



Researching Migration and Asylum in Malta: A Guide

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Christine M. Cassar¹

The People for Change Foundation

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¹ *Christine M. Cassar is a Founder and Director of the People for Change Foundation. She has conducted primary research in sociology and anthropology with immigrants on two occasions – whilst studying at the University of Malta and at the University of Cambridge.*

Forward

Researching Migration and Asylum in Malta: A Guide was written by the People for Change Foundation to aid those who would like to conduct research in Malta in the field of migration. Whilst the first section gives an overview of Malta's history with migration (both emigration and immigration), the subsequent sections are merely meant to point out some of the references and resources available both online, in libraries and repositories, as well as through individuals who have developed significant expertise in the area.

The guide is intended for the use of both academics and journalists, particularly those whose time in the field is limited and for whom, therefore, early contact-making as well as significant preparation before arriving in Malta, are necessary.

This guide is also a work in progress – a dialogue through which we hope to add and update information as it becomes available and relevant to the area. We therefore look forward to your feedback on the Guide itself, as well as your experience of researching migration in Malta. Good luck!

Christine M. Cassar

Director

The People for Change Foundation

About the People for Change Foundation

The People for Change Foundation (Pfc) is a Malta-based human rights organization specializing in research, lobbying and capacity-building. Set up in 2007, the Foundation is structured into six specialized institutes, each of which takes on projects and initiatives within its respective area with a high degree of professionalism owed to the experience of the individuals involved within their areas of expertise.

The People for Change Foundation's mission is to undertake research, advocacy and proactive action to promote social cohesion, respect for Human Rights and empowerment.

Our vision is of a just, fair and inclusive society all members of which may reach their full potential unhindered by factors such as age, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Our overarching philosophy is that of the Human Rights Based Approach. A Human Rights Based Approach goes beyond a commitment to a concept - it is a strategic mainstreaming process intended to permeate all levels of a structure for it to be configured within a human rights framework, in all its internal as well as external dealings.



www.pfcmalta.org

info@pfcmalta.org

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PART I - MALTA

Basic Facts – Malta

The Republic of Malta is composed of a number of islands, the largest of which is Malta (followed by Gozo and Comino and a number of smaller uninhabited islets). The islands are located in the Mediterranean sea, 80km south of Sicily and 333km north of Libya, have a population of around 450,000 people and a total area of 316 km². Malta became independent from the United Kingdom in 1964 and a Republic in 1974, subsequently joining the European Union in 2004.

The head of state is the President of the Republic, and the head of government is the Prime Minister. Elections are held every five years, from which 65 parliamentarians are elected. Local council elections are held every year on a rolling basis in different localities (hence every 3 years in each locality), and European Parliament elections every 4 years.

The Maltese islands are on the Central European time zone (GMT+1), and daylight savings time is implemented annually.

Holidays

Malta is a Catholic country and as such many of the annual holidays and festivals are linked with religious feasts, although an equal amount are secular. The following are official holidays on the islands:

January 1	New Year's Day
February 10	Feast of Saint Paul's Shipwreck
March 19	Feast of Saint Joseph
March 31	Freedom Day
Friday before Easter	Good Friday
May 1	Workers' Day
June 7	Sette Giugno
June 29	Imnarja (Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
September 8	Victory Day
September 21	Independence Day
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 13	Republic Day
December 25	Christmas Day

Weather

The weather in Malta is typically Mediterranean, with hot summers and mild yet often wet and humid winters.

This will not only have an impact on your own wellbeing, but also that of migrants who, especially given their close living arrangements in open and closed centres, are often vulnerable to the elements (be this heat or rain and wind).

The best time to visit Malta in order to conduct research is Spring or Autumn, although other times may be particularly pertinent to your own topic. For instance, the largest number of arrivals take place in summer.

Airports and Airlines

Malta has one airport – the Malta International Airport (www.maltairport.com), which is located in the South of the island and is connected to all other major locations via public transportation. A number of airlines operate from airports all over Europe, North Africa and the Middle East to Malta. To find out which airlines (both legacy and low cost) operate from the airport closest to you, visit <http://passengers.maltairport.com/en/map.htm>.

Taxis now operate a fixed rate from the Airport to a number of locations. For a list of rates visit <http://gettinghere.maltairport.com/en/white-taxi.htm>

Language

Malta has two official languages – English and Maltese; but one national language – Maltese. Getting around Malta is easy as the vast majority of the population speaks both the languages.

As a researcher in the field of migration, language will be relevant in two ways. The first is access to individuals; the second access to documentation.

Most people in Malta speak both Maltese and English. The lingua franca in the migration sector is English, as NGO workers and policy makers invariably speak the language (Maltese as well as foreign volunteers and employees alike), as do migrants themselves. Within the general public the vast majority of people speak both languages, and had your research to include an element of sampling and interviewing within the Maltese population you should be able to do this in either Maltese or English.

Laws are in both Maltese and English, although legally should a discrepancy between the two arise in a court of law it is the Maltese version that takes precedence. Most reports written on migration in Malta have been written in English, both to facilitate and broaden access, as well as due to the fact that English is the academic language on the islands.

Health

As a European country, certain health services are available to individuals in possession of a European Health Insurance Card as they would be to Maltese citizens.

Should you not be covered by a European Health Insurance Card, or if you would like to take out additional personal or health insurance (to cover, for instance, repatriation), you may purchase this from a private company.

Currency and Money

The currency in Malta is the Euro. Banks as well as Exchange Bureaus will exchange all major currencies, such as Sterling and Dollar into Euros. When you are leaving the island, you may want to exchange your Euros back to your own currency. In this case it might be best to call a bank in advance to make sure they have the required currency and amounts of cash available.

Many commercial premises accept major international credit cards such as Visa and Mastercard (although American Express is less commonly accepted), and many cash withdrawal machines are dotted all over the islands, specifically in commercial areas (including at the University of Malta, Valletta, Sliema, Bugibba, etc). In residential towns and villages, cash machines are generally found beside bank branches close to the town centre.

Clothing

Malta is a typically Mediterranean/European country, an aspect that is reflected in dress and public decency requirements. Some places, however, require some additional thought and reverence. In order to enter Roman Catholic churches, for instance, you must cover your shoulders and knees as a woman. Moreover, if you are working in a multicultural setting, the perspectives, customs and expectations of those you will be working with should be taken into account.

Public Transportation

Malta has a network of public transportation that covers the entire island. However, do not be misled by the small size of the island, as journeys often take a surprisingly long time to make. Arriva is the bus operating company in Malta.

Visit Malta – Public Transportation	www.visitmalta.com/en/public-transport
Arriva Journey Planner	www.arriva.com.mt/journey_planner?l=1

You may also wish to take a sightseeing bus tour around the islands. Visit www.maltasightseeing.com for more information.

Driving in Malta

In Malta, driving is on the left hand side of the road (as it is in the UK), and the vast majority of vehicles have the steering wheel on their right hand side. Most cars are manual, although many automatic cars are also available for rental.

It is, however, relatively easy to get round the islands using public transportation.

If you would like to obtain a driving licence in Malta, follow this link: www.transport.gov.mt/land-transport/driving/obtaining-your-driving-licence

The Property Market

If you are planning on visiting Malta for any length of time, you might want to consider renting out a room or property. The links will lead you to both house sharing as well as independent property rental websites.

House Sharing

Iroommates.com	www.metroroommates.com/state_rentals/malta_rentals.asp
Sublet.com	www.sublet.com/state_rentals/malta_rentals.asp

Property Rental

Frank Salt	www.franksalt.com.mt
Sara Grech	www.saragrech.com
Remax Malta	www.remax-malta.com
Dhalia	www.dhalia.com
Belair	www.belair.com.mt
Simon Estates	www.simonestates.com

Culture and Archaeology

Whilst in Malta you may want to visit one of the numerous culturally and archaeologically interesting sites on the island(s). These include the unique underground Hypogeum (www.heritagemalta.org/hypogeum2012/hypogeum_update.html) as well as various Neolithic temples.

Visit Malta has a list of archaeological sites at www.visitmalta.com/en/archaeological-sites, as well as outdoor activities at www.visitmalta.com/en/natural-escapes.

A number of traditional village *festas* take place in summer, and generally include air and ground fireworks displays, bands playing and religious ceremonies.

Telephony

The international calling code for Malta is +356.

A number of mobile phone companies operate in Malta, the largest being Vodafone, Go Mobile and Melita.

Vodafone Malta	www.vodafone.com.mt
Go Mobile Malta	www.go.com.mt
Melita	www.melita.com/personal/mobile
RedTouch Fone	www.redtouch.com.mt
PING	www.ping.com.mt

Internet

Whilst you will most likely have an internet connection at your place of residence, Malta Inside Out has published a list of free wi-fi hotspots around the island, which may be accessed at: www.maltainsideout.com/469/where-you-can-find-free-wi-fi-hotspots-in-malta. The University of Malta also has a wi-fi service open to its students or visiting researchers.

You may also be interested in purchasing an internet dongle from the telephone providers listed above, in order to be able to access the internet outside of wifi zones.

Meeting People

If you are visiting Malta and don't have a 'home organization' in the form of an academic department or NGO, life might become somewhat lonely after days of research and meetings. Therefore, you might want to join an expat community such as Feel@Home, which organizes activities and nights out for expats living in Malta. Visit their site at www.feelathomemalta.com or connect on facebook at www.facebook.com/feel.at.home.mt?ref=ts&fref=ts. Other similar groups include Expats in Malta (www.facebook.com/groups/expatsinmalta/?ref=ts&fref=ts), Meetup Expats Malta (www.facebook.com/groups/MeetupExpatsMalta) and Will's Friends (www.facebook.com/groups/willsfriendsexpats/?ref=ts&fref=ts).

You may also want to contact some of these groups to get some help with settling in or finding accommodation in Malta prior to your arrival.

PART II – FROM EMIGRATION TO IMMIGRATION

In 1812 a British Commission of Inquiry visited Malta in order to preemptively suggest how it may be governed following its imminent incorporation into the Empire. Its population, it was suggested, was too large for such an important Naval base; almost a hundred years later, in 1903, Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke made the same comment – by this time the population had grown to almost 200,000 inhabitants (Attard, 1983). It was indeed at this time – in the very early 20th Century, that the process of emigration of the Maltese started in earnest, as a means of coping with rising unemployment², and became a more organized process³. The target countries to this point had been Egypt, Tripoli⁴ (modern day western Libya, where a Maltese community had been established since the early 1800s), Algeria and Tunis, with which the Maltese felt sufficient linguistic and customary connections (Price, 1954: xii); now more Maltese started moving away from the islands, and to more distant lands, this a rather exceptional factor given that many southern Europeans at the time were moving to the rapidly industrializing Western European states (King, 1979). The Maltese, instead, moved to states to which linguistic and colonial links existed, including Canada, Australia and the west United States⁵. A Penny Bank was set up by the Church through the League of the Apostleship of Prayer, which accepted donations from well-off individuals to be distributed to those who wanted to make the trip and were financially unable to do so. Interestingly, the Maltese were considered ethnically non-caucasian, as the incident of HMS Gange during the First World War demonstrated⁶, this resulting in much hardship.

