of its roles and initiatives on preventive measures.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>National Guidance Meetings – Information sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidance teachers 	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Three separate sessions in October 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> CGBVDV was invited to explain its roles and the Istanbul Convention.</p>

<p>- Education psycho-social staff</p> <p>Information session with Heads of Schools of San Ġorġ Preca College</p> <p>Information session with St Margaret College Primary and Middle Schools: - Educators</p>	<p>N/A.</p> <p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2022.</p> <p>Two separate sessions in November 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Professionals from HRD and Aġenzija Appoġġ provided an overview of the national law and the services available.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The presentations delved into the roles and works of CGBVDV and professionals from the GBDV Unit and the Domestic Violence Services within Aġenzija Appoġġ provided an overview of their services.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> During these sessions by CGBVDV, participants received information on supporting</p>
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<p>Information session with the Heads of Schools of St Benedict's College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educators 	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in April 2023.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>children who are exposed to violence at home.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> Professionals from the GBDV Unit and DVS within Agenzija Appogg were invited by CGBVDV to provide an overview of the support services to educators during a Council of Heads meeting. Professionals from the GBDVU, DVS and Agenzija Appogg delivered this session.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Information session with FSWS Gozo Branch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police - Social workers - Counsellors 	<p>46 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in March 2023.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The session was delivered by CGBVDV and it covered the following topics:</p>

<p>Information session with employees within the Ministry for Public Works and Planning.</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2023.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the role of CGBVDV. - the Istanbul Convention. - the different forms of violence. - working with victims of abuse. <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This training, organised by CGBVDV aimed to inform participants on understanding, recognising and supporting persons experiencing violence, including psychological violence. Information about support services was provided</p>
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Members of the Judiciary	N/A.	No.	One session in May 2023.	Yes.	<p>during this session. Mr Karl Grech from VSM delivered this training.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The seminar organised by CGBVDV and the Judicial Studies Committee addressed several aspects related to domestic violence, mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the dynamics of domestic violence. - how children experience domestic violence. - legal issues pertaining to FGM and child marriage. - working with perpetrator
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<p>Training programme for PBS Journalists</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>To deliver the programme to all PBS journalists, the sessions were organised according to the journalists' shifts between April and May 2023.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>s and victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>The training was delivered by Ms Maria Mangion from Fondazzjoni Sebħ, Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri, Dr Jeanise Dalli, Dr Ruth Farrugia and professionals working within FSWS's perpetrator programmes.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training, organised by CGBVDV, aimed to address ethical considerations when reporting cases of gender-based violence and domestic violence. Prof Marceline Naudi and Dr Lara Dimitrijevic delivered this</p>
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					<p>training. The content included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understanding violence against women, domestic violence and gender-based violence. - understanding the impacts and consequences of gender-based violence and domestic violence. - learning about the existing guidelines for reporting cases of gender-
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<p>Information session with employees within Premier Restaurants Ltd.</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Two sessions in May 2024.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>based violence and domestic violence.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The session, organised by CGBVDV, covered topics related to the different forms of violence, the existing support services and supporting colleagues who experience GBV or DV.</p>
<p>PSCD information session regarding GBV and DV (COPE):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSCD educators 	<p>Approx. 250 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Two separate sessions in May 2024.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The specialised training targeted PSCD educators. The session involved themes on identifying red flags, empowering</p>

<p>Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New recruits - Police officers - Social workers - Risk assessors - Probation officers - Guidance teachers - Counsellors - Psychologists - Legal Aid lawyers 	<p>335 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>12 rounds from 2022 – 2024.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>students to speak up, and legal overview of teachers' duties when handling disclosures of abuse. During the training, the research findings from the Safe Dates pilot project and the 'Safety in Childhood: A Prevalence Study of Childhood Abuse Experiences in Malta' were presented.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals provides information on the Istanbul Convention and Maltese legal framework,</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doctors - Nurses - Representatives from HRD & VSA - Representatives from NGOs <p>Self-Awareness for Educators on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence COPE session:</p>	<p>193 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Four sessions were delivered between 2022 and 2024.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>multiple forms of abuse, services, working with victims and perpetrators, and specifically focuses on diverse social groups including persons with disability, LGBTIQ+ individuals and migrants. The training is coordinated by the CGBVDV and training is provided by experts in the respective fields, generally representatives of NGOs, academics and governmental officials.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days in 2022; 3 days in 2023 – 2024.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training programme</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary and Secondary school educators - Learning support educators - Kindergarten educators - SLTs 					<p>involved themes related to identifying and dealing with children experiencing DV at home and encouraging students to disclose their experiences with educators and support services. The sessions were held in collaboration with VSM and Fondazzjoni Sebħ.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p>
<p>CGBVDV staff:</p> <p>Suicide Prevention Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Assistant Director - 1 Senior Manager 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in October 2019.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The session was delivered by the Employee Support Programme aiming to equip professionals with skills and adequate responses related to mental health.</p>

