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From: **Malta Women's Lobby** <info@maltawomenslobby.org>
Date: Mon, 24 Aug 2026 at 11:08
Subject: Request for a joint sitting of the Social Affairs Committee and the Family Affairs Committee to address issues realted to violence on women
To: Buttigieg Rebecca at MHSR <Rebecca.c.Buttigieg@gov.mt>, <anthony.agius-decelis@gov.mt>
Cc: Graziella Attard Previ <spgraziella@gmail.com>, <carmelo.abela@parlament.mt>, <ybdebonogrech@gmail.com>, <graziella.galea.2@parlament.mt>, <romilda.baldacchino.2@parlament.mt>, ivanbartolo15@gmail.com <ivanbartolo15@gmail.com>, Norma Camilleri <normacamilleri575@gmail.com>, <mariah@melimariah.com>, <francesca.zarb@parlament.mt>, <ian.vassallo@parlament.mt>

Dear Dear Hon. Buttigieg and Hon. Agius Decelis,

I am writing on behalf of the **Malta Women's Lobby (MWL)** to **request a joint sitting of the Social Affairs Committee and the Family Affairs Committee to address three related and, in our view, urgent matters as follows**:

1. Follow-up on the joint committee process established after the murder of Nicolette Ghirxi

Following Nicolette Ghirxi's murder, both Committees convened jointly and a number of recommendations were given regarding the protection of women at risk of gender-based and domestic violence. MWL would welcome the opportunity to take stock of what has been implemented since then, what remains outstanding, and what timelines and resources are attached to the measures still in progress.

A structured review of this kind would allow Parliament to demonstrate continuity of purpose and would give civil society organisations working in this field a clearer picture of where matters stand.

2. Bail decisions in cases involving serious risk to women, and the removal of the aggressor from the matrimonial home

MWL is deeply concerned by the granting of bail to individuals who present a demonstrable and ongoing risk to the women who have reported them. Recent decisions, like in the case of [redacted] (see: https://newsbook.com.mt/en/womens-lobby-condemns-bail-granted-to-man-deemed-very-high-risk-to-pregnant-ex-partner) and [redacted] see: https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1480573427445780&id=100064794097996&rdid=TCJE1S7l8sKS2k7w#) have caused considerable public alarm and have, we believe, undermined confidence among victims that reporting will result in their protection.

We therefore request a review of how the judiciary conducts risk assessments and the weight afforded to those assessments at the bail stage in cases involving gender-based and domestic violence. We also request a review of whether the current framework under the Criminal Code affords the victims sufficient protection from further harm. It is also important to assess the adequacy of monitoring and enforcement of bail conditions, including protection and restraining orders, and the consequences of breach.

3. The practice whereby the victim and her children are displaced from the matrimonial home into shelter accommodation while the alleged aggressor remains in occupation.

MWL's position is that the burden of displacement should fall on the aggressor, not on the victim. We would welcome a discussion on how existing provisions can be used more consistently to this end, and what legislative or procedural amendment may be required to make the removal of the aggressor the default rather than the exception.

We would be grateful if a date could be identified in the coming weeks to discuss these important issues.

I remain available at your convenience to discuss the scope and format of the sitting.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Yours sincerely,

Pro. Anna Borg

Chairperson - Malta Women's Lobby

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