



SJAF e-Magazine

ST JEANNE ANTIDE FOUNDATION

Ċentru Antida

51, Tarxien Road. Tarxien TXN1090

Reception Desk Tel. 27672367; 21808981; 21809011

Email: miriam.sjaf@gmail.com

Website: www.antidemalta.com

Facebook: Fondazzjoni St Jeanne Antide

VO/0005/4th May 2008

a monthly e- magazine – Issue No.83, October 2014

ADVICE TO WOMEN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

by Dr Lara Dimitrijevič LL.D, Director, Women's Rights Foundation

(from a presentation to members of the SOAR advocacy and support group of SJAF)

What is Domestic Violence ?

'Domestic violence' means any act of violence, even verbal, perpetrated by a household member upon another household member and includes any omission which causes physical or moral harm to the other. The term "household member" includes:

- persons married or formerly married to each other;
- persons living in the same household as the offender, or who had lived with the offender within a period of one year preceding the offence;
- persons whose marriage has been dissolved or declared null;
- parents and their children;
- other adults sharing the same household;
- persons who are, or have been, formally or informally engaged with a view to getting married;
- persons who are related to each other either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third degree inclusively;
- persons having or having had a child in common;
- the child conceived but yet unborn of any one of the persons mentioned above.



CONTENTS

Advice to Women victims of domestic violence.....	pg 2,3,4
Warsaw Forum of NGOs	pg 4
President's Award for Creativity.....	pg 5
Seminar on Living with Schizophrenia.....	pg 5
SJAF benefits from a Photovoltaic Panel system.....	pg 6
Voices Concert 2014.....	pg 7
Gratitudni lil 3 Kappillani.....	pg 7
Leap! Project.....	pg 8
Rokna Poežija.....	pg 9
CSR contribution – Forestals Ltd.....	pg 9
Avviži.....	pg 10

Filling a Police report – Why? How?

Why should you file a report? Filing a report is important. It constitutes a record for future prosecution and as a preventive tool, a tool to ensure a measure of safety.

Every report that is filed with the police has to be acted upon. Do not accept the statement of any Police Officer who tells you that the abusive incident happened because you are going through a separation or that the abuse is a temporary behaviour. Police have to act on the report. If they fail to do so, tell your lawyer or else insist that you will be taking the matter to the Police Commissioner. Once you file a report, you have a right to a copy of it – take it to your lawyer if something needs to be added or, if not possible, make sure that you insist that it is corrected or added.

When you file a report, make sure that you specify the type of abuse you have suffered. If you have filed other reports in the past, tell the Police about them so that they know that this is not a one-off incident.

Make sure that you insist that charges are issued when there is recidivism. That way one can ensure a harsher punishment. Always have a copy of the decision; ask your lawyer or you can go pick it up from court.

Take all documents that you might have to the Police so that they can photo copy them and exhibit them as evidence.



When charges are issued

- 1) When charges are issued, they can be any of the following:
- 2) Committed acts of domestic violence: this is best because it is broad. When there is a report of domestic violence, police have to prosecute *ex-officio*.
- 3) Theddid – fastidju: these do not carry harsh punishments; the maximum punishment is up to 5 months.
- 4) Rikatt: the harshest punishment is up to 3 yrs in prison.
- 5) Att ta vjolenza fuq il-persuna.

The difference between criminal and civil court

Criminal Court

1. A court of magistrates: if you appeal a court decision, you go to the the Criminal Inferior Court
2. When you file a report for domestic violence or for maintenance or for custody, the case will be dealt with by the criminal court.

For those of you who have been through the system, you know that there is a Magistrate who generally deals with DV cases and that a Social Worker from Agenzija Appogg is generally present. If you are being followed up by Agenzija Appogg, tell them about your case hearings so that they liaise with the Magistrate. Also, at times, the magistrate informs Agenzija Appogg to follow your case.

3. When you are to appear in court and you feel anxious and afraid of giving evidence in front of the DV perpetrator, you and your lawyer can ask for video conferencing.
4. Sometimes your lawyer may ask you whether you are satisfied with a ruling of a personal guarantee. Be careful. Discuss the implications well with your lawyer.
5. Evidence is crucial: photos, anything that was presented in civil court, can be presented in the criminal court as well.
6. Any reports about threats and harassments made by the misuse of telephone/mobile/email will not go to the Family Court Criminal Division, but to the District one.

Punishment

Obligazzjoni fl-atti tal-Kawza: this means that charges are dropped and that he will not bother you again.

