

SJAF e-Magazine



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SINTOMI OSSERVATI LI JISTGĦU JINDIKAW BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER

Dan li ġej juri kif ħaddiema waslet biex tosserva sintomi li jistgħu jindikaw li persuna ssofri minn Borderline Personality Disorder. Hawn silta mill-ewwel session ma' persuna riferuta lill-Fondazzjoni.

Dettalji ġew mibdula b'rispett għall-kunfidenzjalità

Il-ħaddiema:

Bdejt nissuspetta li l-mara jista' jkun qed issofri minn Borderline Personality Disorder meta bdejt nosserva numru ta' sintomi marbuta ma' din id-disordni.

Il-mara qaltli li kien kellha 4 partners u li lilha kulħadd jużaha. Meta staqsejtha x'tifhem biha li jużawha qaltli: "ara, 3 minnhom digà ħallewni b'tarbija".

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(ikompli minn paġna 1):

Ħ=ħaddiema; M=Mara

Ħ: Kemm kont ilek toħroġ magħhom.

M: Ma wieħed 3 xhur u ma l-oħrajn daqs sitt xhur.

Ħ: Qatt ħadt prewkazzjonijiet kontra mard u kontra tqala mhix mixtieqa.

M: Daqskemm ikunu juruni li jħobbuni!!

Ħ: Ma thossokx li qegħdin jużawk u jarmuk?

M: Dak il-ħin ikunu jħobbuni!

Ħ: Wara li titlaq minn magħhom, inti xi thoss? Thoss li għadu jħobbok?

M: Jiena dejjem vojtt kbir inħoss fija. (bdiet turi s-signs). Meta jitlaqni, ninkieh. Immur Paceville u malajr jien nerġa' naqbad ieħor.

Ħ: U t-tfal, fejn u ma min tħallihom. Għadhom żgħar.

M: M'ommi.

Ħ: U ommok, ma thossx li forsi kultant tista' thosssha għajjiena tieħu ħsieb u trabbi 3 uliedek.

M: Mhux hi għabitni fid-dinja! Mela żżommhom hi.

Ħ: Fil-preżent, issa li ingdimt kemm il-darba, wed tieħu xi prewkazzjonijiet.

M: U iva! Qed nieħu l-pill, għax tawħieli tal-maternità. Noħodha daqqa iva u darba le. (Ma ndunawx li din aħjar tingħa kontraċettiv injection flok pinnoli)

Ħ: L-iskola kellek ħbieb?

M: Le. Lanqas qatt. Għax jew jgħiru għalija jew inkella l-ewwel jużawni – għax intihom u nixtrilhom affarijiet. U imbagħad ma jagħtux kasi. Ta' 18-il sena mort barra minn Malta. Waħdi, bla flus xejn. Kont norqod barra. Għall-aventura, ta! Kont niddamdam bix-xorb kuljum. Għall-passaġġ lura kelli nitlob lill-ommi. Għidtilha, ħa nibdel ħajti. Ma. U tathomli.

Ħ: Ġieli wegġajt lilek innifsek?

M: Ġieli issakkart fil-kamra waħdi u noqgħod nigref lili nnifsi.

Ħ: Ġieli xtaq li tmut, jew dejjem kont x'aktarx ferħana?

M: Qisni qatt ħadd ma ħabbni. Jiena nħobbhom u huma jmorru.

Ħ: Thossok li għandek bżonn l-għajnuna?

M: Le, jiena meta mmur Paceville, inkun okey għax nieħu buzz, man.

Nixrob ta, u nsib raġel. Inkun ferħana dak il-ħin?

Ħ: Qatt messejt droga?

M: Le, għax l-alkoħol jagħtini buzz, man.

Ħ: Tixrob kuljum?

M: U le, d-dar m'għandniex. Meta mmur Paceville biss nieħu.

Biex nieħu buzz.

Ħ: Fejn taħseb li inti għandek bżonn l-għajnuna?

M: Fil-flus għax ma jservunix.

Ħ: Kemm għandek skola?

M: Jiena tlqt minn Form 4. U dejjem niskarta kont.

Ħ: Trid nibdew xi ftit parental skills, ħalli tkun taf aħjar kif tieħu ħsieb it-tfal.

M: U le, ħallihom. Dawk tieħu ħsiebhom ommi.

Ħ: Trid naraw x'korsijiet hemm li huma addattati għalik.

Forsi tibda xi ħaġa.

M: U ħallini! Mur l'hemm. Jiena xogħol irrid.

Ħ: Ngħinuk issib xogħol?

M: U le, għax jaqtawli r-relief.

Ħ: Thossok kuntenta jew imdejqa fil-ħajja.

M: U le. Meta mmur Paceville, dejjem insib lil xi ħadd.

Ħ: Isma', l-appuntament li jmiss, tista' tagħtini n-numru

tat-telefon t'ommok ħalli nkellimha ftit u nara kif sejra mat-tfal?



Riflessjonijiet

(artiklu jkompli minn paġna 2)

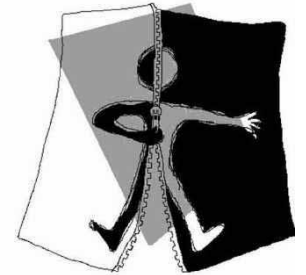
Minn din is-session ħareġ biċ-ċar li l-persuna wriet sintomi ewlenin ta' borderline personality disorder:

1. M'għandha rabta emozzjonali u ta' mħabba u rispettt ma' ħadd. La m'ommha u lanqas ma' 3 uliedha. Ir-relazzjonijiet tagħha ma' ħaddieħor huma mqallba ħafna.
2. Thoss vojtt kbir fiha għax temmen li kulħadd l-ewwel jużaha u mbaġhad jabbandunaha. Tipprova ttxtri l-imħabba (l-eżempju tal-iskola) biex forsi tevita li tkun abbandunata.
3. Imgibitha hija impulsiva ħafna.

X'inhil-**Borderline Personality Disorder**

Il-*borderline personality disorder* (BPD) hija marda serja. Il-ħajja ta' persuna b'BPD mimlija burdati, imgieba u relazzjonijiet mhux stabbli xejn. Tista' ssir dijanjozi tal-marda minn Psikjatra u professjonisti fil-qasam tas-saħħa mentali. Persuni li jsofru minn BPD isofru minn:

- Diffikultà kbira biex jirregolaw il-ħsibijiet u l-emozzjonijiet tagħhom;
- Imgieba impulsiva;
- Relazzjonijiet mqallba ħafna ma' ħaddieħor.



Apparti l-BPD li jsofru minnha, peruni bil-BPD abbli li jkollhom diżordnijiet oħra wkoll bħal dipressjoni, anzjetà, teħid ta' sustanzi illegali, diżordni tal-ikel, iweggħu lilhom infushom, jippruvaw itemmu ħajjithom u ġieli jseħħilhom jikkommettu suwiċidju. Fl-Amerka, huwa stmat li madwar 1.6 fil-mija tal-popolazzjoni f'sena tkun qed issofri minn BPD.

Sintomi

Biex persuna titqies li qed issofri minn BPD, trid turi li hemm pattern regolari f'imgibitha li jinkludi ta' l-anqas 5 minn dawn is-sintomi:

- Relazzjonijiet mqallba estremi: paniku, dipressjoni, rabja, reazzjonijiet sfrenati bla ħsieb, u espressjonijiet ta' diqa għax il-persuna temmen li hi abbandunata (kemm jekk dan ikun minnu, kemm jekk le).
- Pattern ta' relazzjonijiet intensi u mqallba ħafna mimlijin sparks emozzjonali negattivi ma' familjari, ħbieb u persuni li jħobbuhom. Dawn ir-relazzjonijiet ġeneralment ikunu bħal pendlu – filli tidhol f'relazzjoni fejn tkun tant ħaġa waħda mas-sieħeb li tibda tqisu l-idolu tagħha u filli tumbrah, timtela rabja lejha u titilqu ħesrem.
- Ikollu stampa mtappna tiegħu nnifsu u b'konsegwenza, jkollu bidliet ħesrem fil-ħsus, opinjonijiet, valuri u għanijiet għall-ġejjieni (bħal tagħlim u karriera).
- Tkun impulsiva u mgebita tkun perikoluza – infiq sfrenat, atti sesswali bla rażan u bla protezzjoni, abbuż ta' drogi illegali, sewqan bla kontroll u iffuxxnar f'ikel.
- Ĥsibijiet regolari fuq suwiċidju jew thedded li se tweggħa' lilha nnifisha.
- Burdati intensi ħafna li jinbidlu malajr; kull burdata ddum minn ftit sigħat għal ftit jiem.
- Ĥsus kroniku ta' vojtt kbir u thossja mxebbgħa minn kollox.
- Rabja intensa u mhux flokha u problemi għax ma tikkontrollax r-rabja.
- Thoss li ħaddieħor kontriha. Ĥsibijiet ta' qtugħ tagħha nnifisha mir-realtà.

Is-sintomi jitfaċċaw anke b'affarijiet komuni bħal per eżempju meta xi ħadd li tkun qrib tiegħu jkun se jsiefer jew jibdel xi pjan miftiehem. Persuni b'din id-diżordni jaraw rabja f'għajnejn ħaddieħor anke meta ma tkun tinħass l-ebda rabja u jirreaġixxu malajr għal kliem li jistgħu jigu miftiehma bħala negattivi.

YOUTH WORK in Tarxien and Paola

The Foundation is supporting youth work initiatives in 2 parishes.

- **In Tarxien**, the Foundation has deployed a Youth Worker at the Tarxien Youth Centre where Mr Joseph Farrell has been working for the past 20 years with disadvantaged young persons. The Youth Worker - Astrid - is based at the Centre for 2 evenings each week and is developing approaches that fit the needs of the group of around 53 teenagers. The Foundation has been working hand-in-hand with Mr Farrell for the past six years.

- **In Paola**, the Foundation is working closely with Deacon Brian Gialanze to offer group-based sessions for the members of the youth group led by him. The first sessions deal with how to manage negative emotions.



Xi Aħbarijiet

- 1) De La Rue company workers, as part of their CSR policy, will be coming to Ċentru Antida for some maintenance works on Saturday 9th November.
- 2) Members of the Association of single parents Ward u Żgħar will be doing a general cleaning, fixing of metal shelving and supports, fixing noticeboards and hangers, assembling clothes hanging structures, etc at the St Julian's bazaar site.
- 3) Students from the Verdala International School have yesterday agreed to work hard to produce artwork for a March 2014 exhibition and sale. Art students from the 2nd year of the school's International Baccalaureate (IB) will work together to involve their high school students and 1st and second year IB students to prepare abstract paintings on the theme of Esteem. They will also produce hand-made Christmas cards to sell. They will also raise funds to buy all the materials themselves. Some of the IB students will also hold some sessions with the disadvantaged youths at Tarxien Youth Centre - mostly graffiti art in the large yard to perk up the premises.

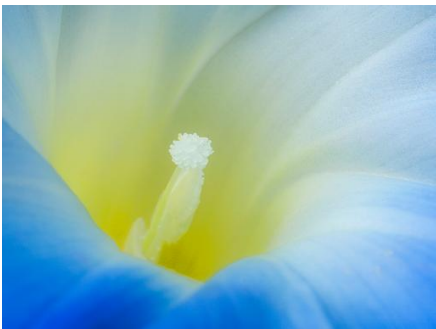
L-Umanità I-Ġdida

Mhijiex dik, l-umanità l-ġdida,
li tagħha vetturi jinfirxu f'galassia
fuq kurrenti ta' spazju milwi,
u lanqas hi dik li tagħha l-ġenetika
giet b'disinn ġdid magħmula
mis-supermagnu għas-saħħa
perfetta w sbuħija.

