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TRANSPLANT
SUPPORT GROUP
(MALTA)

# TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP
# (Malta)

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# ORGAN DONATION

# FOR

# TRANSPLANTATION

*

## The
## EXPRESSED
## vs
## PRESUMED CONSENT
## ISSUE

**Compiled by Alfred Debattista**

## Introduction

The Transplant Support Group (Malta) was founded on the 9th. of May 2000, by a group of organ/tissue transplantees, following the initiative taken by heart transplantee Alfred Debattista.

The Group was launched officially to the public during a Press Conference held at the Board Room, St. Luke's Hospital on the 5th September 2000 under the patronage and with the participation of the then Minister of Health, the Hon. Dr. Louis Deguara MD., MP and the Labour Spokesman for Health, Dr. Michael Farrugia MD., MP.

The aims and objectives of this NGO, not for profit, Voluntary and philanthropic organisation, are :

- To be of service and give support to all person who, in Malta or abroad, received or are waiting to receive the transplantation of an organ or tissue.
  These include Renal patients receiving treatment for kidney failure.

- To carry out an on-going campaign to register more and more persons as prospective organ/tissue donors.

- To honour the memory of our deceased organ donors.

- To collaborate with other NGO's having similar objectives.

The Group is registered according to Law and is a member of the MHN (The Malta Health Network) and in terms of the Voluntary Organisation Act.

On a regular basis, the Group organises social and religious activities to its 240 registered members.

Group business is regulated by a Statute, approved and amended during the Group's Annual General Meetings. It is run by a nine - member Committee, elected or confirmed every year during the General Meeting.
The Committee also includes a Spiritual Director, an Ethics Adviser and a Legal Adviser.

Group Accounts are audited yearly and presented during the Annual General Meeting.

During the past years, the Group managed to register thousands of new prospective organ donors.



TRANSPLANT
SUPPORT GROUP
(MALTA)

## Registration

The registration of organ/tissue donors was initiated years ago by the Lions Club Malta. This was limited to the eye cornea and it was only following the formation of our Group that this initiative was extended to cover all organs and tissues.
Both the Lions Club and the Transplant Support Group continued with their collaboration and, with the support of the Bank of Valletta and Lifecycle Organisation provided new application brochures and donor cards as is still being done to the present day.

The awareness campaign carried out by our Group resulted in the registration of thousands of new donors following participation in all TV and Radio Stations, the Media and Talks at various locations.
Through a European Barometer Survey, carried out by MISCO in 2008, results showed that Malta was classified in second place (71%) after Sweden (with 73%) of the population with the highest awareness rate and the number of persons in possession of a Donor Card.

## Donors Register.

Until a few years ago, a National Donor Register was held at the ITU to where, processed applications were referred for registration.
Unfortunately, this is not the case any more and , as such, we are not in a position to state how many persons are, in fact, officially registered.

We feel that this is a matter the Health Authorities should look into.
Our Group will offer all reasonable assistance in this respect.

## Expressed Consent
(System presently in use)

Under the present system, would-be donors are provided with all due information, contained also in our bi-lingual brochures, following which, the person concerned will fill in and sign the application form and be provided with a Donor Card.
This procedure is indicative of a freely formed opinion and individual consent and the new donor is encouraged to inform his family of his decision.

Irrespective of this expressed and signed consent , Doctors will seek the final approval of the deceased donor before harvesting his organs/tissues for transplantation.
This is due to possible reasonable reasons, unknown to them, (including religious beliefs) that may have come about following the original consent, that may preclude the use of the organs.



TRANSPLANT
SUPPORT GROUP
(MALTA)

## Presumed Consent

(Also referred to as the **'Opt Out'** system)

In most European (and other) Countries, the 'Opt Out' system has been legislated and is in operation. Others are contemplating its introduction.

This system recognises the fact that, unless a person has expressly informed the State ( in some form of writing or whatsoever) that he is unwilling to offer his organs/tissues for transplantation following his death, the State will be free to use the organs of deceased persons for transplantation.
According to statistics, this new system had increased the availability of organs for transplantation.

In such a system, there will be no need to keep a National Donors Register but a different Register containing only the objectors.

## The 'Pros and Cons' of such a system

The Transplant Support Group, conscious of recent public awareness on the subject and also following suggestions and opinions freely shared during debates, has studied the 'pros and cons' of a possible switch to this new 'opt out' system.

During a brainstorming session held on the 27th. April 2009, the Committee members discussed this issue.
The following questions and answers, raised during the discussion may be indicative of the feelings of our Group.

a) **<u>What were the causes that prompted most Countries to revert to an 'Opt Out' System ?</u>**
Undoubtedly, the main reason was the lack of 'supply' of organs/tissues to meet the 'demand'. Hundreds and thousands of patients die while on the waiting list.
The new system has improved considerably the availability of organs for transplantation.

b) **<u>Is this system needed/applicable for Malta ?</u>**
Whilst like in other Countries, this system may increase the availability of needed organs, the position in Malta may not be as desperate as in other Countries .
The most needed organ, involving a good number of patients who are on the waiting list is the **Kidney.**
Apart from cadaveric transplantation, living related/unrelated donations are becoming popular. If this trend continues, the position will, eventually, lessen the problem.
The present system of donation, freely expressed by prospective donors and, eventually, confirmed by the family of the deceased seems to be more accepted locally.



TRANSPLANT
SUPPORT GROUP
(MALTA)

## Contacts with family members

Normally, members of the family of a person receiving intensive care at the ITU, who may have been calling at the Unit for days during the period of care, are approached by a doctor, when brain death is certified, for their approval to harvest the organs.

We feel it important to be ascertained that the medical officer/s performing these approaches are familiar and are trained in this issue.
It is also pertinent to ask why our Transplant Coordinator is not involved in contacting the family of a possible donor, **as is the case in all other Countries.**

## Legislation

So far, the Transplant Support Group has followed initiatives and policies practiced all over Europe and other Countries.
We are in agreement that it is about time that official legislation is introduced to make our practices legally binding.
While safeguarding local religious and social aspects, a number of foreign legislations – particularly that of Spain – considered by many as the model legislation - may be consulted to provide the Legislator with enough information on the issue.

The initial issue that should be resolved , in our opinion, is that the wish of the donor to donate his organs for transplantation, expressed freely and in writing, **is to be honoured by the family**, unless there are specific and legal issues that may influence otherwise.