Garanzija personali: he is found guilty and, as punishment, the court orders him to bother you at a fine. If he breaches it, he will have to pay the amount that is stipulated by the court.

Protection Order – Restraining Order:

412C (1) Where a person has been charged or accused with an offence before the Court of Magistrates, whether as a court of inquiry or as a court of criminal judicature, they may, on reasonable grounds, for the purpose of providing for the safety of the injured person or of other individuals (this can include your children) or for the keeping of the public peace or for the purpose of protecting the injured person or other individuals from harassment or other conduct which will cause a fear of violence, issue a protection order against the accused.

(2) A protection order may impose any restrictions or prohibitions on the accused that appear to the court necessary or desirable in the circumstances in order to give effect to any of the purposes mentioned in sub article (1)

(3) Without limiting the nature of the orders which may be made under sub article (1), a protection order may do all or any of the following:

- a) prohibits or restricts the accused from approaching or following the movements of the injured person or any other individual specified in the order; or
- b) prohibit or restrict access by the accused, for a period not exceeding six months or until final judgement, to premises in which the injured person, or any other – place of work or home – individual specified in the order, lives, works or frequents even if the accused has a legal interest in those premises; or
- c) prohibit the accused from contacting or molesting the injured person or any other individual specified in the order.

(4) Before making an order, the court shall take into account:

- a) the need to ensure that the injured person or other individual specified in the order is protected from injury or molestation; and
- b) the welfare of any children or any dependents who may be affected by the order; and
- c) the accommodation needs of all persons who may be affected by the order, in particular of the injured person, his children and his other dependents; and
- d) any hardship that may be caused to the accused or to any other person as a result of making the order; and
- e) the accused's willingness or otherwise to submit to such treatments as the court may deem appropriate; and
- f) any other matter that, in the circumstances of the case, the court considers relevant;

(5) A protection order shall remain in force for a period, not exceeding three years, specified by the court, but can be revoked or extended for further periods.

(6) A party to the proceedings in which an order has been made under this article or any other individual mentioned in the order, may apply to the court at any time for the extension, variation or revocation of the order and after all the parties have had an opportunity to be heard the court shall, in determining whether to extend, vary or revoke an order, have regard to the matters specified in sub article (4).

(7) If without excuse the accused contravenes any prohibition or restriction imposed upon him by an order under this article, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (multa) of two thousand and three hundred and twenty-nine euro and thirty-seven cents (2,329.37) or to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(8) The court may also order that any arm proper or arm improper, as defined in article 64, be deposited with the Court's registrar.

Filing for separation/divorce/care custody/maintenance/access

Anything related to the above goes to the Family Court.



Procedure

Any of the above has to go through mediation. HOWEVER, although the law states that in cases of DV, the case is appointed for hearing within 4 working days, this does not always happen. The law is not very clear on this point as the respective Legal Notice states that all cases have to go through meditation whereas the law states that DV cases have to be appointed within 4 working days.

Mediation

The aim of the mediation is to first try to enable the couple to become reconciled and, if this is not possible, to help you reach an amicable separation agreement (bonaria). This is often difficult when there is DV because of the imbalance of power/fear/coercion. That is why it is important that you bring this to the attention of the Mediator. You can ask to speak to the mediator alone, without the partner's presence. Generally, they all agree, but some are hesitant – so ask your lawyer to insist on this point.

All lawyers are there to satisfy their client so do not let the other lawyer as much as possible intimidate you. That is why it would be helpful to let the Mediator know of the situation in advance.

What you should do and be prepared for at every step

1. REMEMBER that this is your case – not your lawyer's – nor the police's, but YOURS.
2. Do not rely solely on your lawyer – where you do not understand, ask for clarification until you are satisfied that you have understood. This is crucial.
3. Seek help if you can – whether a social worker, a support group, a friend, a family member.
4. Do not give up – once you took this step.



National Forum of Polish Non-Governmental Organizations' Initiatives (OFIP)

Between the 14th and 16th of September, at the University of Warsaw's Auditorium Maximum, a Conference was organised on cooperation within the NGO sector and relations with external partners. The event takes place every 3 years and is attended by representatives of NGOs, local governments, public administration and businesses. In parallel with the Conference, OFIP held an **NGO-Fair of Civil Initiatives that included stalls and a series of debates** organized by Polish NGOs in various parts of the city. The Conference focused on the development of a Polish strategy of the civic sector. As part of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the first free elections in Poland, the opening session of the Conference focused on the legacy of the achievements and NGOs sector from the perspective of the whole period of transformation. The conference was rich in workshop that ranged from reflections on the 25 years of the NGO sector in Poland and future challenges for the NGOs in Poland and Europe and many thematic sessions dealing with the most urgent issues.

From Malta, three NGO representatives took part – from SoS Malta that is the Fund Manager of the EEA NGO Programme for Malta, SJAF and a Gozitan NGO.

SEMINAR ON LIVING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

- Ruth Stafrace, Social Worker

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day on the 10th of October, 5 Foundation workers attended a national seminar organized by Mount Carmel Psychiatric Hospital on ***Hajja bl-Iskizofrenija***. A panel of practitioners made presentations which focused on the skills, experience, insights and difficulties of the persons who suffer from schizophrenia. They also delved into current research on the illness.

The professionals ably and effectively portrayed the bumpy journey that the patients and their relatives go through. Both the family members and sufferers can experience intense emotions of anger, shock, and guilt but worse still is the feeling of shame due to the stigma that mental illness still carries.

Schizophrenia is a serious debilitating illness which affects thoughts, feelings and behaviour. Onset is in early teenage years in boys and at a later age in girls. It rarely occurs after the age of 35. Research indicates that about 1 in 100 people will suffer from schizophrenia in their lifetime.

During the seminar, it was stressed that the earlier the person receives help, the better the chances of getting effective treatment and ensuring therapeutic outcomes. Even though medication plays an important part in treating the illness, it was emphasised that the treatment should be combined with practical help and support for the patient and his family. It is also a known fact that persons with schizophrenia rely heavily on their family for support throughout their lives. Hence, we should take all possible steps to address the families' physical, social and mental health needs.

In conclusion, the rights of the individual, whether he suffers from schizophrenia or is a carer of someone suffering from the illness, should always be respected. They have a right to work, to socialise and to be and remain active citizens like each and every one of us.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR CREATIVITY – SJAF ONE OF THE AWARDEES

The Foundation has been awarded funds by the President's Award for Creativity to implement a



project entitled *Creativity takes courage – conveying traumatic life experiences of vulnerable children through art and creative writing*. The project will give the opportunity to

some of the SJAF young service users to have their voice heard by other hidden children with similar experiences and life circumstances.

Through the project, two illustrated books will be created and published. The first book will be written by seven children of primary school age; it will focus on difficult life circumstances they experience. The children will be professionally assisted to articulate their experiences through creative writing strategies. The children will be working with a Writing Process Teacher who is competent in stimulating vulnerable children to express themselves through the written and illustration medium. The children will collaborate with a well known children's book illustrator who will help them illustrate their own stories. The book is intended to raise awareness among children who may be living in these same conditions and who have not yet considered asking for assistance or verbalized the difficulties.

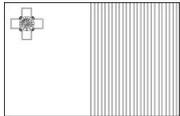
A second book for youths will be written by a victim and survivor of domestic violence who wants to pass on the poignant message to young people that they have to say no to violence in intimate relationships. The book will be illustrated by an artist in discussion with the author who is today involved with other women in advocacy work with female victims and survivors of violence in intimate relationships.

By Ruth Stafrace, LWIEN Service Leader



The Foundation now tapping a renewable energy source for its electricity

The St Jeanne Antide Foundation is benefiting from a Photovoltaic Panel system which has recently been installed on the roof of the building of the Province of the Sisters of Charity which is being used as the base of the Foundation's operations. This facility forms part of an ERDF project entitled: Taking It Another Step (ERDF 283) involving the installation of PV systems in 7 convents and premises of the Province of the Sisters of Charity. 50% of the total project funding are borne by the Province whereas 42.5% are EU funds and 7.5% National Funds. The systems will be generating energy using a renewable energy source – the sun. With the installation of photovoltaic systems, the Province has stepped up its adoption of environmentally friendly technology and actions. The Province is moving away from total reliance on fossil fuels for their energy needs and is now extensively tapping a renewable energy source. Through this project and another ERDF one involving the installation of PV panels in the schools of the Province, the Province is contributing to Malta’s target of reducing CO2 emissions produced by the energy sector.



Operational Programme I – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life
Project part-financed by the European Union
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Co-financing rate: 42.5% EU Funds; 7.5% National Funds; 50% Beneficiary Funds



Investing in your future



VOICES Heart & Soul concert 2014

We thank Voices Foundation for the tickets they so generously provided our Foundation for service users and their carers and support workers on the 30th September and 1st October. The concert, as to be expected, was a truly outstanding one. There were service users who came with trepidation since they had never been to a concert and in a venue hosting hundreds of people. but the experience was memorable for them all and they are already asking us when the next one is due.



