

SJAF e-Magazine



ST JEANNE ANTIDE FOUNDATION

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May this Christmas be a time of Grace, Forgiveness and Love. A time for saying YES to the Lord. A time for becoming open to doing His will rather than our will. A time for becoming more loving, self-compassionate, compassionate, accepting of others

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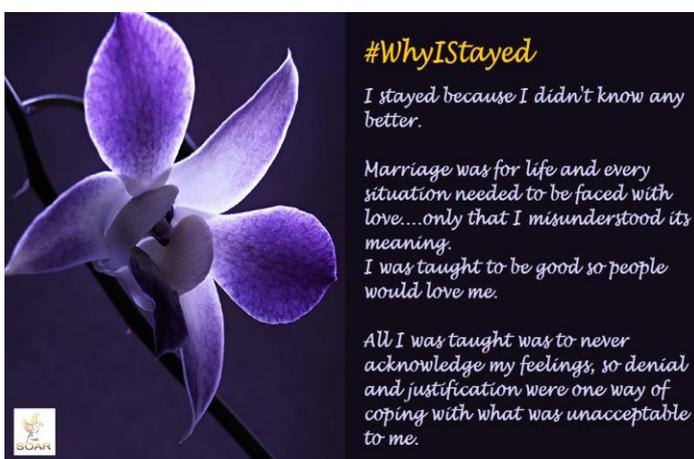
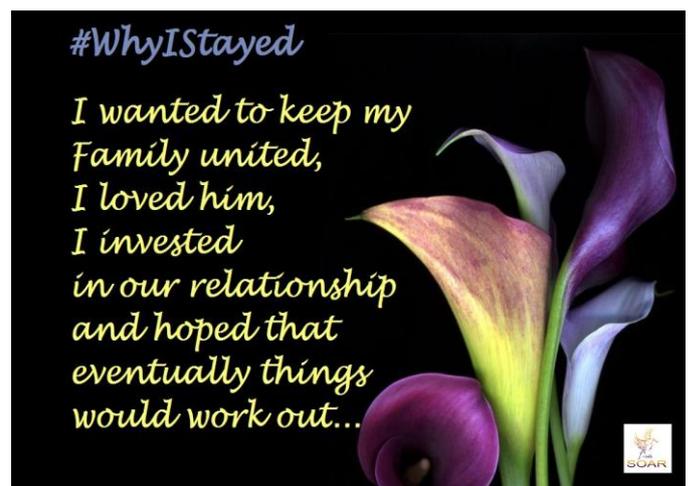
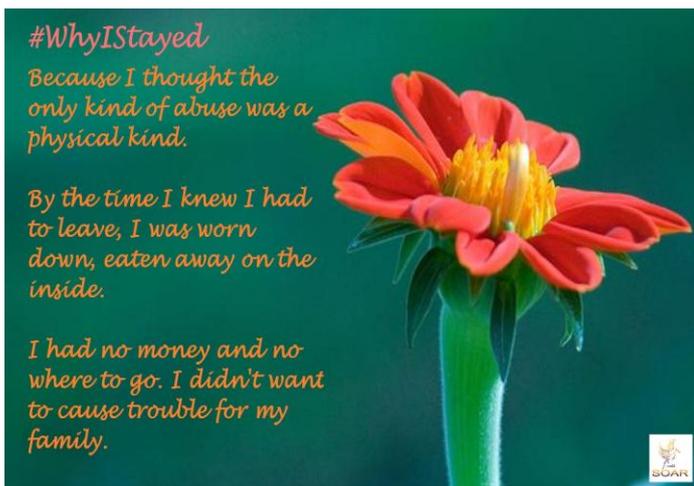
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SOAR – Surviving Abuse with Resilience

Violence in intimate relationships is often devastating on the victim and the children involved. Some women make it out, but are often left jobless, sometimes homeless and struggling with a broken spirit. Afraid to trust and re-victimised by the system, survivors often feel alone in their fight for survival. SOAR is a user-led service that works towards enabling survivors of violence in intimate relationships to pick up the pieces and bounce back with resilience, towards a life of dignity, well-being and justice. The service works on 3 fronts: It fosters an attitude of support and sisterhood among group members, to combat the remnants of isolation and alienation from the violent relationship they had. It raises awareness with the public, on the realities of the experience, on the signs, the red flags and on how one can find help and support. It advocates for improved policies, laws and practices that serve to bring social justice to victims and survivors of violence.

