



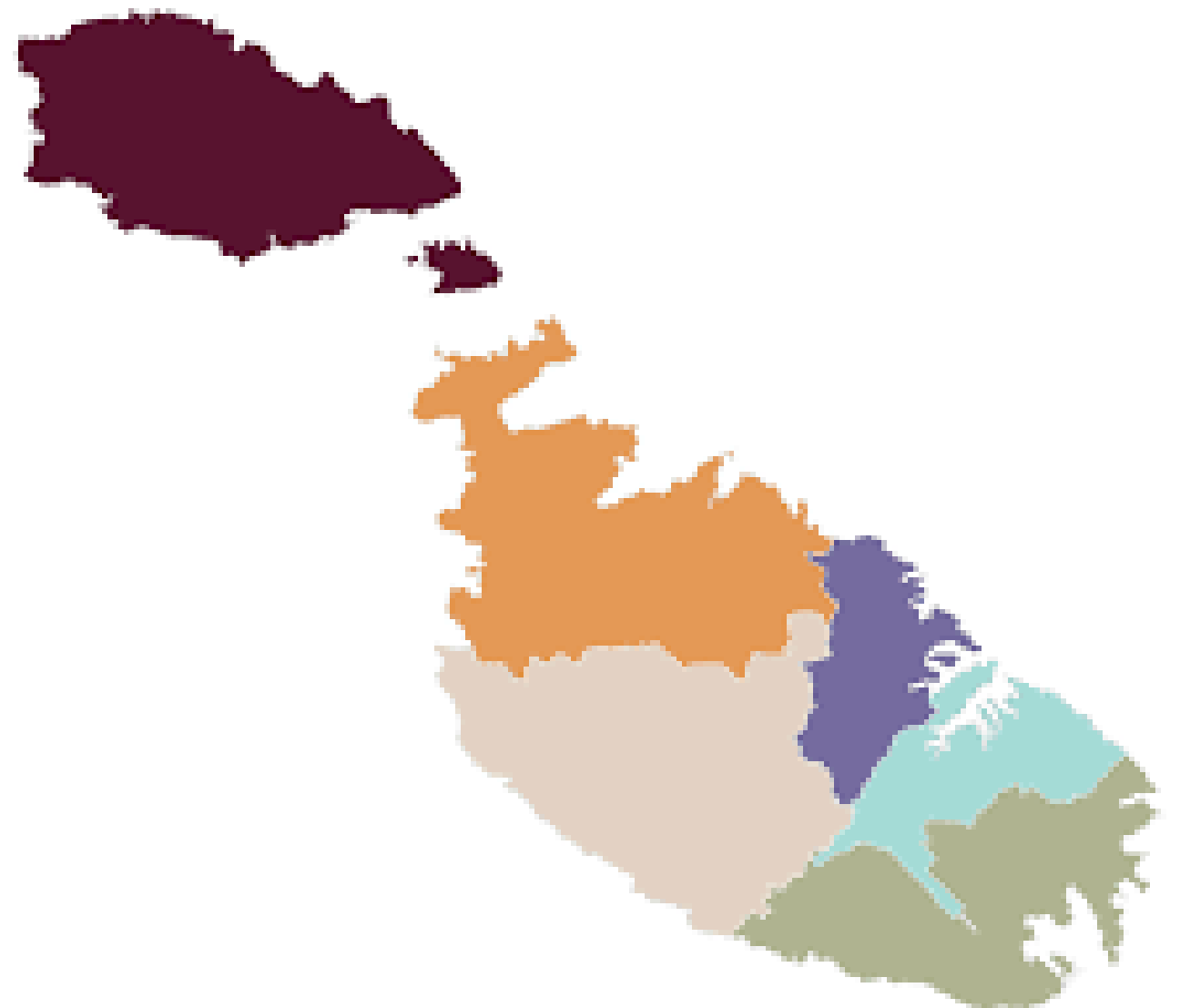
DV in Malta

Dr Anna Maria Vella



Malta

- Number of inhabitants: 450,000
- Malta is divided into:
 - Northern Harbour District
 - Northern District
 - South Eastern District
 - Southern Harbour District
 - Western District
 - Gozo and Comino



Foreigners in Malta

- In Jan 2018: PQ by MP Godfrey Farrugia:
- 27,238 non-EU foreign nationals who are registered in Malta.
 - Libya – 3,622
 - Serbia – 2,757
 - The Philippines – 2,407
 - Russia – 2,027
 - Somalia – 1,845
 - Syria – 1,289
 - China – 1,090
 - Eritrea – 1,057
 - Ukraine - 896
 - India – 819



What is Domestic Violence?