<p>Risk assessment linked to Domestic Abuse and DASH (2009) Risk Identification Checklist training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Manager 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in October 2019.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training seminar provided information on the practical application, skills and use of DASH (2009) and its checklist.</p>
<p>Building Relationships through Innovative Development of Gender-Based Violence Awareness in Europe – BRIDGE project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Manager 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Two sessions in September 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 7 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This online training session for care professionals delved into prevention, assessing risk and case management of GBV and DV, including children and youths.</p>
<p>Virtual Experts’ meeting with primary stakeholders</p>	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Two sessions in October 2020.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 5 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training was organised by EIGE with focus on</p>

<p>The tenth anniversary after the signature of the Istanbul Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Manager (Research) 	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in April 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The online conference was organised by the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality during the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU. The session was held shortly after Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. Thus, the session focused primarily on the importance of the Istanbul Convention and its protection for victims of GBV and DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: A decade of action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Manager (Research) 	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in May 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This online conference was organised by The Council of Europe and the German Federal</p>

<p>The Angry Internet: Knowledge and Tools for Professionals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Manager (Research) 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in June 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, during Germany's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training aimed to equip professionals with knowledge and skills on cyberviolence and online harassment.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>On the Margins: Threats to LGBTIQ Inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Manager (Research) 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in September 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This online conference, organised by the SOGIGESC Unit, reported the implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2018-</p>

<p>Risk Assessment and Management for Perpetrator Programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Assistant Director - 1 Manager I (Research) 	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Two-day training in October 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>2022. The session involved discussions on addressing the anti-gender movements and sex work.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2.5 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training was organised by WWP EN and it delved into risk recognition, understanding risk assessment for perpetrator programmes and risk management.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days.</p>
<p>Standard Mental Health First Aid Course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Manager 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in October 2021 and another session in November 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This course detailed the skills and responses required when dealing assisting persons dealing with</p>

<p>Cybersafe: Conference on changing attitudes among teenagers on cyberviolence against women and girls: - 1 Manager (Research)</p>	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>mental health crises. <u>Duration:</u> 7 hours. <u>Content:</u> This online conference shed light on gendered cyberviolence impacting adolescents. <u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Interactive Approaches and Techniques for Perpetrator Work: - 2 Manager (Research)</p>	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Two-day session in November 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training, provided by WWP EN, focused on working with perpetrators utilising interactive approaches. <u>Duration:</u> 2 days.</p>
<p>Covid-19 and Inequality: Everyone in the same boat? - 2 Manager (Research)</p>	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in April 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This webinar was organised by the Human Rights Platform of the University of Malta. The training</p>

<p>Child Custody and Violence against Women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Manager I (Research) 	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in June 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>provided an overview of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on vulnerable groups.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This webinar was organised by the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies and WAVE office and it provided an overview of many concepts intersecting with VAW, child custody and violence against children.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Sexual Violence as a War Tactic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Management - 2 Manager I (Research) 	<p>6 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in June 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The HRD organised a webinar to commemorate the International Day for Sexual Violence</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Manager I (Projects) - 1 Manager I (IT) 					<p>in Conflict. The webinar involved various speakers sharing information on VAW in conflict.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Legal Aid Forum 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Manager 	1 professional.	No.	One session in September 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The conference was organised by LAM and the Judicial Studies Committee, and it involved participation from key stakeholders discussing legal matters.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex, Sexuality and Gender:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Manager I (Research) 	1 professional.	No.	One session in October 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training, organised by the Institute for the Public Services, focused on appropriate terminology related to LGBTIQ+ individuals and the mainstream</p>

<p>Mutual Learning Seminar on Combatting Domestic Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Manager 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Three sessions in April 2023.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>inclusion of LGBTIQ+ individuals.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This EU Mutual Learning Programme seminar provided information on service provision in Romania, including a visit to Romania's DV emergency shelter. The session also enabled sharing of practices between countries.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days.</p>
<p>Using Data to End Violence against Women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Manager (Research) 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One online session in September 2023.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This virtual training was organised by Apolitical for public servants and policymakers on gender policy and data on VAW.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>

<p>Training on Danger Assessment Risk Assessment Tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioner on CGBVDV - 1 Senior Manager - Manager I (Research) - Manager I (Projects) 	4 professionals.	No.	One session in October 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training session was organised by FSWS to provide information on the DA risk assessment tool among various professionals working in the field of GBV and DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Violence and Gender-Based Violence as a Social Problem: A View from Spain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioner on CGBVDV 	1 professional.	No.	One session in December 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The Department of Gender and Sexualities, within the UoM, was sponsored by the Embassy of Spain in Malta to hold this session where speakers from Spain shared their experiences on working with GBV victims.</p>
<p>Building Dialogue with Teens on Safe, Enjoyable Intimacy to Promote Gender Equality and Prevent Sexualised Abuse:</p>	3 professionals.	No.	One session in March 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2.5 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The session was</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioner on GBV and DV - 1 Manager I (Projects) - 1 Manager I (Research) <p>Cyberviolence and Perpetrator Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioner on GBV and DV - 1 Manager I (Research) 	2 professionals.	No.	Two-day training in June 2024.	Yes.	<p>organised as part of the CONSENT project, and it focused on youth engagement for gender equality.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training was organised by WWP EN to share updated information on gendered cyberviolence and cybersecurity. The sessions also focused on improving skills when working with perpetrators of gendered cyberviolence.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days.</p>
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<p>AG:</p> <p>Violence against Women: ECtHR cases: - 4 Lawyers.</p> <p>Workshop on Femicide & Gender-Based Violence: A Perspective from Spain: - 2 Lawyers.</p> <p>Public Lecture: Violence and Gender-Based Violence as a Social Problem – A View from Spain: - 1 Lawyer.</p>	<p>4 professionals.</p> <p>2 professionals.</p> <p>1 professional.</p>	<p>Yes, for nominated prosecutors.</p> <p>Yes, for nominated prosecutors.</p> <p>Yes, for nominated prosecutors.</p>	<p>Once.</p> <p>Once.</p> <p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The sessions focused on ECtHR cases related to VAW and GBV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This workshop aimed to provide an overview of the practices employed in Spain with regards to GBV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2.5 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The Department of Gender and Sexualities, within the UoM, was sponsored by the Embassy of Spain in Malta to hold this session where speakers from Spain shared their</p>
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					<p>experiences on working with GBV victims.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2.5 hours.</p>
<p>SFCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools staff including SLT, educators, ancillary staff. 	1235 professionals.	Yes.	Every 3 years.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training adopts an interactive approach using multiple media and covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different forms of violence - Personal & professional boundaries - Consent - Legislation - Reporting procedures - Receiving a disclosure - Seeking support <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours</p>

<p>AWAS:</p> <p>Training in Victims of Torture (2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unit Leader for Vulnerability & Age Assessment 	1 professional.	No.	When required/available.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training dealt with enhancing awareness and supporting clients who had been victims of torture.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Training in Reception of Vulnerable Persons (2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welfare Officers for Migrant Advice Unit 	2 professionals.	No.	When required/available.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training explores different categories of vulnerable persons, vulnerability indicators and protective factors.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> Flexible learning.</p>
<p>Training in SOGIGESC (2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welfare Officer for Migrant Advice Unit 	1 professional.	No.	When required/available.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This module focuses on the potential needs of applicants with diverse SOGIGESC and adoption of a sensitive approach.</p>

<p>Training for Guardians of Unaccompanied Children (2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unit Leader for UMAS Protection Services 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>When required/available.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> Flexible learning.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training delved into enhancing the understanding of the responsibilities of those entrusted as Guardians of Unaccompanied Children.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Training on Children in the Asylum Process (2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinator for Community Relations 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>When required/available.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This module focuses on the concept of the best interests of the child, the legal framework and specific rights of children, as well as their vulnerabilities throughout the asylum process.</p>
<p>Workshop on Femicide & Gender-Based Violence: A Perspective from Spain (2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social worker 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> Flexible learning.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This focuses specifically on cases where a person could potentially be considered undeserving of international protection.</p>

<p>Training on Supporting Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in Malta (2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vulnerability and Age Assessor 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>When required/available.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2.5 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training aimed to enhance awareness on the topic to better care/support victims of this ordeal.</p>
<p>Training on Child Sexual Abuse (2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior Managers 	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>When required/available.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This focuses on raising awareness on the subject matter and understanding the victims' plight while learning how to better support them.</p>
<p>Training on Trafficking in Human Beings (2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinator for a Reception Centre 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>When required/available.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The aim of this module is to prepare officers who encounter victims or potential victims of human trafficking with the knowledge and skills required to detect and handle signs of human trafficking and to prepare and conduct an asylum interview with a</p>

<p>Training on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinators of Reception Centres - Vulnerability & Age Assessor, - Psychology Officer and Social Worker 	5 professionals.	No.	When required/available.	Yes.	<p>victim or potential victim of human trafficking.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> Flexible learning.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The training raised awareness on the topics of GBV and DV, how to support victims whilst also understanding why perpetrators engage in this behaviour and how to support such persons.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days.</p>
<p>Jobsplus:</p> <p>Training from Agenzija Appogg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment Advisors & Administrative staff - Management within the Jobseeker Services Division 	24 professionals.	Yes.	Biannual/When required.	Yes. FSWS presented empirical evidence and backup to the training content by also providing actual examples.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training was divided over 2 dates for a total of 4 hours. It focused on awareness on domestic violence, the law and the services available for victims of domestic violence. Information of the network of</p>

					professionals was also explained and normal procedures to deal with DV. <u>Duration:</u> 2 days.
AACC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social workers - Nurses - Caring staff (e.g., carers) - GPs - Allied Health Professionals - Care Home Managers 	180 professionals (2023). 40 professionals (2023).	No.	Yes.	AACC.	<u>Content:</u> A day seminar was organised to provide training to staff who are in direct contact with older adults. The seminar was about financial abuse and fraud. <u>Duration:</u> 1 day session in 2023 and another separate session was held in Gozo in 2024.
Aġenzija Support: <p>NAPPI Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allied Health Professionals (approx. 10 professionals) 	Approx. 350 professionals.	Yes.	Yearly.	Yes.	<u>Content:</u> The training deals with addressing behaviour of concern with

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social workers (more than 20 professionals) - Leaders (more than 20 professionals) - Coordinators (more than 10 professionals) - Support Executives (approx. 40 professionals) - Support Workers (over 250 staff) 					<p>dignity and resorting to psychological interventions.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 days.</p>
<p>Sexuality and Disability Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allied Health Professionals (approx. 10 professionals) - Social workers (more than 20 professionals) - Leaders (more than 20 professionals) - Coordinators (more than 10 professionals) - Support Executives (approx. 40 professionals) 	<p>Approx. 100 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yearly.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training focuses on how to address the service users' sexuality needs including consent.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 20 hours.</p>

<p>An Evaluation of Domestic Abuse Intervention Program in Malta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Executive – Research - 2 Family Therapists - ACTS - 1 Senior Practitioner - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior social worker - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 2 Senior social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - Gozo Directorate - 1 Senior social worker - Leader Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Social Welfare professional - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Research (IRRPD) 	<p>20 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in May 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days (6 hours).</p> <p><u>Content:</u> An information session was provided on a Masters degree dissertation on the evaluation of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programme in Malta.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social worker - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Social worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 5 Social workers - Gozo Directorate 					
<p>Awareness on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Leader – IRRPD - 1 Social Welfare Professional – Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 1 Social Welfare Professional – IRRPD 	3 professionals.	No.	One session in November 2011.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This session raised awareness on themes related to GBV and DV among professionals.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Building a Stronger Future: Strategies and Practices to Establish Effective Coordinated Response to Address Domestic Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Family Therapist - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Forensic psychology practitioner - STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	3 professionals.	No.	One session in April 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This workshop was organised by WWP-EN and it delved into the effectiveness of a coordinated approach in working in the area of GBV and DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Neuropsychology practitioner - STOP! The Violence and Abuse <p>Cannabis and Mental Health Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Family Therapist – STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	1 professional.	No.	One session in May 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This session highlighted the relationship between cannabis use and mental health.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 hour.</p>
<p>Child-to-Parent Violence Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior social worker Coordinator - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 2 Senior social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - Service Manager DVS - 1 Social support worker - Domestic Violence Unit 	30 professionals.	Yes.	One session in November 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training session aimed to equip workers with the necessary skills when working in the area of child-to-parent violence.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 Social Welfare professionals - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 1 Social Welfare professional - Domestic Violence Unit - 2 Social workers - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 13 Social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social worker - Leader Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Trainee social worker - Domestic Violence Unit 					
<p>Child-to-Parent Violence Specialist Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Counsellor - Gozo Directorate - 1 Junior Social Mentor - HBTS Positive Parenting - 1 Senior community worker - ACTS - 1 Senior Practitioner - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 2 Senior social worker - Coordinator- Domestic Violence Unit 	24 professionals.	Yes.	Three sessions held in November 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This session provided the necessary skills for professionals working with cases of child-to-parent violence.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days (6 hours).</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior social worker - Coordinator Youth in Focus - 2 Senior social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - Leader Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - Service Manager DVS - 2 Senior social workers - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Social Welfare Professional - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Social Worker - Coordinator Youth in Focus - 1 Social worker - Coordinator IFSS - 1 Social worker - CPS - 3 Social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social worker - Gozo Directorate - 1 Social worker - IFSS - 1 Social worker - Youth in Focus - 1 Trainee Social Worker - Domestic Violence Unit 					
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<p>Childhood Trauma & Secondary Traumatic Stress in Caregivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Family Therapist – STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Practitioner – Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Social worker – STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	3 professionals.	No.	One session in June 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training provided an understanding of the effects of childhood trauma on the victims and how this may trigger secondary traumatic stress on their caregivers.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 hour.</p>
<p>Childhood Trauma: The Stages of Healing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Family Therapist – STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Neuropsychology Practitioner – STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in May 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training specialised in therapeutic work when dealing with childhood trauma.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 hour.</p>
<p>Children Witnessing Domestic Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Counsellors - HBTS Positive Parenting - 1 Senior Practitioner - HBTS Positive Parenting - 1 Senior social worker - HBTS Positive Parenting - 3 Social Welfare Professionals - CPS 	10 professionals.	No.	Two sessions; one in April and one in July 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training was designed to equip employees with the necessary skills when working with children witnessing violence.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1.5 hours.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior social worker - Alcohol Community Team - 1 Senior social worker - Coordinator Youth in Focus - 2 Senior social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 2 Senior social workers - Drugs Community Team - 4 Senior social workers - Gozo Directorate - 1 Senior social worker - IFSS - 1 Senior social worker - Leader HBTS Positive Parenting - 1 Senior social worker - Leader Residential Care Services - 1 Social Support Worker - Gozo Directorate - 1 Social Welfare Professional - CPS - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Community Homes - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Corradino Correctional Facility - 4 Social Welfare Professionals - CPS 					
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Social Welfare Professionals - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 1 Social Welfare professional - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Welfare Professional - E4L - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Homestart - 2 Social workers - ACTS - 1 Social worker - Adoption - 1 Social Worker - Courts Services CPS - 4 Social workers - CPS - 1 Social worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 2 Social workers - Gozo Directorate - 3 Social workers - IFSS - 1 Social worker - LAC - 1 Social worker - Youth in Focus - 2 Support Workers - Residential Care Services - 1 Trainee Social Worker - ACTS 					
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<p>DASH Risk Assessment Tool Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social Mentor - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social support worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 2 Social Welfare professional - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 2 Social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social worker - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Trainee social worker - Domestic Violence Unit 	<p>8 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Two sessions held in May 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training provided a comprehensive overview on the use of the DASH risk assessment tool.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 7 hours.</p>
<p>DASH Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Director CPS - 1 Executive - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 1 Leader - ADP/E4L - 1 Senior social worker - Manager CPS - 1 Social Mentor - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social support worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 3 Social Welfare Professionals - Domestic 	<p>22 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Two sessions held in May 2021.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> A comprehensive training session on the use of the DASH risk assessment tool.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days (6 hours each).</p>

<p>Violence Risk Assessment Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social worker- ACTS - 3 Social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 5 Social workers - Gozo Directorate - 1 Social worker – LAC - 2 Support Workers - Gozo Directorate - 1 Trainee social worker - Domestic Violence Unit 					
<p>DeStalk Virtual Event – Tackling the Digital Dimension of Violence against Women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner – Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	1 professional.	No.	One session in December 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This workshop session was organised by WWP-EN and it focused on recognising violence perpetrated online towards women and girls.</p>
<p>Disability Equality Training for Domestic Violence Shelters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Social worker – ACTS - 1 Social worker – Għabex - 1 Support worker – DVS - 4 Support Workers – Għabex 	7 professionals.	No.	One session in January 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This training session focused on equality for persons with disability in domestic violence shelters.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>

<p>Domestic Violence Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Clinical Chairperson – Sedqa 	1 professional.	No.	One session in September 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This course gave a generic overview on domestic violence.</p>
<p>Domestic Violence and Abuse Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Executives – SAV - 15 Social Support Workers – SAV - 1 Social Welfare Professional – Leader SAV - 19 Social Welfare Professionals – SAV 	38 professionals.	No.	Three sessions in August 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days (5.5 hours).</p> <p><u>Content:</u> A training session on the area of domestic violence and abuse to equip workers with the necessary skills during their work.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2.5 hours.</p>
<p>Domestic Violence in the Context of the Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Community Development Worker – ACTS - 1 Community Mentor – ACTS - 2 Junior Social Mentor – ACTS - 1 Senior Social Worker – ACTS - 1 Senior Social Worker – Leader ACTS - 1 Social Mentor – ACTS 	9 professionals.	No.	One session in June 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training session was delivered to professionals working in the Community Services to raise awareness on the impacts of domestic violence in the communities.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social Welfare Professional - ACTS - 1 Social Worker - ACTS <p>Elderly Domestic Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social Welfare Professionals – Active Ageing 	1 professional.	No.	One session in December 2020.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training session delved into the area of DV in relation to the elderly.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours.</p>
<p>Ending Domestic Violence: Implementing the Domestic Abuse Act & Finding a Long-Term Strategy for Protection and Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Social Worker – Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit 	1 professional.	No.	One session in January 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The session involved discussions focusing on the Domestic Abuse Act and approaches to protect victims of DV and prevent DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3.5 hours.</p>
<p>Engaging Men & Boys in Violence Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior social worker - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - Service Manager DVS 	9 professionals.	No.	One session in March 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The conference delved into the role of men and boys in preventing violence and gender-stereotypes.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4.5 hours.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Leader Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 1 Social Welfare professional - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social worker- Ghabex - 1 Social worker - STOP! The Violence and Abuse 					
<p>ESN SDG Working Group 2021: Ending Violence against Children Webinar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Social Worker – Coordinator CPS - 1 Senior Social Worker – Manager ACTS 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in March 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This webinar provided information about the impacts of violence against children.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2.5 hours.</p>
<p>Expert Roundtable: Do Perpetrator Programmes Work?:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner – Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in January 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This roundtable was organised by WWP-EN to explore the effectiveness of perpetrator programmes.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Social Worker – STOP! The Violence and Abuse <p>Female Genital Mutilation: From a Health and Legal Perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior social worker - Leader Mater Dei Service - 1 Senior social worker - Manager Appogg - 1 Senior social worker - Mater Dei Service - 1 Senior social worker - Mental Health - 1 Social worker - Mater Dei Service - 1 Trainee Social Worker - Mental Health 	6 professionals.	No.	One session in December 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This information session presented information on the different perspectives related to FGM.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Female Genital Mutilation and Human Trafficking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Social Workers – Mount Carmel Hospital 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in January 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The session focused on FGM and human trafficking in different perspectives.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 8 hours.</p>
<p>Female Genital Mutilation in a Clinical Setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior social worker - Gozo Hospital - 2 Social Welfare Professionals - Gozo Directorate 	6 professionals.	No.	Three sessions in July 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training session provided an overview of FGM and dealing with victims of FGM.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2.5 hours.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Social workers - Gozo Directorate - 1 Social worker - Mental Health <p>Female Sexual Abuse: Understanding the Nuances of this Specific Form of Harm, within the Home Setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Social Worker - LAC 	1 professional.	No.	One session in October 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The session aimed to provide an understanding of sexual abuse in domestic settings.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1.5 hours.</p>
<p>FIDEM: Foundation's Women's Day Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Executive – Leader Research - 1 Senior Social Worker – Manager DV Services 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in March 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The conference involved an address by Dr Roberta Metsola, to explore how transformative power of education can stamp out gender-based prejudice.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 5.5 hours.</p>
<p>Gender-Based Violence Prevention in the Work with Male Refugees and Migrants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Social worker - STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in May 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training session provided explored effective skills when working with male refugees and migrants in relation to GBV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 days (7 hours each).</p>

<p>Information Session Regarding the Domestic Violence Service Review Exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Economist - IRRPD - 1 Manager - International Relations and Policy Documentation - 2 Senior social workers - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 6 Senior social workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior social worker - Manager Appogg Services - 2 Senior Social Workers - Manager DV Services - 4 Social Welfare professionals - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Welfare Professional - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 8 Social worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social worker – Ghabex - 1 Trainee social worker - Domestic Violence Unit 	28 professionals.	No.	One session in September 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This session covered the Domestic Violence Service Review Exercise.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>Interactive Approaches & Techniques for Perpetrator Work:</p>	2 professionals.	No.	Two sessions held over two days in November 2021.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training involved a workshop, organised by WWP-EN, on using interactive tools</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Neuropsychology Practitioner - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Practitioner - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 2 Senior Social Workers - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - Coordinator Gozo Directorate - 2 Senior Social Workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - Gozo Directorate - 12 Social Welfare Professionals - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Leader Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 2 Social Welfare Professionals - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 5 Social Welfare Professionals - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service 					
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Leader Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 12 Social Workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Worker - Gozo Directorate - 1 Social Worker - Mental Health - 3 Social Workers - Mt Carmel Hospital - 1 Social Worker - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 14 Support Workers - Għabex - 1 Support Worker - Gozo Directorate - 1 Trainee Social Worker - Domestic Violence Unit 					
<p>Prevention of Femicide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Social Worker - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - Coordinator Human Trafficking Service 	9 professionals.	No.	One session in May 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> A learning experiences from the participants that will be put forward as recommendations to policy makers at both national and EU level.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Senior Social Workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - Leader Ghabex - 1 Senior Social Worker - Service Manager DVS - 2 Social Welfare Professional - Sex Work Programme - 1 Social Worker - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit 					
<p>Psycho-educational Session about the Effects of Trauma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Social Workers – Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in June 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This session contained information on the effects of trauma on victims of GBV and DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours.</p>
<p>Risk Assessment and Management for Perpetrator Programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner – Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Social Worker – Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	2 professionals.	No.	Two sessions held over two days in April 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This workshop was organised by WWP-EN and it dealt with risk assessment and risk management when working with perpetrators.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 days (6 hours).</p>

<p>Sexist and Sexual Violence/Identity Act Educate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Psychotherapist - HBTS Positive Parenting - 1 Social Worker 	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in November 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This session delved into the forms and impacts of sexual violence and sexism.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 days (8 hours each).</p>
<p>Supporting People who cannot See their Mental Illness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Neuropsychology Practitioner – STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Social Worker – STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in June 2024.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training aimed to help professionals explore how to help and support individuals who lack awareness of their mental illness.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 hour.</p>
<p>Supporting Victims of Sexual Abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Social Worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - Għabex - 1 Senior Social Worker - Leader Domestic Violence Unit & STOP! The Violence & Abuse - 1 Senior Social Worker - Service Manager DVS - 2 Social Welfare Professionals - Domestic 	<p>13 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session in September 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This webinar was organised by VSA and it focused on working effectively with victims of sexual abuse.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>

<p>Violence Risk Assessment Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Leader Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 6 Social Workers - Domestic Violence Unit 					
<p>Talking to Kids on Mental Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner – Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	1 professional.	No.	One session in June 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The session explored different methods on how to address the topic of mental health with children.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 hour.</p>
<p>The Digital Forms of Sexual Violence and their Actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Psychotherapist – HBTS Positive Parenting - 1 Social Worker – Domestic Violence Unit 	2 professionals.	No.	One session in April 2023.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training focused on preventing emotional and sexual abuse among youths.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 5 days (8 hours).</p>
<p>Training on the Istanbul Convention and the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social Worker - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Director – Appogg 	43 professionals.	Yes.	Three sessions: One in October 2022 and two in November 2022.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training sought to train professionals on the Istanbul Convention to prevent and combat VAW and DV.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Social Worker - Leader Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 3 Senior Social Workers - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 4 Senior Social Workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - Leader BeSmartOnline - 1 Senior Social Worker - Leader Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - Leader Ghabex - 1 Senior Social Worker - Manager Appogg Services - 12 Social Welfare Professionals - Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Leader Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service 					<p><u>Duration: 6 hours.</u></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Worker - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Worker - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 7 Social Workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Worker – Ghabex - 1 Social Worker - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Student - Social Worker Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Trainee Social Worker - Domestic Violence Unit 					
<p>Understanding Adjustment Disorder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner – Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	1 professional.	No.	One session in June 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This session helped professionals gain understanding of adjustment disorder and its treatment.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 hour.</p>
<p>Understanding PTSD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Neuropsychology Practitioner – STOP! The Violence and Abuse 	1 professional.	No.	One session in June 2024.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> This training session provided an overview of the effects of PTSD and its treatment.</p>