Elaine Compagno

#WhyIStayed Online Poster Campaign 2014 (True SOAR members' accounts)



Starting and Running a Family Resource Centre in Birżebbuġa in the Southeastern Region (EEA/006/14)



Through funds obtained in August 2014 for a year from the European Economic Area (EEA) NGO Fund for Malta managed by SOS Malta, a Family Resource Centre is being set up in the locality of Birżebbuġa, a harbour town in the South Eastern Region of Malta. The project aims to respond to the identified needs of vulnerable individuals and families in a community of over 11,000 in winter, and over 15,000 in the summer months, with a growing multi-cultural base. Through regular community outreach work, Family Resource Centre workers strive to reach out to underserved and unserved groups with tenuous links to mainstream district and national support services. In collaboration with community-based organisations (CBOs), a range of initiatives will be started to respond to identified needs.

The Project Team uses outreach work as a key tool to identify and support vulnerable residents whose rights are threatened: women and children experiencing domestic violence, frail elderly who are abused, families sliding into poverty, families with one or more members with chronic mental illness which has been undiagnosed and untreated, women involved in prostitution, very lonely home-bound persons, and immigrant families especially those with a 'rejected' status.

Following discussions with community-based organisations (CBOs), family support services are initiated. These include community social work, family consultations for relatives of chronically mentally ill persons and group-based activities focusing on self-esteem, relationship building and maintenance, literacy, learning support for children and other self- and skills development opportunities. The following are some of the results since

the project was initiated on the first of August 2014.

Recruitment: A full-time and a part-time social worker have been recruited.

Outreach: Outreach work has been undertaken in 19 streets which amount to 701 households and 29 shops. Over 109.5 hours of outreach work have been completed. Accompanying the project social workers in outreach work are Volunteers from the Parish Diaconia Commission.

Publicity: A Flyer about the project is being distributed during door-to-door during outreach to homes and shops. The Local Council is also distributing the bi-lingual flyer to each household. The Parish Priest is making regular announcements during mass. The Parish has also included a write-up on the project in centre pages of the FLIMKIEN magazine.

Networking with various bodies at local and regional level have been a regular feature of the project. A Project team member forms part of the regional network of stakeholders set up by the Regional Social Development Centre team of the LEAP! Project for the South Eastern Region. Several meetings with various community-based groups and bodies have been carried out; these include the Local Council, Head of the local state Primary School, the District Police, Social Services, Azzjoni Kattolika, and Girl Guides. State agencies have been invited to refer vulnerable families and individuals on their waiting list.

Family support work: So far, 52 vulnerable individuals from 28 families are being supported through community-based social work and consultations with the Foundation's Senior Psychiatric Nurse. The highest number of referrals came from the Parish (11 cases). Once the project

personnel started to conduct outreach work, the number of self-referrals increased (8 cases). The rest of the referrals (9 cases) came from State Agencies, SJAF personnel, service users themselves.

Regular team-based project progress review meetings and case-discussion sessions are held.

Collaboration with the Parish: Regular meetings are held with the Parish Priest of Birżebbuġa. He also refers vulnerable individuals and families who ask him for assistance. The members of the Diaconia Commission co-work with the project social workers during the outreach. They also refer vulnerable families and individuals.

Premises: From the outset, the Parish Priest refurbished and furnished an office at the parish hall to be used as an office/ counselling room by the project Social Workers. Given the aim of the project to set up a Family Resource Centre, the Foundation kept looking for an adequate premises to meet this target. In October, the Province of the Sisters of Charity, the founding body of the Foundation, allocated to the Foundation the use of the ground floor of its convent in Birżebbuġa which, until June 2014, was used as a Kindergarten school. The Kindergarten having been moved to Gudja, the Sisters were in a position to allocate the use for the project.

Premises Refurbishment: Currently, the Foundation is trying to raise funds for its refurbishment. On the 17th November, the Corradino Correctional Facility have kindly deployed three inmates to carry out the most urgent refurbishment works so that Ċentru Familji – as the Family Resource Centre is being called – can be opened for the public in January 2015 – 6 months after operational start-up of the project.



EEA Grants NGO Malta Programme
2009-2014
This project is part-financed by the EEA Grants.
Co-Financing Rate: 90% EEA Funding,
10% Beneficiary Funds



Victim Support for Youths (VS4Y)

Victim Support for Youths (VS4Y) hosted a training seminar at Dar l-Ewropa in Valletta on the 23rd October and invited speakers Dr Roberta Lepre and Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi. Dr Lepre addressed local issues about victim rights in light of the European directives. While Dr Azzopardi focused her speech on difficulties youths find and their social status in society. Two social workers, Ruth Stafrace and Kim Vassallo, and the student social worker, David Cassar attended this training seminar.

The seminar was informative and provided the public with a good insight about the social and legal issues that are currently addressed.

During the seminar, the importance for agencies offering victim support to be well known by the general public was emphasised. Hence, information such as providing guidance as what to do when one falls a victim is critical. Apart from information access, it has to be presented in an understandable manner.