- **Domestic violence** is defined by the Domestic Violence Act (Chapter 481)
 - any act of violence, even if only verbal, perpetrated by a household member upon another household member and includes any omission which causes physical or moral harm to the other



Forms of Violence

- Any act of violence, including:
 - Emotional abuse
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Financial abuse
 - Held against the will of the person
 - All types of harassment and stalking



Associations working against DV



The Commission on Domestic Violence:

- Set up on March 1, 2006
- Advises the Minister responsible for social policy on all aspects of Domestic Violence,
- Raises awareness on the problem,
- Suggests areas for research,
- Recommends policy amendments,
- Identifies training for professional groups.



Campaigns done by Commission

NO TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
FAMILY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND



Campaigns

- **Annual Conference 2017**
Listen to me!
Giving children a voice



ENDORSED
by



Other service providers



- **Supportline 179**
- **Agenzija Appogg**
- **Malta Police**
- **Victim Support Malta**
- **Dar Emmaus**
- **Women's Rights Foundation** (Service provided: legal services)
- **SOAR Support Group** (St Jeanne Antide Foundation)
- **Rainbow Support Service (LGBTIQ)**

How common is DV?



- According to the FRA (2014) survey
 - 1 in 5 women (22%) in the EU has experienced physical and/ sexual intimate partner violence.
 - In Malta 15% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or a previous partner.
- The Commission on DV (2011) found that 26.5% of women have had experiences of physical, emotional and sexual violence

Malta's observatory of Crime



- Professor Saviour Formosa (crimemalta.com)
 - In the 2018 report
 - DV has increased to 8.4%
 - 1341 cases
 - a 10% increase in Psychological Harm and 8% Slight Bodily Harm with Physical Force.
 - Bodily Harm has been pushed to fifth place. Domestic violence was mainly experienced by the 40-59 year cohort, followed by the 30-39 year cohort.
 - Reports pertain to stalking, slight bodily harm, grievous bodily harm and psychological harm.
 - Bormla, Floriana, Isla, Birgu, Ghaxaq and Pembroke host between 2 and 5 the national rate.
 - Safi, Ghasri, San Lawrenz, Kercem and Gharb registered zero offences.

Cases of Domestic violence reported to the Police 2014 - 2018

Reported crime by category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total	
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	GBH WITH ARMS IMPROPER	4	1	4	4	7	20
	GBH WITH ARMS PROPER	4	3	1	5	3	16
	GBH WITH PHYSICAL FORCE	16	18	31	27	25	117
	PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM	454	554	577	604	664	2853
	SBH BY ARMS IMPROPER	21	30	33	35	29	148
	SBH BY ARMS PROPER	6	8	10	11	6	41
	SBH WITH PHYSICAL FORCE	513	571	579	547	589	2799
	STALKING	30	20	37	24	18	129
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Total	1048	1205	1272	1257	1341	6123	

Source: National Police System (NPS) - Crime incidents

Notes:

1. The above figures represent the number of reported incidents.
2. One report may contain multiple victims.
3. 3. GBH: Grievous Body Harm SBH: Slight Body Harm

Malta's Correctional Services Division Data



2019

- There are 26 inmates convicted for DV
 - two of them have 2 cases
 - 11 inmates were charged with murder related to domestic violence. 7 of which were found guilty and sentenced from 25 years of imprisonment to life. 4 inmates are still in their awaiting trial stage.



Malta's Correctional Services Division

- In 2018, the Psychology Unit at CCF followed 30 perpetrators of D V (3 of whom did not have an official record of DV offences).
- The main types of interventions carried out were :Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Anger Management Programmes.
- 12 perpetrators were responsive to treatment, 9 were not responsive to intervention that dealt directly with their aggressive behaviour due to denial, justifications and other cognitive distortions and 5 showed no marked improvement. In 4 cases, intervention was terminated prematurely due to the perpetrators attending a residential drug treatment programme or due to mental health issues that required treatment.

Malta's Correctional Services Division



- Openness to treatment was a facilitating factor, with both therapeutic interventions and cooperation with other agencies mainly with child protection services, probation services and drug agencies. One perpetrator also conducted a joint session with his partner and victim of his crime. Within the same year, a research about the lived experience of an IPV perpetrator was conducted by the same Unit. The data collected from this case study provided a snapshot into the contributing factors of risk and potential violence of perpetrators of IPV, as well as their treatment needs. It highlighted a need for change in legislation with regards to the identification of potentially dangerous persons and the importance of continuity of supervision and care.

Mental Health Services



- Forensic Psychologists working within Mental Health Services offer interventions to both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence who access the mental health system and CCF.
- These offer training to police officers (Reflective Practice, an essential tool when dealing with Domestic Violence cases), teachers (Reflective Practice and Managing the classroom – recognising the victim) and hospital staff (Eating Disorders and Domestic Violence: What does the Dentist have to do with it?) in relation to DV.
- They also work with the Commission of Domestic Violence with regards to training, conferences and the Peer to Peer group. In addition they liaise with the Victim Support Unit in the Police Department regarding risk assessment when a case of domestic violence and/or gender based violence is reported.
- Currently working together with the Psychology Unit within the PPD, to present the need for further assessment and treatment services for perpetrators during the Peer to Peer Workshop being held in March 2019.

Parole and Probation Services

- (2018) 65 cases of Domestic Violence referred from Court.
 - 51 in total were Intrafamilial Violence (excluding the duplicate cases)
 - 8 were referred to Psychology Unit DPP – 4 out of those 8 have been violent to siblings and parents; 4 IPV have also co morbid problems such as drug use etc
 - 5 had their charges dropped
 - 12 child parent violence referred to Appogg
 - 10 new cases or reports only (could be referred or case may still be decided by court)
 - 5 currently at CCF
 - 5 referred to Men's Services



Appogg

- The Domestic Violence Service (DVU) was set up in 1994 to provide a service to adults who suffer abuse in family and intimate relationships.



DVU: Number of referrals															
Number of cases referred by month and year of referral															
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	40	52	35	42	52	49	57	42	30	52	42	49	40	34	36
Feb	55	37	37	49	46	51	35	38	45	26	46	44	35	41	42
Mar	35	44	41	52	56	35	43	42	47	39	36	36	42	39	26
Apr	45	42	27	43	43	40	31	40	39	48	48	49	47	42	32
May	85	47	41	40	50	32	39	55	52	54	67	42	49	38	51
Jun	60	47	36	44	34	29	36	56	29	59	52	46	56	38	63
Jul	44	50	36	58	57	46	51	60	49	44	49	63	63	52	43
Aug	51	39	35	58	58	53	30	68	64	43	55	51	50	60	41
Sep	33	35	39	48	23	55	33	61	43	35	39	45	40	35	47
Oct	64	36	39	52	43	33	46	45	55	53	40	42	35	32	52
Nov	40	31	39	57	33	34	32	43	58	45	31	36	45	36	40
Dec	38	38	26	47	29	22	21	45	46	39	41	32	35	20	34
Total	590	498	431	590	524	479	454	595	557	537	546	535	537	467	507

DVU: Case opened by age and sex January – June 2018			
	Male	Female	Total
≤17	0	1	1
18-19	0	4	4
20-24	1	4	5
25-29	1	8	9
30-34	1	18	19
35-39	1	18	19
40-44	0	19	19
45-49	0	7	7
50-54	4	5	9
55-59	0	7	7
≥60	0	16	16
Not specified	3	24	27
Total	11	131	142

DVU: Case opened by district January – June 2018	
	2018
Northern Harbour District	47
South Eastern District	24
Northern District	22
Southern Harbour District	21
Western District	13
Gozo and Comino	6
Homeless, shelter or institution	0
Foreign residence	1
Not specified	8
Total	142

Ghabex Shelter

- A service for victims of Domestic Violence and was set up in 2000 to provide emergency shelter to women and their children by offering them a safe place away from direct personal harm.

**Ghabex: Total number of cases worked with* by primary reason attending
January – June 2018**

	Domestic violence	Human trafficking	Homeless	Minor	Child protection	Not specified	Total
No.	23	4	0	0	0	0	27

Ghabex: Number of referrals

Number of cases referred by month and year of referral

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	8	4	0	1	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	7	7	2	4
Feb	4	5	0	0	3	5	1	2	2	4	5	3	5	1	1
Mar	6	6	0	0	5	3	5	5	2	3	9	6	4	4	3
Apr	8	9	3	1	6	3	4	3	7	2	2	3	3	7	3
May	5	11	8	5	2	4	5	4	3	3	7	6	4	7	5
Jun	4	11	5	5	8	4	9	7	2	0	5	7	7	3	6
Jul	13	5	5	6	7	4	6	7	0	2	7	7	0	7	6
Aug	15	8	3	10	3	8	7	6	7	5	6	9	6	7	5
Sep	5	3	2	9	1	6	2	2	4	2	6	9	9	2	5
Oct	6	6	3	5	0	0	3	2	0	4	7	8	1	10	6
Nov	11	1	1	8	2	2	4	1	3	5	4	4	1	8	4
Dec	12	8	1	5	3	4	3	6	5	4	4	1	1	12	3
Total	97	77	31	55	44	47	53	49	38	38	65	70	48	70	51

Managing Abusive Behaviour Services:

MABS: Number of referrals													
Number of cases referred by month and year of referral													
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	4	3	2	2	7	4	3	3	4	2	4	2	4
Feb	9	1	6	2	8	2	3	1	6	2	0	5	4
Mar	4	0	1	1	5	5	3	3	3	2	5	6	1
Apr	1	0	8	1	5	7	2	13	7	9	6	5	1
May	5	0	6	2	4	4	0	4	5	1	7	7	4
Jun	1	0	3	0	6	5	4	7	5	5	3	3	4
Jul	0	7	1	4	4	9	0	2	6	4	4	5	5
Aug	3	8	4	8	2	4	4	2	1	3	2	2	4
Sep	4	5	5	1	4	6	2	3	4	3	4	4	4
Oct	2	6	4	2	4	4	1	6	3	6	2	5	4
Nov	3	3	5	0	1	7	6	4	4	6	2	0	1
Dec	3	3	3	0	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	0	3
Total	39	36	48	23	53	59	30	50	51	46	43	44	39

MABS: Case opened by district
January – June 2018

	2018
Northern Harbour District	4
Northern District	3
South Eastern District	2
Southern Harbour District	2
Western District	2
Gozo and Comino	0
Foreign residence	0
Not specified	0
Total	13

MABS: Case opened by age
January – June 2018

	Male	Female	Total
≤17	0	0	0
18-19	0	0	0
20-24	1	0	1
25-29	0	0	0
30-34	0	0	0
35-39	2	0	2
40-44	5	0	5
45-49	1	0	1
50-54	1	0	1
55-59	1	0	1
≥60	1	0	1
Not specified	1	0	1
Total	13	0	13

Collaboration between services and tools used for assessment of Perpetrators

- In general cases of Intimate partner Violence are referred to MABS at APPOGG, however in some cases (e.g. Personality problems etc) they are referred to Probation services
- Collaboration is mainly with Appogg, DPP and mental health professionals e.g psychiatrist
- Cases are assessed individually. Some cases might have problems with generalised anger, others more instrumental violence etc (focus is on the risk and needs)
- Tools used for assessment are the SARA and the DASH
- LSI-R and HCR-20 also used

Any questions?