



THE MALTA CHAMBER

PRESS RELEASE

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The Malta Chamber and ARC sign MOU to promote inclusivity and diversity at the workplace

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, and Allied Rainbow Communities (ARC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to promote inclusivity while safeguarding the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community within the business environment. The MOU represents the commitment of both parties to create a more inclusive and accepting business environment.

Ahead of the signing, Chris Vassallo Cesareo, The Malta Chamber President, said that The Malta Chamber is honoured to be part of this important celebration. "Being out at work is not merely advantageous for the LGBTIQ+ community, but it is also beneficial for organisations and the society. Let us work diligently to create workplaces in which every individual feels secure and empowered to be their authentic selves," he noted.

CEO Dr Marthese Portelli emphasised that The Malta Chamber will continue to raise awareness on any form of discrimination at the workplace, including sexual orientation and gender identity. "To this end, ARC will be participant in The Malta Chamber's Human Resources Thematic Committee to share their expertise in related matters," she said.

Maria Azzopardi, ARC President, highlighted that in today's ever-evolving world, the workplace is not just a location where we earn our livelihood, it is a vital part of our lives in which we seek validation, respect, and the freedom to be who we are. "Hence, this signing is not merely a symbolic gesture. It signifies a profound commitment to creating workplaces where everyone can be their authentic selves," she explained.

The MOU was signed by Chris Vassallo Cesareo and Dr Marthese Portelli, President and CEO of The Malta Chamber respectively, and Maria Azzopardi, President of ARC.

The MOU was signed during OUT@WORK, an official EuroPride Valletta 2023 event which aimed at engaging experts and the LGBTIQ+ community to foster inclusivity and celebrate diversity within the professional realm. The event was also addressed by Hon. Rebecca Buttigieg, Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality. "Inclusive Human Rights policies should give peace of mind to all employees, who know that they can enjoy the same benefits as their colleagues. Gender diversity with opportunity for equal representation is crucial in workplaces as it brings in various viewpoints. Consequently, the benefits of inclusivity will be felt not only by employees but also by their employers," she said.

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