Dar Hosea

giving back women their dignity

Voicing the lived experience

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List of Abbreviations:

CAP International	Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution
CSA	Correctional Services Agency
DH	Dar Hosea
DV	Domestic violence
FSWS	Foundation for Social Welfare Services
GBV	Gender-based violence
GBDV	Gender-based domestic violence
MASW	Maltese Association of Social Workers
MCH	Mount Carmel Hospital
MDH	Mater Dei Hospital
MPs	Members of Parliament
MSPC	Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
RENATE	Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation
SCSA	Social Care Standards Authority
UM	University of Malta
VOs	Voluntary Organisations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through this annual report for the year 2025, we showcase the various services, works and projects carried out during the year. We present our extended family of staff, volunteers and professional people who dedicated their time and energy to our cause, whilst also shining a light on the service users who remain the fulcrum of our work.

Since the first day of operations, in 2013, Dar Hosea's (DH) mission has always been that of assisting women and girls who are sexually exploited, human trafficked or in vulnerable situations, which could lead to their abuse, to find a place of refuge and to find help to regain their dignity and self-respect. As we continue to work towards this goal, we look back on 2025 with a heart full of gratitude for all the work done to fulfil this mission.

Moreover, this annual report highlights the various works that we have carried out in relation to research, awareness and advocacy. Despite always being part of our services, giving a voice to our service users in public arenas has become imperative not only to allow people to be more empathic and possibly help in their reintegration into society, but even more so to inform policy makers of the true realities these women face. We hope that this will ensure that policies are shaped in ways that truly assist them and empower them to live a dignified life, rather than glamourising the industry and hiding the realities of coercion and abuse that these women face.

A word of thanks

We start this report by thanking all the donors who, year after year, keep on supporting us with financial resources, donations in kind, as well as time and energy. Be it individuals, companies or other entities, their contributions allow us to remain a constant presence in the lives of the women and girls who seek our assistance, and for this, we are eternally grateful.

Our people

All the work carried out during the year would not have been possible without our extended team of staff, be it paid employees or volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to provide various services required around DH. Guided by the long-term planning developed by the management committee, our team continues to provide a variety of services.

In 2025, Dar Hosea employed four employees, including a Leader of Services, two social workers and a student social worker. Given their knowledge and experience in the field, these employees ensured that each woman who enters DH or is assisted within the community by our team is cared for with love and dignity. In 2025, we were also blessed with 67 volunteers, who have made it possible for us to extend our services considerably, especially when considering the limitations faced by such a small team of employees. Bringing in a variety of expertise, availability, talents and passions, these volunteers dedicated an overall of **5,302 hours** to DH throughout the year. Their work varied from running our charity shop, preparing warm meals in the drop-in centre, providing medical assistance, or helping with maintenance, just to mention a few. Moreover, this year we were also blessed with 8 volunteers to make up our research arm, who, in tandem with the marketing and advocacy team, made it possible to work on more advocacy and awareness sessions and activities. It is worth noting that all volunteers are provided with information sessions and training, even if they are not in direct contact with the women themselves. This is because we want to ensure that all people helping out at DH have the same non-judgemental and open mindset to love and empower our women. Apart from training, other activities were also organised for our employees and volunteers, enabling them to meet and connect and feel like they belong to a bigger entity, a caring extended family rather than simply for the service they give. This reflects our firm belief that all those entering Dar Hosea, be it employees, volunteers or service users, become part of our extended family.



Our service users

To us, the women we come in contact with are not simply beneficiaries of our services; rather, they are like mothers, sisters and daughters to us, and as much as possible, we try to impart the love and care that many of them have failed to receive since their childhood.

Many of the women who seek our services share a common history of abuse and manipulation, often being groomed into prostitution from a very young age, sometimes by people close to them. Having witnessed violence so early on in their lives, many of them find it difficult to see a different future, whilst others would have become unable to trust, having been betrayed by their family members or partners (for example, in the case of girls who have been coerced into prostitution through the lover-boy tactic).

Such harsh realities undermine the dignity and self-love of the women, often leading them to believe that they are somewhat at fault for what happens to them. Working with these women goes beyond providing them with their immediate needs, such as food or a place to rest, but rather involves treating them with love, respect and dignity, journeying with them through the ups and downs towards internal healing.

Whilst acknowledging the importance of keeping track of the number of women assisted, as presented below, we cannot stress enough that for us every woman who walks into DH is a unique individual, with her own unique trajectory towards healing and reintegration into society, important in her own right.

In 2025, we assisted 144 individuals, 129 being women and 15 accompanying children. The women we assisted were reached as follows:

Cohort reached	Number
Women visiting the drop-in centre	54
Women reached through other external activities	63
Women visited within the community	12

The 54 women who visited the drop-in centre tallied 5,122 hours of attendance in 2025. Moreover, our staff recorded 2,985 hours of interventions varying from phone calls to accompanying women to appointments, to visiting service users outside Dar Hosea in either their homes or other institutions, such as Mater Dei Hospital (MDH) or Mount Carmel Hospital (MCH).

Our services

This report outlines the numerous activities and services that were provided in 2025, in line with our mission specified above. All services remain service user centric, making sure that the assistance given is in line with whatever the woman or girl needs at that moment and that will ultimately help in the long-term care plan to regain independence and control over their lives.

The major service we operated in 2025 was the drop-in centre, being a low-threshold centre open from 9:00 – 17:30 (Monday to Friday), where the women can come to rest, have a meal, shower and wash their laundry, amongst others. The drop-in centre often acts as a first point of contact for the women with our team and social workers. Once the basic needs are seen to, the social workers will assess the situation, and if the service user is open to it, they will commence the co-designing of a long-term care plan, involving both the social worker and a key contact person, who follow the woman throughout her journey, providing a constant point of support.

In 2025, we also offered services within the community, visiting service users in their own residences, in hospitals, in rehabilitation programmes, as well as in the Correctional Services Agency (CSA). By visiting these women periodically, we sought to maintain the connection and communication channels open, to ensure that they come back to us if needed, instead of reverting to life on the streets.

We also organised a number of activities and regular outings open to women who visit the drop-in centre, as well as to those with whom we connect with in the community. These events served as a fun activity whereby staff and volunteers, together with service users, could interact in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Advocacy and awareness raising activities: Voicing the lived experience

As outlined at the start of this summary, this report gave prominence to the various research, advocacy and awareness campaigns carried out in 2025.

The team at DH attended a number of conferences around the themes of gender-based violence (GBV) and human trafficking, representing the voice of our service users. We were also speakers on numerous panels, using such spaces to tell the stories of our women who find it hard to speak about their realities, given the shame and stigma associated with it and given the fact that many times they are left unseen or unwanted within the communities.

In 2025, we also organised two public events; namely the launch of a short movie we had commissioned, "Lilna ħadd ma jarana" (No one Sees Us) and a seminar entitled "Myths & Facts about Prostitution: The Business of Sexual Exploitation", which included the contribution of an American feminist psychologist Dr Melissa Farley who has carried out extensive research on prostitution and trafficking.

Our team also carried out a number of in-person awareness sessions in schools as well as the University of Malta (UM), whilst also participating in several interviews as part of Master's and Doctoral level dissertations. This is in line with our belief that there needs to be more research and data collection in this field, to ensure that policy is data-driven and evidence-based, rather than based on anecdotes or feelings of policy makers.

In order to inform the general public, we used both traditional media, like radio programmes and newspaper articles, as well as social media platforms, to bring greater awareness about the stories of our service users and services. Moreover, in 2025, we launched a new Facebook page, "Jien mhux għall-Bejgħ", (I'm Not for Sale) being a dedicated space for our advocacy and marketing material. As part of the 16 days of activism, our marketing team created daily posts giving quotes from the women we assist outlining the dark realities of prostitution. In addition, on the 30th of July 2025, on World Day against Trafficking in Persons, we published a press release calling for: (i) stronger protection for women in prostitution; (ii) the criminalisation of the buyers; and (iii) providing real alternatives for those seeking to exit the industry.

We also met a number of policy makers to ensure that we influence the authorities to bring the needed structural changes in the policies surrounding prostitution. Amongst others, we met with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality, Hon. Rebecca Buttigieg, the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Hon. Minister Michael Falzon, as part of the Homelessness Network, the MP Hon. Bernard Grech, as well as two meetings with the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee. We also held a meeting with other NGOs, with the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (GBDV) commissioner and attended numerous events organised by foreign embassies. Dar Hosea was also part of the roundtable discussion with the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) as part of the Council of Europe.

In 2025, Dar Hosea remained present and active on some platforms and networks such as the Homelessness Network, the Antipoverty Forum, the Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International) and the Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE), amongst others. Such groups have allowed us to expand our knowledge, expertise and networking with multidisciplinary teams, giving us the opportunity to provide a more holistic service.

Finally, in 2025, members from our team have been nominated and, in some cases, won awards of recognition for their hard work in this field. We are proud of our team members and the work they do in our organisation. Furthermore, such recognition also sheds light and increases awareness on the work being done by DH.

Finances

As per good governance practices, our annual accounts have been audited by a firm engaged by the Association of Friends of Thouret and submitted to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (VOs) as required to ensure compliance.

Apart from the funds made available internally, and those raised through the charity shop, in 2025, we were blessed with a number of donations, financial and in kind, by different schools, parishes, corporations and individuals. All of this has enabled us to continue offering the best possible service and a place of rest and safety to our women.

In addition, in 2025, our team continued to apply for funds for specific projects, whilst also implementing some of the projects that grants had been applied for in 2024. These projects included: (i) the launch of the short film “Lilna ħadd ma jarana”, (Nobody Sees Us) funded by the Academy of Givers; (ii) the artistic collaboration with DH service users "Isma' u Għ(id)li" (Listen and Tell Me) funded through Erasmus+ & European Solidarity Corps; (iii) a research project funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands in relation to policy and prostitution; and (iv) research being carried out in relation to demand for prostitution, funded by the GBDV Commission.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we look back on 2025 with gratitude towards all our staff, volunteers, donors and benefactors who have helped us be a 'home' to our service users. Moreover, we thank God for giving us the courage, energy and providence to persevere in work which is not always easy or straightforward. Spurred on by the conviction that we are not doing this alone, we remain committed to assisting the women who seek our help, to provide them with immediate assistance as well as long-term help in finding alternate ways of making a living, whilst rediscovering their true identities, and their right to be loved and cared for. We will continue working hard to abolish prostitution as well as the glamourisation of this industry. Despite being an ambitious goal, we will continue to work so that every woman is free from coercion. We believe that our work only be finished until no woman is ever forced to sell her body and endure abuse and violence simply to survive. We will keep on working till we have a world free from violence, trafficking and prostitution.

A WORD OF THANKS

All the work featured in this annual report would not have been possible were it not for the numerous benefactors who generously donated their time, energy, monetary resources or other donations in kind. Such donations have enabled us to continue providing our services both within the drop-in centre and in the community.

We therefore would like to start by thanking all the organisations and individuals who donated towards our cause in 2025 and with eternal gratitude to God who has given us the fortitude to keep on pushing forward and provided the needed assistance to our service users for yet another year. Each and every donation is deeply appreciated, and great care is taken to ensure that the resources received are used efficiently and effectively, ensuring good governance of funds and resources. In this way, we make sure that we truly maximise the impact of such donations to meet the service users' needs.

What we received is not only material help which enables us to keep our doors open for the women who need us most, but also an indication of the trust and support that these businesses and individuals have in us as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and in the work we carry out on a daily basis. This support is extremely important to our mission and helps us to persevere even when the work and its challenges become difficult to sustain.

The donations received not only help us to ensure the day-to-day running of our services and carrying out the necessary maintenance in the drop-in centre, but they also help in campaigns we carry out to raise awareness and to continue our advocacy work, giving a voice to our service users in numerous fora, where their viewpoints would otherwise not be considered. Through such activities, we aim to reduce the stigma and stereotypes around women in prostitution, raise awareness of the challenges and trauma such women face, as well as the gender-based violence (GBV) they encounter. Hence, your donations help us to continue doing this very important work, which we feel is equally as important as helping our service users in their daily needs.

For all the above, we thank every one of our benefactors. The full list can be found on page 13. We would also like to thank a number of individuals who contributed but would rather remain anonymous.

