



# CREATIVE COMPETITION

## INTRODUCTION

On the 20th of November 2023, the Office of the Commissioner for Children launched a National Creative Competition to commemorate 20 years since the setting up of the Office. The aim of this competition was to encourage children to express their views regarding children's rights through creative means.

## THEME

The Competition was open to all children between the ages of 5 and 16, they were asked to submit creative work in the form of : Visual art/ Poetry/Short Story addressing the following themes:

- Children's Right to be happy and healthy;
- Children's Right to be cared for;
- Children's Right to be safe from harm;
- Children's Right to play Children's Right to be heard.



## ENTRIES RECEIVED

The Competition guidelines were disseminated in all schools and on the Office's social media platforms. In total, the Office received 197 entries across all categories which were divided as follows:

- 164 Visual Art
- 19 Short Stories
- 14 Poems

Out of all the entries received, only one was considered ineligible as the entry was submitted by a 4 year old child and the competition was open to children between the ages of 5 and 16. However, she was given a certificate of recognition for her expressive entry at such a young age.

## WINNERS

10 entries from each of the categories were shortlisted. The top 3 entries 3 from each category will be given a prize the remaining 7 will be given a certificate of recognition. The table below outlines the winning entries for each category and the reason for the choosing of the top 3 entries.



## Top 3 Entries: Visual Art

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## Top 3 Entries: Visual Art

RANK	ARTIST	TITLE	AGE	DESCRIPTION
1	JETHRO AZZOPARDI DUCA	Agħti Kasi!	13	<p>"Agħti Kasi!" is a prime illustration of how a single image can say a thousand words and evoke a powerful emotional response. The photo features a young boy, staring confidently into a mirror with face covered with the mobile itself, as he holds up a handwritten note. The note, simple in its message yet profound in its implications. Although we cannot see the boy's expression, one can feel a sense of determination and pride, as if he knows the importance of the words he is displaying for the world to see.</p> <p>In terms of artistic technique, the photo is well-executed. The lighting is soft and natural, casting a warm glow on the boy's face. The colours are vibrant and eye-catching, drawing the viewer's attention to the central figure. The use of shallow depth of field adds a sense of intimacy to the image, as if the viewer is having a personal conversation with the boy.</p> <p>This photo is a testament to the power of photography as a medium for activism and social change. Through a single image, it challenges the viewer to think about the voices we might be ignoring, reminding us that even the smallest among us can make a difference and stand up for what they believe in.</p>



## Top 3 Entries: Visual Art

RANK	ARTIST	TITLE	AGE	DESCRIPTION
2	FRANCESCO GALEA	The right for children to be happy, cared for & protected	6	<p>This well-executed collage creation opens our eyes to a universe of colours, shapes, and symbols that speak to our souls and makes it easier for us to find art that speaks to us. This is particularly true with collage art, which combines different components to create a composition that is visually arresting and harmonious.</p> <p>This collage is a celebration of love, connection, and the power of human relationships. The simplicity of the design belies its depth of emotion, inviting viewers to reflect on their own relationships and the impact that love and positivity can have on their lives. The characters' embrace serves as a reminder of the importance of human connection, while the hearts scattered around them symbolise the love that surrounds us if we only choose to see it. The choice of positive words serves to enhance the overall message of the collage.</p> <p>This is a powerful reminder of the importance of 'care, love and joy' in our lives, while reminding us of the beauty and joy that can be found in human relationships. The hearts, the embrace, and the positive words all work together to create a piece of art that is both visually stunning and emotionally resonant. As viewers gaze upon this collage, they are reminded of the importance of spreading positivity wherever we go.</p>



## Top 3 Entries: Visual Art

RANK	ARTIST	TITLE	AGE	DESCRIPTION
3	AMY CASSAR	Can't you see the fear in my eyes	12	<p>The painting piece not only showcases the talent of this young artist but also sheds light on a dark issue in society.</p> <p>The monochromatic colour scheme of the painting adds to its sombre atmosphere, effectively setting the tone for the message it is trying to convey. The use of shades of grey and black creates a sense of fear and unease, drawing the viewer into the emotional turmoil of the subject.</p> <p>The central figure of the painting, a young girl, is depicted with a look of fear and vulnerability in her eyes that conveys a sense of helplessness, as if she has resigned herself to the inevitable. The artist has captured the raw emotion of fear and desperation with remarkable skill, making it real to the viewer.</p> <p>The background of the painting further enhances the theme of child abuse. This unseen threat adds a sense of danger and uncertainty to the scene, leaving the viewer to ponder what horrors may lie ahead for the girl.</p> <p>Despite the disturbing subject matter, there is a tragic beauty to the painting. The delicate brushwork and subtle shading give the image a sense of depth and complexity, inviting the viewer to contemplate the girl's troubles. Artistic works like this not only showcase the talent of the artist but also serve as a powerful tool for social dialogue.</p>



## Certificates of Recognition: Visual Art (listed in alphabetic order)

- Adamantia Adamantadis - Peace and Joy - Age: 7
- Amelia Mizzi - Children's Right to be Happy and Healthy - Age: 7
- Elsa Giglio Costa - Happy Thoughts - Age: 6
- Emma Brincat - Hopscotch - Age: 12
- Gregory Edwin Vella - Children's Right to Play - Age: 5
- Lei Scerri Saliba - Being Different - Age: 12
- Lucia Valletta - Happy Times - Age: 10