In local law, the corpse is the property of the heirs.
Normally all provisions of a deceased persons, expressed in the Will ,are honoured.
So why not also such a wish to donate organs ?!

## Conclusion

As can be seen from this 'brief', there are options <u>for</u> and <u>against</u> an 'Opt Out' system.
On the one side, the **expressed** consent is considered by many as a more voluntary act after one has been duly informed and formed a favourable opinion to donate.
On the other hand, the 'Opt Out' (**Presumed Consent**) system ensures a greater supply of organs and tissues that would have otherwise been wasted.
Again , it is in order to remarks that when such a system has been introduced, the overriding need was the supply shortage of organs compared to the great number of persons on the waiting list for organ transplantation.

It is also pertinent to suggest that before the Presumed Consent issue is pursued further, a nation-wide campaign is organised to inform the public on this issue and then, a survey be carried out to test public opinion on the subject.

**End.**



TRANSPLANT
SUPPORT GROUP
(MALTA)

TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP MALTA

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ORGAN DONATION

## F'PAGNI OĦRA

Pagna 2
Editorjal, Ħallewna

Pagna 3
Attivitajiet għar-Renal patients

Pagna 4
Feature article minn
Fr. Mario Attard

Pagna 5
Zjara ta' kortesija lil E.T.
President tal-Repubblika.
World Bank Donors Day

Pagna 6
Awareness Promo

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## ZJARA TA' KORTEZIJA LIL PRESIDENT TAR-REPUBLIKA

(Rapport f'pagna 5)

## HARGIET GHAR-RENAL PATIENTS

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# EDITORJAL

Matul ix-xhur li għaddew il-Kumitat ħabrieki tagħna kompla bil-ħidma tiegħu bla waqfien kemm f'dik li hija *awareness* kif ukoll fis-support kontinwu lil-pazjenti/ membri tal-Grupp, li bħalissa jlaħħqu fuq 300.

Ġew organizzati għadd ta' attivitajiet soċjali fosthom l-ikla tal-14 l-anniversarju mit-twaqqif tal-Grupp, kif ukoll ħarġiet edukattivi u rikrejattivi għal pazjenti fir-renal unit (Dialysis u CAPD) kemm f'Malta kif ukoll f'Għawdex.

Rappreżentanti tal-Kumitat u xi membri ħadu sehem f'attivitajiet organizzati mill-MCVS u mill-Malta Health Network, fi programmi televiżivi u tar-radju, kif ukoll taw taħditit lill-impjegati ta' intrapiżi u membri ta' klabbs. Spikkat, naturalment, iż-żjara ta' kortesija li għamilna lil-E.T. il-President tar-Repubblika fil-Palażż San Anton.

Dwar dan kollu u aktar issibu tagħrif f'paġni oħra ta' din il-ħarġa.
Nilqgħu bi pjaċir il-kontribuzzjoni f'paġna 4 ta Fr. Mario Attard, Kapuċċin dwar l-esperjenzi tiegħu mal pazjenti tar-Renal Unit. Fr. Mario se jkompli jipprovdilna kitbiet oħra fil-ħarġiet li jmiss. Hekk ukoll inħajru lil kulmin jista' jipprovdilna xi materjal -- ta' kull forma -- biex jidher f'din in-newsletter tagħkom ilkoll

**ĦALLEWNA MILL-AĦĦAR ĦARGA**

Charles Mifsud minn Pembroke mar jiltaqa' mal-Mulej nhar it-Tnejn, 9 ta' Ġunju 2014 wara xi ġimgħat rikoverat fis-CTS Ward, Sptar Mater Dei, fl-għomor ta' 71 sena. Charles kien ifforma parti mill-ewwel Kumitat tal-Grupp fit-twaqqif tiegħu fis-sena 2000 wara li fid-19 ta' Ġunju, 1977 kien ġie ttrapjantat b'qalb ta' donatur.

**Ħallewna wkoll:**

Rosario Muscat (B'Kara)
Carmelo Buġeja (Mtarfa)
Nathalina Aquilina (M'Scala)
Edmund Cefai (St. Julians)
Maria Desideria Mifsud (Gozo)
Ronald Caruana (Fgura)
Eugene Formosa (Kalkara)
Emanuel Zammit (M'scala)

**AGĦTHOM, MULEJ, IL-MISTRIEĦ TA' DEJJEM**

**Quote:**
You should not live everyday knowing you're going to die.
You live knowing that you want to live. (Arsene Wenger)

If you are depressed you are living in the past.
If you are anxious you are living in the future.
If you are at peace, you are living in the present. (Lao Tzu)

## ĦARĠIET GĦAL PAŻJENTI TAR-RENAL U
## OUTINGS FOR RENAL UNIT PATIENTS

Matul dawn l-aħħar xhur ġew organiżżati għadd ta' ħarġiet u attivitajiet għal-pazjenti li jirċievu kura għal mard tal-kliewi, kemm dawk tad-dialysis kif ukoll tas-CAPD
Il-Lifecycle Organisation u t-Transplant Support Group jisponsorjaw dawn l-attivitajiet.
Nhar il-Ħamis, 6 ta' Marzu 2014, grupp ta 70 persuna komposti minn pazjenti tad-dialysis u familjari tagħhom ittieħdu fir-Ramla Bay Resort u wara quddiesa minn Fr. Stephen Borg, kellhom kafe, u Buffet Lunch. Ġiet organizzata tombla kif ukoll divertiment li fih ipparteċipaw għadd ta' pażjenti.
Dan kollu kien organizzat minn nurses Josette, Emily, Alan u *helpers* oħra li dejjem jieħdu ħsieb kulma huwa meħtieġ għal dawn l-attivitajiet. (ritratti)

Ħarġa oħra, din id-darba għal pazjenti tas-CAPD kienet organizzata nhar il-Ħamis, 22 ta' Mejju 2014. Wara quddiesa fil-11 a.m. minn Fr. Mario Attard OFM, Cap. fil-kapella tal-isptar Mater Dei, il-grupp ta' 63 pazjenti u familjari, ittieħdu fil-Fanal Restaurant, M'Scala fejn, wara l-ikla ġiet organizzata tombla u divertiment ieħor. Din l-attivita ġiet organizzata, bħas-soltu, minn nurses Joe Baldacchino, Frida, Lorraine u *helpers* oħra. (Ara ritratti)

Nhar il-Ħamis, 29 ta' Mejju, 2014, ġiet organizzata ħarġa oħra għal pazjenti tad-Dialysis, din id-darba fil-gżira Għawdxija. Minn ħdejn l-isptar Mater Dei tlaqna lejn il-Ċirkewwa fit-8.30 am biex irkibna l-vapur li wassalna l-Imġarr. Il-grupp ittieħed għand l-istabbiliment 'Ta' Mena'. limiti ta' Marsalforn għal-kafe u xi *snacks* qabel ma Fr. Mario Attard OFM., Cap. għamlilna servizz tal-okkazzjoni u xi talb u wkoll amministralna d-dlik biż-żejt imbierek tipiku tal-griżma tal-morda. Hemmhekk ukoll ġiet organizzata tombola u xi *raffles* sakemm sar il-ħin biex morna fi-Restaurant 'Il-Bukkett' fil-limiti tal-Qala għall-ikla. Iritornajna Malta mal-vapur tal-4.30 pm.