L-umanità l-ġdida tassew
tkun dik fil-quċcata ta' mewġa
ta' spirtu li jtellaq lil hinn minn
kull intolleranza, kull-regħba
kull ipnotizmu tal-"jien";
tkun dik li mal-univers tinfirex
għax riekba fuq l-imħabba
li fuqha msejjes l-ispazju
— u tohloq ħin, ħin ġdid
arti, għegubijiet, u għageb kbir.

X'mewġa dik, u x'mewġa dik!
riġel kulhadd jimmolla ħieni
fuq pedament divin, u jinseg
tapezzeriji tal-għageb
ta' dinja w
bnedmin.

tony macelli



Tema 6: It-triq tan-niżla hija t-triq tat-trasformazzjoni. Id-dlam, il-falliment, li tereġa taqa, il-mewt, u l-ġrieħi huma l-għalliema ewlenin tagħna, aktar mill-idejat u d-duttrini

Meditazzjoni ta' Fr Richard Rohr, Frangiskan.

Il-Vanġelu tal-Prosperità

L-għerf tar-ruħ tibagħtek fid-direzzjoni opposta għal dik li iibagħtek
fiha il-konsumerizmu.

Biex nitqaddes, m'hemmx xi ħaġa
li trid tiżdidli, iżda xi ħaġa li trid
titnaqqasli: li jitneżżgħuli l-illużjonijiet;
inċedi kull "taparsi"; nikxef il-"jien"
falz; inxaqqaq il-qalb ħalli tinfetaħ beraħ,
u l-istess bil-fehmiet tiegħi; u li ma niħux
il-"jien" privat tiegħi bis-serjetà żzejjed. Il-konverżjoni hija aktar dwar
tagħlim li jrid jitwarrab mill-dwar tagħlim li jrid jiġi akkwistat.

F'ċertu sens qbadna triq totalment żbaljata. Aħna nixxabtu 'l fuq,
waqt li Ġesù nieżel 'l isfel. U f'dan qed nirrorflettu il-kburija w l-
arroganza taċ-ċiviltà tal-Punent; ġeneralment inkunu qed nippruvaw li
jirnexxilna nilqgħu l-isfida ta' xi biċċa xogħol, jew inkunu qed
nippruvaw ngħollu il-"performance" tagħna. Fil-prattika hija din r-
religjon li għandna. Is-suċċess huwa qaddis! Ħafna minn din l-
attitudni waħħalniha mal-verżjoni tagħna tar-religjon nistranija, u lil-
Vanġelu qlibnih f'konsumerizmu spiritwali. Ma tantx jibqa' post għal
Alla meta il-jien falz jieħu lilu nnifsu bis-serjetà daqshekk, u jieħu l-
iżvilupp privat ta' dak il-jien bis-serjeta' daqshekk.

Kull ma nistgħu nagħmlu huwa li nneħħu lilna nfnusna min-nofs. U
tassew ikolli ngħid li l-anqas dik m'aħna kapaċi nagħmlu. Din il-bidla
tagħmilielna dik il-ħaġa terribbli li hija s-sofferenza.

Adattat min Radical Grace: *Daily Meditations by Richard Rohr with John Bookser Feister, p. 46, day 49*; maqluba għal-Malti minn t.m. 4 Oct 2013. Id-*Daily Meditations* jinstabu wkoll fil-ktieb ġdid ta' Fr Richard Rohr: "Yes, and...", li jinstab hawn: <http://catalog.franciscanmedia.org> (ProductCode=B16257)

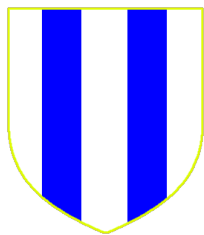


Ser nissuktaw il-Ħargiet Kulturali

Darba fix-xagħar ser jiġu organizzati ħargiet kulturali immexxija minn gwida
professionali.

