



**JUSTICE AND PEACE
COMMISSION**

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Message

In a year which was sadly marked by the return of war on European soil and daily reports of deadly injustices and senseless violence, the need to denounce situations of violent injustice, whilst proposing creative pathways which lead to more just and reconciled communities, has never been so urgently felt.

In this context, as a Commission, we make ours the words of the Holy Father who, whilst in Malta, highlighted the need to shore up the foundations of life in society, namely honesty, justice, a sense of duty and transparency. Indeed, the seedlings of peace and justice are extraordinarily fragile. Even on a local level, the forces which tear us apart from each other, all too often seem to have the final say.

And yet, as Pope Francis never ceases to remind us, “either we are brothers and sisters, or everything falls apart”. This awareness, coupled with the desire to share with all people of goodwill the treasures of Catholic Social Teaching, is what drove us to implement the various initiatives you can read about in this 2022 annual report. As for the year ahead, we can only promise you that we will continue carrying out the mission of promoting God’s “kingdom of justice, love and peace” with renewed determination, hope and enthusiasm.



Daniel Darmanin

An architect by profession, Daniel's passion for social justice and sustainable development led him to undertake a Master of Arts degree in Social Justice & Community Development at Loyola University, Chicago. In 2017 Daniel was appointed by Archbishop Scicluna as the President of the Diocesan Commission of Justice & Peace. In 2018, Daniel was elected by the conference of European Justice and Peace commissions to serve on the executive council of this organisation.

About us

The mission of Justice and Peace is that of “keeping the eyes of the Church open, its heart sensitive and its hand prepared for the work of charity which it is called upon to realize in the world.” (Paul VI, Address to the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, 1967).

The Justice and Peace Commission in Malta fulfils this Mission by promoting the integral development of the person in the light of the Gospel and in line with the Social Doctrine of the Church.

It focuses on issues of justice and peace in the belief that personal and communal wellbeing can only be achieved in the context of just and peaceful relationships which respect the limits of our common home.

Our vision & hopes for society

A society in which the human dignity and the human rights of all – and especially those of the most vulnerable – are respected, and a culture of waste is replaced by a culture of encounter which helps us recognize each other as brothers and sisters.



**A politics characterized by
respectful dialogue,
truthfulness & justice**



**A more sustainable &
socially just economy**



**A culture of encounter
instead of a culture of
waste & indifference**



Highlight

In January 2022, the Commission launched a document called *Yahad* a term in Hebrew which conveys the sense of togetherness and community and which represents the Commission's vision for Maltese society.

It urges us to see how we can, as a country, work to build peace, promote the common good and improve the well-being of people, especially the most vulnerable.



After its publication, Yahad was presented to the Pope and a number of public personalities, including the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Leader of the Opposition.

What we do



Research

By understanding the root causes of injustice, we challenge all that threatens to undermine integral development and encourage all that builds a sustainable and inclusive future.



Media presence

Through our presence online and on traditional media, we highlight situations of injustice and encourage responsible participation.



Resources

We provide resources addressed at different audiences for prayerful reflection and discussion.



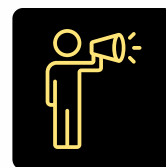
Outreach

Our outreach activities in the community seek to build awareness about social justice issues and create communities of hope and belonging.



Formation

By applying the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to pressing social justice issues, we seek to provide a moral compass on how to make present the justice and peace of God in our broken world.



Advocacy

In the years ahead, the Commission will explore ways of advocating for the establishment of right relationships in all spheres of society.

Research

- Behind the numbers

Reports in the media indicate that the largest number of workplace fatalities in Malta occur in the construction industry. A relatively large number of these affect disproportionately migrant workers. Other reports also indicate that a relatively large number of workers suffer serious injuries whilst working in this sector.

In 2022, the Commission started working on "Behind the numbers", a study which will seek to identify some of the underlying multidimensional economic, social and legal issues which help explain this tragic phenomenon, whilst recommending a way forward which fully respects the dignity of workers.