We also take the opportunity to thank especially the Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights (MSPC) for always backing our operations and supporting our cause through their ongoing assistance, both financial and otherwise. We are very grateful for the increase in financial aid in 2025, which allowed us to pay the salaries of one of our social workers, through the Public Social Partnership (PSP). This not only helps us in the work we carry out, but also shows the trust the Ministry has in our organisation and our work.

Benefactors

A Drop in the Ocean

Academy of Givers

Antonio Piscopo Wines & Spirits

Attard Bros

AutoUnion Car Rental Malta

Bad Boy Cleaning Services Unit

BRND WGN

Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP)

Collinson Group

Commission on Gender Based Domestic Violence

Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Charity

Djakonija – Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta

Eden Leisure Group

EUPA Malta - Erasmus+ & European Solidarity Corps: Isma' u Għ(id)li Project

Farsons Group

Female. Community

Festivals Malta

FSWS - Sedqa

Garnish Malta

GoPeeko Limited

HSBC Bank Malta

Ibraġġ Parish

Knisja tal-Erwieħ, Tarxien

Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Santa Marija, Għaxaq

Malta Food Agency

Malta International Airport

Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights

Motors Inc Ltd.

Move for Meals Malta

Moviment tal-Fokolari

MRC Middle School Naxxar

Oratorju MSSP

Parroċċa Familja Mqaddsa, Iklin

Qaddejja taċ-ċenaklu

RT Haus Salon

Salvo Grima Group

SG Management Services Ltd

Sisters of Charity of St Joan Antide, Malta

Splash and Fun Water Park

St George's Basilica

St Joan Antide College School

St Paul's Missionary College

Toys for Tots

University of Malta

UnWasted Clothing

Youth Services Malta within the Directorate Alternative Care (FSWS)

INTRODUCTION

What do we stand for?

Dar Hosea

Dar Hosea (DH) has been operating for over a decade within the framework of the Association, Friends of Thouret. The latter is an NGO operating under the auspices of the Sisters of Charity of St Joan Antide. The initial plans and discussions for DH had started way back in 2013, with its doors officially opening in May 2014.

At DH, we offer a variety of services which all aim to support women and girls who are or were in prostitution, are actual or potential victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation or any other woman who might be caught up in such systems. The main service offered is that of a drop-in centre, yet the dedicated staff and volunteers also offer a variety of other ancillary services both within the centre itself as well as by accompanying the women and girls to appointments in the community and other institutions, in an attempt to re-instil dignity and self-love within these women.

Over the years, our operations and interventions have always been guided by the overarching mission, namely that of assisting all women who we come in contact with, aiming to provide them with hope, self-dignity and the support they need and request. By offering them a physical and emotional safe space, we strive to make them feel loved and accepted, allowing them to take the first steps towards healing and self-love. We aim to accompany these women in the complex life-journeys which they find themselves in, irrespective of age, nationality, socio-economic status and religion.

Our ethos is that of meeting the women where they are at and together with them exploring alternative lifestyles, which help in empowering them and restore a sense of humanity and dignity to their lives. Through the provision of basic needs (e.g., food and clothing), as well as other services such as educational programmes and job support, DH aims to provide them with the necessary skills to be resilient and be able to take back control of their narratives and follow their dreams.

The above raison d'être of the organisation is further outlined in the name chosen, 'Dar Hosea'. This name, chosen from the Old Testament, aims to further consolidate the focus of the organisation on restoring dignity to the women who have been used and abused in society. The Book of Hosea (which in Hebrew means 'salvation') speaks of a prophet whom God asked to "[go] and marry a harlot. Love her and give her back her lost dignity" (Chapter 2). Therefore, through the various works at DH, we aim to help each woman regain her dignity, by reconnecting with herself and helping her rediscover her authentic self, which she might have buried over the years as a defence mechanism to survive the exploitation she had had to endure. We believe that by providing such non-judgemental and compassionate care, the women can reconnect with themselves, regain their ability to reintegrate into the community and forge an alternative path forward.

Our focus in the year 2025

This report outlines the major work and activities carried out in 2025, both within the drop-in centre and beyond. The aim of this report is to showcase the services, activities and results we managed to achieve over this year. It also highlights who our service users are and provides a statistical overview of the number of women assisted. In addition, this year's annual report zooms in on the advocacy and awareness programmes carried out during the year as indicated in greater detail in "Advocacy and awareness campaigns: Voicing the lived experience".

Ever since DH opened its doors in 2014, the team has always acknowledged that the role of DH should go beyond that of supporting the women with their current needs and their own personal journeys. Rather, we carry the wider duty of being their voice within a society which often looks at them with judgement and contempt.

2025 was a year in which this role was highlighted and amplified through numerous activities, events and research projects, both with the general public as well as the policy makers. We believe that to ensure the full reintegration of these women in society, the views of the public need to change. Moreover, as discussions on policies around prostitution persist, we want to make sure that the real needs and rights of our service users are safeguarded and that policy changes are truly a result of evidence-based studies and research and a reflection of the true lived experiences.

Moreover, greater awareness of DH's services could also help in the prevention of further 'victims' and trafficking, whilst enabling women who might be caught up in such cycles to come forward and seek help.





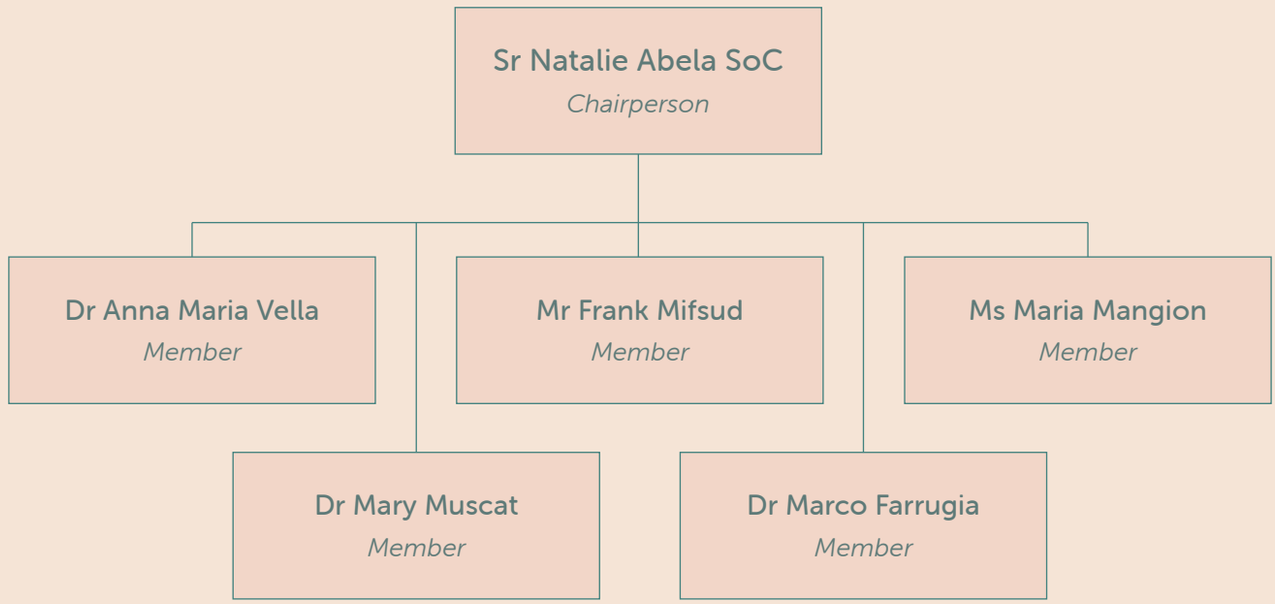
OUR PEOPLE AT DAR HOSEA

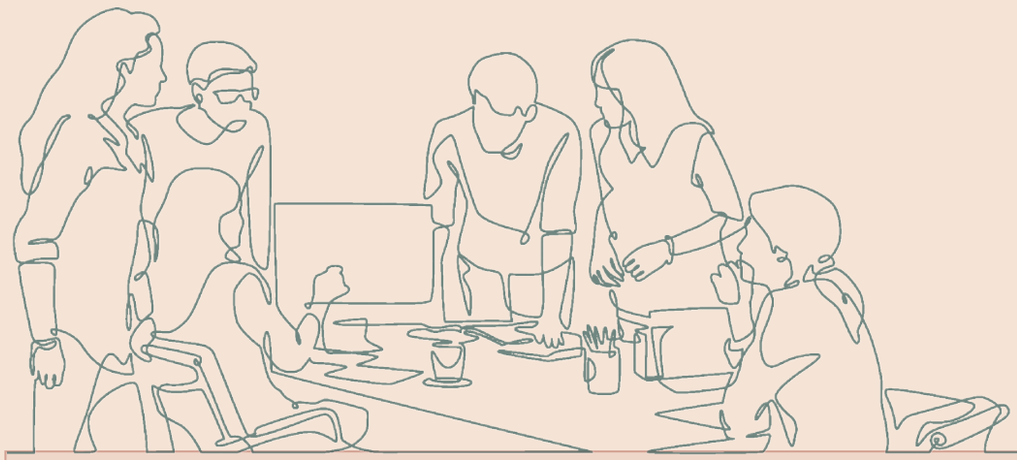
The Management Committee

DH is registered as a voluntary organisation (VO) with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, under the VO number 1365. As described above, DH joined the Association of Friends of Thouret in 2017, operating under the auspices of the Sisters of Charity, and is governed by a management committee which oversees its operations to ensure good governance.

The composition of the committee as illustrated below is composed of a chairperson and five members, who provide their services on a voluntary basis. The management committee brings together professionals with extensive experience in the field, with a couple of the members having been present in the founding management committee. This composition not only allows the committee to make informed decisions based on a wealth of knowledge and expertise, but it also ensures that there is continuity in the operations of the NGO. The Head of Services, namely, Ms Maria Borg Pellicano is an ex officio member of the Committee.

In 2025, the committee held monthly two-hour meetings during which the members discussed both strategic issues of the organisation, as well as long-term challenges, aims and objectives. Such frequency of meetings allows the committee members to keep abreast of the operational side of DH, whilst also planning the long-term strategy of the NGO. This ensures that the executive meetings are not just a tick-the-box exercise, but a true guiding compass for the NGO and its staff.





Our Team

For DH to operate and provide the vast array of services to the women, we bring together a wide multidisciplinary team, which includes paid professionals as well as a good number of volunteers who, with passion and great commitment dedicate time and energy, ensuring that our service users always find a welcoming home and a family-like environment. The vast expertise, talents and knowledge of every single person who helps out at DH allows us to meet our clients' needs in the most caring and holistic way possible.

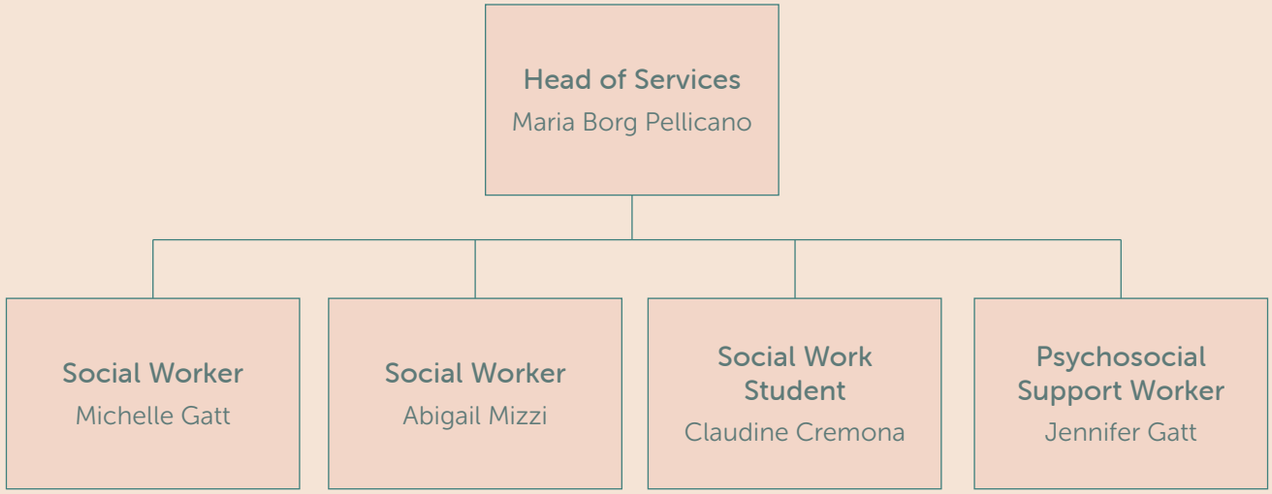
our staff members

In 2025, DH had 5 paid staff members, as indicated in the organisational chart below. Maria Borg Pellicano, the Head of Services, coordinated staff members and volunteers and was responsible for the running of the home including all other services provided outside the drop-in centre. She was supported by three social workers, one of whom was a student worker. Towards the end of 2025, a Psychosocial Support Worker joined the team. Despite being a small team, the staff members work tirelessly to ensure that DH remains a warm and welcoming home.

Through close communication and collaboration, the team supports each other even when the work itself is difficult and complex, especially given the realities faced by the women who require our services. By liaising closely with the team of volunteers, the staff also ensure that DH does not remain only a service, but a place of comfort and refuge.

The team does its utmost to be present and available for all women, starting from intake, throughout their time at the drop-in centre and/if they are visited outside. Staff members remain available to the service users, flexibly and consistently, especially when keeping in mind how fluid and constantly changing many of the circumstances of the women are. Yet our team remains dedicated to supporting these women, whatever their needs might be.

Apart from being there for the service users and ensuring the smooth running of the service, in 2025 the staff members also played a major role in awareness raising campaigns and advocacy projects that were presented in a variety of conference and events, were on panels and organised in person awareness raising sessions to represent our women and retell their true stories. They made sure that they were present in a variety of fora to ensure that our women's voices were heard and taken into account by the general public, and even more importantly by the policy makers.



blessed with numerous volunteers

Despite the strong dedication and commitment that our paid staff bring to DH every day, the small size of the team limits the amount of work they can realistically manage on their own. For this reason, the support and contributions of the many volunteers involved in DH remain essential to sustain and expand our work.







As indicated in the table below, in 2025, 47 volunteers were involved in our activities, bringing a range of expertise, skills, talents, passions, as well as time availability, which, when put together, allowed DH to offer a variety of services, guidance and support to the women who seek our help. Ranging from offering a warm cup of tea to our service users, to other volunteer meetings to regularly pray for our cause, each member of the volunteering team plays a key role in our services, albeit very different.

We therefore take the opportunity to thank all the individuals who in their various ways have helped DH to remain true to its mission. We feel truly blessed to have such generous people on our team and we thank God for them every day. The table below illustrates the number of volunteers per team and the number of hours they have dedicated to DH in 2025.

Volunteering Team	Number of volunteers	Number of contact hours dedicated
Directly work with women (drop-in centre)	23	1,599
Administration	2	420
Maintenance and errand activities	1	400
Charity shop	10	2,808
Marketing/Advocacy	5	500
Prayer and adoration coordination	2	15
Professionals offering pro bono services	6	70
Management Committee	6	24
Research	8	100

first point of contact

In tandem with our staff members, our volunteers ensure that DH always offers a safe and homely space where these women can come and rest, even if just for a few hours, from the perilous lives they lead on the streets.

Our volunteers make sure that there is always someone who welcomes these women at the door, offer a cup of coffee or tea, an ear to listen, a homemade comforting and nutritious meal or a helping hand with day-to-day tasks such as doing one's laundry. Moreover, they always make sure that no birthday, achievement or possible celebration goes unnoticed. DH aims to offer a family-like feeling and therefore each milestone of both the women and their accompanying children is celebrated with great enthusiasm, to ensure that they feel like they belong, something which unfortunately could feel alien to such women who might have been abused, rejected and abandoned time and time again in their lives. Hence, these celebrations are not simply a way of marking milestones, but even more so a demonstration of love and affection.

All the above are conducive to building relationships and bonds between our service users and volunteers. Many times, our staff and volunteers are one of the few constants in these women's lives, and therefore, over time, they often start to open up to them in terms of what they face, their fears and struggles. Such conversations are not easy for both parties, and for this reason, we make sure that our volunteers are well trained on how to handle them to make sure that they can offer the women the non-judgemental support they would need.

self-care services

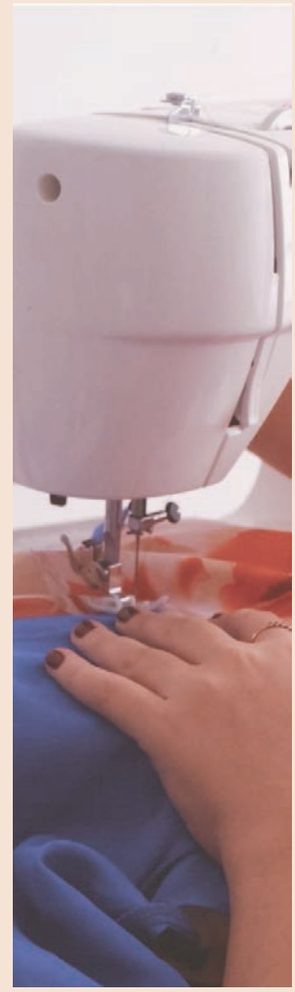
Our volunteers also help women to take care of themselves physically, emotionally and psychologically. Helping them do the laundry, providing them with necessary clothing if needed, also giving them toiletries and the possibility to shower at DH ensures that our service users, especially those who live on the streets, have a place to tidy up and feel clean and taken care of.

Furthermore, we understand that one of the first steps for a woman to uplift her morale and feel good is to look good. For this reason, a professional hairdresser regularly visits DH to provide free services to the women. This is not to be seen as a petty, unnecessary service, but rather as a step towards making them feel dignified and beautiful.

Of course, apart from the external self-care, our work also involves assisting them to love and respect themselves, even internally. Hence, we offer one-to-one sessions with counsellors, psychotherapists and social workers to start on this journey of self-acceptance and self-love.

providing a creative outlet

The volunteers offer the women the possibility to engage in arts and crafts, if they so wish, by giving them the space and opportunity to be creative and busy themselves with such tasks. The women can discover talents and skills which they might not have known about, whilst helping them take their mind off the problems they might be facing, thereby offering small windows of solace. Such activities can be seen as an extension of formal therapy, whereby the women can express themselves through different means and modes, especially when finding it difficult to express their feelings verbally.



Two projects carried out in 2025 opened up the possibility for service users to engage in the arts. Our service users were offered two dance workshops as part of a wider project “Connecting Silent Voices”, whereby, together with the volunteers, our women explored how they could use dance to reconnect and express themselves through movement. On the other hand, a number of volunteers from the "Isma' u Għ(id)li" project offered a number of art workshops, in which our service users were invited to create art pieces, then later on in the year these were exhibited to the general public. Such activities also served to empower the women who saw their own creations being appreciated by others.

professional services team

At DH, we are also blessed with a number of professional individuals who offer their specialised services pro bono. This enables us to provide the women with a holistic care plan and cover services, which require more specialised expertise and knowledge, and which our service users would not be able to afford. These individuals include:







- a psychologist who helps our women in their healing journey;
- a midwife who supports our service users in sexual health education and give support to women who might be pregnant;
- a physician who makes visits and gives consultations, especially in relation to sexual health;
- a dentist who provides his service at his own clinic;
- a hairdresser who provides hairdressing services to the women.

We also have the support of a qualified senior social worker who provides supervision to our employees, to make sure that any events, feelings or emotions which might come to the surface as a result of their work at DH, are dealt with promptly. Professional supervision is regularly given both at one-to-one basis and in groups.

administrative team

Administrative work is an essential part of DH's operations. Staff members and volunteers ensure that all records are duly and adequately maintained so that the administrative team can provide the necessary documentation to relevant authorities (e.g., government entities, banks, and the NGO's management committee) when required. At the same time, it ensures that all information is accurately recorded, securely stored, and kept up to date for use in annual reports, funding applications and research initiatives, amongst others.

The team also oversees the annual renewal of the Social Care Standards Authority (SCSA) licence, a process that involves extensive documentation and ensures that the home remains compliant with health and safety requirements and operates within the legal framework. The team is also responsible for maintaining financial records and supporting fundraising initiatives that help sustain the organisation's services.

All retained data related to our service users, staff and/or volunteers is retained and maintained in full compliance with GDPR rules.

maintenance and errands team

The maintenance team plays an essential role in making sure the house remains a safe, welcoming, and well-functioning environment for our service users, staff and the volunteers. The team's main responsibilities include carrying out routine repairs, maintaining the building and its facilities, and addressing any issues that arise from time to time. Thanks to the maintenance team, we can ensure that the home continues to operate smoothly and provides a comfortable and dignified space where the women and girls can feel cared for and supported. In addition, this team also helps in running any errands for DH whenever needed, across the island.

charity shop team

DH's charity shop in Birkirkara is exclusively run by our volunteers and helps in raising funds to sustain our operations. Their work varies from collecting or accepting donations, organising, sorting and displaying the items in the shop as well as pricing and selling them.

Items vary from clothing, toys, books and household items. Running this charity shop not only helps in fund raising but also aligns with our values of sustainability, ensuring that the items are given a second life. By encouraging thrifting, we are helping to create a circular economy, encouraging people to spend less and decrease their carbon footprint. By providing good quality items at lower prices, we support those in need, providing them with the possibility of still shopping with dignity but at a fraction of the original price.



the research team

In the past year, DH has focused more on developing its research arm with volunteers assisting in this area. Having such support, we could further carry out research initiatives to inform our advocacy and awareness teams, ensuring that any recommendations made in the public and policy arena were evidence-based. Such local research has also helped in applying for funding and developing new project opportunities, since we managed to identify research gaps which are relevant to our area of work. Through their work, the team helps ensure that our services remain responsive, informed, and aligned with best practices.

marketing and advocacy team

Given the increased efforts on advocacy and awareness in 2025, this team was of utmost importance to getting our message across to the general public and policy makers. As the public debate continues to evolve around prostitution, with many pushing for a more liberal, free choice view, stating that prostitution is simply 'sex work', they are disregarding the trauma and abuse that is inherently part of it, we at DH continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the real, lived experiences of our service users are heard.

The marketing and advocacy team, also supported by the research team, have worked to bring more awareness amongst the general public about our services, as well as about our service users, in an attempt to start dismantling the misconceptions and biases the public holds for this cohort of women. In addition, the advocacy team continued to lobby with the government and the authorities to ensure that the rights and needs of our service users are safeguarded.

The team used a variety of channels to ensure that the right messaging reached a variety of audiences. These included social media platforms, newspapers and radio, as well as being present at conferences, amongst others.

prayers and adoration team

All the work that is described above would not have been possible were it not for the strength and perseverance we get from knowing that there is God supporting us and giving us the necessary strength to keep going even when the work becomes heavy and tough. A group of volunteers have been meeting monthly for adoration sessions since 2020. A coordinator organises regular adoration and prayer meetings for the intentions of all those people who come in contact with DH. For us, this team remains the motor behind all that we do.

support for our team members

Our staff members and volunteers continue to aid our service users to forge a future of dignity, but this does not come without challenges. The healing process is not a straightforward path, but rather, it involves challenges, setbacks and stumbling blocks which are often disheartening for both the service users as well as our personnel. Yet, we understand that our role is not to give up but rather to provide constant and unwavering support, whatever the setback might be. We acknowledge that this is extremely challenging for our team members and volunteers, and therefore, we provide a variety of support and training sessions to provide them with the necessary backing.

supervision, support and training to our team members

In 2025, we continued to provide supervision and psychological support to staff and volunteers who come in direct contact with our service users on a daily basis. We understand that the realities that the women live in might be difficult for staff and volunteers to process; seeing the aftermath of the abuse and distress that the women face whilst trying to support them is emotionally and psychologically taxing on the team members. For this reason, supervision is provided so that our people can be assisted through the emotions and feelings that crop up and not become overwhelmed. In 2025, approximately 62 hours of supervision was provided to our front liners.

Furthermore, monthly training sessions were provided to equip our team members with the skills and knowledge to face various situations which they might encounter when dealing with the women whom we assist. Providing our team with training in relation to trauma, mental health, conflict, addiction, resilience and other sensitive topics ensures that all our team members know how best to speak to the service users and how to handle various situations which might arise and which might be challenging to manage.

