



THE MALTA CHAMBER

Hon. Rosianne Cutajar
Minister for Equality and Civil Rights

cc: Hon. Prime Minister Robert Abela, Hon. Leader of the Opposition Alex Borg, Hon. Speaker of the House Carmelo Abela, Hon. Deputy Speaker Bernard Grech, Hon. Minister Keith Azzopardi Tanti, Hon. Shadow Minister Graziella Galea, Hon. PL Whip Naomi Cachia, Hon. PN Whip Ivan Castillo

Hon Minister,

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry is writing to respectfully request the postponement of the final debate and vote in Parliament on the National Commission for Human Rights and Equality Bill.

The Malta Chamber fully supports legislation that strengthens the protection of human rights and promotes the principles of equality and non-discrimination. These are fundamental values that should continue to be safeguarded through a robust and well-considered legislative framework.

However, we have serious concerns about the expediency of passing the current Bill without the necessary consultation. We believe that legislation of such constitutional and societal significance should be afforded the necessary time for thorough consultation and scrutiny.

Given the broad scope of the proposed legislation, we believe that the Bill merits a meaningful engagement with the social partners and all interested parties.

Furthermore, our preliminary assessment indicates that several provisions of the Bill overlap with already existing legislation.

It is in this spirit that a more comprehensive consultation process would enable these concerns to be properly addressed, resulting in legislation that is clearer, more coherent and better equipped to achieve its intended objectives while providing the necessary legal certainty and safeguards.

In view of the above, we respectfully urge Government to postpone the final parliamentary debate and vote on the Bill to allow sufficient time for meaningful consultation with the social partners and other stakeholders.



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Yours sincerely,

William Spiteri Bailey

President

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry

Dr Marthese Portelli

CEO

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry