

KAMRA TAD-DEPUTATI



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

*L-iSpeaker*

*The Speaker*

**Address by Hon. Anġlu Farrugia**  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**  
**Parliament of Malta**

**A call for Sustainable International Peace and Launching of the  
Global Tolerance Index**

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Excellencies,  
Esteemed guests,  
Advocates for a better world,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, we gather here not just as representatives of our respective nations and Parliaments, but as stewards of a shared planet—a planet that, more than ever, calls for our collective commitment to sustainable international peace. In the face of global challenges, it is imperative that we foster understanding, tolerance, and cooperation among nations. Today, I am honoured to speak about the urgent need for sustainable international peace and the launch of the Global Tolerance Index—a significant step towards building a world where differences are embraced, and conflicts resolved through dialogue.

The beginning of wisdom is to understand that now we live in a world fragmented between multiple great and middle powers who do not divide simply in two different camps. Today we all live in a multi-polar world.

A multi-polar world enables not multilateralism, nor even non-alignment as it was understood in the cold war, but rather what the Indian leader Narendra Modi called multi-alignment. A great power among other great power, where each country pursues its own national interest wherever it leads it, aligning with different partners on different issues.

As we stand at the crossroads of history, we find ourselves grappling with complex issues that transcend borders—climate change, economic inequality, public health crises, and political unrest. These challenges underscore the interconnectedness of our world and remind us that the pursuit of sustainable peace is not just a noble aspiration but a pragmatic necessity. In our pursuit of global harmony, tolerance becomes a guiding principle—a bridge that connects diverse cultures, ideologies, and perspectives.

The Global Tolerance Index, which we launch today, represents a commitment to measuring and fostering tolerance on a global scale. This index serves as a mirror reflecting our progress toward building societies that value diversity, respect human rights, and embrace inclusivity. By quantifying tolerance, we gain insights into the strengths and weaknesses

of our collective efforts, enabling us to tailor strategies that promote understanding and collaboration.

Tolerance is not the absence of differences; rather, it is the ability to appreciate, understand, and coexist with those differences. In a world where divisive rhetoric and polarizing ideologies can threaten the fabric of our societies, fostering tolerance becomes a moral imperative. The Global Tolerance Index aims to encourage nations to prioritize educational programs, promote cultural exchange, and enact policies that nurture an environment where individuals feel valued and respected, regardless of their background.

Sustainable international peace is not a lofty ideal confined to diplomatic discourse; it is a tangible goal that requires the active participation of governments, civil society, and individuals alike. By launching the Global Tolerance Index, we acknowledge that achieving lasting peace requires a commitment to upholding human dignity, fostering dialogue, and building bridges across the divides that too often fuel conflict.

As we embark on this journey toward a more tolerant world, let us remember that the road to sustainable international peace is paved with empathy, understanding, and a genuine desire for collaboration. The Global Tolerance Index is not just a tool for measurement but a call to action—an invitation for nations to come together, learn from one another, and strive for a future where our differences are celebrated and our common humanity is the foundation of lasting peace.

In conclusion, let us be the architects of a world where the Global Tolerance Index becomes a testament to our shared commitment to building a more peaceful, just, and tolerant world. Together, let us work tirelessly to ensure that future generations inherit a planet where the echoes of unity drown out the discord of division.

Thank you.