

AGENDA - Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) Meeting in Malta on Maternal Health and Refugee Women

Under the Distinguished Patronage of H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta
In partnership with MSD for Mothers

20-21 March 2017, Malta (Verdala Palace)

MONDAY, 20 MARCH

08.15 Buses leave from the Corinthia Palace Hotel to the Verdala Palace

09.00-09.30 COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

09.30-10.15 OPENING SESSION

- **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, Founder of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum
- **H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**, President of Malta

10.15-10.45 SETTING THE SCENE

- **Dr. Mary-Ann Etiebet**, Executive Director, MSD for Mothers
"Improving access to quality maternal Health as a Global priority"
- **Dr. Nikitas Kanakis**, Secretary General, Medecins du Monde
"The reality of delivering maternal health care to the refugee community – The Mother and Child Programme, Greece"

10.45-11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.00-12.00 HIGH LEVEL PANEL SESSION:

"A VISION FOR MATERNAL HEALTH FOR MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN IN EUROPE "

The health of mother and child remains a critical concern – not only in the developing world but also in Europe. Despite progress in recent decades, there are still considerable maternal health inequalities across EU Member States. The panellists of this session will highlight the long term vision for maternal health in Europe, as well as the lessons learned from the national level. They will also address the links between the European and the national levels, as well as between health and human mobility.

Speakers:

- **Linda Lanzillotta**, Vice President of the Italian Senate
- **Jose Carreira**, Executive Director, European Asylum Support Office
- **Ines Strenja Linic**, Doctor of Medicine, Chair of the Health and Social Policy Committee, Croatia

Moderator: **Ahinara Bascuñana López**, Communications Director, WIP

12.00-12.30 **BRIEFING**

A short introduction to the visit of the Refugee Open Center and a briefing on the procedure for next day's interactive sessions.

Workshop facilitators:

Jaqueline Bowman-Busato & Michael Creek

12.30-14.00 **LUNCH AT THE VERDALA PALACE (INCLUDING A TOUR OF THE VERDALA PALACE)**

14.00-17.30 **SITE VISIT TO REFUGEE OPEN CENTRE**

Malta is the first point of entry for many refugees fleeing across the Mediterranean Sea. The participants of the meeting will get the opportunity to visit the Hal Far Open Family Centre hosted by the Maltese Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS). The visit will include the possibility to interact with refugee women with children and infants and to hear their personal experiences.

19.00-21.00 **DINNER RECEPTION HOSTED BY H.E. THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA**

VENUE: SAN ANTON PALACE

Welcome remarks by **H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**, President of Malta

Remarks by **Christopher Fearne**, Minister of Health, Malta

Keynote speech:

- **Vytenis Andriukaitis**, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

TUESDAY, 21 MARCH

08.15 Buses leave from the Corinthia Palace Hotel to the Verdala Palace

09.00-09.15 **OPENING AND RECAP OF DAY ONE**

09.15-11.45 **INTERACTIVE PARALLEL SESSIONS: "WORKING TOGETHER FOR MATERNAL HEALTH"**

The purpose of this highly interactive session will be to answer the question, in the context of migrant and refugee women's health: **What concrete policy steps should the EU institutions and national governments take to ensure that every woman in Europe has the equally high quality and affordable access to maternal healthcare?** The participants will get the chance to join one out of five different parallel discussions which will address different topics and focus on providing concrete solutions and recommendations to improve the current status of migrant and refugee women:

- **TABLE 1 “SAFETY, QUALITY AND STANDARDS”**

How do we ensure that national policies and complementing EU action work hand in hand to identify best practices and benchmarks for safety, quality and standards that will serve to improve the health and wellbeing of all women, specifically for migrant and refugee women, across Europe?

Table Facilitator: Mary-Ann Etiebet, Executive Director, MSD for Mothers

- **TABLE 2 “TIMELINESS AND ACCESSIBILITY”**

Why is Europe also the target of the SDGs? While maternal morbidity is an issue of global importance, in Europe, many women are still unable to gain access to timely and quality healthcare. How to ensure that migrant and refugee women, having to face new systems access the proper knowledge and information in order to receive the services and treatments required?

Table Facilitator: Elisa Scolaro, Technical Officer, WHO

- **TABLE 3 “RESILIENCE AND EFFICIENCY”**

Maternal health and women’s health represent the broader issue of resilient and efficient healthcare systems and healthcare systems in Europe are increasingly interacting with each other, facing challenges such as the economic crisis and ageing demographics. This is particularly noticeable when it comes to migrant and refugee women. How to create stronger, effective health systems, capable of facing common challenges through a closer cooperation?

Table Facilitator: Francois Fille, European Advocacy Coordinator, Medecins du Monde

- **TABLE 4 “EQUITY”:**

Today, many migrant and refugee women are unable to access quality care, due to a number of reasons, from linguistic barriers to difficulty reaching their healthcare provider. Maternal health is an issue of equity - how do we make the healthcare system work for all women?

Table Facilitator: Michelle LeVoy, Director, PICUM

- **TABLE 5 “PERSON-CENTRIC APPROACH”**

Maternal health must be at the heart of people-centred healthcare, particularly with a view on the current refugee crisis and human mobility in general. However, many women are still subjected to outdated practices and stigmatisation when it comes to maternal health. How do we place women (migrant and refugee women specifically) in the centre of all policies and solutions?

Table Facilitator: Maria Cutajar, President, Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses

11.30-11.45

COFFEE BREAK

11.45-12.00 **VOTE**

Participants will get the chance to vote on the main issues emerging from the different table discussions which will form the basis of the meeting's outcome report.

12.00-12.15 **WRAP-UP OF PARALLEL SESSIONS**

- Reports from Parallel Sessions

12.15-13.00 **PANEL DISCUSSION:**

"THE WAY FORWARD – POLICY MAKERS RESPONSE TO IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH FOR MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN IN EUROPE "

Building on the outcomes of the discussions held at this WIP meeting, the panellists will outline the way forward, by connecting actions needed between the EU and the national level. They will share best practices and instruments that can be applied for the improvement of maternal health in Europe. The speakers will continue to address the need for a joint approach on maternal health, highlighting that this an issue that concerns everyone and which needs to be tackled by all.

Speakers:

- **Claudette Buttigieg**, Member of Parliament and Shadow Minister for Health, Malta
- **Dr. Elena Grech**, Head of European Commission Permanent Representation in Malta
- **Mervi Jokinen**, President, European Midwife Association
- **Regina Catrambone**, Founder and Director of Migrant Offshore Aid Station

Moderated by **Dr. Paul Robinson**, Executive Director, Scientific Medical & Patient Perspective, MSD

13.00-13.15 **CONCLUDING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS**

- **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, Founder of Women in Parliaments Global Forum
- **Dr Justyne Caruana**, Member of Parliament, WIP Ambassador, Malta

13.15-14.15 **FAREWELL LUNCH**

14.15- **PARTICIPANTS DEPART**