<p>Working with Perpetrators' Annual Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Practitioner – Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Social Worker – Leader Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker – Service Manager DVS 	<p>3 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One session held over 3 days in August 2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u>1 hour.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> Annual conference related to working with perpetrators. This conference discussed foreign entities and methods of work in this sector.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days (8 hours each).</p>
<p>WWP Impact Toolkit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Family Therapist - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Practitioner - Coordinator STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 3 Senior Social Workers - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 7 Senior Social Workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Senior Social Worker - Leader STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Senior Social Worker - Service Manager DVS 	<p>29 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>One session held in December 2023.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> Training on the new toolkit used when working with perpetrators.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 hours.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Senior Social Worker - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 1 Social Welfare Professional - Domestic Violence Unit - 2 Social Welfare Professionals - STOP! The Violence and Abuse - 2 Social Welfare Professionals - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Social Worker - Coordinator Domestic Violence Unit - 7 Social Workers - Domestic Violence Unit - 1 Trainee Social Worker - Domestic Violence Unit 					
<p>MHA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 Occupational Therapists - 15 Psychologists - 40 Physiotherapists - 40 Speech and Language Therapists - 25 Nurses - 2 Doctors 	142 professionals.	No.	Ongoing and by request of professionals.	Yes. Reference to legislation and articles disseminated to participants.	<p><u>Content:</u> Harmful traditional practices, FGM, Human trafficking, cultural competence.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4.5 hours in total.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government representatives as part of the national training on DV. 	95 professionals.	No.	One session.	Yes. Reference to legislation and articles disseminated to participants.	<u>Content:</u> This session sought to deliver a session on Harmful Traditional Practices. <u>Duration:</u> 1 day.
HRD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 Managers I - 4 Managers II 	12 professionals.	No.	When required/available.	Yes.	<u>Content:</u> For information on the Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals refer to page xxxviii. <u>Duration:</u> 3 days.
LAM: Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal Aid Services 	10 professionals. (in process of training)	Yes.	When required/available.	Yes.	<u>Content:</u> For information on the Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals refer to page xxxviii.

					<u>Duration:</u> 3 days.
<p>MEYR:</p> <p><u>NSSS:</u></p> <p>Child-to-Parent Violence Training organised by CGBVDV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Principal Social Worker - 1 Education Officer Counselling - 1 Senior social Worker <p>DASH Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Principal Social Worker - 1 Education Officer Counselling <p>Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18 Guidance Teachers - 1 Youth Worker 	<p>3 professionals.</p> <p>2 professionals.</p> <p>33 professionals.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>No.</p>	<p>Once.</p> <p>Once.</p> <p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training was organised by CGBVDV and it aimed to inform participants about the forms and impacts of child-to-parent violence</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The DASH training informed professionals about the DASH tool.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> For information on the Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline</p>

					<p>students to speak up</p> <p>3. Presentation of Safety in Childhood research and the Safe Dates project</p> <p>4. Legal overview of teachers' duties related to GBV and DV and the national education policy with case studies.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p>
<p>Training initiatives organised by NCPE:</p> <p>Addressing and Preventing Sexual Harassment Training:</p>		<p>NCPE delivers training upon</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment and Resources Agency - Malta Business Registry employees - Armed Forces of Malta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 228 professionals. - 72 professionals. - 2508 professionals. 	<p>request. It is up to the organisation/entity requesting training to decide whether the session would be mandatory for its employees.</p>	<p>2022.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The professionals participated in the Addressing and Preventing Sexual Harassment training organised by NCPE.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 hour.</p>
<p>Equality Issues at the Workplace and Sexual Harassment Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers in private schools - Healthcare professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 180 professionals - 314 professionals 	<p>NCPE delivers training upon request. It is up to the organisation/entity requesting training to decide whether the session would be mandatory for its employees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2022-2023. - 2022-2024. 	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> Professionals took part in the Equality Issues at the Workplace and Sexual Harassment training session organised by NCPE.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1.5 hours.</p>
<p>Equality Principles, Unconscious Bias and Sexual Harassment Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Top Management and Deputy Registrars at the 	<p>73 professionals.</p>	<p>NCPE delivers training upon request. It is up to the organisation/entity requesting training to decide whether</p>	<p>2023.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training was organised by NCPE for professionals at the Court Services Agency on gender</p>

<p>Courts Services Agency</p>		<p>the session would be mandatory for its employees.</p>			<p>equality and sexual harassment. <u>Duration:</u> 2 hours.</p>
<p>MARAM staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meeting Coordinator 	<p>1 professional.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes. Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour-Based Assessment Tool (online).</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The DASH risk assessment tool was developed by ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers), Laura Richards, in conjunction with SafeLives formerly CAADA (Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse) to create a common tool for both police and non-police agencies when identifying victims of domestic abuse, stalking and harassment and honour-based violence. <u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p>

<p>- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meeting Coordinator</p>	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes. Danger Assessment Tool.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The Danger Assessment helps to determine the level of danger an abused woman has of being killed by her intimate partner. It is free and available to the public. Using the Danger Assessment requires the weighted scoring and interpretation that is provided after completing the training.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p>
<p>- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meeting Coordinator</p>	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes. Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment Training Program.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> ODARA 101 is an online, restricted-access training program designed to allow assessors to obtain domestic violence risk assessment training anytime, anywhere, and at no charge. Over</p>

<p>- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Coordinator</p>	<p>2 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes. Gender-Based Cyberviolence.</p>	<p>1000 assessors per year complete the training, which takes 4 hours on average.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours on average.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The overall purpose of the training programme is to increase participant's knowledge and understanding of the concept of gender, and gender-based violence, sexuality, and rights. It included training on cyberharassment, revenge porn, threats of rape, and can go as far as sexual assault or murder.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 5 hours.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Coordinator - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Coordinator 	<p>1 professional.</p> <p>1 professional.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Once.</p> <p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes. Bedford Police Training (UK).</p> <p>Yes. MARAC Training MK-ACT.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The Bedford Police provided training on Domestic Violence procedures in the UK.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 20 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The purpose and role of MARAC, risk factors, risk identification checklist, information sharing and protocols, referral criteria and referral process.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours.</p>
<p>SCSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 Assessors - 3 Junior Assessors - 2 Senior Research Officers - 3 Heads 	<p>13 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>As needed.</p>	<p>Yes. Domestic Violence and the purpose of the Multi Agency</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meeting Coordinators deliver training on their purpose (to</p>

				Risk Assessment Meeting Board.	facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing between entities, and to enable appropriate actions to be taken towards the reduction of harm risk to victims of DV and to increase public safety). <u>Duration:</u> 3 hours.
MPF: <i>2021</i> In-Service Continuous Professional Development.	211 professionals.	Yes.	Twice a month.	Yes.	<u>Content:</u> The Specialised Training Courses for Police who are already in service covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundamental Rights (1.5 hours). - Gender-Based Domestic

Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence Training.	15 professionals.	Yes.	One time training.	Yes.	Violence (1.5 hours). <u>Content:</u> The training focused on DASH assessment tool. <u>Duration:</u> N/A.
2022 In-Service Continuous Professional Development.	343 professionals.	Yes.	Once a week.	Yes.	<u>Content:</u> The Specialised Training Courses for Police who are already in service covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundamental Rights (1.5 hours). - Gender-Based Domestic Violence (1.5 hours).
Award in Understanding Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence.	4 professionals.	Yes.	One time training.	Yes.	<u>Content:</u> The training provided by MCAST provides information on the forms and impacts of GBV and DV.

<p>Istanbul Convention & the Gender-Based Violence & Domestic Violence Law.</p>	<p>19 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>One time training.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> N/A.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> This training was provided by FSWS and it informs professionals about the Istanbul Convention and the law on GBV and DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
<p>Sexual and Domestic Violence.</p>	<p>123 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>One time training.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> This training was provided by Prof Marceline Naudi and Dr Lara Dimitrijevic.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 28 hours.</p>
<p>Domestic Violence: Building on the Domestic Abuse Act to Better Protects and Support Victims and Survivors.</p> <p>2023</p>	<p>3 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>When available.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training was provided by Public Policy Exchange.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The In-Service Continuous</p>

In-Service Professional Development.	289 professionals.	Yes.	Once a week.	Yes.	Professional Development course covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundamental Rights (1.75 hours). - Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Victims (1.25 hours).
Rise for Change.	58 professionals.	Yes.	One time training.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training was provided by Thames Valley Partnership.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours.</p>
Multi-Agency Training for on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals.	17 professionals.	Yes.	When available.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> For information on the Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals refer to page xxxviii.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days.</p>

Conference on Combating Violence against Women: The Role of Men and Boys.	1 professional.	Yes.	Once.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The conference was organised by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade and the Permanent Representation of Malta to the Council of Europe.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 day.</p>
Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence to Police Officers.	15 professionals.	Yes.	Twice a year.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training was provided by UoM and funded by MPF. This training was a specialised training for police officers to learn more about GBV and DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 28 hours.</p>
Danger Assessment Training.	41 professionals.	Yes.	Once.	Yes.	<p><u>Content:</u> The training informed professionals about the Danger Assessment tool.</p>

<p>2024</p> <p>In-Service Continuous Professional Development.</p>	<p>163 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Once a week.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 7 hours.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> The In-Service Continuous Professional Development training covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundamental Rights (1.75 hours). - Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Victims (1.25 hours).
<p>Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence to Police Officers.</p>	<p>13 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Twice a year.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training was provided by UoM and funded by MPF. This training was a specialised training for police officers to learn more about GBV and DV.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 28 hours.</p>

<p>MARAM Training – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meeting.</p>	<p>14 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Once.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> The training was delivered by Mr Jean Taliana and Ms Tracy Baldacchino from the Ministry of Social Policy and Children’s Rights on MARAM.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> N/A.</p>
<p>Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals.</p>	<p>4 professionals.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>When available.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p><u>Content:</u> For information on the Multi-Agency Training on GBV and DV for Frontline Professionals refer to page xxxviii.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 days.</p>