Thank you Voices for nurturing our hearts and souls with you music and singing!

Thank you as well for providing the Province of the Sisters of Charity with a grant that will enable them to start work on the refurbishment of a premises which, once completed, will provide accommodation to women in difficult circumstances.

Gratitudni tal-kollaborazzjoni ħajja

Insellmu lill-Kappillani tal-Parroċċi ġirien li spiċċaw minn snin twal b'ħala Kappillani:



- Dun Bastjan Caruana,
Kappillan ta' Ħaż-Zabbar



- Dun Reuben Deguara,
Kappillan ta' Ħal-Tarxien



- Dun Vinċenz Cachia,
Kappillan ta' Kristu Re,
Raħal Ġdid

Nirringrazzjawhom tal-grazzja li ħdimna tant flimkien b'risq persuni u familji fil-bżonn fil-parroċċi tagħhom u nawgurawlihom servizz profund fil-missjoni ġdida tagħhom.

Networking with the Leap!

Project of the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity

Some time ago, the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity launched an ESF Project entitled LEAP! Through this project, the government is setting up 6 Regional Social Development Centres and Family Resource Centres, the latter through public-private partnerships. The project has other key elements foremost amongst which is intense capacity building and support by Social Mentors to over 200 persons meeting the criteria of 'people experiencing poverty'. Each of the 6 Regional Social Development Centres are currently actively engaged in setting up a network of stakeholders. Representatives of state agencies, NGOs, Local Councils, parishes, schools and others are meeting to engage in collaborative work that maximises effective outcomes for vulnerable persons.

The Foundation's Family Resource Centre in B'Bugia falls under the LEAP! Project's Region 3 which incorporates Luqa, Mqabba, Qrendi, Hal Safi, Zurrieq, Hal Kirkop, Hal Ghaxaq, Gudja, Marsaxlokk, Marsaskala, Zejtun and Birzebbuga. The Region 3 Stakeholder Network is the first region to acquire a head quarters in one of the localities. The Foundation's Tarxien Family Resource Centre falls under Region 1 – Southern Harbour Region – comprising Cospicua, Fgura, Floriana, Hal Luqa, Hal Tarxien, Haż-Żabbar, Kalkara, Marsa, Paola, Santa Luċija, Senglea, Valletta, Vittoriosa, and Xgħajra.



For Region 3, the Jeanne Antide Foundation has been invited to become one of the main non-governmental organisations to partner with LEAP to provide a better service to the localities involved. The new family resource centre in Birzebbuga, Ċentru Familti, is actively part of the LEAP! Stakeholder Network in this region.

During the first General Assembly of Region 3 Network that took place on the 28th of October at Hal Kirkop, Ms Denise Farrugia, the Regional Development Agent for this region and Anton Falzon, a Leap Community Worker assigned to Region 3, explained that one way through which the LEAP project aims to be reach out to local communities is through Family Resource Centres.

As with the Jeanne Antide Foundation, the main aim of the Leap! Project is to improve people's quality of life. It aims to do this by creating a system where resources are networked and shared. In this way, problems that are becoming more complicated with years will be tackled in the most efficient and effective ways possible. The LEAP! Project is unique in that it actively harnesses the resources, dynamism, competencies and resources of stakeholders at community level. It will hopefully pave the way to a well-developed and network of resources that will provide regions with a robust support system for all vulnerable persons in local communities.

R O K N A P O E Ž I J A



Aħrab, Pellegrin

aħrab ħarba, pellegrin
aħrab wahdek tul il-lejl
taqtax qalbek minn tiftixek,
qabel il-bidla l-kbira sseħħ

aqbeż qabża sar-rebbiegħa
fejn ibexbex il-ħolqien
o pellegrin ta' qalbna, żurha
in-niċċa f'għajn l-ilmijiet,
l-għajn li jgħammar fih kull riefnu
qabel ma jqum jonfoħ bla kwiet
— jew mur fejn l-istilel jitwieldu
fil-bidu bikri taż-żmien

għax kull min baħħar bi mħabba
u tama, fost maltempati tropikali
bisitu sbuħija tal-għageb
li bidlitlu ġismu,
moħħu,
ruħu
u d-destinazzjoni.

tony macelli

On the 8th September, a group of workers from **Forestals Ltd.** spent a day clearing out and refurbishing a house which the Foundation will be using as a drop in centre for vulnerable women in November. This CSR initiative is the second one this year by the Forestals team. The group's hard work enabled the Foundation to step up its refurbishment work despite the lack of funding that existed. Another huge thank you Forestals team!



Like us on
Facebook<https://www.facebook.com/SjafAntideCentre?fref=ts>**BAZAAR** fi Triq Ħal-Tarxien
b'risq il-FondazzjoniMiftuħ kull nhar ta' Tnejn u nhar ta' Erbgħa
mid-9:00 sa 12:00

Naċċettaw oġġetti biex jinbiegħu fil-Bazaar

DONATIONS

Your donation is truly appreciated. It enables us to sustain our services to vulnerable and poor individuals and families.

Donation to the St Jeanne Antide Foundation can be made as follows:

- **Cheque** issued to The St Jeanne Antide Foundation and posted to the Foundation: 51 Tarxien Road, Tarxien TXN 1092
- For **local bank transfers**: **APS** 2000 0681 886
HSBC 013175021001
BOV 4002003379-0
BANIF 00210404101
- If you are a Go/Vodafone/Redtouch subscriber you can donate by sending a **blank SMS** (SMS tariffs applicable):
€2.33 – 50617371 €4.66 – 50618095
€6.99 – 50618909 €11.65 - 50619217
You will receive a text message of thanks and acknowledgement
- For **bank transfers from overseas**: APS Bank, 146/147, Antoine De Paul Square, Paola PLA1260
Bank Code (Swift) APSBMTMT IBAN No: MT03 APSB 7708 0005 5047 2000 0681 886 (last 11 digits are the account number).

HOW YOU CAN HELP US - OTHER OPTIONS

- ✓ If you are getting married: make a donation instead of buying wedding souvenirs.
- ✓ If you are having a birthday party: ask friends to make a donation instead of buying a gift.
- ✓ If you are having a wedding anniversary celebration: convince your guests to make a donation instead of buying a gift.
- ✓ For funerals: you may wish to make a donation instead of buying flowers.
- ✓ Get Togethers: organise a spontaneous collection.
- ✓ You may wish to send us a monthly or annual donation, whatever the amount.
- ✓ You can encourage others to consider donating to the Foundation.
- ✓ Ask your employer for a matching scheme which will make your contribution go even further!
- ✓ Become a HELP-SJAF Champion and ask friends and family to make a donation.

CONTACT US: sjafngo@gmail.com**THANK YOU! WE PROMISE TO PRAY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY****Foundation SERVICES**

1. **The Antide Family Resource Centre** in the heart of Tarxien. Open from 7.30am to 5 pm daily in winter time (sometimes later as well).
2. **Social Work Service**: Includes:
 - **Social Work**: home-visits, outreach work, advocacy, referral, information, emotional support. Catchment areas: Tarxien, Paola, Fgura, Żabbar, Santa Lucia, Birżebbuġa.
 - **Emotional Freedom Service** for persons wanting to be free from thier anger, fear or other emotional distress;
 - **SOAR advocacy and support group** for victims and survivors of domestic violence (soarmalta@gmail.com)
 - **Volunteer Handymen** in support of vulnerable and poor families.
 - **Learning Support Service** for vulnerable persons supported by Foundation Social Workers. Includes: *For Children*: weekly learning support for primary level students; *For adults*: non-formal learning opportunities such as self-esteem groups & literacy.
 - **Befriending Service** for lonely, home-bound elderly persons
 - **Counselling**;
 - Bazaar in Tarxien.
3. **LWIEN Service - caring for family carer-givers**: support for family caregivers of persons with mental health problems. Includes family consultations, counselling, support groups, home-visits, social work.
4. **IRENE Project** in support of very vulnerable women involved in street prostitution. (Project financed for 18 months by the EEA NGO Malta Fund managed by SOS Malta) .
5. **(NEW) Ċentru Familiti: Family Resource Centre in Birżebbuġa**. Starting first week of September. (Project financed for 12 months by the EEA NGO Malta Fund managed by SOS Malta)
6. **Volunteering Programme**: range of volunteering opportunities included supported volunteering for service users.
7. **Overseas Development Projects**: SJAF works with partners in developing countries to formulate anti-poverty projects. It has also arranged for public funding of such projects in Pakistan, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Malawi.
9. **Centring Prayer Group** for contemplative prayer practice.