**Minn fuq il-crouch tad-dialysis.......... minn Fr. Mario Attard OFM., Cap.**

Kull ħamest ijiem ikolli x-xorti li nqarbinhom. Nidħol ħdejhom. Insellmilhom. Min jitbissimli. Min le. Nifimha, ikunu għajjenin. Għax anki biex titbissem trid l-enerġija. Min ikun rieqed għax l-għejja tal-proċess tkun kbira, min jiekol għaliex, u ġustament, ikun bil-ġuħ. Min iħares fil-bogħod. Nifhmu wkoll. Ikun mitluf f'baħar ta'ħsibijiet. Dawn huma l-pazjenti għeżież tagħna tar-Renal Unit.

Kull pazjent ifisser storja. Minsuġa bis-sabiħ u bl-ikrah tagħha. Maqugħda bit-tamiet u l-qtiegħ il-qalb. Marbuta bil-ferħ u bin-niket. Issikkata bil-pożittiv u n-negattiv tagħha. Biss, il-pazjenti, ikoll kemm huma, għandhom l-istess tama. It-tama li taf tkun it-tieni ċans li jgħixu mill-ġdid. Jiġifieri, li ġurnata, titfaċċa dik il-kilwa. Id-deheb tad-deheb. Il-ġawhra tal-ġawhar. Għaliex biha tingħatalhom il-ħajja mill-ġdid. Nifs ġdid wara l-ieħor jimla' l-pulmuni tagħhom.

Ma jimpurtax minfejn din il-kilwa se tiġi. Tiġi min fejn tiġi. Tiġi min fejn trid. Sew jekk hija waħda minn ta' żgħażugħ; inkella ta' imdaħħal fiż-żmien. Sew tal-fqir inkella ta' sinjur. L-importanti li tiġi. Li titwaħħal f'postha. Li tieħu post il-marida. Ħa jgħixu. Ħa jaħdmu. Ħa jgawdu. Ħa jissuktaw iva jikkontribwixxu għall-ġid art twelidna.

L-istejjer tal-pazjenti huma diversi. Ilkoll għandhom linja dehebija. Il-linja tal-erojiżmu! Għax trid tkun eroj biex, wara ħames siegħat fuq magna, xorta waħda tibqa taqdi lill-oħrajn! Tibqa tara l-pożittiv fil-ħajja. Tibqa' toħlom. Tibqa' tittama. Trid ikun eroj kbir biex tibqa' taħseb f'dawk ta' madwarek. Dawk li jiddependu minnek. Għax int ommhom. Missierhom. Nannuhom. Nanniethom. jew, saħansitra, li int binthom u binhom stess! Trid tkun eroj biex tiqba' tgħix fil-paċi.

Imbagħad joħroġ l-akbar erojiżmu. Meta l-persuna, minflok ma tisħet xortiha jew lill-Mulej, li tant iħobbha, tarma toffendieħ u tħeżżeż snienha kontrieħ, b'tant umilta' tibda tfittxu. Iddur lejh. titolbu bil-ħerqa. Tilmaħ wiċċu f'kulħadd! Tħoss it-tgħanniqa tiegħu f'dawk stess li jieħdu tant ħsiebha. Għax jaqduha. Jisimgħuha. Ifarrġuha. Anki jekk ma jgħidulha xejn. Imma jgħidulha ħafna. Għax baqgħu hemm magħha fuq il-Għolja tal-Kalvarju. Oh kemm paċi jkun hemm maġenb dak il-couch li fih ikun qiegħed jilqa' l-ġisem tal-pazjent li jittama fil-Mulej! Anki waqt il-mument aħrax tal-prova tal-ħajja. Il-prova li l-pazjenti tad-dialysis huma ferm midħla tagħha.

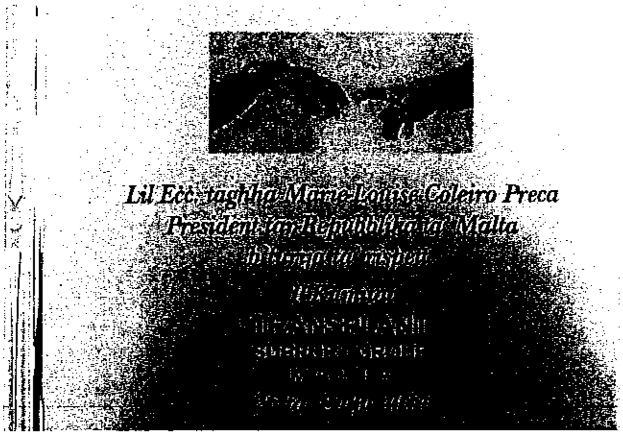
Emmnuni ħbieb, imma dawn il-pażjenti huma għalliema kbar għalija stess! Jgħinu lili ngħix il-prova tal-kundizzjoni tal-mudullun tiegħi! Meta nkun ma ġenbhom, minnhom toħrog iż-żiffa ħelwa tas-Salm 23: 'Mqar jekk nimxi f'wied mudlam, ma nibżax mill-ħsara, għax inti miegħi. Il-ħatar u l-għasluġ tiegħek, huma jwennsuni' (Salm 23:4). Mela, minn fuq il-couch tad-dialysis tiegħek nstiednek titlob hekk:

***Mulej, żomm idejk mimlija mħabba fuqi u fuq il-familja tiegħi f'dawn iż-żminijiet iebsa.***
***Niżżik ħajr tal-ħniena u l-imħabba li tfajt f'qalbi. Niżżik ħajr li qed tgħini nifhem li ħajti f'idejk. Saħħaħni Mulej. Nitolbok li l-pażjenti l-oħra bħali, flimkien mal-familji tagħhom, jifhmu li inti qiegħed tmexxi lil ħajjithom. Għinhom jitolbuk l-għajnuna.***
***Mulej bierek lili u lill-familja tiegħi. Niżżik ħajr Mulej! AMEN.***

***QUOTE: 'Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.' (Leo F. Buscaglia (American Guru) 1924-1998***

## Żjara ta' kortesija lil-E.T. President tar-Repubblika

Nhar il-Ġimgħa, 25 ta' Lulju 2014, delegazzjoni ffurmata mill-President u membri tal-Kumitat tat-Transplant Support Group, flimkien ma' Fr. Bernard Mangion OFM., Cap (Direttur Spiritwali)u s-Sur Paul Calleja (Transplant Coordinator) għamlu zjara ta' kortesija lill-E.T. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President tar-Repubblika fil-Palazz ta' San Anton.
F'din il-laqgħa ferm kordjali, l-Eċċellenza tagħha, li dehret infurmata sew bil-ħidma tal-Grupp tagħna, qasmet magħna ħsibijiet konnessi mal-volontarjat u l-ħidma kontinwa tagħna fis-sapport li nagħtu lil persuni li qed jistennew li jirċievu xi tip ta' organu u l-kampanja tagħna fir-reġistrazzjoni ta' donaturi prospettivi ġodda. Il-President wegħditna l-għajnuna tagħha fejn ikollna bzonn.

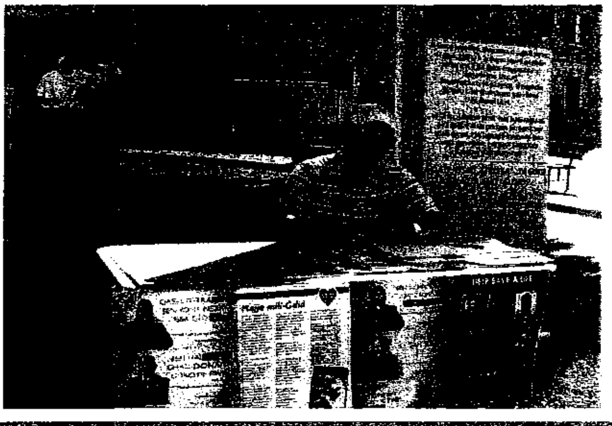


Il-memento li pprezentajna lil E.T. il-President waqt iż-żjara tagħna

Il-President tal-Grupp ma' E.T. il-President tar-Repubblika

## JUM DINJI TAD-DONATURI TAD-DEMM
## *WORLD BLOOD DONORS DAY*

Nhar is-Sibt, 14 ta' Gunju, 2014, fil-Pjazza San Luqa, G'Mangia, iċ-Centru tal-Għoti tad-demm organizza attivita kbira fl-okkazzjoni tal-Jum Dinji tad-Donaturi tad-demm.
L-attivita bdiet bit-tberik u ntroduzzjoni minn Fr. Vince Micallef O.P., kappillan tal-Parroċċa u kompliet b'għadd ġmielu ta' inizjattivi.
L-E.T. il-President tar-Repubblika, Mrs. Marie-Louise Colero Preca onorat din l-attivita bil-preżenza tagħha u b'diskors tal-okkazzjoni.
Ħadu sehem għaqdiet tal-Voluntarjat bħal Transplant Support Group, l-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Qwiebel, Soċjeta' tas-Salib l-Aħmar, is-St. John Ambulance Brigade u organiżżażjoniet oħra.



Talk by our President Alfred Debattista at the Ladies Crafts Centre, Dingli (9/5/2014)

Lifecycle event - St. Anne Square, Sliema Promo and Fundraising. (17/5/2014)

Talk to M.I.T.A. staff at the Blata l-Bajda Centre On 5/5/2014. (Speaker James Muscat (V/Pres.)

Another session to M.I.T.A. staff at St. Venera Centre (12/5/2014) (Speaker Alfred Debattista (Pres.)

Participation by our President in the Living Room Programme on Favourite TV (19/4/2014)

Promo talk, by our President during BOV (RTD) Staff Association, A.G.M. (7/6/14)

Annual Committee and Guests lunch

Annual Anniversary lunch for members (18/5/2014)

# TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP Malta

Dan il-Grupp filantropiku (NGO) ġie mwaqqaf fid-9 ta' Mejju, 2000 minn grupp ta' persuni li rċivew trapjant ta' xi organu bl-inizjattiva li ħa Alfred Debattista, li wkoll, xi xhur qabel, kien irċieva trapjant ta' qalb ta' żgħażugħ Għawdxi.

**Għanijiet tal-Grupp huma li:**
• ikun ta' għajnuna u jagħti servizz lil dawk kollha li f'Malta jew barra, ġew ittrapjantati b'xi organu jew tissue jew li qegħdin jistennew li jsirilhom intervent bħal dan. Dan l-istess servizz jingħata wkoll lil dawk kollha li qegħdin jirċievu kura għal mard tal-kliewi (haemodialysis jew CAPD).
• ifakkar u jonora l-memorja tad-donaturi mejtin tagħna u jżomm kuntatt mal-familja tagħhom.
• imexxi kampanja biex aktar persuni jirreġistraw bħala donaturi prospettivi tal-organi.
• iżomm kuntatt kontinwu mal-Awtoritajiet tas-saħħa u għaqdiet kostitwiti li għandhom għanijiet simili għal tagħna biex jikkonsolida l-interess tal-membri tagħna.

***Sezzjoni Għawdxija***

*Din is-sezzjoni twaqqfet fit-23 ta' Mejju, 2004, biex tiżgura illi l-membri tagħna Għawdxin igawdu mill-istess benefiċċji pprovduti f'Malta. Is-Sezzjoni Għawdxija titmexxa fuq l-istess linji u għanijiet tal-Kumitat Ċentrali ta' Malta.*

**ORGAN DONATION** is an **ACT OF LOVE** *(Pope John Paul II)*
**BE A DONOR** and give a **GIFT TO LIVE** *(Pope Benedict XVI)*

*Kontribuzzjonijiet jiġu milqugħa fil-Kont li l-Grupp għandu fil-fergħat tal-BOV (Fond TSG. No 400 143 69302)*

**Kif tikkuntattjana**
**2122 3026 - 2182 6718 - 2169 6383**
**Website: www.transplantsupport.com.mt**
**E-mail: transplantsupport@onvol.net**

# TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP Malta

This philanthropic, non-profit making NGO was founded on the 9th May 2000 by a group of organ recipients on the initiative of Alfred Debattista who, a few months earliet, was trasplanted with the heart of a young Gozitán donor.