Outward patterns of migration were very much present for the rest of the 20th Century, with an added complication in the post-World War II period, as Dr. Mizzi of the Nationalist Party accused the Labor Administration of encouraging mass emigration and the island's depopulation in order to have vacancies for British expatriates to fill (Attard, 1997). "In British Canada there are Orangemen,

² The 1911-12 Royal Commission reported that since the reduction of Imperial Garrison in 1902 there had been a decline in revenue on the Maltese islands, as well as due to the technological development of larger vessels that would not require stopping in Maltese ports, and competition from the new (French) ports in Algiers and Tunis. This Commission also suggested that the only way to solve the population issue would be to create an overseas Maltese colony, something that never did happen (Attard, 1983).

³ The Emigration Committee was set up at this time, with the aim of being proactive on the issue of overpopulation, and was headed by Dr. Charles Mattei (Attard, 1983), following the success of which the Emigration Department was set up to both promote and control emigration (Jones, 1973)

⁴ Tripoli of Barbary and later Tripolitania, as it was then known, where a Maltese community had been established since the early 1800s (Cini, undated)

⁵ Statistics in this regard are rather deceptive, as Malta was logistically ill-connected to countries of destination, hence many who wanted to travel to the United States, Canada or Australia would require transiting in a European port (which is the destination that was kept on record). Moreover, records from the country of destination seldom help this cause, as the Maltese sometimes carried British passports and were marked as British citizens (da Silveira, undated), or were not recorded as a separate group (York, undated)

⁶ In this case, HMS Gange was not allowed into port in Australia. The *Argus* (a Melbourne newspaper) quoted Australian Prime Minister William Morris Hughes saying: "These men in the ordinary course of events would have been admitted but owing to my having given an undertaking that during the war no coloured labour would be admitted into Australia, I have notified the British authorities that it is not the intention of the Commonwealth Government to admit them into Australia". The *Argus*, Melbourne - Thursday 19 October 1916 *Maltese Immigrants Denied Admission – Mr. Hughes States Policy*. Available online at The Malta Virtual Emigration Museum (The Maltese of New Caledonia Incident 1916) at www.maltamigration.com/history/newcaledonia.shtml?s=4D47CA0B-7F000001-7DB401154954-7631

fanatical Protestants, who would never agree with us for obvious reasons based on race, custom and religion. We know that as soon as some Maltese arrive in English-speaking Canada they are given leaflets with Protestant propaganda" said Dr. Mizzi in 1949⁷. At this stage, in 1950, the Emigrants' Commission was set up due to 'the huge exodus of Maltese to foreign lands because of over population and unemployment'⁸.

At the same time, Malta played host to relatively small numbers of migrants who successfully established roots in Malta, such as an Indian community of around 300 (Falzon, 2001), an Arab community of approximately 3000, a small Nigerian community (Vallejo and Dooly, 2008:8) as well as a community of British expats (See Warnes and Patterson, 1998).

A Region in Distress

Malta came to the fore as a country of humanitarian immigration as a result of very particular socio-political events towards the end of the 20th Century. This started with Idi Amin's expulsion of Ugandan Asians who were temporarily housed on the islands in 1972 (Frendo, 2007), and two sets of arrivals in 1991 – one of Iraqis from the Gulf War and another following the breakdown of Yugoslavia (the latter leading to the establishment of both the Malta Red Cross Society⁹ through the Malta Red Cross Act¹⁰, and SOS Malta¹¹). In 1999, Malta also saw the arrival of 110 Kosovo Albanians refugees through the UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Plan (ECRE, 1999:14).

Between the early 90s and the turn of the century, a number of important political decisions were taken by the Maltese government. Formal negotiations to join the European Union commenced in 1990, followed by a turbulent negotiation period (See Pace, 2002) leading to accession in May 1st, 2004 along with another nine countries, making this the biggest enlargement in the history of the Union, resulting in a complete shift in its Southern and Eastern borders (See Phuong, 2003), and providing the final stage of transition for the new member states (Mungiu-Pippidi, 2007). This, in fact, was considered to be one of the reasons why, starting in 2002, the number of asylum seekers suddenly surged¹², and even though migration had been discussed in accession negotiations within the context of its small island state vulnerability (Pace, 2006), Malta quickly became a country of arrival for thousands of migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa.

⁷ ORDLAM, sitting no. 10, 21.3.49

⁸ Emigrants' Commission website, as accessed on April 16th, 2011 at www.mecmalta.com/emmcomm.html

⁹ Cutajar, L. (undated) The Malta Red Cross. As accessed online on February 24th, at www.mcppnet.org/publications/ISSUE06-3.PDF

¹⁰ Chapter 359 of the Laws of Malta – Is-Socjeta Maltija tas-Salib l-Ahmar. ACT VI of 1992, as amended by Legal Notice 425 of 2007

¹¹ Solidarity Overseas Service Malta is an organization working in the field of humanitarian and development aid, including collecting funds in order to run projects in third countries. In the early 90s the first projects were implemented in Albania. See www.sosmalta.org/albania

¹² Another significant factor was the increase in security at gateways to Europe generally utilized by migrants, specifically the Morocco-Spain border on the Western Mediterranean (See Carling, 2007), as well as enhanced security in the East between Greece and its Eastern neighbours (See Papadopoulou, 2004 and Antonopoulos and Winterdyk, 2006), which resulted in the funnelling migrants to the center of the Mediterranean, and hence to sea, rather than land, routes.

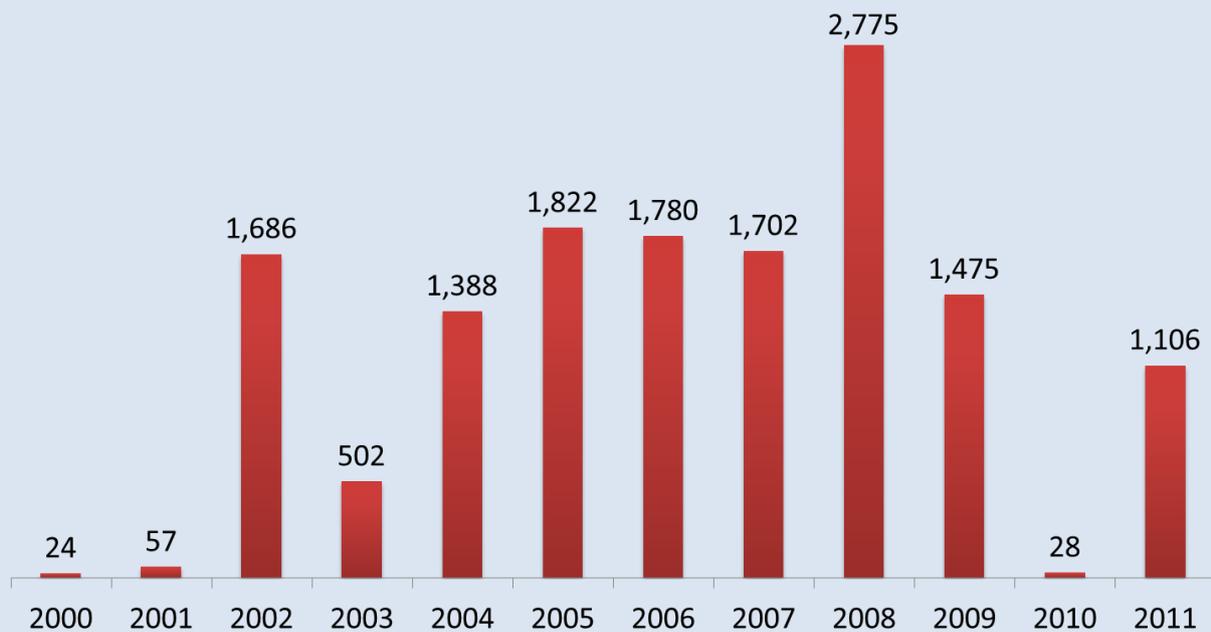


Figure 1 - Number of Asylum Seekers arriving in Malta between 2011 and April 2011¹³

A Journey Across Desert, Sea and Legal Terrain

People migrate for myriad reasons (Kane and Peterson, 1995), including human rights abuse, changing environmental conditions (Myers, 2001 and Bates, 2002), manmade and natural disasters, war and persecution on the basis of diverse factors (See Bhabha, 1996 and Adell, 1995). The journey from country of origin to country of destination (if there is a particularly intended destination) is often broken down into smaller journeys, whereby migrants spend weeks or even months in areas of transit – in towns, cities or even refugee camps along the way. Many Somalis, for instance, travel to Kenya, Djibouti, Ethiopia or Sudan¹⁴, spending some time there, prior to being smuggled across the Sahara together with many other East Africans¹⁵ in what is possibly one of the more dangerous parts of the journey, save for the sea crossing, in which it is estimated that thousands perish annually due to bad weather, lack of supplies and failure of vessels to rescue them¹⁶.

¹³ Sources: 2000 – Lutterbeck (2009); 2001 – Calleja, Cauchi and Grech, (2010); 2002-2009 – NSO (2010:77); 2010 – Pisani, M., private correspondence; 2011 – The Times of Malta (various sources)

¹⁴ UNHCR (2011) UNHCR Country Operations Profile – Somalia. Accessed online on May 7th, 2011 at www.unhcr.org/pages/49e483ad6.html

¹⁵ Plaut, M. (2007, March 25th) BBC: Eritreans risk death in the Sahara. Accessed online on May 6th 2011 at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6492961.stm>

¹⁶ See for instance: Smoltczyk, T. (2009, July 4th) Spiegel Online: The Tragedy of Europe’s Boat People. Accessed online on May 6th 2011 at www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,617870,00.html ; Rainey, V. (2011, April 7th) The First Post: Refugees from Libya die crossing Mediterranean. Accessed online on May 5th, 2011 at www.thefirstpost.co.uk/77440,news-comment,news-politics,african-refugees-fleeing-libya-die-crossing-mediterranean ; Shenker, J. (2011, May 8th) The Guardian: NATO units left 61 African migrants to die of hunger and thirst. Accessed online on May 9th, 2011 at www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/may/08/nato-ship-libyan-migrants; Pianigiani, G. and Donadio, R. (2011, April 6th) The New York Times: 250 Migrants Missing After Boat Sinks Off Italy. Accessed online on May 4th, 2011 at www.nytimes.com/2011/04/07/world/europe/07migrants.html?_r=1

Asylum seekers need not enter Malta irregularly; indeed, some arrive with the relevant paperwork and seek asylum upon arrival. However, given Malta's geographic location, the countries of origin of most migrants, and the initial lags in the Europe-bound trip, the vast majority of asylum seekers arrive via sea routes and either land, are intercepted or rescued at sea. Landing obviously entails the arrival of a vessel on Maltese shores, interception involves the entry into Maltese territorial waters of a vessel that is intercepted on the basis of its having no flag state and those embarked on it not carrying proper documentation to be in such waters. Rescue is based on Malta's Search and Rescue (SAR) region, which spans from Tunisia to Greece, and hence had a vessel to be in distress within that nautical space, it would be the responsibility of the Maltese Armed Forces to intervene and ensure their safety. Once the first part of the rescue operation has been successful and the migrants are no longer in imminent danger, Malta is responsible for their safe disembarkation¹⁷, which is problematic if the migrants lack documentation (IMO, ICS and UNHCR, undated).

Despite migrants' regularly being called illegal and *klandestini*¹⁸ (lit. clandestine¹⁹) in the media as well as by politicians, entry into Malta without proper documentation was decriminalized in 2002, rendering it an administrative offence under the Immigration Act²⁰, with migrants being termed 'prohibited'²¹. Regardless, the issue is still portrayed as one of grave security concern, specifically for a small and hence vulnerable island state²², with the then Minister of Justice saying it is the most important challenge faced by Malta "for a very long time — possibly the greatest in more than a thousand years"²³ and the Prime Minister writing "The term 'crisis' does not quite capture the ghastly reality of irregular migration in the Mediterranean... There is a security dimension that needs to be addressed" (Gonzi, 2007:41).

Between 2002 and 2010, 13,157 migrants have arrived by boat, of which 13% were women
56% of asylum seekers are granted some form of protection

¹⁷ The IMO Facilitation Committee at its 35th session in January 2009, approved and issued a circular on Principles relating to administrative procedures for disembarking persons rescued at sea (FAL.3/Circ.194). However, this was based on the 2004 Amendments on persons in distress at sea to the 1979 International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (Entry into force 1985), the former of which Malta has not ratified.

¹⁸ See, for instance: Pisani, B. (undated) L-Orizzont: Zewg vjaggi b'total ta' 201 klandestini: Minn Gunju 'l hawn dahlu 700 klandestin. As accessed online on May 3rd, 2011 at www.l-orizzont.com/news.asp?newsitemid=22051; and Abdilla, R. (2011, February 9th) Malta Right Now: Ikompli l-guri dwar traffikar ta' klandestini. As accessed online on May 3rd, 2011 at www.maltarightnow.com/?module=news&at=Ikompli+l-%26%23289%3Buri+dwar+traffikar+ta'+klandestini&t=a&aid=99826005&cid=39

¹⁹ The term '*klandestini*' means clandestine, and whilst being both a noun and an adjective in the Maltese language, is deployed for use on migrants as a noun, effectively labeling them inherently and essentially illegal.

²⁰ Chapter 217 of the Laws of Malta, adopted on September 21st, 1970; last amended, 2009

²¹ Article 5(1) of the Immigration Act (Chapter 217 of the Laws of Malta) states that "Any person, other than one having the right of entry, or of entry and residence, or of movement or transit under the preceding Parts, may be refused entry, and if he lands or is in Malta without leave from the Principal Immigration Officer, he shall be a prohibited immigrant."

²² The United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the Protection and Security of Small States of 1989 argued that "small states may be particularly vulnerable to external threats" (A/RES/44/51); moreover, on the economic side, Malta had until the 1990s been classified as a Small Island Developing State, with all the vulnerabilities associated with this term (See Briguglio, 1995)

²³ Minister for Justice and Deputy Prime Minister Tonio Borg, speech at Wilton Park Conference, Malta, 14 November 2007, as quoted in Lutterbeck (2009)

Of those granted protection, 60% are Somali, 20% are Eritrean and 4% are Sudanese
Around 1,000 individuals have been resettled or relocated to the US or other EU states
Approximately 2,200 persons live in Open Centers
As of 2010, approximately 4,400 Sub-Saharan Africans reside in Malta

Figure 2 - Asylum in Figures (Source: UNHCR Malta, 2011)

Upon arrival, migrants are given a brief medical check and assigned a police number²⁴. At this point, a Removal Order under the Immigration Act becomes applicable and effective, then suspended as soon as they inform a state official that they intend to seek asylum, hence exercising their human right 'to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution' (Article 14²⁵), which the state must guarantee²⁶. They are nonetheless placed in detention²⁷, despite this being highly criticized as a violation of international law (see Sammut, 2009:66-7) 'inherently undesirable' (UNHCR, 1999) pending the processing of their claim which is carried out by a case worker from the Office of the Refugee Commissioner. This process, as well as detention itself, whilst being seemingly straightforward, has been criticized for lack of coherence (ECRI, 2001), and is often ill-understood by the migrants themselves, leading to distress and frustration (JRS, 2010:8).

A number of outcomes are possible from the status determination process: granting of refugee status, subsidiary protection, temporary humanitarian protection and rejection, where the first three constitute some form of legal protection and the latter results in the reinstatement of the Removal Order that would have been suspended at time of application for asylum. Refugee status²⁸ is not given – it is recognized; hence a person does not become a refugee at time of decision but is merely recognized as being one. In practice, this status means that the individual will receive a Convention Passport and a declaration of refugee status, on the basis of which any other

²⁴ This is made up of the year, a letter representing the boat, and a number representing the individual (for instance, 11-A-07)

²⁵ United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 (G.A. res. 217A (III), U.N. Doc A/810 at 71)

²⁶ Malta is signatory to both the United Nations Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 (UNTS No. 2545, Vol. 189, P. 137; Entry into force in 1954), as well as the European Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000/C 364/01), Article 18 of which states that "The right to asylum shall be guaranteed..."

²⁷ According to Article 11(2) of the European Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 Laying down Minimum Standards for the Reception of Asylum Seekers, migrants may be kept from the labor market for up to 12 months pending status determination; this effectively means that they must be released from detention within that same time periods. Moreover, Article 5 of the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs Policy Document on Irregular Immigrants, Refugees and Integration (2005) states that no person may be detained beyond 18 months, which means that rejectees must also be released after this time (Available online at www.enaro.eu/documents/immigration-English.pdf)

²⁸ Part I Article 2 of the Refugee Act (Chapter 420 of the Laws of Malta) adopts the definition given by Article 1(2) of the United Nations Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 (UNTS No. 2545, Vol. 189, P. 137; Entry into force in 1954), as amended by Article 1(2) and (3) of the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees that entered into force in October 1967 of 'refugee' as a person who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

documentation (such as residency permit) may be acquired, together with a work permit, national ID Card and access to health and educational services.

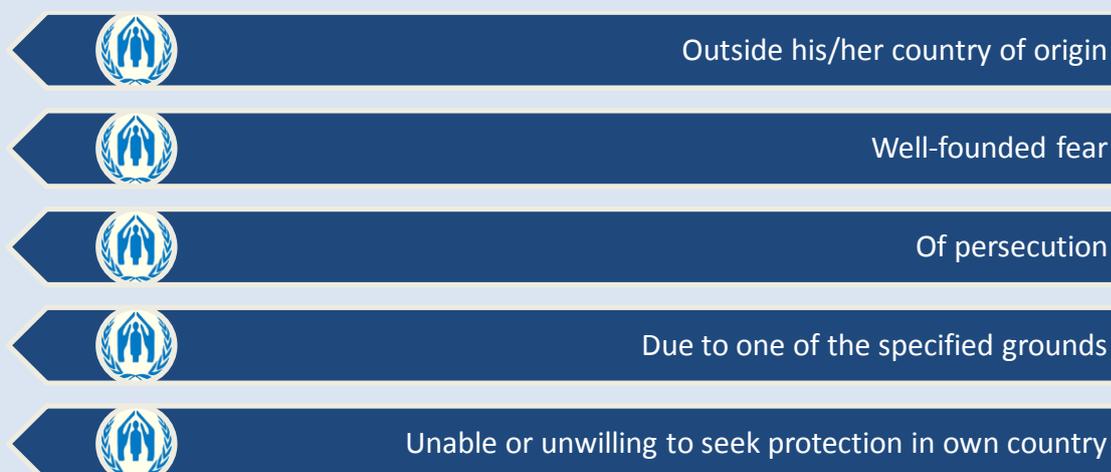


Figure 3 - Who is a refugee?

Subsidiary protection²⁹, which is given to the majority of migrants receiving protection, is given for one year and is renewable, and has less rights and entitlements associated to it. For instance, one would be able to acquire a national ID Card, yet travel documentation for overseas travel would only be given on a case by case basis via the Emigrants' Commission, and there is no right to family reunification. This type of protection is generally what is granted to Somalis on the basis of there not being sufficient evidence to give refugee status (that is, no evidence of direct persecution) whilst there being serious concerns about the safety of the individuals had they to be returned; hence, under the *jus cogens* international legal principle³⁰ of non-refoulement³¹ (See Allain, 2001; for a discussion on exceptions see Bruin and Wouters, 2003, and on state tools to circumvent the principle see Hyndman and Mount, 2008), they may not be returned to their country of origin. Temporary humanitarian protection is given to those who are deemed particularly vulnerable and may not be sent back to their country of origin for reasons such as illness (including had they to suffer from a chronic condition for which treatment in the country of origin is not available) or being minors; this form of protection is once again subject to time-based reassessment. In the case of rejectees, the removal order is brought back into effect and the migrants concerned would await deportation. However, as of 2010 a new type of protection has been instituted, entitled 'New

²⁹ Subsidiary Status is granted to "an applicant for asylum whose application has been dismissed but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his country of origin (...) (or) former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm". Rights granted in subsidiary protection are regulated by Regulation 14 (1) (b) of Legal Notice 243 of 2008. For a summary of such rights see UNHCR Malta - www.unhcr.org.mt/index.php/statistics/127-subsi-dary-protection

³⁰ As established by Articles 53 and 64 of the United Nations Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969 (Entry into force 1980)

³¹ Article 33(1) of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Entry into force 1954) states that "No Contracting State shall expel or return ("refouler") a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

Humanitarian Protection³², which is granted on a one-year renewable basis to rejectees who would have been in Malta for some time, and would have demonstrated good prospects of integration, this resulting in the granting of rights available to individuals on temporary humanitarian protection or subsidiary protection. Regardless of the type of status granted (or indeed, not), migrants may appeal the decision of the Refugee Commissioner³³, although New Humanitarian Protection is only granted to migrants who have also exhausted the option of appeal.

At status determination, or at the end of the 12 or 18 month maximum detention period, migrants are released from the detention centres and move to open centers – from which migrants may start to build a somewhat independent life – seeking employment, taking classes, as well as potentially seeking to move to independent residential arrangements.

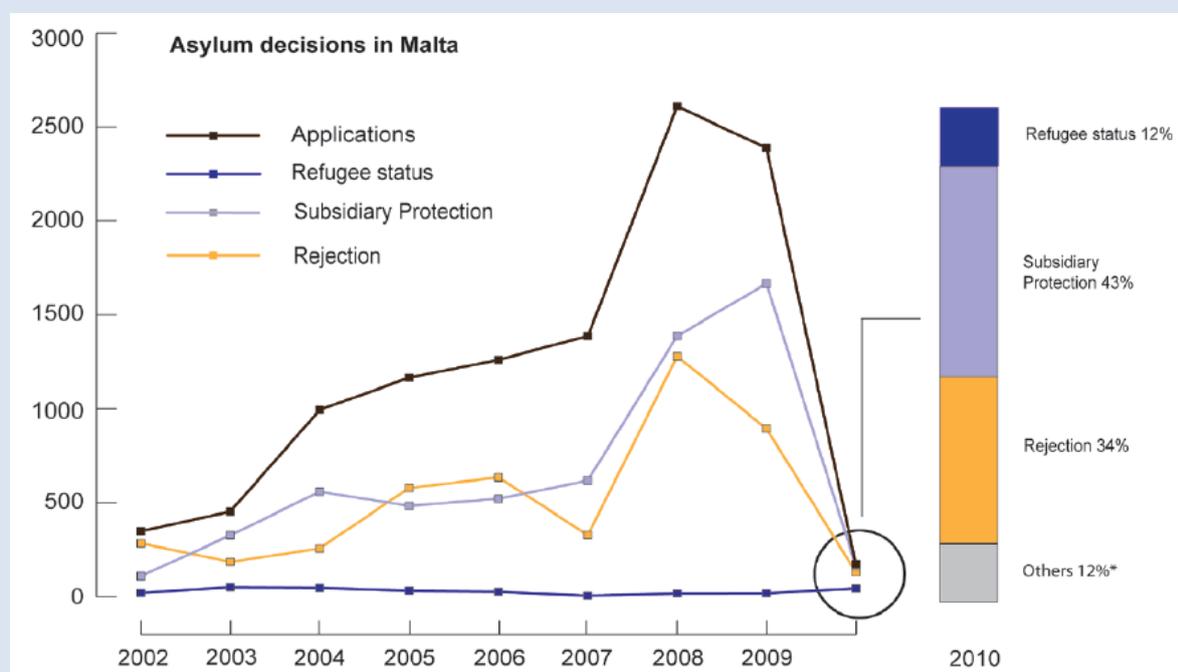


Figure 4 – Applications for asylum and corresponding outcome, by year between 2002 and 2010³⁴. Source: UNHCR, 2011

³² This type of protection is not linked or to any international, regional or national legal framework, and is an entirely local-based status, aimed at avoiding migrants becoming destitute.

³³ Whereas it should be the case that an individual’s application is made for the granting of refugee status, and that other forms of protection (such as humanitarian or subsidiary protection) be given only in cases where the aforementioned conditions for status are not met, the Board has instead taken the approach of reviewing cases with the aim of granting some form of protection (often subsidiary) or rejecting the claim. Whereas this seem to be a legal detail, it does have serious ramifications, since a case can rather more easily be made for the granting of subsidiary protection, especially for Somalis, on the basis of lack of possibility of return due to dangerous conditions. However, subsidiary protection allows the individual far less rights than does refugee status, and therefore resorting to such protection instead of attempting to acquire the highest form of protection may result in selling the migrant short on rights such as family reunification.

³⁴ The discrepancies between figures of arrivals and those of applications, especially evident in 2009, are due to individuals who are not recorded as arrivals, but are discovered to be on the islands. In 2009, the number of Africans found to be residing in Malta without required documentation was 1,492, of whom 897 were Somali (NSO, 2010:82)

PART III – SOURCES OF DATA

Statistical Data on Migration

There are three key sources of statistical data on migration in Malta – the National Statistics Office, Eurostat and UNHCR.

Other organizations such as the International Organization for Migration as well as NGOs that have been involved in particular data-collecting projects and activities may also have datasets relating to particular issues and aspects of migration.

NSO – National Statistics Office	www.nso.gov.mt
Eurostat	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/pgp_ess/partners/european_union/mt/tab_news
UNHCR	www.unhcr.org/pages/4a02afce6.html

Reports on Migration in Malta

Some of the reports written about migration in Malta are the following:

Government of Malta

- Second Report Submitted by Malta Pursuant to Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (2004)

Council of Europe

- Report by Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, following his visit to Malta from 23 to 25 March 2011 (2011)
- Report to the Maltese Government on the visit to Malta carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 19 to 26 May 2008 [CPT/Inf (2011) 5]
 - o Response of the Maltese Government to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to Malta from 19 to 26 May 2008 [CPT/Inf (2011) 6]
- Follow-up Report on Malta (2003-2005) - Assessment of the Progress Made in Implementing the Recommendations of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (2006)
- Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Malta (2012)
- Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Malta (2013)

European Committee on Racism and Related Intolerance (ECRI)

- Third Report on Malta (2007)
- National Legal Measures to Combat Racism and Intolerance in the Member States of the Council of Europe (2006)
- Second Report on Malta (2001)

European Union – Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

- European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (2009)

International Organization for Migration

- Malta entry, in 'Migration and the Labour Markets in the European Union 2000-2009'

European Network Against Racism

- ENAR Shadow Report 2011-12: Racism in Malta
- ENAR Shadow Report 2010-11: Racism in Malta
- ENAR Shadow Report 2009: Racism in Malta
- ENAR Shadow Report 2008: Racism in Malta
- ENAR Shadow Report 2007: Racism in Malta
- ENAR Shadow Report 2006: Racism in Malta
- ENAR Shadow Report 2005: Racism in Malta

United States Department of States

- Malta entry: Trafficking in Persons Report 2012
- Malta entry: Trafficking in Persons Report 2011
- Malta entry: Trafficking in Persons Report 2010
- Malta entry: Trafficking in Persons Report 2009
- Malta entry: Trafficking in Persons Report 2008
- Malta entry: Trafficking in Persons Report 2007
- Malta Entry: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011
- Malta Entry: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2010
- Malta Entry: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2009
- Malta Entry: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008
- Malta Entry: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007
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- Malta Entry: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2001
- Malta Entry: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2000
- Malta Entry: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1999

Human Rights Watch

- Boat Ride to Detention: Adult and Child Migrants in Malta (2012)

Amnesty International

- Malta: Human Rights in the Republic of Malta (several – available at www.amnesty.org/en/region/malta)

Jesuit Refugee Service

- Becoming Vulnerable in Detention: National Report Malta (2010)
- Do They Know? (2009)
- Try to Understand (2008)
- Meeting the Challenges of Racism and Xenophobia (2005)

The Today Public Policy Institute

- Managing the Challenges of Irregular Immigration in Malta (2008)

European Migration Network – National Contact Point

- National Report: The Organisation of Asylum and Migration Policies in Malta - Joseph St. John, Martha Delicata and Mario Azzopardi (2008)

Other Reports

- Not Here to Stay – ICJ - 2012
- Mayday! Strengthening responses of assistance and protection to boat people and other migrants arriving in Southern Europe – IOMC - 2011
- Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Malta – POLITIS – Katia Amore – 2005
- Report on the visit to Malta by the American group “New Sanctuary Movement” from Tucson / Arizona (26/4/2009 – 1/5/2009) - International Fellowship of Reconciliation, German branch (2009)
- Report on National Migration Policies and Its Impact on the Situation of Members of Minorities in Malta – Stephan Schaa - 2010

For more documents and reports on Malta please visit UNHCR’s Refworld at www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?page=search&skip=20&query=malta

Academic Work on Migration in Malta

Some academic work has been produced about immigration in Malta, including the following:

Camilleri-Cassar, F. (2011) Living on the edge: Migrant women in Malta. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice* Vol 35 Issue 3 Pp 193-206

Falzon, M-A. (2008) Sacred Island or World Empire? Locating Far-Right Movements In and Beyond Malta. *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*. Volume 16, Issue 3, 2008

Falzon, M-A. (2012) Immigration, Rituals and Transitoriness in the Mediterranean Island of Malta. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Volume 38, Issue 10

Gerard, A. and S. Pickering (2012) The Crime and Punishment of Somali Women's Extra-Legal Arrival in Malta. *Br J Criminol* (2012) 52 (3): 514-533

King, R. (2009) Geography, Islands and Migration in an Era of Global Mobility. *Island Studies Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 2009, pp. 53-84

King, R. and M. Thomson (2008) The Southern European model of immigration: do the cases of Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia fit? *Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans Online*. Vol 10, Issue 3

King, R. and R. Skeldon (2010) 'Mind the Gap!' Integrating Approaches to Internal and International Migration. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Volume 36, Issue 10

Klepp, S. (2010) Free Content A Contested Asylum System: The European Union between Refugee Protection and Border Control in the Mediterranean Sea. *European Journal of Migration and Law*, Volume 12, Number 1, 2010 , pp. 1-21(21)

Klepp, S. (2011) A Double Bind: Malta and the Rescue of Unwanted Migrants at Sea, a Legal Anthropological Perspective on the Humanitarian Law of the Sea. *Int J Refugee Law* 23 (3): 538-557

Lutterbeck, D. (2009) Small Frontier Island: Malta and the Challenge of Irregular Immigration. *Mediterranean Quarterly* 2009 Volume 20, Number 1: 119-144

Mainwaring, C. (2012) Constructing a Crisis: the Role of Immigration Detention in Malta. *Population, Space and Place*; Special Issue: Immigration Detention. Volume 18, Issue 6, pages 687–700,

Mainwaring, C. (2012) Resisting Distalization? Malta and Cyprus' influence on EU Migration and Asylum Policies. *Refugee Survey Quarterly* (2012) 31 (4): 38-66

Pisani, M. (2012) Addressing the 'Citizenship Assumption' in Critical Pedagogy: exploring the case of rejected female sub-Saharan African asylum seekers in Malta. *Power and Education* Vol 4 No 2 2012

Spiteri, D. (2012) The Evolving Identities of Unaccompanied Young Male Asylum Seekers in Malta. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies* Vol 10, Issue 4 Pp 362-379

Thomson, M. (2006) Migrants on the Edge of Europe: Perspectives from Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia. Sussex Migration Working Paper No. 35

Xuereb, P. (2012) Migration and Asylum in Malta and the European Union: Rights and Realities 2002-2011. (Malta University Press)

For a list of academic journals on human rights, please visit www.pfcmalta.org/academic-resources.html

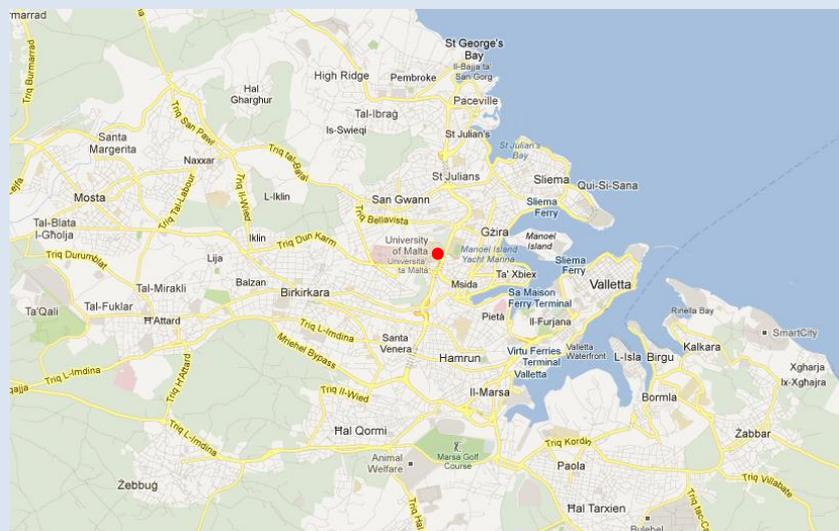
Dissertations at the University of Malta Library

A number of dissertations have been written by students at the University of Malta, mainly in the fields of law, the social sciences as well as medical areas.

The University of Malta is the academic hub of Malta, where the majority of research (scientific or social) takes place. This means that aside from being able to locate many of the leading researchers within the campus, you will also be able to access a range of research outputs within the Library.

University of Malta,
Msida MSD 2080, Malta

Tel: +356 2340 2340
Fax: +356 2340 2342



The University of Malta is a campus located North West of Valletta, in an area known as Tal-Qroqq (part of Msida). It is also close to San Gwann, Gzira, St. Julians, Sliema and B'Kara. Direct transportation is available from most localities to the University, and if not you will most likely be required to transit in Valletta.

The Library also has a Melitensia section in which you can find two genres of publications that may be of interest – dissertations completed at the University of Malta, and books published in Malta. The Melitensia section has restricted opening hours, and books may not be taken out.

Main Library

1 October - 15 June
Monday to Friday 09:00 - 20:00
Saturday 09:00 - 12:15

16 June - 30 June
Monday to Friday 09:00 - 16:45
Saturday 09:00 - 12:15

July and September
Monday to Friday 09:00 - 13:15
Saturday 09:00 - 12:15

16 August - 31 August
Monday to Friday 09:00 - 13:15
Saturday Closed

Melitensia

1 October - 15th June
Monday - Friday 09:00 - 12:30; 13:45 - 20:00
Saturday 09:00 - 12:15

16 June - 30 June
Tuesday - Friday 09:00 - 16:45
Saturday 09:00 - 12:15

July and September
Monday to Friday 09:00 - 13:15
Saturday 09:00 - 12:15

16 August - 31 August
Monday to Friday 09:00 - 13:15
Saturday Closed

More opening hours are available at <https://secure.um.edu.mt/library/about/openinghours#main>

The University of Malta's library catalogue is available online, including dissertations at all levels of study, at the following address: www.um.edu.mt/library

Newspapers and Other Publications

Malta has range of newspapers, both written in English as well as Maltese. For a list of online (and print) news sources in Malta visit www.onlinenewspapers.com/malta.htm

English Language Print Newspapers

The Times / Sunday Times	www.timesofmalta.com
The Malta Independent	www.independent.com.mt
Malta Now	http://www.maltanow.com.mt/

Maltese Language Print Newspapers

L-Orrizont / It-Torca (on Sunday)	www.orizzont.com.mt
In-Nazzjon / Il-Mument (on Sunday)	

Online News Sources

di-ve	www.di-ve.com
Malta Today	www.maltatoday.com.mt
iNewsMalta	www.inewsmalta.com
MaltaMedia	www.maltamediaonline.com
Gozo News	www.gozonews.org

In order to acquire paper copies of newspapers you may visit the National Library in Valletta.

Political Parties and Actors

Malta has three key political parties, from which you may acquire information relating to election and other manifestoes and migration. Migration has featured in all the major parties' manifestoes and electoral plans in recent years, as the issue has made it to the forefront of national politics.

The two parties represented in the National Parliament are the Nationalist and Labour parties. These are also the two largest parties. The third political party in the country is the Green Party. The following are links to their websites:

Partit Nazzjonalista (Nationalist Party)	www.pn.org.mt
Partit Laburista (Malta Labour Party)	www.mlp.org.mt
Alternattiva Demokratika (Green Party)	www.alternattiva.org

Other political actors who have in the past spoken about migration include the following:

Imperium Europa (Norman Lowell - www.imperium-europa.org)

Azzjoni Nazzjonali (National Action party – Dr. Josie Muscat and Dr. Angelo Xuereb - See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Action_%28Malta%29)

Viva Malta (www.vivamalta.org)

Laws of Malta

Parliamentary sessions are conducted in Maltese and are broadcast on radio as well as online. Reference material (including Annual Reports and Reports by Committees) can be found on the website of the Parliament of Malta at www.parlament.mt.

The Laws of Malta (published in both English and Maltese) can be found at <http://justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>. The website also contains a section with relevant Treaties and Legal Publications.

The key acts relating to migration (as well as citizenship, race-motivated crime, etc) are the following:

Immigration Act	Chapter 217 of the Laws of Malta
Refugee Act	Chapter 420 of the Laws of Malta
Citizenship Act	Chapter 188 of the Laws of Malta
Criminal Code	Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta

Part IV – ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Organizations Working on Migration

A number of organizations work on migration in Malta, including governmental, non-governmental, international and national organizations. The following is a list of some of the key organizational profiles, as well as a subsequent list of further entities.

The organizations have been organized using the following colour coding:

International	Non-governmental
International	Intergovernmental
National	Non-governmental
National	Governmental

<i>Agenzija ghal Ħarsien ta' Persuni li jkunu qed ifittxu l-Asil (Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers – AWAS)</i>	
Organizational Data	
<i>Contact Person:</i>	The Director, AWAS
<i>Address:</i>	Agenzija ghal Ħarsien ta' Persuni li jkunu qed ifittxu l-Asil Block C, Beltissebħ Floriana FRN 1700 Malta
<i>Contact Number:</i>	(+356) 2568 7238
<i>Email Address:</i>	awas.mjha@gov.mt
Organizational Work	
<i>Aims and Objectives:</i>	The Agency, which is currently incorporated within the Ministry for Home Affairs, has its remit outlined in Chapter 217.11 of the Laws of Malta.
<i>Areas of Work:</i>	AWAS oversees the operations of accommodation centres; provides services to persons identified as vulnerable according to current policies; provides information programmes to its clients in the areas of employment, housing, education, health and welfare services offered under national schemes; acts as facilitator with all public entities responsible for providing services to ensure that national obligations to refugees and asylum seekers are accessible; promotes Government's policy and schemes regarding resettlement and assisted voluntary returns; maintains data and draws up reports that are considered relevant for its own function and to provide statistics to appropriate policy-making bodies; advises the Minister responsible for immigration on new developments in its field of operation and proposes policy or legislation required to improve the service given and fulfil any legal obligations in respect of its service users; encourages networking with local voluntary organisations so as to increase the service standards as well as academic research.

The Employment and Training Corporation

Organizational Data

Contact Person: Graziella Cauchi, Senior Executive – Employment Licences Unit
Address: ETC, Head Office, Hal Far. BBG 3000
Contact Number: (+356) 2220 1285 – (+356) 2220 1291
Email Address: employment-licences.etc@gov.mt
Website: www.etc.gov.mt

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: Enhancing employability by recommending policies and implementing initiatives aimed at empowering, assisting and training jobseekers to facilitate their entry or re-entry into the active employment market, promoting workforce development through skills and competency development, and by assisting employers in their recruitment and training needs.

Areas of Work: The Employment and Training Corporation is at present the entity that processes applications for the issue of employment licences (previously known as work permits) with regards to foreign nationals to be employed in Malta.

Department of Primary Health Care (Migrant Health Unit)

Organizational Data

Contact Person: Marika Podda Connor
Address: National Immunisation Service (NIS Office), Floriana Health Centre, Triq Francesco Saver Fenech, Floriana
Contact Number: +356 7959 2892
Email Address: marika.poddaconnor@gov.mt
Website: https://ehealth.gov.mt/HealthPortal/health_institutions/primary_healthcare/migrant_healthunit.aspx

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: To provide community based health education to migrants on health issues
To help migrants access health care services appropriately
Provide translated material
To train health care professionals & students in cultural & diversity issues in health care
To train cultural mediators in health care
To develop capacity building amongst migrants

Areas of Work: Health education to Migrant women; access to health services for migrants, immunisation for children and adults

Projects: Seminar on Breastfeeding amongst Migrant Women 2010
Seminar on FGM 2011
Cultural Issues in Health care for health professionals-UoM 2008-to date
Marenostrom Project 2011
Feel-Good Project amongst single women-participation in L-Istrina (see website)
Development of translated materials (see website)

Development and delivery of Cultural Mediators course
 Outreach services
 Inservice studies:
 - Overcoming language barriers at Mater Dei Hospital
 - Capacity building amongst migrant women-FGM
 - One Year On: Triadic communication in Primary Health Care
 - The benefits of Child-Spacing
 The Migrant Health Unit was place among the semi-finalists for the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management.

KOPIN – Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali Malta

Organizational Data

Contact Person: William Grech, Executive Director
Address: 195, Fl. 2, Naxxar Road, San Gwann SGN 9029, Malta
Contact Number: +356 2137 2266 / +356 7930 2484 / +356 9940 0407
Email Address: info@kopin.org
Website www.kopin.org

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: KOPIN (Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali - Malta) is a voluntary organisation based in Malta (Europe) which works in the fields of international development cooperation, development global education and migration. KOPIN envisions a global and inclusive society where citizens are equally empowered to contribute to a world free of poverty and any other forms of injustice. KOPIN is the founding organisation of the National Platform of Maltese NGOs and was mandated to coordinate the network until May 2007. Today the Platform is known as SKOP – Solidarjetá u Koperazzjoni – and is Malta’s largest network of NGOs working in the field of development and migration. KOPIN actively engages in CONCORD and SKOP working groups, is involved in the TRIALOG project and a partner of the Terre des Hommes International Federation. Moreover, the organisation acts as the Maltese Focal Point for Social Watch

Areas of Work:

1. International Development Cooperation
2. Global Education
3. Refugee support (service provision to refugee women, advocacy concerning the rights of migrant, with a specific focus on UMMs, and regarding detention issues).

KOPIN engages in networking, research, capacity building and advocacy work at various levels and with numerous partners from different societal sectors.
 Issues such as the combat of racism, xenophobia and stereotypes, gender equality and other human rights related matters are addressed across all work sectors KOPIN engages in.

Projects: Since mid-2011, KOPIN, together with its partners the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR Malta) and the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) , is supporting refugee women by means of various empowerment and integration activities.

Financed through the European Refugee Fund (ERF) , the US Government and the UNHCR, KOPIN's team of project managers, programme officers, cultural mediators and legal & psychological experts offer activities to all refugee women residing in Malta.

Activities are being provided throughout the week in all open migrants' centres having female residents, related to education (literacy, numeracy, language, health, sexuality, nutrition, etc.), vocational training, skills training, recreation and socialisation, including outings to various places in Malta and Gozo.

KOPIN also involves experts from various fields, such as the Migrants' Health Unit and the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) , to provide input to focus groups on issues such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM). KOPIN also engages numerous Maltese and international volunteers and interns to support the implementing team, who have the chance to actively engage in this social field and learn more about the situation of refugees in Malta.

Kopin's current projects are "Global Action Schools2Communities" (GAS2C), "Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation" (RADC), "Raising the Awareness of a European Multi-Actor Network Acting for the Enhancement of Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa", and "Educating for sustainable and responsible management of the forests in the world". Moreover, KOPIN is currently implementing a European Refugee Fund project entitled "Empowerment and Self-Reliance of Women Refugees in Malta" as well as two development projects in Ethiopia, together with its partners on the ground, supporting impoverished communities through the provision of HIV/AIDS combatting measures and of biogas digestion systems, amongst other initiatives.

Emigrants' Commission

Organizational Data

Contact Person: Fr Alfred Vella (Director)
Address: 'Dar l-Emigrant', Castille Place, Valletta.
Contact Number: +356 2123 2545 / +356 2122 2644
Email Address: fravella@onvol.net

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: This is an organization of the Catholic Church in Malta. It is an NGO which is of help to all people on the move. Amongst these there are the asylum seekers. Addressing this problem means giving dignity to who ever calls upon this organization's help and to be at their back and call in all difficulties. It follows all these people to be able to up lift themselves from their peculiar situation.

Areas of Work: It provides counselling on all levels, laise between them and all government offices e.g. to porcure travelling documents, schooling for children, etc.. It provides lodging to 400 people in 14 houses in 7 different localities. It tries to advocate and defend the rights of these persons and be of pressure group to see that there should be the most proper legislature to regluate the well being of these persons. Since work is of great

importance for every person to live up to his dignity, to find jobs and to help these persons work with work permits and benefit from all social benefits is a priority to this organization. Through work one finds self realization. Integration in our society is also a great task at heart. We believe that these people should live in small units within our towns and villages and not in big numbers in secluded areas because this promotes the 'ghetto mentality'.

Projects: Most important projects already embarked on is that of providing lodging for 400 persons, besides the refurbishing of the offices to be of better service. The organization is planning to set up a day centre for babies and toddlers to take care of them while their parents are at work.

International Organization for Migration	
Organizational Data	
Address:	191, Merchant Street, Valletta
Contact Number:	00356 2137 4613
Email Address:	iommalta@iom.int
Website:	ww.iom.int
Organizational Work	
Aims and Objectives:	<p>An intergovernmental organization established in 1951, IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 149 Members and 100 observers - More than 470 field locations - More than 7,800 staff working on more than 2,300 projects - More than US\$ 1.3 billion expenditures in 2011
Areas of Work:	<p>Movement, Emergency and Post-crisis Migration Management Regulating Migration Facilitating Migration</p>
Projects:	<p>Movement, Emergency and Post-crisis Migration Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - United States Refugee Programme - Pilot project for intra EU relocation ex Malta – EUREMA - Reallocation of persons with international protection from Malta to Germany 2011 – DERE <p>Regulating Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration in the Country of Origin, phase II and III - Cooperation between Malta and African Countries to Enhance Migration Dialogue and Development - CoMAM - Launching Initiatives supporting Malta's Efforts to Suppress trafficking – LIMES <p>Facilitating Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting Open and Closed Reception Systems in Malta by Profiling, Action Research and Knowledge Transfer - SPARKLET

Aditus Foundation

Organizational Data

Contact Person:	Dr. Neil Falzon, Director
Address:	149, Old Mint Street, Valletta VLT 1513, Malta
Contact Number:	00356 2010 6295
Email Address:	info@aditus.org.mt
Website	www.aditus.org.mt

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: Aditus is an independent, voluntary and non-profit organisation, established according to the intention to monitor and act and report on access to fundamental human rights by individuals and groups. Aditus believes in the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights and strives to promote their understanding and application. While Aditus's main focus is Malta, it works towards highlighting the regional and international dimensions of human rights.

Areas of Work:

- Migrants and refugees (legal advocacy and integration)
- The LGBTI community (the rights of transgendered persons in particular)
- Children (unaccompanied minors, transgendered, disabled and migrant children)
- Women

Our main activities include the identification of priority areas, formulating advocacy strategies and working towards improvement in legal and administrative standards. We focus primarily on the Government of Malta, but also address the EU institutions, the UN, the Council of Europe and other relevant agencies. We remain in constant communication and cooperation with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities to maintain a comprehensive approach to our activities.

Projects:

Strategic Litigation

- Joint Third Party Intervention before the European Court of Human Rights, in Joanne Cassar vs. Malta (36982/11)
- Through our Director, legal representation in Suso Musa vs. Malta (42337/12)

Malta Integration Network

- We're coordinating thematic meetings of Multifunctional Teams, with members representing Malta government, academic, NGOs & migrants. Core topic is the assessment of Third-Country National integration possibilities.

Malta Microfinance

- On the Grameen Bank model (Bangladesh), St. Andrew's Scots Church is offering interest free credit to vulnerable migrants & women. We are providing the project with legal support services.

Meet The Other

- We've been meeting refugees in their homes, to get an insight into their lives, challenges & strengths. It's about integration, resilience, best practices, local governance, self-reliance. We're

- implementing the project together with UNHCR Office in Malta.
- EASO Monitor
- We're running a leading blog that provides information & analysis on the European Asylum Support Office.
- UN Mechanisms
- We regularly coordinate the submission of shadow reports, recommendations & input papers.
 - Themes covered to date include migration/asylum, LGBTI & disability before the UN Child Rights Committee & for the Universal Periodic Review.

Suret il-Bniedem

Organizational Data

Address:	34, Prince Albert Street Alberttown Marsa
Contact Number:	+356 21 232 330
Email Address:	info@suretilbniedem.org
Website	www.fsib.org.mt

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives:	'Suret il-Bniedem Foundation' has the sole objective of providing shelter to homeless persons in Malta. In line with this aim, the Foundation currently runs two homes, one in Valletta for homeless females together with their minor offspring and another in Gzira for males and adolescents. In aggregate the homes can house up to fifty persons and for most of the time the homes are full to capacity. One should also point out that in the majority of cases, individuals who end up being homeless do so because of some underlying social and/or psychological problem. During the course of their stay at the Foundations' homes they are assisted by, professional staff, whose main objective is to integrate these persons back into the community and help them to address their problems.
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Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants

Organizational Data

Address:	Marsa Open Centre, Xatt il-Mollijiet, Marsa
Contact Number:	+356 2122 3671
Email Address:	ssw@fsmmalta.org
Website	www.fsmmalta.org

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives:	The mission of FSM is to carry out research on accommodation of refugees and asylum-seekers in Malta vis-à-vis other EU Countries and to use the outcomes of such research to contribute to the formulation of national policy, and to provide temporary shelter and other support
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services to asylum-seekers and persons with international protection through partnership with the government of Malta or other NGOs.

FSM Objectives:

- To provide temporary shelter to asylum-seekers, persons enjoying international protection, and other irregular migrants in Malta enabling them to live as dignified persons in Maltese society;
- To provide support services for the promotion of the well-being of residents;
- To promote policy coherence and partnership between the asylum-seekers, persons enjoying international protection, and other migrants in Malta and civil society and governmental institutions aiming at successful integration;
- To advocate for improved communication, tolerance and dialogue between different cultures in Malta;
- To provide basic education in cultural orientation, information technology, European languages and history, health and safety, etc;
- To assist in finding employment for of asylum-seekers and persons enjoying international protection;
- To raise awareness in civil society about the needs and fundamental rights of third country nationals

Areas of Work:

As an NGO, the funding of Foundation is through donations. FSM has been the generous recipient of donations in cash and in kind from different organisations and individuals.

It is important to separate the *raison d'être* of FSM from its present main activity as a service-provider to government for the Marsa Open Centre. The funding for the operation and management of Marsa Open Centre is by the Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA) through the Agency for Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS).

Projects:

Marsa Open Centre: The Marsa Open Centre houses around 500 male residents from 19 different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The larger majority of these residents are from East Africa, namely, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan.

UNHCR Malta

Organizational Data

Contact Person:	Mr Jon P Hoisaeter Head of U.N.H.C.R. Office in Malta
Address:	UN High Commissioner for Refugees 72,Market Street, Floriana, FRN 1080
Contact Number:	00356 2248 9400
Email Address:	mtava@unhcr.org
Website	www.unhcr.org.mt

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: UNHCR is internationally mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. It also has a mandate to help stateless people.

JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) Malta

Organizational Data

Address: 70 Triq il-Ferrovija l-Qadima
Birkirkara BKR 1610, MALTA

Contact Number: 00356 2279 5000

Website www.jrsmalta.org

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: The Jesuit Refugee Service in Malta seeks to accompany, serve and defend the rights of asylum seekers and forcibly displaced persons who arrive in Malta. Each arrival's story bears witness to traumatised, disrupted pasts but also to a remarkable will to survive against all odds.

Integra Foundation

Organizational Data

Contact Person: Dr Maria Pisani

Address: 124, St. Ursula street, Valletta, Malta

Contact Number: +356 2123 8724

Email Address: integrafoundation@gmail.com

Website <http://integrafoundation.org>

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives:

- Supporting an inclusive, non-discriminative and non-disabling society, where individuals have the right to human dignity, freedom, respect and social justice.
- Facilitating space for marginalized individuals and groups to be heard.
- Working through a team of international researchers, we are committed to participatory, emancipatory, decolonising and culturally/contextually sensitive approaches.

Areas of Work:

- We work with a range of populations, including: sub-Saharan African asylum seekers, disabled people, women and unaccompanied minors.
- We are active in supporting efforts at self-representation.
- Our work also aims to develop educational approaches and materials grounded in democratic learning, in order to address oppression of all kinds (poverty, racism, xenophobia, sexism, disablism, homophobia etc.)
- We are particularly active in development education using participatory means.
- Facilitating and enhancing access to adequate health care, housing,

Projects:

education, employment, and basic social protection.

- Lobbying and engaging in activism to ensure that policies are just, and rights are accessed and fulfilled
- During 2006, 'EU Citizenship on Wheels', a project which promoted a better understanding of EU citizenship values among Maltese people.
- 'Empowering youth for diversity' provided young Maltese people with the opportunity to experience multicultural first hand, bridging the gap between young Maltese and young refugees in Malta.
- Integra will be running two adult education courses funded by the EU scheme Grundtvig, on the topics of 'Disability and Poverty in the Global South: Activating European Movements for Change' and 'Engaging communities: the psychology of collectives and supporting activism for a united Europe'.
- Konnect Kulturi, within Integra, is responsible for education and community development. The team provides English and Maltese language lessons to sub-Saharan asylum seekers.
- Integra and the Aditus foundation are engaged in a project called 'Our Voices', seeking to support refugee integration in Malta by addressing a critical gap in refugee assistance.
- The Emergency Health Care programme: Disability and extreme poverty for Guatemala responds to the lack of access to adequate health care by the poorest disabled people. This project started in 2012 and is currently funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Malta.

Organization for Friendship in Diversity

Organizational Data

Address: 41, Falzon Street
Sliema
Malta
SLM 2161

Contact Number: 00356 7979 0666 / 00356 9989 2215

Website <http://ofd.org.mt>

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: The Organisation for Friendship in Diversity (OFD) is a youth-led NGO working with children and adults from local and migrant communities, to foster a respect for diversity and promote social inclusion.

Founded in early 2009, the objective of OFD's members has been to help cultivate friendship amidst diversity through cultural understanding. As a forward looking and enthusiastic team, OFD is constantly working to improve its methods and develop new ways to challenge social stereotypes that lead to discrimination.

OFD prides itself in being a hands-on grass roots organisation that has introduced a new youthful dynamic to community-building in Malta, with a commitment to working on a foundation of positive messages, steering clear of the traditional rhetoric that we believe has rendered people passive to this vital issue.

Malta Red Cross

Organizational Data

Address:	104 St Ursula Street Valletta VLT 05
Contact Number:	00356 21222645 / 00356 21221022 / 00356 27221022
Email Address:	dg@redcross.orgmt
Website	www.redcross.org.mt

SOS Malta

Organizational Data

Contact Person:	Ms. Claudia Taylor East
Address:	10 Triq il-Ward Town: Santa Venera SVR 1640
Contact Number:	00356 9947 8880
Email Address:	info@sosmalta.org
Website	www.sosmalta.org

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: SOS Malta is a Maltese-registered Voluntary Organisation set up in 1991, which aims to aid people experiencing times of crisis and to empower them by providing support services and opportunities to implement development and change in their country. SOS Malta works with local and international organisations to assist socially disadvantaged groups in improving their quality of life. It encourages advocacy on behalf of social causes as well as promotes models of good care and practice. SOS Malta initially started working in overseas development, emergency relief and livelihood programmes. While maintaining these overseas areas of activity, the organisation over time developed other areas of activities, having more of a local dimension.

Areas of Work: Recent years have witnessed an increase in the number of third country nationals and immigrants living in Malta – a reality which has lent towards the need for increased intercultural understanding and measures contributing towards the two-ways process of integration and solidarity. SOS Malta advocates for the introduction and implementation of local measures aimed at the integration and social inclusion of third country nationals in Maltese society. Indeed, it played a key role in bringing together and providing administrative back-up to third- country nationals to create the Third-Country National Support Network (TSN Malta) in 2008. Furthermore, it has been involved in networking and pilot projects aimed at introducing measures and policies for the integration of third-country nationals having residence in Malta.

Projects: In 2011, SOS Malta began a project called Media Interact aimed at initiating an avenue for mainstreaming integration and diversity within Maltese media and journalism. Its objective is to incentivize the media

and the press to capture realities and needs of an increasingly diverse audience, whilst removing obstacles and stereotypes by providing a more accurate and balanced portrayal of third-country nationals (TCNs) in Malta and by opening up opportunities in media professions and organisations for people with an immigrant background.

In 2011, SOS Malta also began a project entitled Same Difference co-funded by the European Union Annual ERF Programme 2011. The project's main objective is to promote meaningful contact and interaction between refugees and immigrants with subsidiary protection and different sectors of the Maltese community in an informal setting using ethnic food as a communication and bridging medium.

Recently, SOS Malta has also received the approval of an ERF project entitled "Youth Upbeat" focused on using the performing arts as a tool to promote integration between Refugees and Beneficiaries of International Protection and the Maltese population in particular focusing on young people.

SOS Malta has successfully organized a number of conferences that have included integration as a key theme, both as part of specific projects, such as the recent Media Interact: Mainstreaming diversity conference in May 2012, as well as the organisation of specific stand alone conferences such as the Immigration Conference- Illegal Immigration - Racism - Cultural Diversity - The Media in 2006. The INTI National Meeting (6th February 2007) was an important event where the main stakeholders working with third-country nationals (TCNs) in Malta met to discuss the integration of TCNs in the EU.

The EUNET Integration Network, a network of NGOs from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and Malta, hosted a seminar discussing "The Integration of Third Country Nationals - A Two Way Process". The seminar was organised by SOS Malta and was attended by 25 international members of the EUNET Integration Network as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the Organisation for the Integration and Welfare of Asylum Seekers, the International Organisation of Migration, UNHCR Malta.

John XXIII Peace Laboratory (Peacelab)

Organizational Data

<i>Contact Person:</i>	Fr. Dionysius Mintoff
<i>Address:</i>	Peace Lab, Triq Hal-Far Zurrieq, ZRQ 2609 Malta
<i>Email Address:</i>	info@peacelab.org
<i>Website</i>	ww.peacelab.org

Organizational Work

<i>Aims and Objectives:</i>	The John XXIII Peace Laboratory was founded by Fr Dionysius Mintoff, a Franciscan friar and is Christian inspired. Its aims are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To combat all theories and practices which propagate the
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- superiority of one group over all others;
- To foster better understanding among all irrespective of creed, colour and nationality;
- To promote and preserve social justice.

Projects:

To attain its aims Peacelab has furnished schools with Social Science textbooks which study the lives and work of certain people, including Gandhi, Martin Luther King, John XXIII, Dag Hammarskjold, Schweitzer, Cousteau, Albert Luthuli, hoping that these distinguished persons serve as role models.

Besides this, the Peacelab:

- Has a weekly programme on radio where issues concerning development and justice are discussed
- Takes part in other broadcast and television discussions
- Contributes articles in local newspapers
- Organises seminars about peace, social justice, environment, racism....
- Collaborates with other NGO's in particular issues
- Organises an annual Award for Kindness for children
- Gives shelter to around 50 "Illegal immigrants"

Get Up Stand Up

Organizational Data

Contact Person: Alexandra Cachia
Address: 150/7, Tower Road, Sliema, SLM08
Email Address: info@getupstandup.org.mt
Website www.getupstandup.org.mt

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives: GetUpStandUp! Is a Maltese non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting peace, love and unity. It is a voluntary organization which was started in 2009 by a group of Maltese students.

Projects: GetUpStandUp! is a voluntary organization which was started in 2009 by a group of Maltese students.

Through various projects such as teaching English to migrants residing in open centres and our successful program in schools, we seek to facilitate social change, help improve cultural tolerance and promote integration in Malta.

We also organise music concerts throughout the year showcasing talent from around the world, celebrating diversity and uniting people through the power of music.

National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE)

Organizational Data

Contact Person:	Dr Romina Bartolo, Executive Director
Address:	Gattard House, National Road, Blata I-Bajda HMR 9010
Contact Number:	+356 2590 3850
Email Address:	equality@gov.mt
Website	www.equality@gov.mt

Organizational Work

Aims and Objectives:	<p>The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) envisions a society which is equal and free from discrimination and champions inclusiveness whereby everyone, irrespective of their gender and family responsibilities, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, and gender identity, is able to achieve their full potential. In order to have a society which champions equality, NCPE works towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of gender and family responsibilities, race/ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, and gender identity by raising awareness, monitoring policies, national laws and EU Directives, networking with different stakeholders; investigating complaints and providing assistance to the general public. NCPE works with NGOs for consultation, joint actions and policy development. NCPE provides also training sessions related to its remit.</p>
Areas of Work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Equality on the grounds of gender and family responsibilities, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, racial / ethnic origin, and gender identity in employment, education and vocational training, as well as in banks and financial institutions;- Equality on the grounds of race / ethnic origin and gender in the provision of goods and services and their supply.
Projects:	<p>JUST/2011/PROG/AG/1902 'I'm Not Racist, But ...' was a project co-funded by EU PROGRESS funds and implemented by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) Malta during 2012. The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Malta and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Malta were partners in this project. 'I'm Not Racist, But ...' was aimed at combating racial discrimination. The overall objectives of the project were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop a clear understanding of the situation of ethnic minorities and housing; and to empower respective stakeholders to prevent or combat discrimination in this area;• To empower the African minority to get their voice heard, to advocate for their rights and to report discrimination; and• To raise awareness on racial discrimination and promote cultural diversity. <p>A new project which NCPE is currently carrying out is entitled 'Gender Balance in Decision-making'. The project is intended to facilitate, through knowledge and specific action, gender-balanced representation in decision-making. The specific purpose of the project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- increase the number of women in decision-making positions;- empower and enable women to take-up decision-making positions;- tangibly support and advise policy makers on gender-balance in decision-making.

Community Groups in Malta

There are a small number of migrant community groups and organizations in Malta, including the Indian Community, the Muslim community, and some small African communities.

University of Malta - Academic Departments

Faculty of Arts	Department of Sociology Department of International Relations	www.home.um.edu.mt/sociol www.um.edu.mt/arts/int-relations
Faculty of Laws	Department of International Law	www.um.edu.mt/laws/international
Mediterranean Institute	Department of Anthropological Sciences	www.um.edu.mt/medinst/anthropology
Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies	Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies	www.um.edu.mt/medac
FEMA	Department of Social Policy and Social Work	www.um.edu.mt/fema/spsw
Institute for European Studies	Institute for European Studies	www/home.um.edu.mt/edrc

Key Academics

A number of academics have conducted research (within the university or independently) in the field of migration or teach related topics. The list below indicates some of the names and their respective departments, as well as their University of Malta information page (which often includes contact details).

Dr Derek Lutterbeck	Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and Institute for European Studies	www.um.edu.mt/medac/staff/academicstaff www.um.edu.mt/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/50889/lutterbeckres.pdf
Prof Mark-Anthony	Department of Sociology	www.um.edu.mt/profile/markanthonyfalz

Falzon		on
Prof Paul Clough	Department of Anthropological Sciences	www.um.edu.mt/medinst/anthropology/staff/profpaulclough
Dr. Patricia Mallia	International Law Department	www.um.edu.mt/profile/patriciaccassartorregiani www.um.edu.mt/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/129930/CV_Patricia_Cassar_Torregiani.pdf
Dr. David Zammit	Civil Law Department and Department of Anthropological Sciences	www.um.edu.mt/profile/davidzammit www.um.edu.mt/medinst/anthropology/staff/dr_david_zammit
Dr Neil Falzon	Department of International Law	www.um.edu.mt/profile/neilfalzon
Dr. Maria Pisani	Department of International Relations	www.um.edu.mt/profile/mariapisani
Prof Peter G. Xuereb	Department of European & Comparative Law	www.um.edu.mt/profile/petergxuereb
Prof Stephen Calleya	Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies	www.um.edu.mt/profile/stephencalleya

Part V – The Researcher on the Ground

Gaining Access

Gaining access in cases of primary data collection is often challenging. When the population (and sample) you would like to talk to is vulnerable, this is all the more evident. This section gives a brief introduction into what to expect when trying to get access to the regulated locations in which migrants live.