It is worth highlighting that all volunteers, whether in direct contact with the women or otherwise, are asked to attend information sessions and are trained appropriately in relation to our services so as to make sure that everyone is in line with our mission and ethos.

regular staff meetings

Given the complexity of the life experiences of our service users, diverse situations can arise from time to time, which might require crisis management, or a change in approach in the way we deal with particular situations. Besides, the realities of our service users might also change abruptly, without all our team members knowing. Therefore, in order to ensure that all the staff who come in contact with our women are fully up-to-speed with what is happening, monthly staff meetings are organised, so as to give updates, discuss ways forward for particular issues and make sure that the suggestions and recommendations coming from the women themselves are evaluated and taken on board, if possible. In 2025, 12 staff meetings were held (one every month), with each meeting spanning over 2 hours.

social events

DH is not only a drop-in centre but also a second home. This does not only hold true for our service users but also for our team members. By organising a variety of social events, we aim to create a sense of belonging for all staff members and volunteers. This is important to make sure that all our people feel valued and appreciated. For this reason, just like for our service users, we make sure to celebrate various milestones of our staff members as well. This creates a mutual relationship between all those frequenting the drop-in centre. In 2025, regular team-building events were carried out, including gatherings at DH as well as outings.

Our Service Users

The fulcrum of our work always remains that of supporting our service users, wherever they might be. Some women might come to us simply to shower and find somewhere to rest, others might be seeking more long-lasting guidance, whilst others still might be looking for a familiar face after a relapse. At whatever stage of their journey they might be in, we aim to support them and provide a safe and welcoming environment with open arms.

The ultimate aim is to encourage them to look forward to a different kind of future, whereby they can pursue their dreams and rediscover their own true selves. Yet, this is often a winding road, with ups and downs, successes and setbacks, so therefore we make it a point to journey it with them, at their own pace.

who are the women coming to Dar Hosea?

Despite the varying ages, realities and assistance needed, our service users tend to share a background of abuse and exploitation. Most of them would have been abused or pushed into prostitution from a very young age, sometimes by people closest to them, including family members.



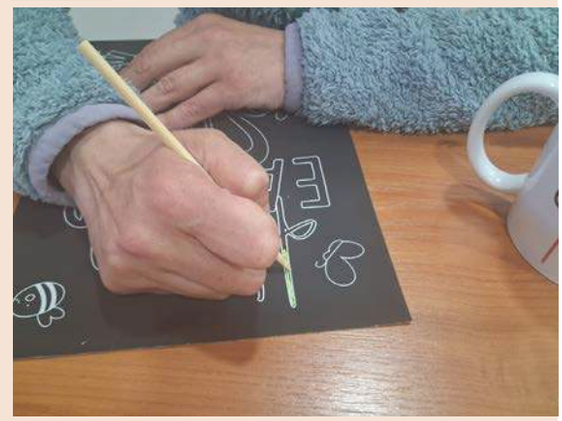
A number of them come from households where domestic violence was a frequent occurrence, with their mothers and/or themselves being the victims. Over the years, such violence has become somewhat normalised. Others would have been 'groomed' into prostitution, sometimes as young as twelve years of age, by either family members or other people close to them in whom they trusted. Other girls tend to fall victim to the 'lover boy' tactic, whereby pimps or traffickers pose as 'loving boyfriends', promising gifts and affection, often targeting girls who might be vulnerable or coming from difficult backgrounds. Once the girls start to trust them, through emotional, physical and psychological manipulation, the girls are forced into prostitution to earn their boyfriend money.

All of the above does not only lead the women into being emotionally and physically harmed through sexual and physical violence, but It also results in the women losing trust entirely in everyone and anyone, including themselves. Having been betrayed by the people closest to them leaves them with inexplicable traumas which they might carry intergenerationally.

Additionally, being a witness to such violence and abuse often leads to normalising such behaviour. We often encounter service users who have internalised the feeling that they do not deserve anything better, sometimes also blaming themselves for the circumstances they face. Unfortunately, many times, their intergenerational trauma makes it difficult, if not impossible, to see a way out of their current situations. Contrary to what one might believe, the stories of our service users indicate clearly that prostitution is never a free-willed choice, but rather a result of years of abuse, lack of self-love, direct manipulation, coercion and/or addiction.









As part of Silent Voices, a project exploring themes of sex trafficking and the experiences of women involved in prostitution, we had the privilege of collaborating with Dar Hosea. From the very beginning, their team was incredibly welcoming, open and supportive, embracing the project with genuine enthusiasm and care. We organised two movement workshops for the women they support, creating a safe and inclusive space for participation, creativity, and self-expression through artistic community practice. Dar Hosea also took part in a post-performance panel discussion, bringing invaluable insight and perspective to the conversation. Their contribution to the project was truly invaluable. As an organisation working closely with women on the ground, their knowledge, experience and deep understanding of the realities faced by the women they support helped shape and strengthen our approach. Their passion, dedication and commitment to advocacy were strongly evident throughout the process; inspiring both the participants and the creative team. Dar Hosea's community-driven, person-centred ethos aligned beautifully with the values of the project and our organisation, and their openness to collaboration allowed us to create a meaningful and empowering experience for everyone involved. Working with them was a genuine pleasure, and their partnership was instrumental to the success and impact of Silent Voices locally.



- **Julienne Schembri & Deborah Falzon**

Co-Founders and Co-Directors, Dance Beyond Borders

a project carried out in 2025



what path do they follow once they come in contact with us?

Every single service user has a different path which she follows at DH and beyond. This is because their needs and requirements vary depending on their past and current situations, financial position, housing arrangements and mental health, amongst other variables.

Through our work, we have come to realise that rather than imposing a set pathway for all, working hand in hand with the women and girls themselves to co-design a care-plan which suits them, their background and the realities they are facing, is usually far more effective.

intake

Some women are referred to us by other professionals, yet they need not be formally referred to DH. Others get to know about us by word of mouth or when someone mentions our services. They can simply walk into our drop-in centre and make use of our services, whatever they might require at the time. As a first step, the immediate needs are prioritised (e.g., food, showering, rest). Once the social worker identifies that the woman is ready to talk and in the right state of mind, she introduces the drop-in centre services, as well as other services (e.g., medical assistance) which the woman might find beneficial and starts the intake process.

a personalised care plan

Within the first hours of contact with a woman, our trained staff and volunteers start to lay the foundations to develop a relationship of trust and mutual respect. Given the above-mentioned trauma, emotional baggage, and repeated betrayal by people close to them, this is usually quite a challenging feat. Yet, our staff members have the expertise and knowledge to persevere and be present whenever these women need them.

Once the basic needs are met and the woman is open to start building a connection, the social worker introduces the practical use of a care plan, taking the discussion a little bit deeper. This discussion can take place a few hours after the official intake, but for some women, it could take days or even weeks before they would be in the right frame of mind and willing to have such a discussion.

Such a discussion would involve looking at past traumas, the presence of any addictions, the mental state of the service user, her housing situation, any risk factors, as well as the presence of children with her (if any). By looking at these and other relevant factors, the woman, together with the social worker, will design a personalised care plan on how to best proceed to improve the woman's quality of life. This could include further personal actions, referrals with other professionals, or decisions to be taken, all conducive to the start of her healing journey. The ultimate aim of the care plan is to empower the women to take control of their lives.





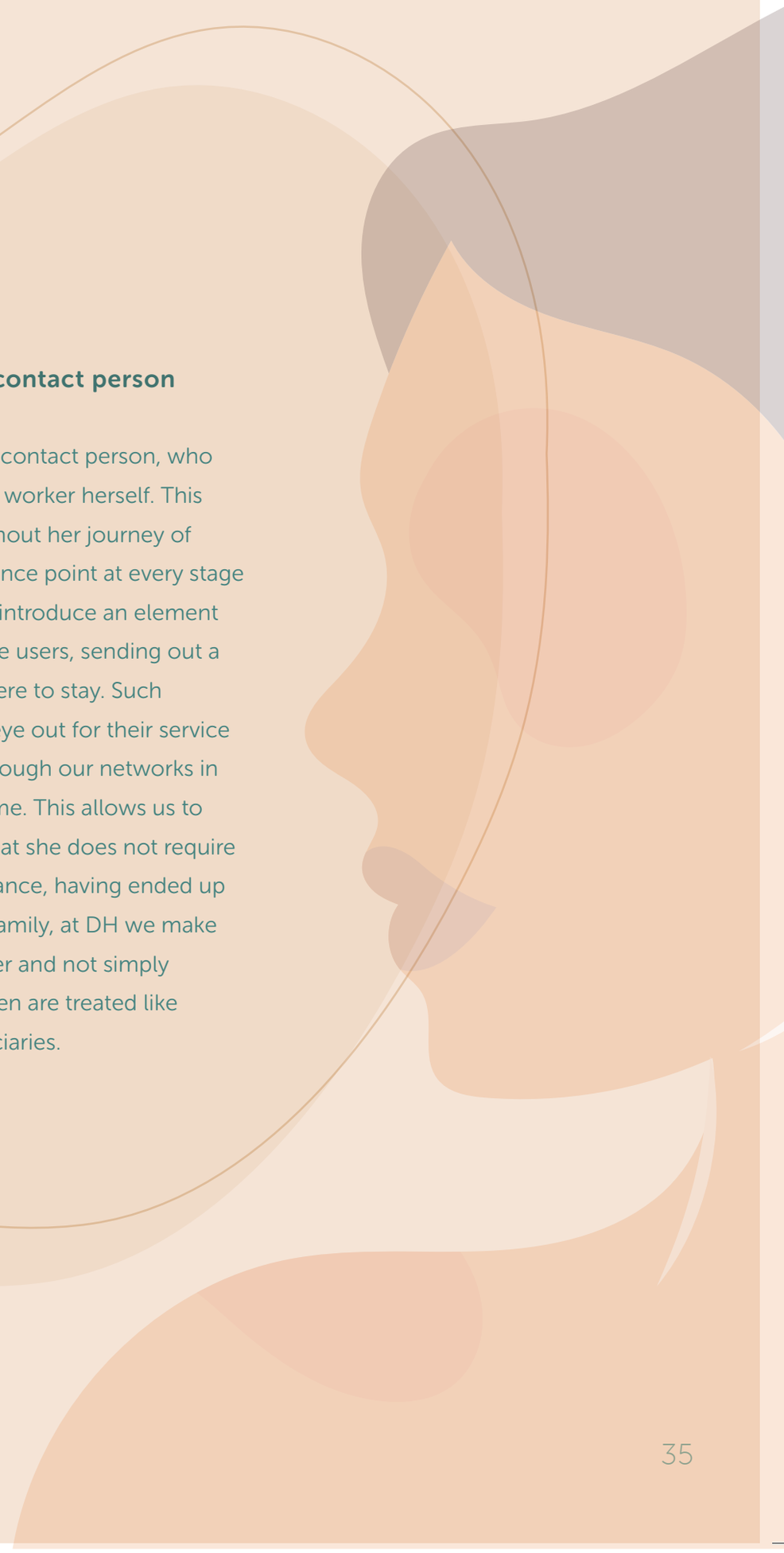


periodical revisions

Apart from co-designing the plan, it is revised periodically as circumstances in their lives change. Indeed, as already mentioned, the healing journey of our service users is neither linear nor incremental. Their lives are often characterised by instability and shifting contexts, some of which might assist their healing (e.g., joining a rehabilitation programme) or else undermine it (e.g., being taken to court or imprisonment). Meanwhile, their perpetrators and pimps often find ways to manipulate them, sometimes undoing months of progress. By acknowledging these changes and integrating them into the care plan, we make sure that the steps identified make sense within their current needs and contexts.

the importance of a key contact person

Each service user is assigned a key contact person, who might not necessarily be the social worker herself. This person follows the woman throughout her journey of recovery, being the constant reference point at every stage of the careplan. This enables us to introduce an element of stability to the lives of our service users, sending out a clear message that this person is here to stay. Such contact persons will also keep an eye out for their service users, making sure to reach out through our networks in case they lose contact for some time. This allows us to ensure that this person is ok and that she does not require any assistance outside DH, for instance, having ended up in hospital or prison. Just like in a family, at DH we make sure that we look out for each other and not simply provide a list of services. Our women are treated like family members not simply beneficiaries.