Article 19 of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council specifically states that court premises must have waiting areas specifically for victims to avoid re-victimisation and to protect the victim.

During the seminar it was also pointed out how youths are perceived by society and the difficulties they find to speak up to organisations due to the stigma and fear youths have. Youths are and always have been the generation of change and society disapproves this. On the other hand the police force reflects the people's intentions and thus youths find it hard to approach the police. Youths are tomorrow's adults hence, considering today's youths as "care-free creatures" may create a generation which will find it difficult to converse with other generations.

Reference

Official Journal of the European Union. (2012). *Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council*. Retrieved from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029>



Comfort Woman

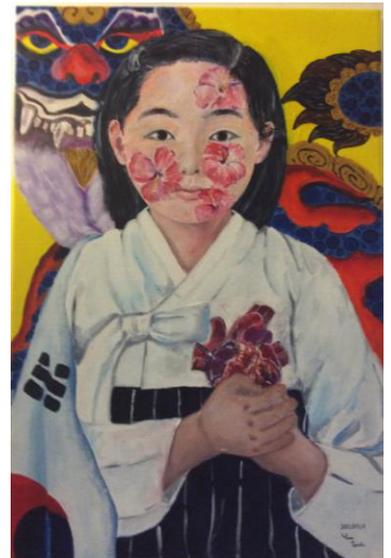
South Korean student Suin Yoon who is currently following the International Bacalaureate course at Verdala International School is the artist behind this painting which we are showcasing at the Foundation's drop-in centre of the Irene Project. Although it is a self-portrait, it has another layer of meaning.

Suin Yoon explained to us that during Japan's colonization of Korea in the 1900s, citizens opposed the colonial occupation under the military rule of the Japanese Empire. There were numerous non-violent demonstrations which led to many deaths of citizens carrying the national flag but no weapons. Many students took part in the protests. Citizens were forbidden from using their national language and cultural practices were forbidden. People were forced to change their names to Japanese. Korean citizens were forced into slave labour in mines.

Around 200,000 girls and women aged between 12 and 19 were taken away from their families; they became known by the controversial term 'comfort women'. These young girls and women became prostitutes of the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II. Many of the young women were forced into servitude and exploited as sex slaves throughout Asia, becoming victims of the largest case of human trafficking in the 20th century.

The trade of comfort women is thus a massive violation of human rights that has been left out of textbooks, leaving the perpetrators of this atrocious practice to be remembered merely as abstract characters in a taboo history. Women were raped by between 10 to 100 soldiers a day at military rape camps. Women were starved, beaten, tortured, and killed. By some estimate, only 25 to 30 percent survived the ordeal.

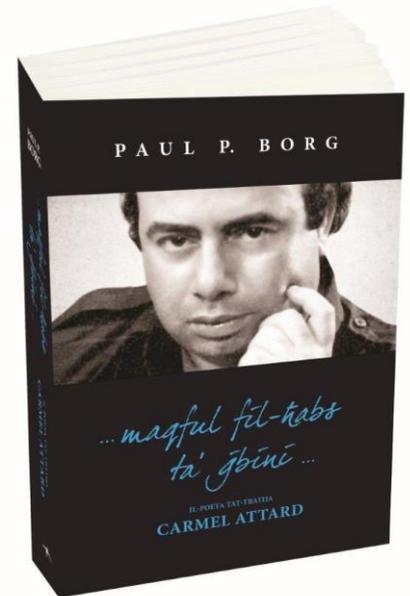
Suin Yoon portrays herself wearing the 18 century Korean girls' school uniform. Her painting, she explains, is a homage to renowned painter Frida Kahlo who expressed women's pain of miscarriage. Frida Kahlo was self compassionate despite her harrowing painful experiences. By loving herself and her disability and her pain, she could get through the hard times. Like Frida Kahlo, Suin Yoon hopes that suffering women still manage to love themselves and face life with dignity and pride.



magful fil-ħabs ta' ġbini- il-poeta tat-tbatija
Carmel Attard

bijografija minn Paul P Borg

Din hi l-ġrajja tal-poeta Carmel Attard li l-Letteratura Maltija għadha ma sabitlux in-niċċa li tixraqlu. Attard għadda ħajja mimlija tbatija mentali minħabba saħħtu, u minħabba stigma soċjali kiefra. Hija l-ġrajja ta' bniedem-poezija, ġwejjed u qalbieni, li ried jgħix hieni f'soċjetà li m'aċċettatux dejjem kif kien u fuq kollox ma ħallitux isib l-imħabba bl-għażliet intimi li ried jagħmel. F'din il-bijografija, l-ħabib tiegħu PAUL P. BORG jimxi miegħu sa mit-tfulija fil-bitha tal-Mużew, u jikxef għall-ewwel darba l-umanità fid-dramm tal-ħajja f'Sant Anton, f'tifel ta' tmien snin, fis-salott id-dar, fit-toroq tal-Qawra u ta' Ħal Balzan, fl-isptar *Monte Carmeli*...