The findings of the study will be addressed primarily at key stakeholders in the construction industry and will be used as an advocacy tool which can be used to bring about the changes which are necessary to make the industry a safer one. Apart from policy recommendations, the final report will also include suggested follow-up activities with workers.

The report findings are expected to be released towards the end of 2023 and will also be used, in collaboration with interested stakeholders and civil society organizations, to raise awareness among the general population on the responsibility of everyone to ensure that the dignity of all workers is respected at all times and that policies, attitudes and structural economic factors that at present hinder the attainment of this goal, are identified and overcome.



Media presence

- Online presence

In 2022, the Commission strengthened its online presence by launching a [YouTube channel](#) and a [monthly newsletter](#).

A social media campaign was also organized to raise awareness around the social justice issues surrounding the 2022 World Cup.

- Articles & press releases

Opinion articles on [voting participation](#), [lobbying](#) and [Yahad](#) were published in the Times of Malta and MaltaToday.

Press releases on [health and safety on construction sites](#), [rescue at sea](#) and the Commission's [reaction](#) to the 2023 Government Budget also featured in the local press.

- Podcasts

[aħseb u ara](#) was hosted by the Malta Catholic Youth Network and the Justice and Peace Commission. The main themes of Catholic Social teaching were discussed with young people.

To follow up on Pope Francis' visit to Malta, [rethink.mt](#) was launched as a space for respectful dialogue on complex issues shaping Maltese culture.

- TV / Radio

Commission representatives were invited as guests on various radio and television programmes.

These invitations were linked to the Pope's visit, the [Beyond GDP](#) project and other socio-economic and political issues such as migration and the promotion of a culture of peace.



Resources

- Paper on business ethics
- aħseb u ara

A joint paper by the Justice and Peace Commission and Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation (Malta) argues that the compartmentalization of ethics is not only unrealistic, but also harmful.

It therefore proposes a holistic approach to business ethics, which integrates that which should never be separated.

To accompany the *aħseb u ara* podcasts, a discussion guide was published.

This guide, is meant to be used during meetings with young people, and includes scripture readings, quotes from Catholic Social Teaching and questions for reflection.

- Yahad

- Lent 2022 resource pack

Resource pack which links *Yahad* reflections to Mass readings

- Called to care

Short workshops on active citizenship

aħseb u ara



Outreach

- **Sejjaħli b'Ismi**

An intercultural project commemorating the 20 year anniversary since the first major disembarkation of asylum seekers in Malta, was organized by Sejjaħli b'Ismi and JRS Malta in collaboration with the Justice and Peace Commission.

A series of dialogue sessions were held between migrants and the host community to discuss topics ranging from identity, love, fears and dreams.

An exhibition linked to this project was launched on the 11th of December in the Sacristy of St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta. A number of parishes and institutions of higher education will be hosting this exhibition during the first half of 2023.

- **Season of creation**

In September, the Commission organized an activity to celebrate the Season of Creation.

Around sixty people participated in this activity which was inspired by the figure of Saint Hildegard of Bingen. The half-day event, which was organized together with the Interdiocesan Environment Commission, explored the life and work of this Saint who stands out for her contribution to the development of eco-spirituality.

The event was held at the Benedictine Monastery of Saint Peter in Mdina and included workshops during which participants were able to discover Hildegard's contribution in the fields of writing, music, art and the appreciation of medicinal herbs.



Formation

• Conference on Ukraine

In the context of the war in Ukraine, the Commission organized a public lecture to explore ways in which Catholic Social Teaching sheds light on the responsibility of the international community to protect innocent lives from unjust aggression.

The keynote speech was delivered by Fr René Micallef SJ, an Associate Professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

• Educators

Inspired by the vision outlined in *Yahad*, the Commission organized a series of workshops for St Aloysius College educators.

During these meetings, participants appreciated having a space to share with each other their experiences, dreams and frustrations in the field of active citizenship and how all this can and should be linked to our Christian faith.

• Parishes

Over eight weeks, the themes of the Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* were discussed with the parish community in Marsaskala. Each meeting included a short lecture, prayer and time for discussion.

A similar initiative took place in Mosta, and was delivered to parents attending the parish Sunday School.