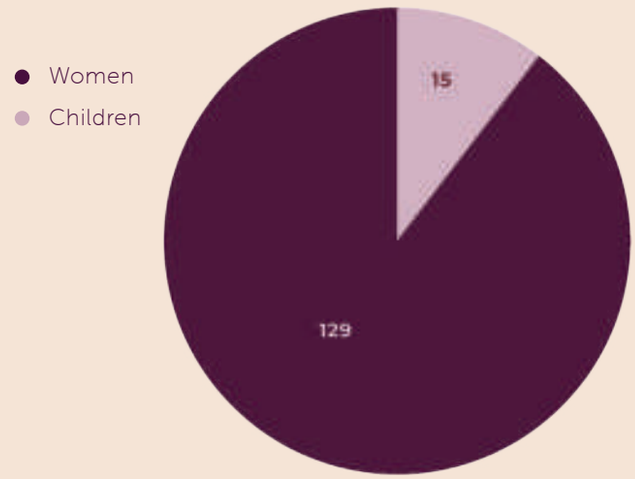


A Statistical Overview

This sub-section provides a summary of the number of individuals who came into contact with DH in 2025, as well as the number of hours of services provided and other statistical information. We acknowledge that these numbers are vital to understand how many people we are reaching and how effective our services might be. Yet, we also want to outline that, despite having been operating for over 10 years, every new woman who comes to our home is not just an additional statistic, but indeed, a heartbreaking story unique in its own right, with her dignity and individuality we always strive to celebrate.

In the past year, we again welcomed women who have been coming to DH for years, whilst others have come to know us this year and therefore are still in the first steps of their journey with us. We have seen women who have been progressing, others who might have passed through relapses or new challenges, whilst some service users have managed to become more independent but still visited us to either help or simply to come say hello to our staff or volunteers. This stands as testimony that DH is not only a service these women avail themselves of, but rather has become a family which they treasure and value.

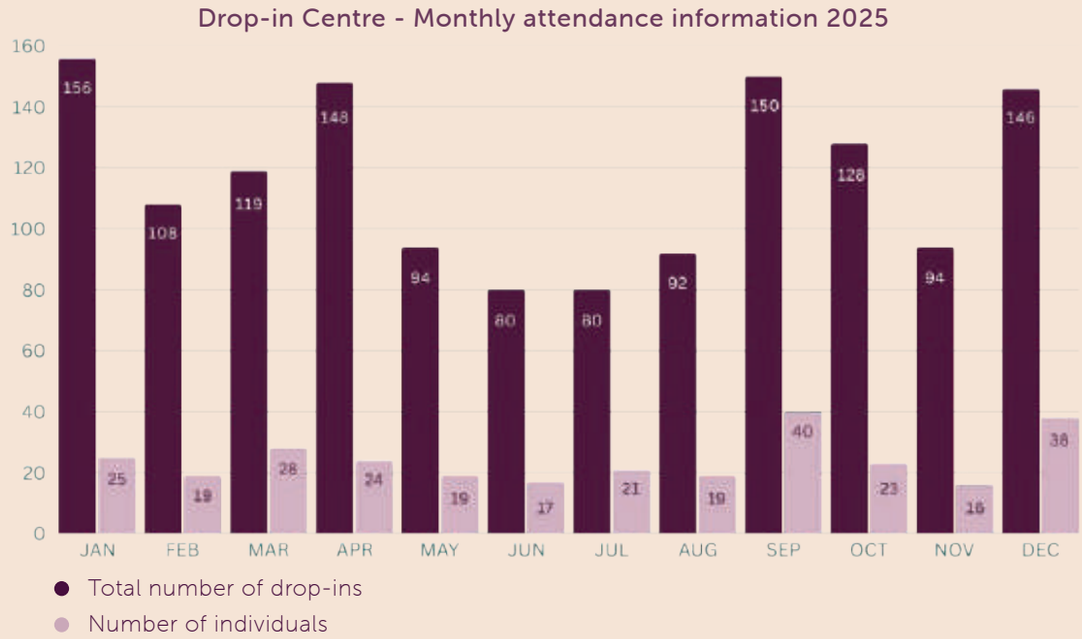
In 2025, **144 individuals** (women and children) were reached by our DH team. 129 of them were women and the remaining 15 were children accompanying their mothers for our services.



The total of 129 women reached by DH was split as follows:

Cohort reached	Number
Women visiting the drop-in centre	54
Women reached through other external activities	63
Women visited within the community	12

Focusing on the number of women coming to the drop-in centre (54 women), the following graph illustrates the monthly attendance. The blue columns illustrate how many visits there were per month, including repeat visitors in the same month. January was the month when the drop-in centre was the busiest, followed closely by September, April and December. The orange columns, on the other hand, illustrate the number of individuals who actually came to the drop-in centre per month. The highest number was recorded in September, with 40 service users. In 2025, **5,122 hours** of attendance were recorded within the drop-in centre.



Additionally, in 2025 our staff recorded **2,985 hours of interventions**[1], including phone calls to the service users, relatives or other professionals included in their care plan, sessions directly with the women, staff accompaniment for outside visits, including home visits or hospital visits as well as outreach visits.

[1] These hours do not include the hours of intervention by the volunteers. These have been included in the 'Our Team' section – p. 18

Our Services

As already mentioned, assisting women in prostitution or who might be at risk is not a simple 'one service' process, but rather a complex mosaic, unique to each client, which takes time and patience to be put together. For this reason, our services are vast and diverse, to holistically assist the women.

Below is a list of the major services offered by DH's staff and volunteers. All services remain service user centred, ensuring that through the services provided, we meet the women at the stage where they are at. All our staff are trained to identify the major needs, prioritise them and journey with the women at their own pace, avoiding rushing to possible services which might discourage or overwhelm them.







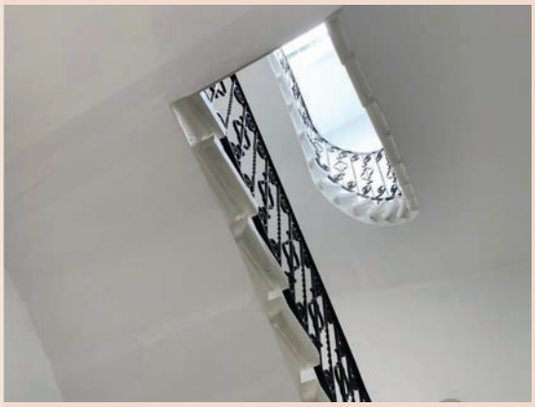


drop-in centre

The major service provided by the team at DH is the drop-in centre, which is often the first point of contact for many of our service users. The drop-in centre is open Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays, from 9:00 to 17:30. The opening hours had been extended in 2024, and remained so in 2025 to keep the centre open as long as possible in order to bridge the gap between the opening hours of DH and the opening hours of night shelters which the women might be using in parallel. This has enabled us to effectively minimise the time the women are outside on the streets with nowhere to go, possibly with the increased risk of abuse or contact with pimps and dealers.

The drop-in centre is effectively a house with all the necessary amenities to meet the basic daily needs of the women, as shown in the list below. Yet, we also pride ourselves on acknowledging that DH also acts as a 'home' and a place where these women can feel respected and have a place where they belong, rather than simply being a place where they access services only.









Facilities available at the drop-in centre

Women attending our drop-in centre can make use of the following amenities and services:

- sanitary and showering facilities
- toiletries, contraceptives and other sanitary products
- clothes if so required
- laundry facilities to wash one's clothes
- home-made meals including breakfast, lunch and snacks as well as packed dinners
- an area where they can rest/sleep
- small lockers to put in their daily items whilst at DH
- larger lockers to put in their personal items, especially when the women end up homeless. This ensures that their main belongings are not stolen on the streets.
- use of the roof garden
- use of the in-house library
- use of the living-area
- use of the art room and creative therapeutic sessions (e.g. arts and crafts, or dance)
- access to the medical clinic at the drop-in centre for medical assistance
- access to IT equipment and guidance on how to use it to access government portals, seek employment, prepare CVs and apply for jobs, apply for further education, access educational resources, etc.
- assistance and accompaniment to other community services such as rehabilitation programmes, medical support, dentistry and legal aid, etc.
- group sessions with other women at DH to establish a community kind of feel
- individual sessions with counsellors, social workers, psychologists and lawyers, depending on their needs
- other therapeutic support

The drop-in centre is a low-threshold centre, in that the women are allowed in, even if they might not be in the ideal physical or mental state, as long as it is deemed safe for other service users and our staff. Albeit challenging in its nature, this policy allows us to provide immediate assistance and get the women off the streets even in their most vulnerable state, which would make them more prone to being abused, robbed, returning to their perpetrators or face other dangerous situations.

Staff members keep a daily list of who has attended the drop-in centre. This data is only used for internal purposes, such as for security reasons and statistical purposes, including contributing to this annual report, as well as to make future decisions on operations. All data is stored and handled with utmost care, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained throughout.

Nevertheless, there is no time-limit or restriction as to when and how many times the women can use our services. Some service users simply come in for a few minutes, maybe for a cup of tea, or to charge their phones, while others might decide to spend the whole day (as per opening hours) to rest, do the laundry and get a good nutritious meal. Some women visit us regularly, whilst others, knowing that we can assist them if they find themselves in very challenging situations, only visit us sporadically when they require assistance. Others might not turn up for quite some time and then reappear after quite a while. This is a clear reflection of the very unstructured lives these women tend to live in the outside world.









Their lives are often in constant flux, many times in survival mode and managing various crises, including financial issues and possibly housing problems, in the meantime having their lives dictated to them by their pimps or perpetrators. In addition, a few of the women might be struggling with substance abuse, which often leads them to lose track of time and space. It is for this reason that our service remains very flexible and malleable to the needs of the women we assist.

At the same time, albeit flexible, we still hold a certain degree of structure in our operations. For instance, it is customary that at DH staff, volunteers and service users have lunch all together at the same time. This provides a structure that creates a sense of community and family, whereby everyone eats together, and shares not only a meal, but also stories, time and presence. We believe that such a structure is imperative for women to have at least some predictability in their lives, as well as to assist them in starting to function in systems which are more organised, particularly if they are trying to reintegrate into a society characterised by rules and time schedules. This is especially important for those women who would be looking to either find a job, attend appointments or regain independence.

Moreover, we also hold regular house meetings, providing a space whereby the team members and the service users can dialogue and discuss suggestions, concerns and possible improvements to the services.

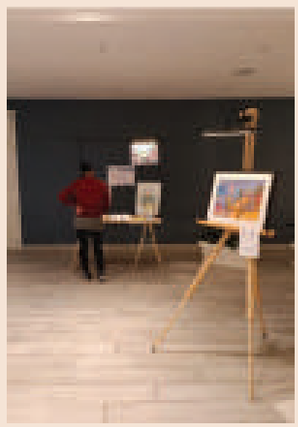


regular outings

In 2025 we also organised outings which were open to both those women who attend the drop-in centre as well as for those who might not attend the drop-in, but are still service users of DH within the community. Such outings create space for the staff, volunteers and service users to spend time together and engage in fun activities, which could also help them to restore a sense of normality to their everyday lives.

MONTH	OUTING
February	Movie
May	Picnic at Buskett
June	Nature Trust Visit
July	Beach
July	Day by the pool
August	Beach
September	Splash and Fun






other activities

In 2025, we also organised other activities with different areas of focus, all aimed towards imparting skills, knowledge and/or empowering our service users. These were open to all women we are in contact with, and they were advised about them through phone calls or messages. The list below indicates such activities:

MONTH	ACTIVITIES
February	Valentine's Day Activity - celebrated self-worth, inner strength and personal growth
March	Session on female autonomy
March	Women's Day - activity focusing on female empowerment whilst sharing a special lunch
April	Lady of Sorrows Activity
May	Training to service users on the Effects of Drugs
May	Make up tutorial
December	Christmas lunches for all the women and their children

Furthermore, on Christmas Day and New Year's Day our team called or messaged the women wishing them well. This might seem a small gesture, yet, for these women who are often seen as only an object of use, such gestures make them feel worthy, loved and cared for.

external visits

Apart from being available at the drop-in centre, we also provided services outside, including visits within the community. Some of our service users might not want to come to the drop-in centre itself for a variety of reasons, including fear for their safety, or the fact that our opening hours might clash with their own work schedules (especially for those who have managed to find regular jobs). Other women might be in residential homes, following a rehabilitation programme, in hospital, in prison, or on the streets. As much as possible, our staff try to reach out to these women wherever they are, visiting them within the community whenever and wherever needed.

support at other residences, programmes and/or hospitals

As indicated above, some of our women might be residing either at other organisations/services (e.g., rehabilitation programmes, homeless shelters) or might be in medical institutions such as Mater Dei Hospital (MDH) or Mount Carmel Hospital (MCH). Once we assist a woman into a particular service, we continue to follow her through the key contact person. This enables us to ensure that her care plan is followed and updated, possibly jointly with the key care professionals within the other institution. This also helps us ensure that once the woman leaves the facility, she can always come back for assistance to us, whilst hopefully steering away from the factors which might lead her to resume her previous life.



outreach at the CSA

As mentioned, our service users might be incarcerated within the Correctional Services Agency (CSA), and therefore, we make sure to keep on visiting them whenever possible. The social workers provide one-to-one sessions to make sure that issues, challenges and stumbling blocks are dealt with even during this time frame, and therefore the women would be well equipped even when they come to exit the correctional facilities. Once again, by retaining such contact with them, we try to prevent these women from finding themselves back on the streets, alone and financially dependent on prostitution or drug dealing. The presence of our social workers at the CSA helps us to continue following the women's care plan and provide them with the necessary therapy, training and support.