**The Group aims to:**
• assist and be of service to all organ recipients who have been transplanted and to any patients waiting to receive any organ or tissue, both locally and overseas. This support is extended also to renal patients on haemodialysis or CAPD treatment.
• honour the memory of out deceased donors and keep contact with their next of kin.
• promote an awareness campaign so as to register more persons as prospective organ donors.
• maintain liaison with the health authorities and other Organization with similar aims so as to consolidate the interests of our members.

***Gozo Section***

*This was launched on the 23rd May 2004 to ensure that our Gozitan members benefit from the same services as those provided in Malta. The Gozo section operates on the same basis of the TSG (Malta) central committee.*

**ORGAN DONATION** is an **ACT OF LOVE** *(Pope John Paul II)*
**BE A DONOR** and give a **GIFT TO LIVE** *(Pope Benedict XVI)*

*Contributions are welcome at any Bank of Valletta branch. Fund TSG. No 400 143 69302*

**Contact Details**
**2122 3026 - 2182 6718 - 2169 6383**
**Website: www.transplantsupport.com.mt**
**E-mail: transplantsupport@onvol.net**

I declare that in the event of my death, I donate:
☐ Any part of my body that may be used for Transplantation.
☐ The organs indicated: 'Heart', 'Lungs', 'Liver', 'Kidneys', 'Eye Cornea', 'pancreas' (mark as applicable).

Name ____________________ ID No. ____________

Signature ____________________ Date: ____________

In the event of my death contact:

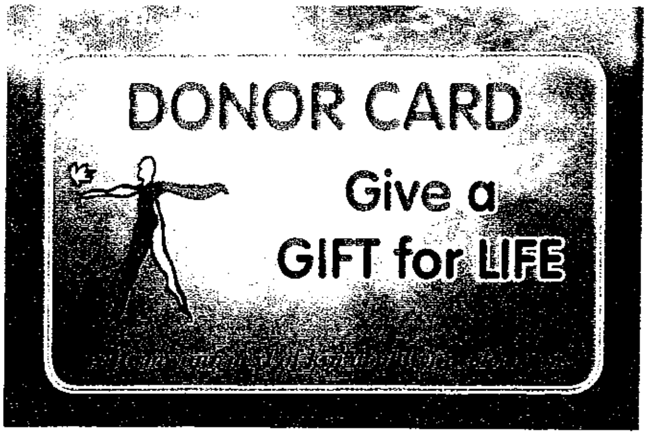
Name: ____________________ Tel No. ____________

SPONSORS:

BOV Bank of Valletta plc

This project, originated by the Lions Club Sliema, is run by Transplant Support Group (Malta) supported by Bank of Valletta plc and the Lifecycle Organisation

Lions Club Sliema — TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP MALTA



**Għal aktar informazzjoni ċempel**
***For more information phone:***


**Transplant Support Group (Malta)**
Tel: 2122 3026, 2182 6718, 2169 6383
E.mail: transplantsupport@onvol.net
www.transplantsupport.com.mt

**Renal Unit (Mater Dei Hospital)**
Tel: 2545 6080

**Life Cycle Organisation - c/o Renal Unit**
www.lifecyclechallenge.com



—— Sponsors tal-fuljett: ——
*Brochure Sponsors*

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lifecycle

Dan il-proġett huwa mmexxi
mit-Transplant Support Group (Malta)

*This project is run by*
*the Transplant Support Group (Malta)*

TRANSPLANT
SUPPORT GROUP
M A L T A


**TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP (MALTA)**

Alfred Debattista
Heart Transplantee

Tony Dalli
Kidney Transplantee

Joe Bonello
Heart Transplantee

James Muscat
Living Kidney Donor

Peter Paul Sapiano
Liver Transplantee

Claudia Stafrace
Heart Transplantee

Carol Mizzi Peplow
Cornea Recipient

Salvino Bellizzi
Cornea Recipient

Gaetana Azzopardi
Cornea Recipient

# QATT HSIBT...
# ...li tistà tagħti
# il-ħajja...
# MILL-ĠDID?

*Has it ever occurred to you*
*that you can give*
*someone a new life?*

## IRRID NAQSAM ĦAJTI...

## Agħti l-ħajja mill-ġdid

Ħafna jsibu konsolazzjoni li wara mewthom jistgħu jagħtu diversi organi tagħhom u b'hekk ikunu qed jgħinu lil għadd ta' nies ikomplu jgħixu jew itejbu l-kwalità tal-ħajja tagħhom. Forsi xi wħud isibuha diffiċli jitkellmu fuq l-għotja tal-organi wara l-mewt. Lanqas ma hija faċli għall-qraba ta' min miet biex jiddeċiedu li jagħtu l-organi tal-għeżież tagħhom.

Dan il-fuljett iwieġeb għal xi mistoqsijiet li jistà jkollok dwar id-donazzjonijiet tal-organi u jispjega kif inti wkoll tistà tagħti l-organi tiegħek wara li tmut.

## X'għandi nagħmel?

Inti, jekk trid, tistà tiddeċiedi li wara li tmut toffri xi partijiet minn ġismek biex jingħataw lil ħaddieħor. B'hekk tkun qed tgħin biex issalva l-ħajja ta' ħaddieħor jew ittejjeb il-kwalità tal-ħajja tal-oħrajn. Inti tistà tagħti wieħed jew aktar min dawn l-organi: il-qalb, il-pulmuni, il-fwied, il-frixa, il-kliewi u l-kornea. Dan ifisser li inti wara mewtek tistà tgħin lil aktar minn persuna waħda.

## Xorta jippruvaw isalvawli ħajti?

U żgur li iva! Il-ħajja tiegħek tiġi l-ewwel u qabel kollox. It-tobba li jkunu qed jikkurawk dejjem jagħmlu minn kollox biex isalvawlek ħajtek. Huwa biss meta jkunu ċerti li l-persuna mietet li jibdew jistaqsu lill-familjari dwar il-possibiltà ta' donazzjoni tal-organi.

