

FIDEM's International Women's Day Conference**Count Her In: Accelerating gender equality through economic empowerment****Friday 8th March 2024 – Xara Lodge, Rabat**

08:30	Delegate registration
09:00	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Sabine Agius Cabourdin, Founder at SA Consult and the FIDEM Foundation • Compere: Marc Cabourdin, Freelance Artistic Director/Producer
<u>PART 1</u>	
Session 1: EMPOWER WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ECONOMY	
09:10	<p>Education is a human right. It is vital that women receive equal access to education, training, new skills, new technologies, management positions, benefits, and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Workplaces also need to be free of sexual harassment and violence, safe, up to health standards and promote equal pay. Women are more likely to be employed in the informal labour force and are over-represented in domestic work.</p> <p><u>Panel Leader:</u> Prof Carmel Borg (Associate Professor, Faculty of Education at the University of Malta)</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Baker (HR Director, Betsson) • Stephania Cuschieri (Assistant Director Office of the Director General, Ministry of Education) • Ann Marie Cassar (Director, Institute of Community Services, MCAST) • Ylenia Vella (Unit Manager, Jobseeker Advisory Services, Jobsplus)
09:55	Open Floor Discussion
Session 2: LET HER CHOOSE: CAREER, FAMILY OR BOTH?	
10:05	<p>Women face a dilemma. Career or family? Whichever option they choose they feel it is never the right one and that they are missing out. Can the work environment be flexible enough for women to juggle both a career and motherhood? Should there still be a stigma around women who choose to be "just" a stay-at-home mum? And what is the role of men and the father figure in this scenario?</p> <p>For families that cannot afford to miss work to care for their children, childcare is a gamechanger. Unpaid care and domestic work substantially contribute to a country's economy but are not considered to be "real" work.</p> <p><u>Panel Leader:</u> Prof Anna Borg (Associate professor, Centre for Labour Studies, University of Malta)</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalie Briffa Farrugia (Chairperson, Vassallo Group) • Dr Ann Bugeja (Lawyer, Senior Associate, GVZH) • Abigail Agius Mamo (CEO, Chamber of SMEs) • Christopher Vassallo Cesareo (President, The Malta Chamber)
10:50	Open floor discussion
11:00	Address by Dr Roberta Metsola , President of the European Parliament
11.10	Seated Coffee Break and performance by Gianni & Eric

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Session 3:

SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR WOMEN – HOW CAN WE IMPROVE?

11:35 Panel Leader: **Ariadne Massa** (Media strategist, Media Insiders)

Panelists:

- **Prof Marie Briguglio**, Economist & Associate Professor, FEMA, Univeristy of Malta
- **Hon. Ivan Castillo MP**, Shadow Minister for Maritime Affairs, Social Dialogue, and the Fight Against Rising Cost of Living.
- **Hon. Justin Schembri MP**, Shadow Minister of Education
- **Karen Demicoli**, Director General, Ministry for Economy, Enterprise & Strategic Projects
- **Melanie Casha Sammut**, Director, Ministry of Education

12:20 **Q&A**

12:30 **Light Networking Lunch**

PART 2

13:30 **Presentation on FIDEM's Skill Up & Educate to Empower Programmes**

- **Judith Valletta** (Director & Operations Manager, FIDEM Foundation)

13:35 **Introduction by Prof. Marceline Naudi** (Associate professor, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta)
Interview: FIDEM service user **Sabrina Borg** will be interviewed by **Claudia Calleja** (Times of Malta)

Session 4:

INVEST IN WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES

14:10 How can we encourage leadership roles for women? Grassroots women's organisations and movements are underfunded and under attack. We need to explore ways of supporting women's initiatives in business and women's organisations.

Panel Leader: **Vanessa Macdonald**, PR and Media Consultant

Panelists:

- **Kenneth Farrugia** (CEO, Bank of Valletta)
- **Rachael Blackburn** (Head of Culture, APS Bank)
- **Sarah Curmi** (Audit & Assurance Business Leader, Deloitte)
- **Prof. Marceline Naudi** (Associate professor, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta)

Observers:

- **Government representative - TBA**
- **Hon. Graziella Attard Previ MP**, Opposition spokesperson for Equality, Human and Civil Rights, and Children's Rights

15:00 **Open Floor Discussion**

15:05 **Closing**