There are three types of places in which you can access migrants – public locations, open centres and detention centres.

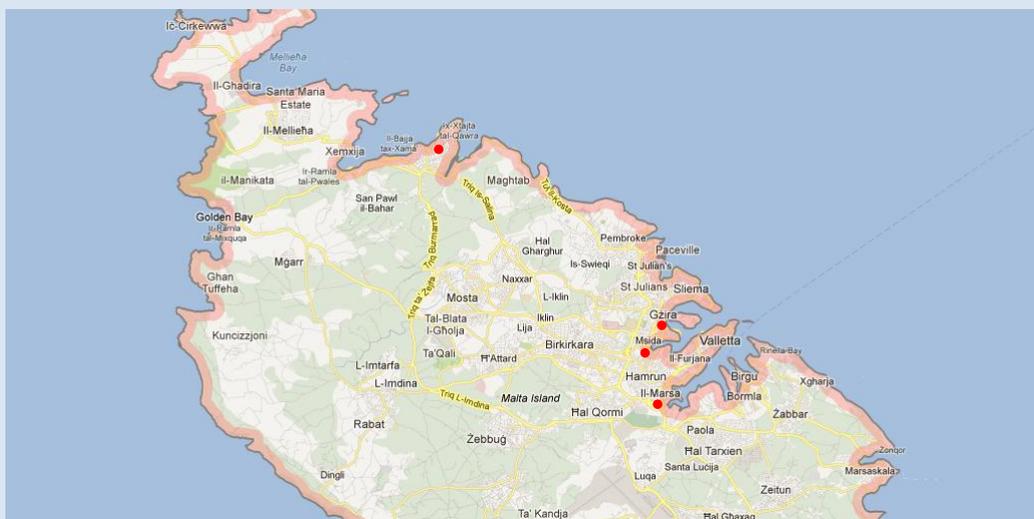
Public Locations

A number of migrants who had initially been placed in detention and subsequently in open centres are now residing in independent accommodation around Malta. Indeed, this group is that least researched, not least due to the logistical and sampling challenges of locating the migrant population.

Data on the residents of Malta is found in the Census (the last version of which was published in 2011), yet data segregated into citizenship and/or country of origin by locality is not available. Anecdotally, the localities known for having somewhat higher representation of migrant groups are the following:

- Bugibba
- Msida
- Gzira
- Marsa

Bugibba also features an African restaurant – Bis Tit (www.holidays-malta.com/restaurants/bistit.htm)



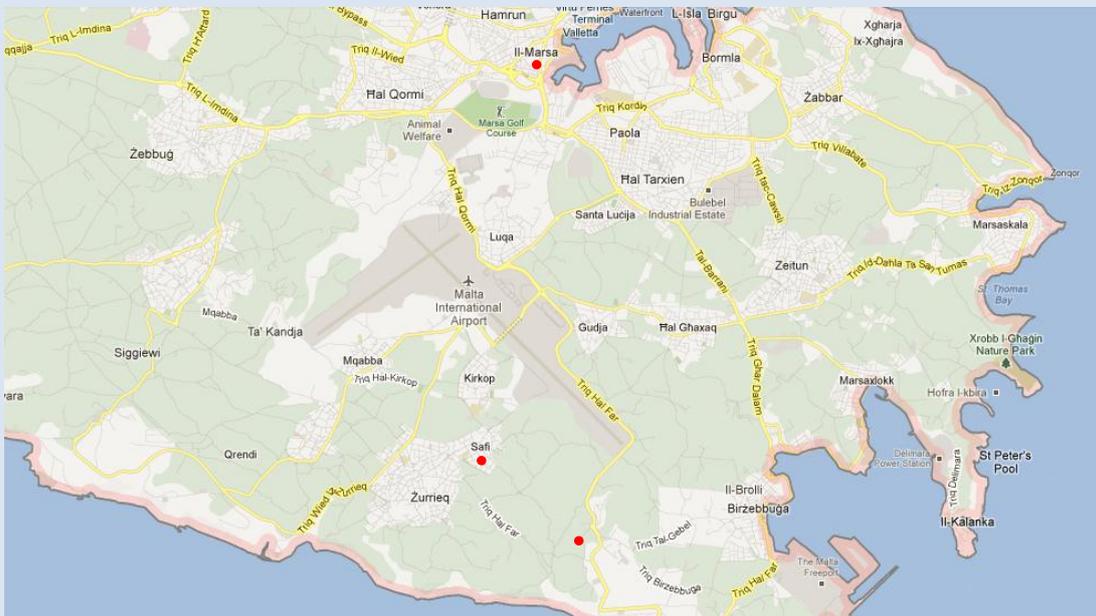
Open Centres

Following release from Detention, migrants are transferred to an Open Centre, in which they may reside for a limited period of time. Here, migrants are given space (often a bunk bed and small amount of storage space), whilst having access to common areas which sometimes include cooking facilities. Different open centres operate differently, and migrants are provided with food in some cases.

Open Centres are administered by AWAS (the Agency for the Welfare and Integration of Asylum Seekers). Requests to access the Open Centres are made to the Head of AWAS (address below), and following a statement of reasons as well as signing a declaration, the researcher is allowed to access the open centres to interview migrants and/or staff members.

The sites administered by AWAS and that are therefore subject to these regulations include the following:

- HTV (Tent Village)
- HOC
- HFRC (Hal Far Reception Centre)
- HFO
- Dar il-Liedna (Fgura)
- Marsa Open Centre
- Dar is-Sliem (St. Venera)



Some basic rules apply for this permission to be granted:

- The researcher must produce a valid document of identification (passport and/or ID card); if the researcher is a journalist, they must also present their Temporary Press Card issued by the Department of Information

- The researcher must be over the age of 18
- All data (interviews, photography, filming) can only be collected following explicit permission given by the individuals it features
- Any data (interviews, photographs, filming) collected from staff members requires written consent by the Head of AWAS
- Any data (interviews, photographs, filming) collected from minor residents requires explicit permission given by the legal parent/guardian, and where this is not possible, by the Advisory Board on Children and Young Persons and the Head of AWAS
- AWAS also reserves the right to terminate access to AWAS property, and the researcher is responsible for personal safety as well as own conduct.

Permission to access AWAS property is given on a case by case basis and may take between a few days to some weeks to acquire.

The relevant contact details are the following:

*Agenzija għal Harsien ta' Persuni li jkunu qed ifittxu l-Asil
(Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers – AWAS)*

Contact Person: The Director, AWAS
Address: Agenzija għal Harsien ta' Persuni li jkunu qed ifittxu l-Asil
 Block C, Beltissebħ
 Floriana FRN 1700
 Malta
Contact Number: (+356) 2568 7238
Email Address: awas.mjha@gov.mt

Detention Centres

Asylum seekers are, upon arrival, taken to a detention centre in which they reside until their case for asylum is heard, or for up to the 12 months maximum determine by EU law or 18 months should their plea be rejected. Migrants are confined to the detention centres throughout this time.

Accessing detention centres is more challenging than accessing open centres. Their administration is overseen by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the Armed Forces of Malta, and the Malta Police Force.

Permission to access detention centres may be sought from the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs.

If you are a journalist a number of rules apply in seeking permission to enter detention, including the following:

- Visits are subject to clearance by the Chief Immigration Officer
- Instructions of detention officers must be followed at all times
- Permission will be sought, following which immigration authorities will make a decision as to which detention centre access will be allowed

- A maximum of two persons may access the set location
- The visit will last no longer than an hour
- Journalists must obtain and present temporary journalist passes as issued by the Department of Information
- No filming of security features of the facility may take place
- All material gathered requires consent from the individuals being interviewed
- Journalists may not ask upsetting questions or make any inflammatory remarks to detainees

Ethics and Ethical Issues

This section lists a small number of particular and general ethical concerns with conducting research with migrants in Malta.

1. Whilst the terms ‘migrants’ as well as ‘asylum seekers’ are broad in use and meaning, and are indeed utilized in this text itself to indicate a group that is socially constructed, this is not meant to homogenize migrants. Similarly, research with migrants should be respectful of diversity, particular vulnerability, need as well as ways of life and culture within the broad terms presented.
2. Migrants are a vulnerable group and have been victim of both social exclusion as well as racial violence. Whilst being in the large part aware of researchers’ interest in their cause as well as in a position to give informed consent (that is, they are not vulnerable in the generic medical sense), they are nonetheless politically vulnerable. Moreover, a large number have been victims of some type of trauma (in countries of origin, during transit, etc) and are therefore
3. Data gathering has many ethical implications, specifically if you are collecting data from individuals who are pending status determination as well as other opportunities such as repatriation and/or resettlement. Sitting down with a migrant across a desk to gather primary data often implies a power dynamic similar to that of the individuals who gather data from migrants for such future-determination processes.
4. Since migration made it onto the national political and social scene (from around 2002), migrants have been the subjects of both public as well as journalistic and academic interest. This has led some to question the viability as well as suitability of migrants’ being constantly assaulted by strangers with notebooks and cameras seeking information from them for a variety of purposes. Similarly, migrants have become frustrated following the sharing of information, needs and life stories, given that common perception is that this has not led to any improvement of their current conditions and life chances. For this reason, every researcher should carefully evaluate whether conducting primary research with migrants – asking them to give time and information – is ethically appropriate and whether the relationship between researcher and researched is fair on both parties.
5. Whilst volunteering within a Non-Governmental Organization may be desirable in order to gain a deeper perspective of the field of migration in Malta, any such engagement with the aim of accruing information for research and/or other purposes should be made known to the organization. Moreover, only information gathered from individuals who are aware of this double role should be utilized within the research.
6. If you hail from an academic institution, you should be submitting paperwork for ethical clearance prior to starting your fieldwork. You should ensure that you have copies of such paperwork (in English) in case it is requested for access.

Finally, remember that ethical conduct is not a set of regulations or approvals, but rather a constant practice in research, and that the researcher’s primary interest should be the safeguarding of his or her informants.

Researcher Experiences – The Whats and Hows

Make sure you have made contact with some potential informants before going to Malta, and that you ask them who else they think you should talk to...

The island gets very crowded in summer, which sometimes makes finding accommodation challenging unless you think ahead!

Sometimes you think you'll only need 10 minutes to travel from one place to another because it's so close, but that journey can take an hour!

I found most people very approachable, even when I wanted to ask difficult or controversial questions!



www.pfcmalta.org

info@pfcmalta.org