## Inkun mitt żgur?

Bla dubju! It-tobba, biex jassiguraw ruħhom li l-pazjent ikun miet, jagħmlu diversi testijiet. Dawn it-testijiet isiru darbtejn minn tobba differenti li ma jkollhomx x'jaqsmu mal-proċess tat-trapjanti tal-organi. Ikun biss li wara li jkunu ċerti li l-persuna mietet fiż-żgur li jibda l-proċess tat-trapjant biex jittieħdu l-organi, u dan dejjem wara li jkollhom il-permess tal-familjari.

## Ġismi jiġi b'xi mod immaltrattat?

Xejn minn dan. Tobba speċjalizzati joperaw fuq il-ġisem biex jittieħdu l-organi. Huma jittrattaw il-ġisem bl-akbar qima u b'rispett matul l-operazzjoni kollha. Meta din tintemm, ma jkun hemm l-ebda sinjal li l-organi jkunu ttieħdu.

## X'taħseb il-knisja?

Il-Knisja taqbel. In-nisrani jinagħraf minn kemm ikun ġeneruż ma' għajru. Id-donazzjoni tal-organi hija att ta' ġenerożità li l-Knisja tfaħħar.

## Kif napplika?

Jekk inti trid issir donatur:

1. Imla l-formola li hawn f'dan il-fuljett u ibgħata biex tinħariġlek Donor Card.
2. Ibda żomm dejjem fuqek il-card li tirċievi;
3. Informa lill-qraba tiegħek b'din id-deċiżjoni tiegħek. Huwa mportanti ħafna li tinfurmhom, għax b'hekk il-familjari tiegħek isibuha aktar faċli li jagħtu l-permess lit-tobba wara mewtek.

## Importanti

Jekk inti tibdel fehmtek tkun tistà tikteb fl-istess indirizz..

Jekk tixtieq iktar informazzjoni biex jirreġistraw membri oħra tal-familja, tistà ċċempel fuq in-numri tat-telefon imsemmija jew timla l-formola li tinsab f'dan il-fuljett, poġġiha f'envelope u ibgħata f'dan l-indirizz.

**Transplant Support Group (Malta)**
c/o 'Highbury', No. 28,
Triq Lord Byron,
Ħamrun - ĦMR 1090. Malta

Ftit jiem wara li tibgħat din il-formola, tirċievi Donor Card. Jekk jogħġbok iffirmaha u żommha dejjem fuqek. Informa ukoll lil tal-familja bid-deċiżjoni tiegħek.

# I WANT TO SHARE MY LIFE...

## Give a new life

*It is a sense of satisfaction knowing that following your death, the use of your organs for transplantation, will give a better life, or better still, a new life, to somebody in need. It is not an easy issue to discuss. It is less easy for the next-of-kin to give their consent for the use of organs of their beloved ones for transplantation. But the previous consent given by the deceased donor will ease pressure on the next-of-kin in deciding in favour of transplantation.*

*The information given in this brochure will answer most of the questions normally raised before one registers as a donor.*

## What am I to do?

*You may decide to donate either a particular organ (as indicated on the registration form) or you may choose to offer any part of your body for transplantation. This can make it possible for more than one person to benefit from your donation.*

## Will the doctors try to save my life?

*Certainly so! Your life comes first and foremost and every doctor's duty is to preserve life till the very end. It is only when one is finally certified as 'brain dead' that the final process of the removal of organs can proceed.*

## Will I be definitely dead?

*Without any doubt! To ensure this, two medical officers, in no way connected with the process of transplantation, will certify one's death - separately and at different times following separate tests that are carried out.*

*It is only when this certainty is available that the process of organ removal - following the consent of the next-of-kin can commence.*

## Will my corpse be, in any way maltreated?

*Nothing at all. Specialised Medical Officers will operate on the body, exercising utmost care and ensuring the dignity of the deceased. When this is all over, there will be no visible signs of the taking of the organs.*

## What is the church's opinion?

*The Church encourages the donation of one's organs after death and expresses this noble gesture as an act of love and a gift of life.*

## What should I do to become a donor?

*Fill in the form provided with this brochure. Refer it as directed to the Transplant Support Group.*

*Retain your Donor Card to be readily available. Inform your next-of-kin about your decision. It is of utmost importance that they are aware of your decision.*

## Important

*You may have your consent revoked in the event that you change your mind.*

*A donor card will be provided based on the information given on this form.*

*Should you require more details or information feel free to call us on the telephone numbers mentioned in this leaflet. If you have decided to become a donor, kindly fill in your details (in Capital Letters) and mark as appropriate the application form attached and send it to:*

***Transplant Support Group (Malta),***
***c/o 'Highbury', No. 28,***
***Triq Lord Byron,***
***Ħamrun - HMR 1090. Malta***
***Tel: 2122 3026***

*Soon after receipt of your completed form, you will receive your Donor Card which should be signed and carried in your wallet/handbag at all times. Inform your next-of-kin about your decision.*

## APPLICATION FORM

L-informazzjoni li inti tikteb f'din il-formola tintuża biex tintbagħtlek Donor Card. F'kull ħin inti jkollok id-dritt li tibdel id-deċiżjoni tiegħek. Jekk jogħġbok, imla l-vojt billi tikteb ċar u tuża ittri kapitali. Immarka biss fejn jgħodd għalik.

*A Donor Card will be provided based on the information given on this form. Kindly fill in your details (in Capital Letters) and mark as appropriate.*

Kunjom / *(Surname)* ..........................................................................................

Isem sħiħ / *(Name in full)* ..................................................................................

Data tat-Twelid / (Date of Birth)

.............. Jum / *(Day)* ............... Xahar / *(Mth)* ................ Sena / *(Year)*

Sess / Sex ☐ Raġel / Male ☐ Mara / Female

Numru tal-Karta tal-Identità / *(I.D. Card No.)* ..................................................

Indirizz / *(Address)* ..........................................................................................

.........................................................................................................................

.........................................................................................................................

Telefon / *(Telephone)* .......................................................................................

