

29 November 2022

**44 NGOs, Organisations, Groups and Associations  
together with  
Former President of the Republic Marie Louise Coliero Preca  
endorse the Group of 80 Experts Proposal**

**Appeal to Government to redraft the amendment tabled in Parliament to articles 241 and 243 of the Criminal Code, and not open the door for the introduction of abortion.**

We the hereunder NGOs, Organisations, Groups, and Associations, together with Former President of the Republic Marie Louise Coliero Preca and her husband Edgar Preca have come together to appeal to Government to take note of the concerns raised by the Group of 80 Experts and the public at large and accept to redraft the amendment to articles 241 and 243 of the Criminal Code presented in Parliament, and which as proposed, opens the door for the introduction of abortion be replaced with the proposed amendment presented by the Group of 80 Experts.

The Group of 80 Experts concluded that the amendment put forward by the Government opens the door for legal abortion in our country as it does not only speak of instances where the woman is at risk of dying but opens the door to other health related instances that do not put the life of the mother at risk of dying. This goes beyond the declared intention of Government when presenting this amendment, and the 30 organisations remind Government that as confirmed by the Prime Minister, the Government does not have a mandate to introduce Abortion in Malta

The Group of 80 inter-disciplinary experts in clinical medicine, gynecology and obstetrics, health sciences, midwifery, law, psychology, well-being, social policy, family studies, philosophy, ethics and theology provided an alternative amendment that ensures that the law complies with the dignity of the human person and the human rights deriving therefrom, in particular, the fundamental right to life of the woman and the unborn child, and the right to legal certainty, in relation to the situation where a pregnant woman's life is in manifest danger of death or where a real and substantial risk to her life exists from a physical illness.

We therefore endorse the proposed clause and appeal to the Government to adopt this version in Parliament:

*No crime is committed under article 241(2) or article 243 when the death or bodily harm of an unborn child results from a medical intervention conducted with the aim of saving the life of the mother where there is a real and substantial risk of loss of the mother's life from a physical illness.*

## **The endorsing NGOs, Organisations, Groups and Associations**

The Former President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca & Edgar Preca

Augustinian Youths  
Azzjoni Kattolika  
Caritas Malta  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal  
Catholic Voices Malta  
Church Schools Association (CSA)  
Christian Life Community (CLC) Malta  
Dar Merhba Bik  
Doctors for Life  
Eucharistic Youth Movement Malta  
Fondazzjoni Sebħ  
Forum tal-Ghaqdiet u Movimenti Kattolici tal-Lajci  
Gozo Aid for the Visually Impaired  
Gozo Association for the Deaf  
Great Oak Malta Association  
I See Life  
Kamra ta' L-Ispizjara ta' Malta  
Knisja Evangelika Battista  
Kummissjoni Gustizzja u Paci  
Legion of Mary  
Life Network Foundation  
Malta Catholic Youth Network  
Malta House of Prayer  
Malta Unborn Child Platform  
Maltese Jesuit Community  
MFOPD  
Mission Fund  
Moviment ta' Cana  
Muscular Dystrophy Group Malta  
National Council for Women  
National Parents Society of Persons with Disability (NPSPD)  
New Humanity Movement, Malta (Focolare Movement, Malta)  
Pietre Vive  
Salesians of Don Bosco  
Secretariat for Catholic Education  
Segretarjat Assistenza Socjali (AKM)  
Socjeta M.U.S.E.U.M Nisa  
Socjeta M.U.S.E.U.M Rġiel  
Sovereign Order of Malta  
St Jeanne Antide Foundation

The Evangelical Alliance of Malta  
Trinity Evangelical Church  
Youths for Christ  
Żgħażaġh Azzjoni Kattolika (ŻAK)