Għall-aktar dettalji fuq l-ewwel ħarġa ikkuntatjaw lil
Pauline Aguis fuq 21809011 / 27672367 bejn l-Erbgħa u l-
Ġimgħa jew ibagħtu email fuq pauline.sjaf@gmail.com





**Is-Sindku ta' Hal
Tarxien
jikkonsulta
familjari ta'
persuni
b'dizabilità**

Nhar il-Ġimgħa 4 ta' Ottubru bejn is-7 u t-8.30 ta' filgħaxija, is-Sindku ta' Hal Tarxien is-Sur Joseph Abela kellu laqgħa ma' madwar 27 persuna li tolqothom sew ir-realtà ta' dizabilità fil-familja. L-għan tal-laqgħa kienet li l-Kunsill Lokali ta' Hal Tarxien isir iżjed konxju tad-diffikultajiet u htigijiet ta' persuni b'dizabilità u tal-familjari tagħhom. Il-Fondazzjoni Santa Giovanna Antida ħadmet mill-qrib mas-Sindku biex din l-inizjattiva sseħħ. Il-persuni li ħadu sehem attiv u qanqlu bosta sitwazzjonijiet li jemmnu li l-Kunsill Lokali jista' jirrisolvi sabiex il-kwalità tal-ħajja ta' dawn il-familji u oħrajn li ma kenux preżenti tittejjeb u jonqsu l-frustrazzjoni u tbatija żejda. Fost dawk preżenti kien hemm rappreżentanta tal-Parroċċa li tlaqqa' l-familjari li jieħdu ħsieb persuna b'dizabilità, u rappreżentanta tal-komunità tas-Sorijiet tal-Karità fejn hemm numru konsiderevoli ta' sorijiet anzjani bi htigijiet speċjali.

Fost il-punti ewlenin li tqanqlu kien hemm dawn li ġejjin:

1) Tajjeb li dan il-grupp jibqa' jiltaqa' u jinkludi fih familji oħra li għal xi raġuni jew oħra ma ħadux sehem f'din l-ewwel laqgħa.

2) Kull bankina fil-lokal għandha bżonn rampa fit-trufijiet sabiex wheelchairs jitniżzlu b'faċilità u

persuni b'diffikultajiet fiżiċi jkunu jistgħu jinżlu bla periklu.

3) Aktar faċilitajiet ta' parkeġġ riservat speċjalment f'postijiet pubbliċi b'hal pjazzeż u ħdejn il-knejjes u ħwienet ewlenin. Ir-raġuni ewlenija għal din il-ħtieġa hi li l-parkeġġi riservati eżistenti jittieħdu l-jum kollu minn residenti qribhom u persuni li għandhom il-blu sticker li jaslu hemm biex jinqdew qatt ma jkunu jistgħu jipparkjaw f'post riservat għad-dizabilità.

4) Issemmiet ukoll il-ħtieġa ta' ħarġiet kulturali għal persuni b'dizabilità u min jieħu ħsiebhom. Ħarġiet kulturali organizzati mill-parroċċa u entitajiet oħrajn ma jkollhomx faċilità ta' tail-lift u, għaldaqstant, persuni b'dizabilità ma jkunux f'qagħda li jieħdu sehem. Żewġ soluzzjonijiet li ssemmer kienu (a) il-possibiltà li l-Kunsill jikseb van b'tail-lift għal skopijiet b'hal dawn, u (b) li l-Kunsill jorganizza attivitajiet kulturali li jkollu wkoll trasport għal persuni b'dizabilità b'van tal-Azzjoni Kattolika jew entitajiet

5) Hemm persuni b'dizabilità li jixtiequ jmorru 'l quddies u bnadi oħra fil-lokal kuljum iżda n-nuqqas ta' trasport adattat iżommhom magħluqa d-dar. Persuni li jkunu lesti li jiggwidawhom billi jimbuttaw il-wheelchair ikunu anzjani huma stess u jsibuha diffiċli jirbħu l-ostakli kollha biex jaslu (tibwieq fil-bankini, ħofor fit-toroq, bankini dojoq, karozzi double parked, etc.)