## Top 3 Entries: Short Stories

RANK	ARTIST	TITLE	AGE	DESCRIPTION
1	CHRISTOPHER PISANI	The Flying Dream	8	The story's exploration of diverse cultures via the conduit of dreams is a captivating narrative approach. The intersection between the dream realm and reality serves as a compelling testament to the profound influence of children's imaginations on their perceptions and experiences of life.
2	KAIDEN SPITERI	Il-Ktieb ta' taħt is-siġra tal-ballut	12	B'din l-istorja, Kaiden żewweġ l-importanza tad-drittijiet tat-tfal mas-sens sabiħ ta' avventura. Bil-karattri ta' Mary u sħabha, juri kemm huwa importanti r-rwol tat-tfal fit-tiswir tas-soċjetà, u għalhekk b'hal donnu qed jagħmel appell biex it-tfal ikollhom sehem aqwa fid-deċiżjonijiet li jaffettwaw lilhom.
3	ANN CURMI	A dream of reality?	11	The stark juxtaposition between the introductory paragraph and the subsequent narrative subtly illuminates a reality often overlooked. Ann's recognition of alternative realities, particularly in conflict-ridden regions, underscores the significance of children in more privileged nations understanding their fortune and the vital importance of their rights. This acknowledgment therefore indirectly underscores the significance of institutions like the Office of the Commissioner for Children.





## Certificates of Recognition: Short Stories (listed in alphabetic order)

- Elisa Marie Azzopardi - Children's Rights - Age: 11
- Emma Micallef St John - The Right to be Heard: the Childhood of Alex Evans - Age: 11
- Emma Mifsud - The Unravelling Story of Paige Micheals - Age: 12
- Isaac Curmi - Children's Right to Be Heard: The Echoing Voices of the Future - Age: 14
- Juan Falzon Jones - Children's Right to be safe from harm - Age: 8
- Miriam Ben Abid - My Ideas - Age: 9
- Rian Harris Vatia - What makes me happy - Age: 8



## Top 3 Entries: Poetry

RANK	ARTIST	TITLE	AGE	DESCRIPTION
1	GIOSIANA CARDONA	Leñen it-Tfal	12	F'din it-taqbila, Giosana mexxiela turi l-importanza tal-opinjoniġiet tat-tfal f'affarijiet li jikkonċernawhom filwaqt li għarfet ukoll ir-rwol tal-Kummissarju għat-Tfal matul dawn l-aħħar għoxrin sena biex dawn l-istess opinjoniġiet jingħataw prijorià.
2	JUSTIN (JIADING) FAN	A Child's World	9	Justin's poem skillfully captures the perspective of a child, recognizing their unique needs and the transformative power of adults and caretakers who acknowledge and fulfill those needs. It beautifully portrays the beauty that emerges when a child's needs are met and validated, offering a poignant portrayal of the child's world.
3	ELENA DEMICOLI	I am a Child	11	Elena adeptly infused a sense of playfulness into the traditional poetic structure, crafting a poem that eloquently embodies the fundamental rights every child deserves in our society.



## Certificates of Recognition: Poetry (listed in alphabetic order)

- Anthea Grech - Id-Dritt tat-Tfal li jinstemgħu - Age: 15
- Elyse Vella Bayliss - I am a Child - Age: 9
- Lisa Giordmaina - Lehen it-Tfal - Age: 12
- Matthea Grech - Id-Dritt tat-Tfal li jilgħabu - Age: 15
- Pearl Baldacchino - The Orphaned Unwanted Child - Age: 11
- Raquel Buhagiar - Id-Dritt tat-Tfal li jkollhom min jieħu ħsiebhom - Age: 13
- Zach Spiteri - Little Voices - Age: 10



## The winners were chosen by a group of people including:

- Ms Suzanne Garcia Imbernon - Representative of the Office of the Commissioner for Children
- George Vella - Young Person and member of the Council for Children
- Mr Pierre Mifsud - Visual Arts Expert\*
- Mr Bradley Cachia - Literature Expert\*

The people mentioned above went through all the entries received and came to an agreement of the winning entries based on the following criteria:

- Artistic Level
- Age
- Message portrayed according to the requirements
- Uniqueness

**\*Biographies available as an annex to this report**



Even though only 10 winners were chosen from each category, as stipulated in the guidelines, there were many good entries with very powerful messages.

The Office of the Commissioner for Children will analyse all of the entries and ensure that all the messages that are being portrayed are taken on board by the Office when carrying out its work. The top 10 entries from each category, as well as other entries will be used in their original form to promote and protect children's rights.



## Annex I - Biographies

### Pierre Mifsud

Pierre Mifsud (b. 1979) graduated from the University of Malta with a Bachelors Degree in Art Education (2001) and a Masters Degree in Art Education (2016). Pierre possesses a wide-range of teaching experiences from primary to secondary schooling; persons with special needs and also taught art for twelve years at The Malta School of Art. Since October 2012, Pierre has been lecturing art and design at MCAST Institute for the Creative Arts. He has always strived to experiment with art as a learning process and his main area of interest is community art projects. Has exhibited his works in several collective exhibitions.

Pierre was born in Valletta and resides in Rabat with his wife and their three kids.

### Bradley Cachia

Bradley Cachia (2004) is currently reading for a B.A. (Honours) in Maltese with Communication Studies at the University of Malta. He identifies as a performing artist and a literary artist, with a great appreciation towards the creative experimentation which these forms allow him to pursue, especially when he manages to bridge them together. He has also worked, and still works, in various voluntary NGOs with the aim of promoting social causes which he holds close to heart, such as language, arts and culture, and education.

