

Manifesto for Children 2022

Through its role of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Children's Policy, the Office of the Commissioner for Children has identified the priority areas that need to be addressed so as to guarantee children's rights.

To have a stronger National Children's Policy, Political Parties must pledge to:

- ▶ Incorporate the UNCRC into law
- ▶ Develop a national children's rights strategy
- ▶ Set up a unit to spearhead the implementation of the strategy
- ▶ Include children's rights in national emergency preparedness plans
- ▶ Mainstream children's rights across the entire education system

To enable all children to live and grow in a healthier Home Environment, Political Parties must pledge to:

- ▶ Identify and help struggling families with children through appropriate services
- ▶ Provide better planning and funding for out-of-home care
- ▶ Promote positive parenting and co-parenting
- ▶ Make corporal punishment illegal in all settings
- ▶ End domestic violence

To ensure the social wellbeing of all children, political parties must pledge to:

- ▶ Carry out Child Rights Impact Assessments in all law and policy making
- ▶ Strengthen the independence of the Office of the Commissioner for Children to carry-out its function
- ▶ Increase awareness and knowledge about children's rights and needs
- ▶ Further encourage and provide training for the participation of children
- ▶ Address the issue of bullying and peer pressure and provide adequate support for children

To enable children to live in good Health and Environment, Political Parties must pledge to:

- ▶ Significantly reduce child obesity by promoting better nutrition and physical activity
- ▶ Raise awareness on how children can maintain good mental health
- ▶ Address problematic use of the internet in children
- ▶ Create more and better public spaces and youth clubs for adolescents
- ▶ Significantly improve air quality across Malta

To enhance the prospects of children in Education and Employment, Political Parties must pledge to:

- ▶ Make education inclusive and respectful of all differences between children, including different gender and sexual identities
- ▶ Create an education system through which children can become active and open-minded learners and citizens as well as free and critical thinkers
- ▶ Extend free childcare to all children
- ▶ Expand vocational training in secondary education
- ▶ Increase time dedicated to school breaks and give more importance to physical education and activity

To guarantee children's right to Leisure and Culture, political parties must pledge to:

- ▶ Provide adequate and safe places for adolescents including the regulation of teen parties
- ▶ Create open spaces even in urban areas by closing busy roads so that children can play
- ▶ Increase efforts to promote participation in cultural and traditional activities
- ▶ Promote fun and sport activities to encourage children to create an online/offline balance
- ▶ Constitute an authority to regulate fun parks and luna parks

To ensure the wellbeing of children participating in political and electoral campaigns, political parties must pledge to:

- ▶ Establish a plan for the protection of children involved
- ▶ Provide information to parents and children on the possible positive and negative impact
- ▶ Obtain consent in writing of parents and children
- ▶ Carry out an assessment prior to approving the participation of children
- ▶ Ensure the protection of children of politically exposed persons

This Manifesto for children highlights the gaps identified by the interim-report on the implementation of the National Children's Policy which was based on a large number of focus groups carried out with children.

The Manifesto was drawn up in collaboration with the Office's Youth advisors.

The full report can be accessed by scanning the QR code.

