

25th April 2018

Dear Hon. Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat

Dear Hon. Dr Owen Bonnici, Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government

Dear Hon. Dr Deo Debattista, Parliamentary Secretary for Consumer Protection and Valletta 2018

We, artists, authors and arts managers write to you to express our concern that the legacy of Valletta 2018 as European Capital of Culture is seriously jeopardised by the actions of Mr. Jason Micallef, Chairman of the Valletta 2018 Foundation. His ongoing derogatory public comments about the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia do not reflect the European objectives and principles of the Capital of Culture initiative. As chairman of Valletta 2018 Foundation, Mr Micallef has been appointed by you to represent a European project, including ourselves, as laid out in European legislation. The role of a Chairman of a European Capital of Culture cannot be partisan in attitude and purposely divisive in action.

In addition, we would like to recall the number of instances that Mr. Micallef used his role as Chairman of the European Capital of Culture to publicly ridicule and attack artists who criticised and satirised those in power. His role as Chairman should be to safeguard this right, not to threaten it.

Using artists, culture and Valletta 2018 for political expedience is shocking and outrageous.

The irresponsible and embarrassing actions of Mr. Micallef are leaving irreparable damage to the reputation, programme and leadership of Valletta 2018. This is a legacy that the Maltese cultural sector does not need or want.

We, the undersigned reiterate the call for his immediate resignation.

Joanna Agius
Charlotte Agius
Alexandra Aquilina
Toni Attard
Marisa Attard
Isabella Attard
Maxine Attard
Kit Azzopardi
Claire Azzopardi
Isaac Azzopardi
Alev Blackburn
Michael Bock
Debbie Bonello
Steve Bonello
Jo Book
Keith Borg
Ruth Borg
Celia Borg Cardona

Nanette Brimmer
Nathan Brimmer
Adrian Buckle
Maria Buckle
Stefanelle Cachia
Miriam Calleja
Glen Calleja
Florinda Camilleri
Martina Camilleri
Thomas Camilleri
Frank Camilleri
Jo Caruana
Debbie Caruana Dingli
Antione Cassar
Priscilla Cassar
Arnold Cassola
Vicki Ann Cremona
Nicole Cuschieri
Becky D'Ugo
Oliver Degabriele
Ann Demarco
Ramona Depares
Andrew Diacono
Lizzie Eldridge
Abner Fabbro
Antoine Farrugia
Michael Fenech
Karina Fiorini
Paula Fleri Soler
Mario Frendo
Malcolm Galea
Davinia Galea
Miriam Galea
Andrew Galea
Marco Galea
Alison Galea
Timothy Garrett
Albert Gatt
Christopher Gatt
Claudia Gaudi
Euchar Gravina
Elizabeth Grech
David Grech Urpani
Gisele Grima
Stanley Joe Portelli
Philip Leone Ganado
Tonio Mallia
Lorinda Mamo

Polly March
Pierre Mejlak
Edward Mercieca
Immanuel Mifsud
Sandra Mifsud
Ben Mifsud Joslin
Nadja Mifsud Mutschler
Angelique Muller
Ryan Murdock
Carlo Muscat
Greta Muscat Azzopardi
Alan Paris
Faye Paris
Lucia Piquero
Neils Plotard
Paul Portelli
Margerita Pule
Teodor Reljic
Zvezdan Reljic
Stephanie Sant
Karl Schembri
Andrew Schembri
David Schembri
Brandon Shaw
Michael Spagnol
James Spiteri
Charlotte Stafrace
Pierre Stafrace
Jo Tabone
Seb Tanti Burlo
Nadine Theuma (Noko)
Tom Van Malderen
Louiselle Vassallo
Raphael Vella
Mario Vella
Joseph Paul Vella
Veronique Vella
Vincent Vella
Tanya Vella
Stefanie Weenink
Karsten Xuereb
Pia Zammit
Martina Zammit
Abigail Ardelle Zammit
Ilaria Zammit

*Another 24 artists endorsing the letter have requested for their identity to remain confidential and not to be disclosed publicly.

25 ta' April 2018

Onorevoli Prim Ministru Dr Joseph Muscat,

Onorevoli Dr Owen Bonnici, Ministru għall-Gustizzja, Kultura u Gvern Lokali,

Onorevoli Dr Deo Debattista, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumatur u Valletta 2018,

Aħna, artisti, awturi, u professjonisti fil-qasam tal-arti qed niktibulek biex inlehhnu t-thassib tagħna li l-wirt li ser tħalli warajha Valletta 2018 bħala Belt Kapitali Ewropea tal-Kultura qiegħed jiġi mhedded serjament minhabba l-imġiba tas-Sur Jason Micallef, Chairman tal-Fondazzjoni Valletta 2018. Il-kummenti derogatorji pubbliċi kontinwi tiegħu dwar l-assassinju ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia ma jirriflettux l-għanijiet u l-prinċipji tal-inizjattiva tal-Belt Kapitali tal-Kultura. Bħala Chairman tal-Fondazzjoni Valletta 2018, is-Sur Micallef inhatar minnek biex jirrappreżenta proġett Ewropew, li jinkludi lilna, kif imnizzel fil-leġislazzjoni Ewropea. Ir-rwol ta' Chairman ta' Belt Kapitali Ewropea tal-Kultura ma jistax jinvolvi attitudni partigġjana u mġiba intenzjonalment diviżiva.

Barra minn hekk, nixtiequ nfakkru fl-għadd ta' drabi fejn is-Sur Micallef uża r-rwol tiegħu bħala Chairman tal-Belt Kapitali Ewropea tal-Kultura biex iwaqqa' għaċ-ċajt u jattakka pubblikament lil artisti li kkritikaw u ssatirizzaw dawk fil-poter. Ir-rwol tiegħu ta' Chairman għandu jkun li jħares dan id-dritt, mhux li jheddu.

L-użu tal-artisti, tal-kultura u ta' Valletta 2018 għall-konvenjenza politika hu xokkanti u inaċċettabbli.

L-imġiba irresponsabbli u tal-mistħija tas-Sur Micallef qed tagħmel hsara li mhux ser tkun tista' tissewwa lir-reputazzjoni, il-programm u t-tmexxija ta' Valletta 2018. Dan hu wirt li s-settur kulturali Malti ma jeħtiġx u ma jridx.

Aħna s-sottoskritti ntenu l-appell tagħna għar-riżenja immedjata tiegħu.

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Martina Zammit
Abigail Ardelle Zammit
Ilaria Zammit

* 24 artisti ohra approvaw l-itra izda talbu li l-identita' taghhom tibqa' kunfidenzjali u ma' tohrogx pubblikament.