☐ Jien niddikkjara li wara mewti lest li nagħti kull parti minn ġismi biex jintuża għall-kura ta' l-oħrajn.
*(I declare and authorise that in the event of my death, any part of my body may be used for transplantation).*

jew / *(or)*

Jien niddikkjara li wara mewti nagħti għall-kura tal-oħrajn:
*I declare and authorise that in the event of my death, the organ/s indicated may be used for transplantation).*

☐ il-qalb *(Heart)* ☐ il-pulmuni *(Lungs)* ☐ il-fwied *(Liver)*

☐ il-frixa *(Pancreas)* ☐ il-kliewi *(Kidneys)* ☐ il-kornea *(Cornea)*

Jekk jogħġbok, irreġistrani biex wara mewti l-organi tiegħi jkunu jistgħu jiġu wżati għall-kura tal-oħrajn.
*Please enlist my name so that following my death, my organ/s can be used in the care of others.*

F'Każ ta' mewt informa lil ................................................Tel:..........................
*(On the event of my death please inform)*

Firma ........................................................ Data .........................................
*(Signiture)* *(Date)*

## Jekk wara mewtek tħalli l-organi tiegħek biex jintużaw għat-trapjanti, tkun qed tagħti ĦAJJA ĠDIDA LIL ĦADDIEĦOR

"Jien ġo fija ħassejt li għandi ngħid iva meta t-tobba talbuni l-permess biex jieħdu l-organi ta' binti... U jekk allaħares qatt ikolli nerġa ngħaddi mill-istess problema, l-istess nerġà nagħmel!

Qatt ma ddispjaċieni mid-deċiżjoni li ħadt. U jekk jiġri xi ħaġa lili, nixtieqhom jagħmlu l-istess".

**********

*"I did not hesitate to consent to the use of my late daughter's organs for transplantation when so asked by doctors... and will do the same should I have to face a similar situation".*

*"I have never regretted the decision I had to take. And should anything happen to me, I wish that doctors will do the same with my organs".*

**Joan Agius tat l-organi ta' bintha Claudette ta' 14-il sena.**
***(Joan Agius donated her 14 year old daughter's organs for transplantation)***

"Tant kienet persuna lesta li tgħin lill-ħaddieħor li żgur li kienet tkun lesta li tagħti l-ħajja lil oħrajn.

Qatt ma ddispjaċieni li ħadna din id-deċiżjoni. Inħoss li b'li għamlet il-familja tagħna għinna lil persuna oħra tibda tgħix mill-ġdid".

**********

*"Knowing how ready our mother was in helping others, we never regretted our decision to consent to the use of her organs for transplantation".*

*"We all feel that our family have contributed in making it possible for someone to live a new and better life".*

**Elaine Bonello li flimkien mal-familja tat il-permess li jittieħdu l-kliewi ta' ommhom.**
***(Elaine Bonello on behalf of her family who donated her mother's kidneys)***

***In the event of your death, authorising the use of your organs for transplantation will be giving the opportunity to someone to live a new and better life...***

## Il-Grupp tagħna twaqqaf sabiex

- Iħares id-drittijiet u l-bżonnijiet ta' dawk trapjantati b'xi organu jew li qegħdin jistennew trapjant.
- Jonora l-memorja tad-donaturi mejtin u jżomm kuntatt mal-familjari tagħhom.
- Ikabbar il-kuxjenza fost il-pubbliku biex aktar persuni jirreġistraw bħala donaturi ta'organi.
- Jikkollabora ma l-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa kif ukoll ma għaqdiet li għandhom għanijiet simili, għal ġid tal-membri tagħna.

## Kampanja għoti ta' Organi

Qatt ħsibt li tista' tagħti l-ħajja mill-ġdid...? Jekk wara mewtek tħalli l-organi biex jintużaw għat-trapjanti, tkun qed tagħti ħajja ġdida.

Inti, jekk trid, tista' tiddeċidi li wara li tmut toffri xi partijiet minn ġismek biex jingħataw lil ħaddieħor. B'hekk tkun qed tgħin biex issalva l-ħajja ta' l-oħrajn.

Għal kull għajnuna, informazzjoni kif ukoll biex tirċievi formoli ta' reġistrazzjoni, tista' ċċempel fuq it-telephones li jidhru f'parti oħra ta' dan il-fuljett.

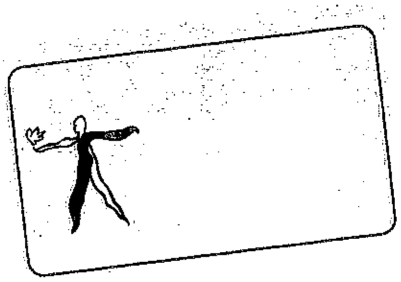
# TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP
M A L T A

F O U N D E D 9th M A Y 2000

*the gift of Life*

c/o 28, 'Highbury', Lord Byron Sreet,Hamrun. HMR 1090 - Malta
Tel: (+356) 2122 3026 • Mob: (+356) 7926 4179
Email: transplantsupport@onvol.net
www.transplantsupport.com.mt

*Ftit jiem wara li tibgħat din il-formola, tirċievi Donor Card. Jekk jogħġbok żommha dejjem fuqek. Informa ukoll lil tal-familja bid-deċiżjoni tiegħek.*



*Jekk tixtieq iktar informazzjoni biex jirreġistraw membri oħra tal-familja, tistà ċċempel fuq in-numri tat-telefon imsemmija f'dan il-fuljett, jew imla l-vojt fil-linji li jmiss:*

☐ *Jekk jogħġbok ibgħatli formoli oħra.*

*Aqtà din il-formola, poġġiha f'envelope u ibgħata f'dan l-indirizz:*

***Transplant Support Group (Malta),***
***c/o 28, 'Highbury',***
***Lord Byron Sreet,***
***Hamrun. HMR 1090 - Malta***

**jekk wara mewtek**
**tħalli l-organi**
**tiegħek biex**
**jintuzaw għat-trapjanti,**
**tkun qed tagħti**
**ĦAJJA ĠDIDA**
**LIL ĦADDIEĦOR**

## Transplant Support Group (Malta)

It-***Transplant Support Group*** ġie mwaqqaf fid-9 ta Mejju, 2000, minn grupp ta' persuni li kienu ġew ittrapjantati b'organi ta'donaturi, bl-inizjattiva ta' Alfred Debattista, wara li rċieva qalb tad-donatur George Sultana minn Għawdex. Dawn il-persuni ffurmaw kumitat 'ad hoc' biex isiru l-preparamenti meħtieġa. Il-Grupp ġie uffiċjalment introdott fill-publiku waqt konferenza stampa li saret fil-*board room* ta' l-Isptar San Luqa, fil-5 ta' Settembru, 2000, taħt il-patroċinju u bil-parteċipazzjoni tal-Onor. Ministru tas-Saħħa u l-Kelliem ewlieni ta' l-Oppożizzjoni dwar is-Saħħa.