In addition to the social workers' visits, we also organise periodical craft sessions at the CSA to again strengthen the contact with these women and ensure that there is already an established relationship with DH once they come to exit the facility.

support within the community

We also have women who have managed to become more self-sufficient and stable, so much so that they might be residing in their own house, alone or with their children. Despite this being a very positive step forward, we still make sure that these women are followed. This allows us to assist them to settle in, in their new residence, by providing them with the necessary resources to start off, and also support them with supplies for their children (e.g., school supplies) when needed. This stands to show our commitment to our service users throughout their journey, and not only when a crisis hits. Celebrating such progress not only makes the women feel seen but also consolidates such steps towards long-term healing, self-discovery and love.

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS: VOICING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE

In 2025, DH focused substantial resources, time and energy towards expanding its research arm and increasing its advocacy and awareness campaigns. This was possible through the input of a number of volunteers specifically helping in the research area, as well as our staff members who never shy away from bringing the voice of our service users forward in various public fora.

During the year, the team put a lot of effort and dedication into making sure that the realities of the women do not remain hidden between the four walls of DH, but rather, are shared with dignity within the community, in the hope of dismantling the misconceptions held amongst the general public and the authorities.

As public sentiment in Malta is being steered towards more liberalisation, with the possibility of legalising prostitution, many mistake these women's hardships and cycles of abuse, for 'free choice'. From our experience over these 10 years, what is frequently defined as 'sex work', or a personal choice, is a result of abuse, coercion and gender-based violence (GBV), many times of an intergenerational nature.

By bringing to light such realities, we can assist these women by ending the stigma that they often face from the general public, whilst also ensuring that their true wishes and desires, in relation to laws and policies, are taken into consideration. The following illustrates the various activities carried out in 2025, in this regard.



Conferences and public events

In 2025, DH attended conferences, seminars and events focusing on themes related to our work, including on domestic violence, human trafficking and addiction, amongst others. We were also asked to be speakers on a number of panels. We even had the opportunity to organise our own events. Our presence in such fora has allowed us to make sure that we are visible on the map of stakeholders when discussing female sexual exploitation, prostitution and human trafficking. This enables us to represent our women whenever discussions concerning them occur. This also allows us to build networks with like-minded entities and NGOs, increase our knowledge and expertise and allow us to share the realities our women face every day.



Fig 1.
Conference DH attended, "Empowering Change: Technology and Artificial Intelligence in the Fight against Human Trafficking"



Fig 2.
Silent Voices Poster



Fig 3.
DH as panelist during Silent Voices organised by Connecting Silent Voices

participation in fora...

In 2025, we attended a number of conferences and events as outlined in the list below:

- In March, we attended the Women's Day FIDEM conference **"ACCELERATE ACTION: Accelerating gender equality through economic empowerment"**.
- In April, we attended a conference organised by the Maltese Episcopal Conference, under the name of **"Women in the Mediterranean"**.
- In May, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) organised a **"National Conference on Volunteering"**, whereby we were also present.
- In June, one of our social workers attended the conference, **"Empowering Change: Technology and Artificial Intelligence in the Fight against Human Trafficking"**, held under the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Here we brought forward our experiences as front liners in this area.
- In July, we participated in the conference organised by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), **"Invisible Chains: Vulnerability and Human Trafficking"**.
- In October, we attended the conference **"Global Feminism"**, organised by FiLiA in Brighton, UK.
- In November, we attended **"A Place to Call Home – Reimagining Homelessness"**, a conference organised by PROMISE, the poverty research cluster at the University of Malta.

speakers in...

We were also panellists in conferences and events, allowing us to impart our knowledge and experience of working with women in prostitution, whilst also using the space to really bring forward their own stories, experiences and wishes.

In July, DH was a panellist in the event, ***Silent Voices***, organised by Connecting Silent Voices, an artistic collaboration between **BILOURA Intercultural Arts Collective** (Italy), **WomanUp** (Bulgaria), **Artpolis** (Kosovo) and **Dance Beyond Borders** (Malta). Through events such as film screenings, performances and workshops, the above organisations aim to raise awareness around female sexual exploitation. The panel discussion was preceded by a dance performance which reflected on the female body as a site of trade, pleasure and pain, being the result of research carried out amongst women facing sexual exploitation themselves. The panel discussion explored female exploitation in Malta and was aimed at initiating public dialogue around this theme. As previously outlined in this report, they also organised two workshops at DH, where the women could use dance as a form of expression, thereby allowing them to creatively open up and (re)connect.



Fig 4.
DH as a panellist in the Conference, 'Together We Empower'

In December, DH was part of a panel discussion at the **Together We Empower** Conference, organised by the Commission on Gender-Based Violence & Domestic Violence (GBDV). Here we spoke about the work being carried out in relation to the research project funded through the grant awarded by the same commission earlier in the year. It was aimed at understanding the demand for prostitution.

organised by Dar Hosea

On the 8th of November, DH organised the launch of the short film "Lilna ħadd ma jarana" (Nobody sees Us), which consisted of the screening of the film, followed by a panel discussion. The film, funded by the Academy of Givers, was commissioned by Dar Hosea. It explores the realities of how women are often groomed into prostitution from a very young age and often grow up in such environments, finding it difficult to think of an alternative way of life. The film focuses mainly on the resilience of these women. In an interview with the Times of Malta, Maria Borg Pellicano stated, "We want to ensure that policies truly respond to their needs and that people really listen to them". (Borg, 2025, para. 14).[2]



Fig 5.
Launch of the short film, "Lilna ħadd ma jarana"









[2] Borg, E. (2025, November 7). Short film exposes grooming and prostitution in Malta. Times of Malta. Retrieved from: https://timesofmalta.com/article/short-film-exposes-grooming-prostitution-malta.1119233









Early last year I was approached by Dar Hosea in order to develop a short film around the character of Emma, a woman who is groomed and grows up in a life of prostitution. The film, titled 'lilna ħadd ma jarana' was filmed in September 2025, and has since been travelling in festivals around the world. To date, it has won 'Best Short Film' at the Inclucine Short Film Festival in Colombia, received an Honorable Mention at the 'Madonie Film Festival' in Sicily, was selected for the Potidania Film Festival, Greece and qualified as a semi-finalist at the London Women Film Festival, UK.

The experience of collaborating with Dar Hosea was a very pleasant one. I felt guided and supported all throughout, while also having creative freedom in making choices for this film. My team was also inspired by Dar Hosea's work, and one of the crew members decided to waive his fee in favour of a donation for Dar Hosea. I would gladly work with Dar Hosea again, and I look forward to seeing where else this film can take Emma's story.

- Francesca Zammit

Director of lilna ħadd ma jarana

On the 11th of November, DH organised a seminar, **"Myths & Facts about Prostitution: The Business of Sexual Exploitation"**. This event explored the true trauma and violence faced by women in prostitution. It also tackled the realities tied to the legalisation and decriminalisation of prostitution and why prostitution is not in fact just another job, but rather a result of coercion or economic disadvantage for the women involved. Through the input of Dr Melissa Farley, an American feminist psychologist whose research focus has been on trauma, trafficking and prostitution, amongst others, participants discussed which policies and actions truly help women to exit these cycles.









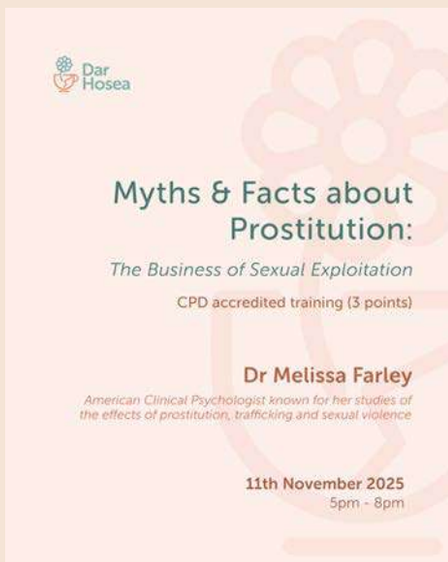


Fig 6.
Poster of the seminar "Myths & Facts about Prostitution" as organised by Dar Hosea









In-person awareness sessions

Apart from conferences and large-scale events, the team also participated in a number of in-person awareness sessions in schools, youth organisations and at the University of Malta. Such sessions were tailor-made for the different audiences, making sure that the material was suitable for the different age groups and their backgrounds. This ensured that the audiences could understand in their own jargon the realities that women in prostitution in Malta face, decreasing the stigma and becoming more empathic towards them.

Not least, DH engaged in sessions with university students studying social work, social policy or counselling. Such sessions are extremely important when one considers that these students will be the future professionals who will be working alongside our service users. By providing them with the necessary background, we believe that such students will be more equipped to work in a non-judgemental manner.

Below is a list of awareness-raising sessions carried out in 2025:

- **April 2025**: A lecture to Social Work/Social Policy students on social work carried out within the field of prostitution;
- **April 2025**: A lecture to Social Work students on the social work carried out at DH, as part of the topic of specialisms in social work;
- **May 2025**: Session at University of Malta with Master's in Counselling, students on the reality of prostitution and the trauma experienced by women involved in prostitution;
- **November 2025**: A session with Youth.Inc at Aġenzija Żgħażagħ as part of a human library, focusing on the topic of Healthy versus Unhealthy Relationships;
- **November 2025**: De la Salle - A session in relation to the exhibition "Isma' u Għ(id)li" (Listen and Tell Me) Project;
- **December 2025**: Aġenzija Żgħażagħ - A session in relation to the exhibition "Isma' u Għ(id)li" Project.





The last two sessions with young people from Youth.Inc and De La Salle were carried out in preparation for the launch of the exhibition 'Isma' u Għ(id)li', which was showcased at both Aġenzija Żgħażagħ and De La Salle. These sessions focused on the women's artistic experiences and explored the exhibition's main themes, aiming to highlight the shared themes between the women as artists and the audience.

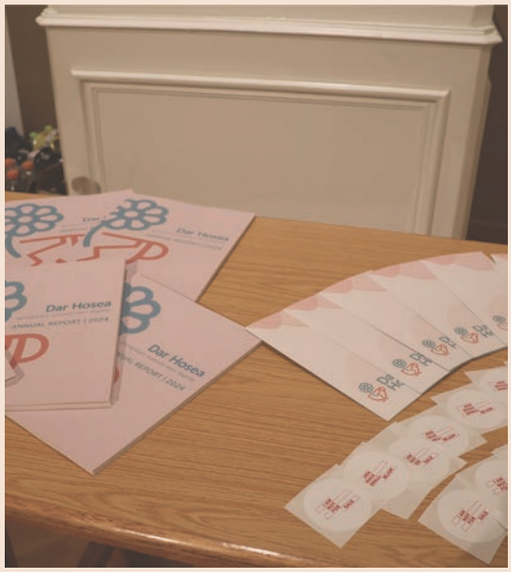
Research and educational support

Besides giving lectures to students at university level, we assisted students with their research studies. In 2025, Dar Hosea staff participated in 4 research interviews for dissertations at Master's and Doctoral levels. Apart from feeling the moral obligation of assisting students in their research, we are also aware that there is a need for much more research in this area. We firmly believe that the more evidence collected in this regard, the better we can lobby in favour of our women, using real-life stories and ensuring evidence-based policy.

