MALTA MEP 2019 Elections - Candidates' Standing on LGBTQ+ Measures



Do you agree with	the following	actions:
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Address the lifetime ban on men who have sex with men (MSM) currently enforced by the Blood Donation Unit within the NHS

Make available the necessary resources to ensure that gender equality and LGBTIQ issues are mainstreamed throughout the

Provide adequate resources to implement best practices in the testing, treatment, and prevention of HIV infections including better accessibility of PrEP, PEP & 'one pill a day' HIV Treatment.

Consolidate the legislation tackling LGBTIQ-phobic hate crime and introduce the right protocols to deal with it, thus ensuring consistency and clarity in reporting and prosecution

Continue to make visible Malta's welcome towards LGBTIQ tourists in international publicity campaigns and in domestic services catering for tourists

Provide equal access to all reproductive health services (including family planning) to individuals and couples regardless of their Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

Have you signed the ILGA-Europe ComeOut pledge 2019?

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Statements by MEPs

Arnold Cassola: * I want to put in a proviso that I am against "reproductive and sexual rights" in other areas, when this in reality is equivalent to abortion. My known position is against abortion, except when the mother's life is in danger.

Roberta Metsola: ** I unequivocally support the first five actions in the survey. I also confirm that I will support the last action mentioned in the survey on the provision of equal access to reproductive health services to individuals and couples regardless of their Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity as long as it is understood that this is without prejudice to my pro-life position against abortion and cannot be interpreted in any way to suggest that Maltese national law should be changed on abortion.

Michael Briguglio: *** I am against Surrogacy & Abortion

ARC's Understanding of Reproductive Health Services (including Family Planning)

We subscribe to the definitions and practices of the World Health Organisation and Amnesty International as being two international organisations with Medical & Human Rights Based Approach

Whoever you are, wherever you live, all the decisions you make about your own body should be yours.

Yet all over the world, many of us are persecuted for making our own choices and many more are prevented from making any choices at all. Governments are trying to dictate who we can kiss, who we should love, how we must dress, how we identify ourselves, when we have children, and how many we have.

Sexual and reproductive rights mean you should be able to make your own decisions about your body and:

- get accurate information about these issues
- access sexual and reproductive health services including contraception
- choose if, when and who to marry
- decide if you want to have children and how many

They also mean our lives should be free from all forms of sexual violence, including rape, female genital mutilation, forced pregnancy, forced abortion and forced sterilization.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

The WHO states that 'reproductive health addresses the reproductive processes, functions and system at all stages of life. [It] therefore, implies that people are able to have a responsible, satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this are the right of men and women to be informed of and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of fertility regulation of their choice, and the right of access to appropriate healthcare services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant.'

Sexual health is defined as 'a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled.'

Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Sexual and reproductive health is safeguarded by sexual and reproductive rights. As recognised by article 96 of Beijing Platform for Action (1995), those rights are based on human rights of equality and dignity.

Sexual and reproductive rights, including the right to maternal healthcare and family planning, include both freedoms and entitlements linked to many of the already established civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. Although not interchangeable, reproductive rights are one aspect of sexual rights, just as sexual rights are one part of reproductive rights.