PAUL P. BORG b'hekk juri kif sieħbu Carmel Attard, il-poezija mhux kitibha, imma għexha b'intensità kbira .

Art Group Sessions – held every Tuesday mornings at Ċentru Antida





RIGALI GĦAL DAN IL-MILIED
 – għinuna billi tixtru kopji ta'dawn il-kotba mill-Fondazzjoni, b'risq is-servizzi li noffru lil mijiet ta' persuni u familji vulnerabbli kull sena.

PAGNA POEZIJA



Milied għall-ħajjin mejtin

Il-lejl qalil tad-deżert kien swied
safejn kont tista' tara
u xejn ma tisma' ħlief ċekċik il-ghadam
u thaxwix il-mixi tal-ħajjin mejtin

flok blat kont thoss borġ ramel li għamel ir-riħ
ixxomm duħħan u gass li jfiewweg
mix-xmajjar vojta u għejjun nixfin

din l-art hi l-art fejn kulhadd kien għazel
u għazel il-mewt, u ħa li ried
u miet, jew mar mal-ħajjin mejtin

minnufih għadda raġel, li kien għaraf —
raġel li kien qabel ma sar, u jagħder

li qalbieni daq id-dlam, u ħiemed —
li sab bla ma ħataf, u baqa' bla regħba
waqt li l-lejl urġenti baqa' ġewwa w madwar

lid-dlam ihobbu, u wkoll lill-ħajjin mejtin
u kull fejn għadda, dawl qalbu dawwal barra
fuq mogħdija qaddisa - u ġismu idda għabex
u mir-ramel b'riglejh ifforġa triq tal-blat

għax kien ġej, kien jaf, minn sisien il-qiegh
imnissel, imsejjes mil-lok mnejn twieled il-lejl
il-lejl u l-jum, is-sura w il-baħħ...
fi bniedem imdawwal, jiddi d-dawl

u jdawwal lid-dinja kollha. Il-passi tqal
tal-ħajjin mejtin jihfiefu issa li l-lejl jinħall
u mogħdija sogħda taħkem ir-ramel ġieri
u jimxu aktar dritti, il-ħajjin mejtin

għad li mhux bi kburija...
waqt li toroq tal-azzard u toroq fi ċrieki jitqarrbu
u jiltaqgħu mas-sod, fil-mogħdija tal-milja tal-ħajja
u whud, bil mod il-mod, sa bdew jaraw,
minn ġewwa: ...

...raġġ dawl fid-dlamhom.
U wara snin, xi whud minn dawn
ħajjin, messew sisien saħansitra aktar fil-fond
u saru mhux imwiolda, mhux mahluqin
mhux ħajjin, u mhux mejtin.

tony macelli

Imħabbiet

kemm thallik waħdek, taljenak
l-imħabba l-imgħawġa tal-biċċa-jien
— u x'mostru bla ħniena, qerriedi
hi l-imħabba ta' alla limitat,
immagināt

ħuduli ħsiebhom, it-tfal —
qed jegħrqli t-tfal iż-żgħar
jaħtfuli t-tibniet f'wiċċ l-ilma
biex jehilsu jsalvaw minn għadira
kiesha, bla mħabba, fid-dlam

ohrajn aħjar, nixfin fi-x-xatt
imberkin b'xi dħulija lejn
ġens il-bnedmin —
iżd' għadhom fqar u nieqsa
b'li m'għandhomx il-veduti l-kbar
u s-sewwa il-wiesa'

iżd'ogħla fl-gholjiet,
forsi ġa kont taf,
hemm tribujiet li jimxu b'dinjità
tal-umli... wehedhom, hemdin
mdehnin mill-veduti wiesa'
fil-wisgħa w fil-ħin — u fosthom
l-imħabba lejn ġens il-bnedmin
mhix ħlief form'oħra
tal-imħabba divina
li tagħti w tingħata bla tmiem

saħansitr' għandom aktar minn dan
għax hu hekk illi jagħrfu wkoll
l-imħabba tal-jien
u anki l-imħabba tal-ħajja,
il-bhejjem, il-ħxejjex,
il-pjaneta
— u kollox.

tony macelli



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BAZAAR fi Triq Hal-Tarxien b'risq il-Fondazzjoni

**Miftuñ kull nhar ta' Tnejn u nhar ta' Erbgha
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 their 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 carers:** 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 Familji: 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.