We are always happy to assist researchers in studying our field of work. Of course, we expect that a high level of ethical considerations is maintained and that our service users remain unidentifiable.

In 2025, DH also hosted a student in her social work placement.







Presence at fairs or conventions

Another way to advertise our work and create greater awareness about our service users and our work, is to participate in specific fairs, such as the For Impact Event and Fair, as organised by the Academy of Givers. Here we had a stand and had the possibility to network and answer the questions of people visiting our stall.







Awareness raising through the media





DH also engages with the general public through various media channels, including traditional media, such as radio programmes and newspaper articles and also more contemporary media, including various social media platforms. This allows us to reach a vast array of viewers of different ages and backgrounds.

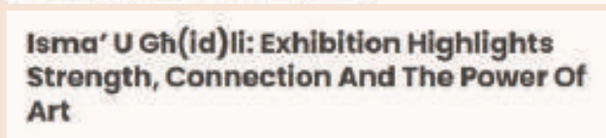
Through such material, we aim to increase education on the subject and help in the prevention of exploitation. Moreover, by sharing the stories of the women through these channels, we continue to dismantle the misconceptions and help in decreasing their marginalisation.

Below is a list of appearances DH made on local media platforms;

- January 2025 – Il-Voluntier (RTK radio)
- November 2025 – BTW (RTK radio)

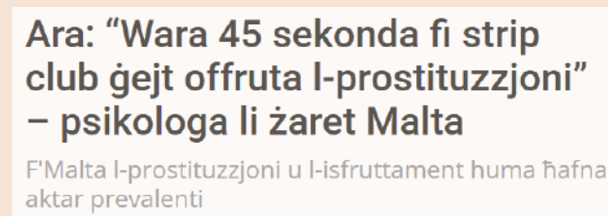

Women at Dar Hosea share stories through collaborative art project

Isma' u Ghidli will open on 16 November 2025 at Dar Manwel Magri, exploring the symbolism of the hand as a representation of work, creativity and care


Isma' U Għ(id)li: Exhibition Highlights Strength, Connection And The Power Of Art


Women at Dar Hosea share stories through collaborative art project

Isma' u Ghidli will open on 16 November 2025 at Dar Manwel Magri, exploring the symbolism of the hand as a representation of work, creativity and care


Ara: "Wara 45 sekonda fi strip club ġejt offruta l-prostituzzjoni" – psikologa li żaret Malta

F'Malta l-prostituzzjoni u l-isfruttament huma ħafna aktar prevalenti


IS-SENA L-OĦRA, DAR ĦOSEA ĦADMET MA' 149 NISA U TFAL

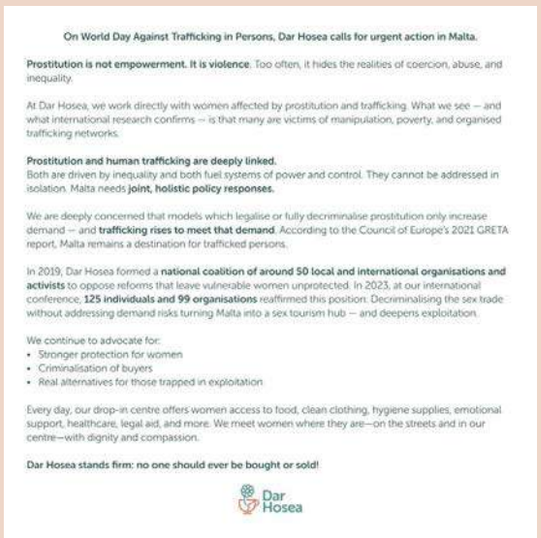

Short film exposes grooming and prostitution in Malta

Filmmaker Francesca Zammit tells the story of girls groomed into prostitution

A number of articles on news portals were also shared, increasing awareness about our services and our advocacy work:

- August 2025 – Newsbook Malta: "Dar Hosea calls for action on human trafficking and prostitution"
- October 2025 – One News: "Is-sena l-oħra, Dar Hosea ħadmet ma' 149 nisa u tfal"
- November 2025 – Malta Today: "Women at Dar Hosea share stories through collaborative art project"
- November 2025 – Newsbook Malta: "Ara: "Wara 45 sekonda fi strip club ġejt offruta l-prostituzzjoni"– psikologa li żaret Malta"

In addition, on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30th July 2025), DH published its own press release highlighting how prostitution and human trafficking are intimately linked and how legalising or decriminalising prostitution would not only increase demand for such services but also lead to higher trafficking rates. Through the press release, DH called for (i) stronger protection for women, (ii) the criminalisation of the buyers, and (iii) providing real alternatives for those seeking to exit the industry.



On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Dar Hosea calls for urgent action in Malta.

Prostitution is not empowerment. It is violence. Too often, it hides the realities of coercion, abuse, and inequality.

At Dar Hosea, we work directly with women affected by prostitution and trafficking. What we see — and what international research confirms — is that many are victims of manipulation, poverty, and organised trafficking networks.

Prostitution and human trafficking are deeply linked.
Both are driven by inequality and both fuel systems of power and control. They cannot be addressed in isolation. Malta needs **joint, holistic policy responses.**

We are deeply concerned that models which legalise or fully decriminalise prostitution only increase demand — and **trafficking rises to meet that demand**. According to the Council of Europe's 2021 GRETA report, Malta remains a destination for trafficked persons.

In 2019, Dar Hosea formed a **national coalition of around 50 local and international organisations and activists** to oppose reforms that leave vulnerable women unprotected. In 2023, at our international conference, **125 individuals and 99 organisations** reaffirmed this position. Decriminalising the sex trade without addressing demand risks turning Malta into a sex tourism hub — and deepens exploitation.

We continue to advocate for:
- Stronger protection for women
- Criminalisation of buyers
- Real alternatives for those trapped in exploitation

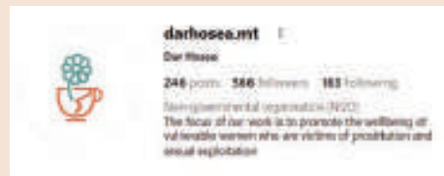
Every day, our drop-in centre offers women access to food, clean clothing, hygiene supplies, emotional support, healthcare, legal aid, and more. We meet women where they are—on the streets and in our centre—with dignity and compassion.

Dar Hosea stands firm: no one should ever be bought or sold!

Dar Hosea

Our marketing and advocacy team has also used our own social media platforms, both Facebook and Instagram, to disseminate information regarding our events and activities, as well as to post information about our advocacy projects.





Dar Hosea
@darhosea.mt

In addition to our existing social media pages, a group of volunteers at DH created a new Facebook page entitled, "Jien mhux għall-bejgħ" (I'm not for sale), coordinating all marketing and advocacy material through this channel while having a separate page for more day-to-day operations and news.







Jien Mhux Għall-Bejgħ
@jienmhuxghallbejgh

In 2025, one of our major online campaigns was that pertaining to the **16 days of activism against GBV**, whereby our team shared quotes from our own service users, which we had collected through interviews carried out during the year.









Meetings with policy makers

At DH, we also feel duty-bound to reach out to policy makers, thereby making sure that true opinions of the women in our care are represented in local and international debates and policy fora, otherwise, were it not through us, they would be disregarded. In this way, by bringing their viewpoints forward, issues related to DV, GBV, human trafficking, exploitation, prostitution and other social issues, we try to shape policies and laws which might directly impact them.

By meeting with various policy makers, we aim to influence and shape the opinions of those who are in charge of policies, who pass legislation, and ultimately have the power to bring about systemic changes. In 2025, we continued meeting a variety of policy makers as indicated below:

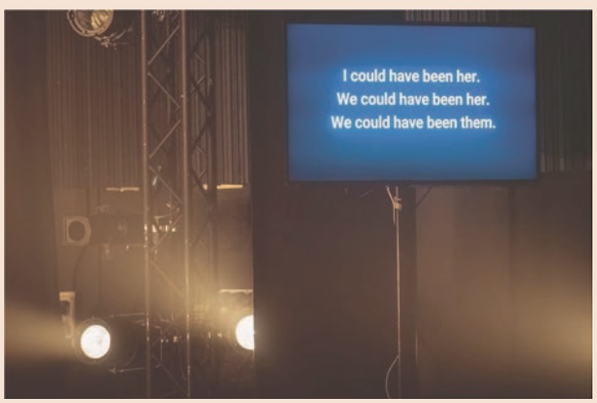
Together with other NGOs, we attended a meeting with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to discuss the issue of human trafficking, which is also considered to be an issue of national security. This was especially pertinent given the increasing cases of trafficking and exploitation of foreign women.

Other meetings were held with a number of **Members of Parliament** (MPs) as follows:

- Meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality, Hon Rebecca Buttigieg,
- Meeting with the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Hon Michael Falzon, as part of the Homelessness Network
- Meeting with Member of Parliament, Hon Bernard Grech
- Two meetings with the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee, to discuss human trafficking and prostitution









Alongside other NGOs working in the field of DV and GBV, we attended regular meetings with the **GBDV Commissioner** to discuss matters and concerns experienced in the field. One of the main aims to these meetings was to discuss key findings from Dr Melissa Farley's pioneering research on prostitution, as well as to discuss their possible implications within the local context.

DH also attended events organised by **foreign embassies**. In 2025, DH staff attended events organised by the Dutch, Indian and the U.S. embassies. Through such events, we aim to network with various dignitaries, potentially changing the narrative not only at a local level but also in wider audiences.

DH also participated in the round table discussions of the Council of Europe's **Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)** during its follow-up evaluation visit to Malta in October. This was part of the group's monitoring activity to assess the implementation in Malta of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (i.e.,the Istanbul Convention).

Together with collaboration from other workers and volunteers from Dar Hosea, the project that was approved and supported by the ESC scheme was called "Isma' u Għ(id)li" ("Listen and Tell Me"). Through active and collective participation, the main aim of this project was to create a space of expression through creativity and an opportunity for the women to make their voices heard about who they are. The core of the project was an exhibition of the works that were created with the women.



During this project, I grew a lot in different aspects, particularly in teamwork. At the beginning, I just had an idea, but because I stopped to listen to and appreciate the ideas of the other members of the group, I was able to explore different directions. I reflect on how grateful I was that a project like "Isma' u Għ(id)li" was not being carried out alone, but together with others. Throughout this process, I learned more to listen and to focus on being present with different people. I truly appreciated that, even though I was living and experiencing this project with other individuals, whenever we gathered around a table together, I realised how similar we were, even if at times the differences stood out more.

- **Deborah Debono**
Isma' u Għ(id)li

Platforms and networks

DH is also part of platforms and networks which bring together various NGOs working on similar or cross-cutting issues. We are aware that given the intersectionality of the issues our women face, including DV or GBV, economic and financial pressures, housing issues, addictions, trauma and mental health issues, amongst others, it is impossible to operate alone or in a silo. By being part of such platforms, we can tap into expertise which we might not hold directly within DH, whilst also bringing our own expertise to other NGOs, thereby ensuring a long-lasting impact for our women through multidisciplinary interventions.

In 2025, DH was a member of various platforms and networks, providing input and feedback where necessary, whilst also learning and leveraging the knowledge of other experts in the field. These included:

The Homelessness Network

A collaborative forum bringing together key stakeholders to discuss issues related to homelessness and to strengthen coordinated approaches. The network focuses on ensuring that services collaborate effectively to provide holistic, person-centred support for individuals experiencing homelessness. DH participates in this network, given the fact that a number of our service users are either homeless or roofless, a situation which often exacerbates the abuse by the pimp or the perpetrator, since the woman would have to remain with her abuser to avoid ending up on the street.

The Anti-Poverty Forum (APF)

A forum which brings together all the NGOs which work locally in the space of poverty. Many of our women face financial and economic pressures. Some find themselves in poverty, given the financial manipulation and abuse from the pimps, who take all the proceeds of their activity. On the other hand, others spend all the money to fuel their addictions, leaving them with little left to live on.

Domestic Violence Shelters Meeting

A forum whereby the various DV shelters in Malta come together to explore ways to collaborate, share best practices and discuss challenges being faced. Moreover, together we discuss possible ideas to increasingly advocate for the well-being of our service users. Given that many of our service users are also abused by family members or their pimp, this network helps us remain in the loop of what similar service providers are facing.

The Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP) International

CAP is an international coalition of different organisations across various countries, which work towards a shared goal, that of abolishing the prostitution system. As DH, we participate in regular international advocacy initiatives. In 2025, Dar Hosea's Head of Services Maria Borg Pellicano became a board member of CAP allowing DH to be more immersed in the international efforts towards advocating for the well-being of women involved in the harsh reality of prostitution.

Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE)

RENATE is the European network of religious communities committed to working against human trafficking and exploitation. As members of this European platform, we participate in regular meetings and training sessions.

Secretariat for Diaconia

This network brings together the various entities under the Archdiocese of Malta that work in the social sector. Given that DH is a church organisation, we attend regular meetings to network and collaborate. This group aims to ensure that different services are meeting the needs of different service users experiencing a variety of realities within the community.

In addition, throughout the year, our team liaised with a variety of other NGOs, professionals and organisations which come in contact with our service users, including, but not limited to, FSWS services, the Court and Probation Services, rehabilitation programmes, MDH, MCH, CSA, Life Network Foundation, Caritas, Fondazzjoni Sebħ and OASI, amongst others.

Nominations, awards and recognition

In 2025, DH team members were either nominated or won an award in relation to the work carried out within the organisation. This stands as recognition of the hard work and the impact they have on the service users and on society at large. We are proud beyond measure of our team members, but also grateful that such awards are a chance in themselves to showcase the work being done at DH daily:

Maria Borg Pellicano
Social Commitment Award by the Faculty for Social Wellbeing (University of Malta)

Claudine Cremona
Student social workers award – MASW

Michelle Gatt
Nominee and shortlisted for the Most Supportive Colleague award - MASW





FINANCES, GRANTS AND OTHER PROJECTS

As indicated in the previous sections, we provide numerous services which, of course, all come at a cost. Be it the running and maintenance of the drop-in centre, the provision of external services, the salaries of our paid staff, or our awareness campaigns, all require funding and human resources to operate.

These are partly funded by the Association of Friends of Thouret, together with funds raised through specific events, both internally and by third parties. We are also blessed with numerous donations, in monetary terms as well as in kind. Our team also works hard in applying for grants and funding which enables us to carry out specific projects, as will be indicated below.

Financial Accounts

Our accounts are audited yearly by an audit firm engaged by the Association of Friends of Thouret. These are submitted to the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations as well as to the donors. This is not only done as a requirement in compliance with local VOs regulations but also allows us to be transparent as to how the financing is used.

Fundraising and donations

One of the main sources of income raised through internal financing is the operations of the charity shop, as described in p. 26. During 2025, we also received numerous donations, both financial and in kind, which helped us to continue providing the services to the women who come to us for assistance, as well as their children. The full list of benefactors can be found on p. 13.

Over the year, a number of schools, parishes, private entities and corporations organised fundraising activities or food collections which were then forwarded to DH. Other donations included clothes or toys for the children of our service users. For instance, in August, UnWasted clothing organised a thrift sale, the proceeds of which were forwarded to Dar Hosea. Similarly, in November, a thrift sale carried out on Campus at the University of Malta raised €1,645 in donations.

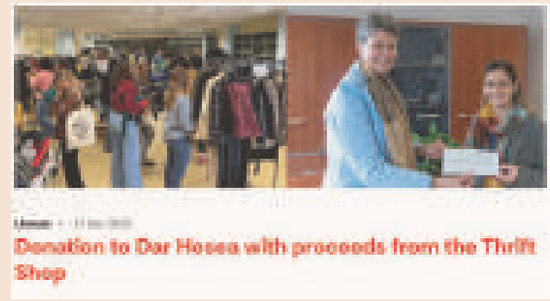


Fig 7.
Raised funds at UM in aid of DH through a thrift sale



Once again in 2025, during Christmas time, we prepared gift bags for the women who come to us, and through an online campaign, we managed to raise funds and collect items such as toiletries, accessories, skin care products, etc., which were then distributed to our service users during this special time of year.

These are only some examples of all the donations received throughout the year. We would like once again to extend our heartfelt gratitude towards all our benefactors. Every item donated or monetary contribution made has enabled us to reach out to more women, to provide them with better assistance and to make their lives a little brighter.









Grants and projects

Apart from donations, grant agreements and internal financing, over the past years, the team at DH has earmarked various funds and applied for grants which were used for specific projects, mostly in relation to research, awareness raising and advocacy. Such funds have indeed been essential in supporting our drive to increase our work in these areas. Below is an outline of the major projects which are being / have been funded through specific grants awarded to us over the past two years, and which were either implemented or are in the process of being implemented in 2026.

Academy of Givers' Award – "Lilna ħadd ma jarana" short film

In March 2024, DH was chosen as a winner at the Pitch Fest of the Academy of Givers and awarded €5,000, which was used to develop the short film, "Lilna ħadd ma jarana", mentioned on p. 50. This film, launched on the 8th of November 2025 is aimed at increasing the awareness of the general public to the realities of our service users, the effect of grooming from a very young age and how these women often feel invisible to society in general. Yet, it also highlights the resilience of such women, who, despite all adversities, continue to battle on in their everyday lives for survival.



EUPA Malta - Erasmus+ & European Solidarity Corps - "Isma' u Għ(id)li"

In 2024, DH, in collaboration with 7 youths was awarded a grant from the European Solidarity Corps, implemented locally by the European Union Programme Agency (EUPA). The grant was awarded in relation to the project "Isma' u Għ(id)li", which was implemented over the year of 2025. This project has already been mentioned on p. 23. Starting in March, a series of workshops were carried out at DH with the service users. Such sessions gave a creative outlet for the women to explore their feelings, reflect and connect with themselves through art. The works created through this process were then presented in a collaborative exhibition launched on the 16th of November at Dar Manwel Magri at the University of Malta. The exhibition was also displayed at De La Salle College for students and teachers, as well as at Aġenzija Żgħażagħ. Information sessions with the youths of both the latter institutions were carried out in order to engage them with the art and reflect on the realities of prostitution in Malta. This project also managed to get very good coverage through the local media. It increased not only the visibility of DH, of the work we do, but also made our women visible to a society which many times chooses to look away from their realities.







Funding from the Netherlands' Embassy – Research on policy

In December 2024, the Netherlands' Embassy awarded DH €2,000 specifically to research policy and legal issues around the current situation in terms of prostitution in Malta. This project started in 2025 and will be continued in 2026. Data collection, from one-to-one interviews with our own service users, has been carried out and the data has been analysed. This project aims to present policy makers with evidence-based research to assist them in any possible updates to the laws and legislation, whilst outlining what impacts such policies have on women in prostitution. In 2026, DH will be working on a training toolkit as a result of the data collected, which can be used with a variety of audiences, ranging from first responders who assist our women when they are in distress (e.g., when filing a report), to counsellors, to the police force and to policy makers.



Funds from the Commission on GBDV - Research on the demand for prostitution

In 2025, DH applied and was awarded funds by the Commissioner for GBDV, in relation to a research project focusing on the demand for prostitution. Till now, many of the research projects carried out were always in relation to the women we assist, however, in this case, we wanted to understand the demand for prostitution. This perspective will also allow us to shape our recommendations in terms of evidence-based policies. The research will help us to design and develop effective strategies on the front line and in advocacy. This project will continue to be implemented in 2026.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

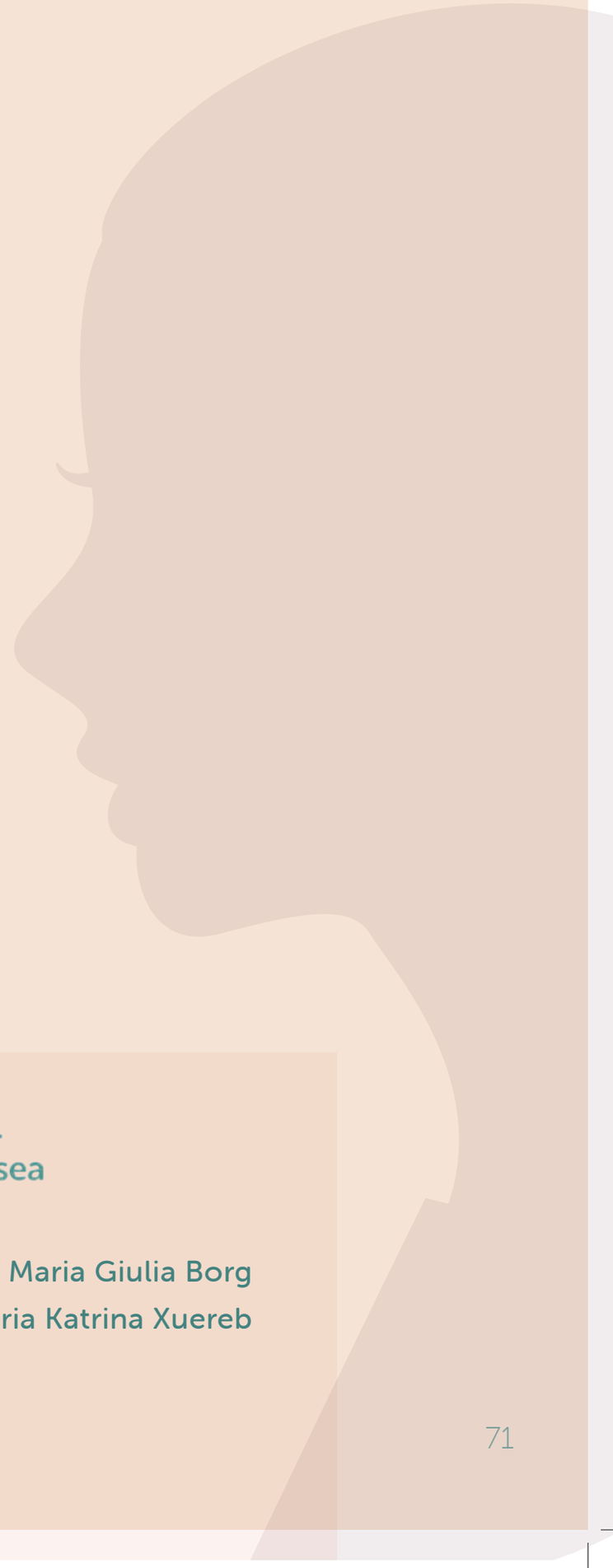
In this annual report for 2025, we have outlined the major works, services and projects that we have been working on over the past year. Just like previous years, 2025 was a busy year, full of struggles, but also achievements, both small ones and big ones.

Despite the limited resources, both monetary and in terms of human resources, we have managed to provide a safe and warm space for our service users to rest and find refuge from the hardships they face on the streets. Thanks to the input of many volunteers, the dedicated staff members as well as the donations from various benefactors, we were able to be a 'home' for these women, and provide them with some stability amidst the chaos they often have to endure, both around them and within them, as a result of the neglect, abuse and rejection, sometimes by those closest to them.

Yet, we remain hopeful that under all the exploitation and mistreatment, with the proper love and commitment, these women can rediscover their true selves and find the little girl that deserves to be protected and loved. We therefore feel that they are not defined by the fact that they are victims. Instead, we believe that their resilience and resourcefulness can help them to strive for a better life, one of self-respect and self-love. We therefore pledge to continue working hard to empower these women, meet them where they are at, and together forge plans to improve their future one day at a time.

Moreover, we promise to keep on being their voice in the public arena, bringing awareness to the general public as well as being their representatives in policy-making fora, thereby fighting systematic injustices and policies which are not aimed at assisting them, but more often than not, letting the buyers take no responsibility and instead using the women as scapegoats. We will also continue our work to bring forward the true crude realities of prostitution, abolishing the myths and misconceptions and the glamourisation of the industry.

Finally, we will continue to work alongside other NGOs and entities to ensure that sexual exploitation, trafficking and prostitution are seen for the Gender Based Violence that it is and that we all work towards their abolishment. We dream of a world in which no woman feels the need to resort to such an act to survive, and no man takes advantage of such vulnerabilities for his own pleasure or gratification. We aim for a world free of violence and free from prostitution.



Dar Hosea

Written and compiled by Maria Giulia Borg
Design and layout by Maria Katrina Xuereb