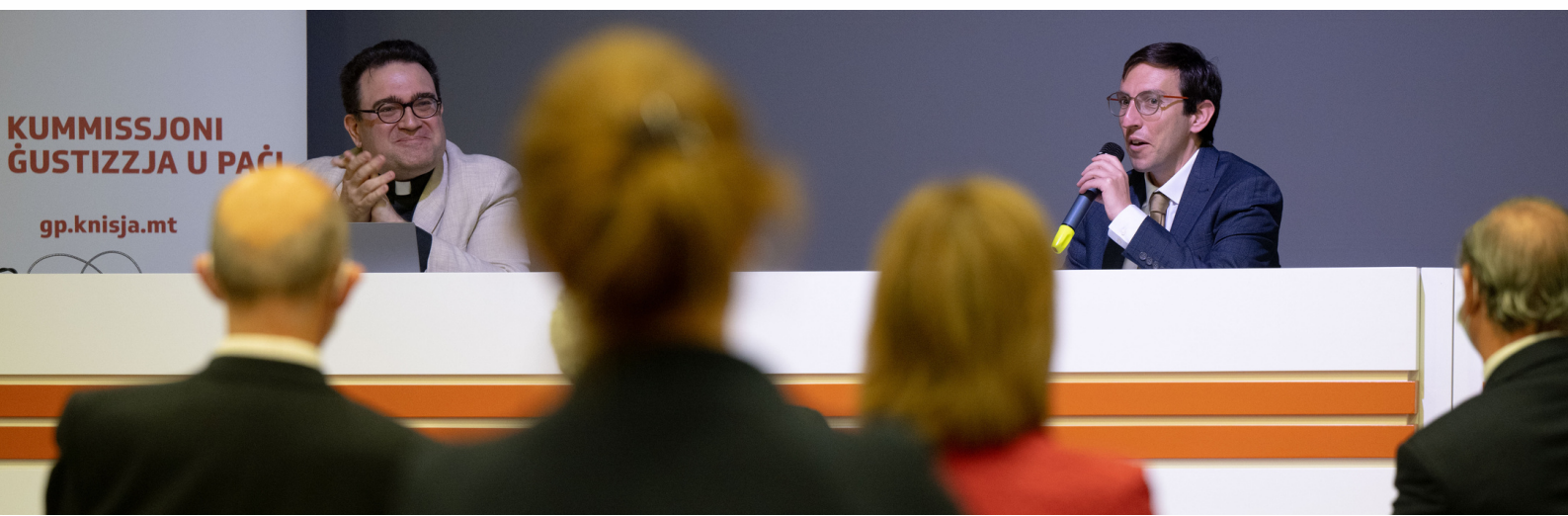
Both these courses were organized in collaboration with the Centre for Ignatian Spirituality.

• Other

The Commission was invited by the Capuchins (Kalkara) to deliver workshops on active citizenship to youths and young adults.

Talks on political participation were also delivered during a Carmelite Institute seminar on “A spirituality for Christian political engagement” and as part of a series of meetings on the Acts of Mercy as depicted by Caravaggio.

Daniel Darmanin was also invited by the Gozo Business Chamber to deliver a keynote speech on sustainable development.



Justice & Peace Europe

As in previous years, the local Commission actively contributed to the life and mission of the network of more than 30 national Commissions which together form the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions.

The 2022 international workshop and annual general meeting (AGM) was held in Assisi and focused on the themes of peace, integral ecology and synodality. During this meeting, it was also announced that the 2023 international workshop and AGM will be held in Malta and will focus on "The changing world of work: a transversal justice issue".

Throughout the year, as a member of the Justice and Peace Europe executive committee, Daniel Darmanin attended various planning and strategic meetings. From the 10th to the 13th of November, he also participated in an eco-spirituality workshop which was held in Taize, and which was organized by Justice and Peace Europe together with the other partners in the European Laudato Si Alliance.

Towards the end of the year, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, the network also published an important position paper on Truth and Justice: the pillars of post-war justice.





JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION



gustizzjaupaci@maltadiocese.org



jp.church.mt



Justice and Peace Commission (Malta)



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