

Caritas (Malta) Epilepsy Association
5, Lion Street Floriana
Tel 233933

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PRESS RELEASE

Epilepsy is the most common neurological disorder in clinical practice and it affects around 1% of the total population. The **Caritas (Malta) Epilepsy Association** has been set up to serve as a local chapter of the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE). This is the association for persons with epilepsy and their families, and it aims to promote and increase local awareness, especially since there are more than 2000 people suffering from epilepsy in Malta, ameliorating services for people with epilepsy, and propagate the initiative of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) / International Bureau Against Epilepsy (IBE) and World Health Organisation (WHO) ILAE/IBE/WHO global campaign in epilepsy entitled *Epilepsy Out of the Shadows*.

The Association has just published three leaflets in Maltese (encs) entitled,
L-Epilessija,
L-Epilessija: Gwida ghall-Ghalliema,
L-Epilessija u L-Hin Liberu
which will be publicised and distributed during this launch .

In this respect the Malta Caritas Epilepsy Association has invited the Hon Minister of Social Policy, Dr Lawrence Gonzi, and Dun Victor Grech, Director of Caritas, to launch these publications during a press conference, which would serve as a means of creating more awareness about epilepsy and advertising the availability of these important leaflets.

The launch will be 7th March 2001 at 10.00 am at Caritas (Malta) Premises at 5, Lion Street Floriana.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Yours sincerely

Mr Godwin Cachia
Secretary
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Caritas (Malta) Epilepsy Association **L-Epilessija – Tista Tghix Hajja Normali**

Caritas (Malta) Epilepsy Association was set up in 1996. Its main objective is to create awareness and educate the public on the condition of epilepsy. The Group has now grown to a membership of 215, of which 163 have epilepsy. Yet we believe that in Malta there are over 2000 persons with this condition.

It is affiliated with International Organisations, such as International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and EYIE (Epilepsy Youth in Europe).

The Association organises monthly meeting in order for members to share their problems and experiences, and it also liases with policy makers and health officials on the various needs and problems met by people with epilepsy. The members of the Association have been invited on numerous local radio and television programmes. They have also attended international conferences such as the Epilepsy and Society conference in Athens in 2000, and a few weeks ago, 12th February 2001, Ms Connie Baker represented the group at Geneva to attend the launch of the WHO/ILAE/IBE world campaign 'Epilepsy Out of the Shadows'.

Today's launch forms part of its campaign in improving education and awareness about the condition in Malta in conjunction with the WHO/ILAE/IBE world campaign. These three leaflets in Maltese are part of a series of leaflets considering different aspects of epilepsy. These first three consider general information about epilepsy, a guide on epilepsy for teachers and information about epilepsy and leisure time. Copies are obtainable from the Association.

The Association also distributes free Epilepsy diaries for people with epilepsy which help in diagnoses and better compliance of medication.

In addition a video in Maltese, about the condition of epilepsy is in its final stages of preparation. This video will be kindly sponsored by PEKTUR, the research body within Kommizzjoni Nazzjonali, Perzuni B'Disabilita.

*For further information contact:
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