



PRESS RELEASE

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Minister for Equality Commemorates International Women's Day

Last night (Thursday 7th March) the Minister for Equality, the Hon. Samantha Sacramento MP, hosted a reception to commemorate International Women's Day and to reflect upon the successful journey of the past year and the challenges for gender equality that still lie ahead. The Minister stressed that while it is right to mark this day today, the substantive work of the Ministry of Equality is all year round.

This year's general theme for international Women's Day is 'Balance for Better' and there can be no doubt that a more gender balanced world is the way forward.

Looking back to the celebrations of International Women's Day last year the first Women's Mentorship Programme was launched. The Women's Mentorship Programme is an integral part of the Gender Equality Strategy.

A short video clip of the Ministry of Equality's Women's Mentorship Programme, featuring the testimony of both mentors and mentees, was shown to the reception's attendees. The aim was to encourage more mentors and mentees to subscribe to the next cycle of the programme.

The Minister also mentioned the winners of this year's annual art competition open to secondary school students as part of the International Women's Day events. This competition allows young people to express themselves through art on gender equality issues and is fundamental to effecting positive change.

Additionally, this year, the winning artwork was featured in a set of stamps, which was launched and available for the first time at the event.

Developing the idea of representation, the Minister also announced the launch of a street art competition for a mural, which will specifically feature female role models.

Minister for Equality, The Hon Samantha Sacramento MP, said: "Changing social and cultural attitudes is an important consideration of the Ministry of Equality's gender equality strategy. However, a government department alone cannot effect change of this nature and of this scale. It



requires a whole community effort where we all measure our words and actions carefully and where we embrace diversity and inclusion.

“Working towards gender equality is a win –win situation for all.

“We all do better when men and women do better – not better than each other but better than their current respective positions.

“We often hear the term ‘the opposite sex’ but gender equality is neither a battle, nor a competition. It is a journey where everyone stands to benefit.

“Let us all work together for a better, more inclusive Gibraltar.”