6) Il-Kunsill jista' jkun vuċi biex tinbidel il-mentalità insensittiva u "ma jimpurtanix" ta' ħafna residenti li jitfgħu l-boroż taż-żibel u kaxxi għar-rimi f'nofs il-bankina.

Dawn qed ikatru l-ostakli ta' persuni fragli fiżikament u anka ta' nisa għaddejjin bil-puschairs.

7) Tinħtieġ permess ta' tariffa mnaqqsa għal persuni b'dizabilità li jużaw it-transport pubbliku.

8) Bankini u toroq b'ħofor u tkissir: Il-Kunsill jista' joħloq sistema fejn isir 'facing/ kisi' ta' malajr ħalli jitnaqqsu l-ostakli fi żmien qasir ħafna. Servizz ta' tiswija f'waqtha b'hal din, għalkemm short term, tirrendi il-ħajja ta' persuni b'dizabilità u min jieħu ħsiebhom aktar faċli u jnaqqas il-frustrament żejjed u dewmien f'aċċess li għandu jkun possibbli għall-kunħadd, speċjalment għal min għandu dizabilità.

Il-persuni preżenti jixtiequ jkomplu jiltaqgħu mas-Sindku u ssuġġerew laqgħat mal-(1) KNPD dwar servizzi speċjalment tal-Blue Sticker, (2) ma' rappreżentant tat-Transport Malta, (3) mal-Kappillan, (4) ma' membru parlamentari (MP) li jistinka f'dan il-qasam ta' dizabilità.

Min-naħa tiegħu, is-Sindku semma kif qed titwettaq strategija ta' rampi fit-trufijiet ta' bankini, żona żona u miżuri oħra meħtieġa sabiex jittaffew l-ostakli għal mobilità ta' persuni b'dizabilità. Huwa rringrazzja lil kunħadd għall-partecipazzjoni ħajja u interess u suġġeriment u wiegħed laqgħat oħra fil-futur qarib.....>

WHAT NGOS ACTIVE IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT POVERTY MEASURES

Continued from September issue

8. Teleworking and ICT skills:

Teleworking has been introduced in many Government departments. It can be increased to accommodate some work which single mother and marginalised people can do from their own homes if they are trained in the basic computer skills to be able to do such work. In that way they will optimize their family-work balance to the benefit of both. Particularly those over 35+ should be given more attention as most of them are without IT basic skills.

Related to the above topic, it was stated that we have the pitiful situation that children are leaving their schools without the basic educational skills of reading and writing. So we have to somehow make a positive discrimination in favour of such groups in Maltese society.

9. Immigrants: Immigrants' poverty in Malta is rife and sometimes worse than that of the poorest of the poor in Malta and special attention to innocent children who are deprived of everything and suffer also racial discrimination too.

10. NGO's – Pooling of resources and EU funds : Duplication of work by NGO's is common. There is no centralization of operations but every NGO to its own. Pooling of resources and capabilities is practically non-existing. NGO's have to work WITH Government, Local Councils, the Church etc...

NGO's do not tap enough EU funds. Not because they do not want them but the lengthy and cumbersome application and the bureaucracy and paperwork involved disheartens them. They suggested that either PPCD or a

Government/EU Funded agency be set up with a hands-on one stop approach. The NGO's inform this agency what and where it wants to arrive, and it is the responsibility of this agency to apply and process all the requirements and paperwork etc... NGO's simply do not have the time or the energy to waste on form filling and procedures and reports. Alternatively PPCD should simply applications and procedures for projects involving NGO's. MUSEC does help but in assisting in the drafting of applications only not in the whole bureaucratic mountains of paperwork which need filling and filed.

Whilst at EU funds, it was mentioned that the co-financing requirement is keeping NGO's from applying for EU funds. It was stated that the MCCF is investing € 1.5million in its Mtarfa project. Could various NGO's join forces with MCCF and can such MCCF investment be used as the co-financing of a say € 10 million project?

