

Who is behind Meraki Soaps?

Meraki Soaps is an innovative initiative start-up social enterprise founded by SOAR, St Jeanne Antide Foundation.

What is SOAR?

SOAR is a service supporting women and children survivors of domestic violence who are trying to restart their lives in the community. The service is led by trained survivors.

What does SOAR mean?

SOAR is an acronym for *Surviving Abuse with Resilience*. All the services that SOAR offers are survivor-centred and focus on supporting survivors to become more empowered.

How does SOAR support survivors?

SOAR offers a range of services, programmes, projects and activities. It runs an online support group and holds group activities every week.

How is SOAR linked to Meraki Soaps?

SOAR will run a support programme with Meraki Soaps to empower and upskill survivors of domestic violence.

Map from:

<https://bit.ly/32g3p2V>



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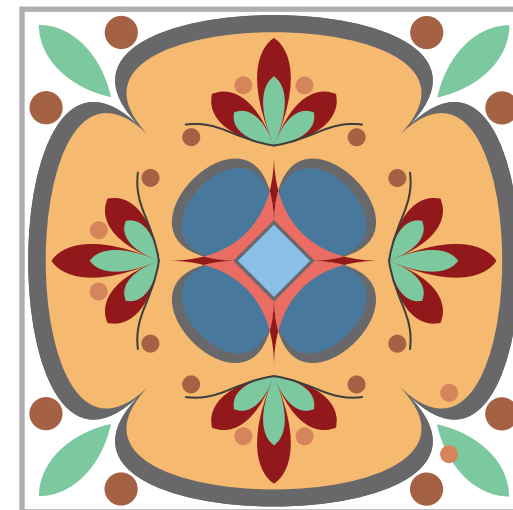
WEBSITE: www.merakisoaps.eu
(under construction)



Meraki Soaps



@soarsurvivorshub



Meraki Soaps

A social enterprise
empowering survivors of
domestic violence.

PROBLEM

A recent European report* states that 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence in Malta. Malta also has one of the highest rates of stalking in Europe.

Psychological, physical, sexual and economic violence shatters the lives of victims and their children.

When survivors leave, they need to start from scratch. This is difficult after suffering a huge blow to their self-confidence, being isolated from family and friends and living under an abuser's control for years.

Survivors face a range of long-term challenges to accessing protection, support and to rebuild their lives.

These often include barriers to building new social networks, entering the labour market, upskilling or keeping their job during recovery from trauma.

Survivors then face a multitude of other difficulties arising from their worsening economic state and isolation.

SOLUTION

Research shows that craft grouped sessions have a range of therapeutic and social benefits, with significant results seen in just 6 weeks.

SOAR is setting up a purposely-equipped workspace and a separate child-play area to reach **65 women** in the first year and **80 women** in the second year.

Through this project, SOAR can:

- Increase therapeutic craft group sessions from one session to 3 sessions a week;
- Increase one-to-one mentoring;
- Set up Meraki Soaps (Social Enterprise);
- Employ survivors to run the enterprise;
- Raise awareness on domestic violence;



BENEFITS

- Increased self-esteem, self-confidence and mental well-being;
- Strengthened family relationships and social stability;
- Increase participation in social and community life;
- Increase entry into adult education and labour market;
- Increased retention of employment;
- Increased economic and housing stability;
- Less dependency on welfare and public housing systems;
- Decrease in repeat domestic violence;