Il-*Bank of Valletta plc.* huma *sponsors* ewlenin tagħna. Is-sors l-ieħor finanzjarju huwa d-dħul mill-membership tal-membri. Huma eliġibbli għal-sħubija dawk kollha li jew irċevew jew li qed jistennew trapjant ta' xi organu, donaturi ħajjin u dawk kollha li qegħdin jirċievu kura tal- 'haemo' jew 'peritoneal dialysis'. Il-ħlas tas-sħubija huwa ta' €5 fis sena.

Il-finanzi tal-grupp jiġu awditjati kull sena u ppreżentati fil-Laqgħa Generali Annwali.

Fit-23 ta' Mejju 2004, ġiet imwaqqfa s-Sezzjoni Għawdxija bil-għan li jingħata lil membri tagħna Għawdxin l-istess servizz li jingħata f'Malta.

Is-Sezzjoni Għawdxija tista' tigi kkuntattjata permezz tas-segretarju, is-Sur Dione Caruana, fuq 2210 6346 jew 2156 5604

Sponsored by Lifecycle Malta

lifecycle MALTA

The publication of this brochure was made possible through the financial support of the LIFE CYCLE organisation which was set up in 1999 to create awareness and to generate support for patients suffering from end stage renal disease, to raise money for life-saving equipment for these patients and to raise awareness on organ donation and transplantation. **www.lifecyclechallenge.com**

## Transplant Support Group (Malta)

On the initiative of heart transplantee Mr. Alfred Debattista, the Group was founded on the 9th of May 2000, by a group of recepients of organs, who formed an 'ad hoc' Committee.

The Group was officially launched at a Press Conference held at the board room, St. Luke's Hospital, on the 5th of September 2000, under the patronage and with the participation of the Hon. Minister of Health and the Opposition spokesman on Health. The Transplant Support Group has the full recognition and support of the Health Authorities.

***For information and assistance, officials of the Group may be contacted as follows:***

Alfred Debattista (President): 2122 3026
Joe Bonello (Secretary): 2182 6718
Anthony Dalli (Treasurer): 2169 6383
Anthony Bugeja (Transplant Coordinator): 2545 6080

**Gozo Section**
On May 23rd 2004, the Gozo Section was formed with the aim of providing similar services to our Gozitan members. This can be contacted through its Secretary, Mr. Dione Caruana on Tel. 22106346 or Mob. 9946 0703

*Official launching - 5.9.2000*

The ***Transplant Support Group*** is a philantropic and non-profit organisation, deriving solely on the sponsorship of **Bank of Valletta plc.**, **The Life Cycle Organisation** and the annual subscription of the members.

The Group accounts are annually audited and presented at the Annual General Meeting.

## Activities

Amongst its main activities, the Group organises:

- An Annual General Meeting, held in the last week of January
- An Anniversary Dinner, held in May
- An Annual concelebrated Holy Mass, in the first week of November for the repose of our deceased donors and members.
- An Annual Thanksgiving Mass and reception in the Christmas period.
- Holy Mass and social gathering for next-of-kin of deceased donors and recepients of organs.

## Aims and objectives

- To bring together and be of service to our members to ensure their well-being and to provide mutual help and assistance as needed.
- To discuss at Committee meetings any cases of shortcomings or deprivation of rights and take the appropriate action to safeguard members' interests.
- To honour the memory of our deceased organ donors and keep contact with their next-of-kin.
- To promote and encourage an awareness in the registration of organ donors in these Islands.
- To maintain liaison with the Health Authorities and with other Constituted Bodies to further the aims of the Group and the interests of members.
- To organize periodical religious, social and other functions and to organize Fund Raising activities to generate the required funds.

# Honouring The Memory of Deceased Donors

*"Respecting full confidentiality and ethics"*

Honouring the memory of cadaveric Donors is another important objective of our Group. Respecting full confidentiality and ethics, we offer support and assist organ recepients to meet the donor's next-of-kin and their relatives, following mutual consent.

It is customary in these cases for recepients to get together and organise Holy Mass for the repose of donors' souls and also pay homage on their graves (photo below). In these cases, the Group seeks the advice of our Ethics and Spiritual advisors.

We have also the services of a legal advisor.

*Recipients paying homage on the grave of their donor*

# Moral and Social Support

Moral and Social Support is another service offered to members and also to prospective tranplantees. These are assisted before the operation and also during the recovery period. Home visits are also carried out whenever needed.

FORMOLA / ORGAN DONOR REGISTRATION

Details needed to process your application.
Please fill in using capital latters.

L-Informazzjoni li inti tikteb f'din il-formola tintuża biex tintbagħtlek DONOR CARD u biex ismek jitniżżel fir-Reġistru Nazzjonali tad-Donaturi. F'kull ħin inti jkollok id-dritt li tibdel id-deċiżjoni tiegħek u tneħħi ismek mir-Reġistru. Jekk jogħġbok, imla l-vojt billi tikteb ċar u tuża ittri kapitali. Immarka biss fejn jgħodd għalik.

*Surname / Kunjom*

*Full name / Isem sħiħ*

*Date of Birth / Data tat-Twelid*

*Sex / Sess* *Male / Raġel* *Female / Mara*

*I.D. Number / Numru tal-I.D.*

*Address / Indirizz*

*Telephone / Telefon*

*Any organ/tissue may be used for transplantation following my death*
*Jien niddikkjara li wara mewti lest li nagħti kull parti minn ġismi biex jintuża għall-kura ta' l-oħrajn*
*or / jew*
*The following organ/s may be used for transplantation*
*Jien niddikkjara li wara mewti lest li nagħti għall-kura ta' l-oħrajn*

*heart / il-qalb* *Lungs / il-pulmuni* *liver / il-fwied*

*pancreas / il-frixa* *kidney / il-kliewi* *cornea / il-kornea*

*Please enter my name in the National Organ Donor Register*
*Jekk jogħġbok, irreġistrani fuq ir-Reġistru Nazzjonali tad-Donaturi biex wara mewti l-organi tiegħi jkunu jistgħu jiġu wżati għall-kura ta' l-oħrajn.*

*In the case of my death please inform / F'Każ ta' mewt informa lil*

*Signature/Firma* *Date/Data*