11. On-going consultation: On-going consultation by Government with NGO's and other interested key stakeholders which have a role in this subject of a permanent nature is the key for the way forward. We should not make a mistake of setting up a Strategy and forget it as it becomes stale. The need to continue consulting and revising 360 degrees is a must.

REPORT OF WORKSHOP 2: *Cooperation and Mutual Help*

Moderator - Ms Claudia Taylor East
Rapporteur – Ms Vivien Cassar

- Voluntary and the NGOs must work together to reduce poverty
- Multi-disciplinary and Multi-Cultural

Business Sector

- Co-ordinator Building
- Mapping Exercise – inventory directory database
- Outreach
- Common Referral System
- Trained Volunteers – senior citizens active ageing
- Corporate Social Responsibility. (Moral Obligation – to fit into implement the programme)
- Partnership – Government, Business and NGO's
- Infrastructure for strategies not casual
- Technology
- Before each initiative, check analysis to what already exists
- Drop in centres
- Creative Innovative Initiative
- Migration – homeless needs to be addressed
- Dialogue with people in the areas of poverty
- Participation of NGOs as partners

REPORT OF WORKSHOP 3: *Innovative Investment for Equal Opportunities & Sustainable Development*

Moderator – Mr Nathan Rapporteur
- Ms Nora Macelli

Workshop participants from the following NGOs:
- Għaqda għan-Neqsin mid-dawl (3 persons)
- Association of Youth Workers (1)
- Council of Women (1)
- YWCA (1)
- Inspire (1)
- St Jeanne Antide Foundation (1)

In order to raise the disposable income of persons below the poverty line the group recommends the following 8 measures:

1) Re-engineering community care services: The country is already investing significant human and financial resources in community care. However, the cross-sector provision needs to be looked at critically. Services with a community care mission (day centres for the elderly; community mental health clinics; mental health community outreach teams based at Mt Carmel Hospital, COMMCARE, etc) need to introduce a drop-in function so as to better serve the most vulnerable and at risk persons. Moreover, community based family support services such as the Appoġġ Social Work teams at the AĊCESS Centres need a Psychiatric Nurse to form part of the team. Given the hidden reality of mental illness, these social work teams can no longer afford to be missing such a key professional. Community-based services need to undertake outreach work to identify hard-to-reach vulnerable families so as to create a needs-based network of support measures.

2) Investing in marginalised young persons: Entrepreneurship training projects could be developed in support of young persons on the margins of society. These would be young persons who have dropped out of school, are in conflict with the law and with segments of their local community, are excluded from mainstream youth groups, are unemployed and unskilled. For examples of this nature, one could look at The Prince's Trusts tiny entrepreneurship projects for young persons. Through such projects, young persons would be trained to solicit jobs from schools, Local Councils, Church, and businesses around the community. They would be helped to design the works, calculate cost of raw materials and labour and to carry out the work. They would be assigned a mentor and

eventually helped to access micro-financing. Businesses could be motivated to provide business mentors.

3) Micro-finance for the poor: Through their CSR policy, banks could start micro-finance schemes which require no collateral but provide technical support on financial management.

4) Investing in single parents: One model which could be explored is the one in Spain where single parents on welfare benefits are given the opportunity to access 3-years' worth of welfare benefits in advance so as to invest in the setting up of a tiny/small business enterprise. Women who tap into such a scheme would be able to enter into a joint venture (hairdressing salon, etc).

5) Investing in sight-impaired persons: The 3 representatives of the *Għaqda Persuni Neqsin mid-Dawl* suggested a two pronged strategy of investing in mobility training and job training such as using voice-recognition software to transcribe texts for companies/ organisations, internet-based trading, helpline work to follow-up very lonely at risk persons.

6) Removing barriers to job training and employment:

6.1 Vulnerable persons on disability pension who are not registered with the ETC cannot access job training schemes unless they register. For many, registering with the ETC implies having to accept offers of work. If their earnings go beyond a certain ceiling, they lose their disability pension. Eligibility criteria need to be reviewed so that very vulnerable persons are not barred from accessing opportunities which enable them to integrate in the labour market, including job-related mentoring and micro-finance.

6.2 Another issue that needs to be considered is for social security to consider the notion of "earning handicap" and "conversion handicap". Having a disability or chronic mental illness reduces a person's ability to earn an income.. The disability makes the conversion of income into good living harder; a person with a disability may need to pay for assistance, for mobility and other aids for daily living, for special transport, etc. The conversion handicap is routinely missed in poverty relief programmes that focus only on the lowness of incomes. A system of poverty removal that concentrates only on the lowness of income, in particular whether a person's – or family's - income is below the poverty line, will catch the earning handicap, but not the conversion handicap, and this could make the poverty relief programme inadequate.

6.3 Disability - enforcing law on 2% of workforce & Bridging the Gap Scheme: Lack of enforcement. Employers' pitying attitude needs to change. ETC schemes that provide a blanket coverage (employers engaging a person with a disability receive 75% wage re-imburement, irrespective of the degree of ability of the person with a disability). Suggestion: Schemes should be designed in such a way that employers remunerate the person for the percentage

7) Undeclared work: Need incentives for this category to opt to move away from the black economy.

8) Social Enterprises: a white paper on social enterprises has been drafted and will soon be published for public consultation and feedback. Once legislation is in place, NGOs will be in a position to invest in the setting up of social enterprises that would employ vulnerable persons who

would otherwise remain excluded from the labour market.

9) Additional suggestions:

a) Each Ministry could appoint an official to assume the function of a Social Inclusion Facilitator. Functions would include liaising with social workers and other practitioners to solve bureaucratic hurdles which impede vulnerable persons from moving on in life and through inflexible systems or inflexibly implemented measures. These sector-knowledgeable Social Inclusion Facilitators would be able to collaborate to untangle obstacles from their end while keeping the source of the service user advocate (usually social workers) informed of developments.

b) The Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity could explore the possibility of creating a networked provision of emergency short-term crisis accommodation without the need to create new infrastructure. Low cost hostels could be encouraged to make available a room at very short notice. Social Work agencies would be able to tap into this provision.

c) Integrated poverty reduction exercise: Malta being a small country, it would be easy to implement this recommendation. Through the involvement of the Directorate for Social Security, a team comprising social welfare agency managers (state and NGOs) would assist the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity in determining which of the agencies are working with those below the median of the poor. Agencies would collaborate to provide a range of support services to the whole family system and, in the process, creating a community-based social support network. Each community-based

service provider would take charge of co-ordinating support provision across sectors for an agreed number of families from its catchment localities.

d) Investing in primary family caregivers of mentally ill persons: Primary family caregivers are a national resource which is being eroded through lack of recognition and support. Primary family caregivers often give up their jobs to provide care or move to a lower paying one to reduce the double-edged responsibility burden (job + care of relative). Reduction of their disposable income coupled with the financial demands of the burden of care over time often results in a slide towards poverty. Lack of flexible working conditions, availing oneself of unpaid leave to accompany the sick family member to emergency services, medical and other appointments, and many other care related responsibilities often result in loss of job and / or depression. Moreover, mental health practitioners do not consider family caregivers as their partners in care, nor do they consult them or advise them on caregiving strategies.

Additional suggestions by Mr Mauro Pace Parascandolo, Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

It is essential that the issue of 'financial management' is addressed and persons in the risk of poverty are supported and trained to prevent further falling into the trap of poverty. Persons in this social bracket may spend all their monthly income (or much more) for a momentary sense of well-being or for acquiring that 'thing' that 'everyone else has'! Society must not present the hurtful illusion that everyone can have

everything and be everything. This may drive persons who cannot achieve such targets to psychological and / or financial problems (such as high debts at times leading to 'usura').



