

Maltese Paediatric Association
The Adoption of Children
Press Release

- The adoption of children is an emotional issue which invariably generates many thoughts and feelings in us all. Our role is not intended to either endorse or condemn sexual orientation. The guiding principle and main concern of the Association is the welfare of the child.
- The Association notes that there is a lack of scientific research in the local context and therefore urges the relevant authorities to proceed with caution prior to the enactment of any legislation that changes adoption practices in Malta.
- The Association notes that married parents can create the best environment for children's development. Nonetheless children can thrive well in a variety of family types including single and same-gender parents. The Association is committed to equally support children in traditional and non-traditional families.
- Civil authorities should ensure that all types of families are regulated and protected by the law, and supported to build and maintain strong and stable families to provide a healthy environment for their children. The law should also safeguard the civil and legal rights of children irrespective of their families' structure.
- In the enactment and implementation of laws regulating adoption, the best interests of the child should be the paramount consideration, and should take precedence over the interests of adults. Emphasis should be placed on a thorough assessment of all applicants in their competency as parents to provide affection and security to the child. Among the several factors that should be considered in the screening process, the Association recommends that due weight is given to the stability and the unique influence that a married couple can give to the child.

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www.paediatricsmalta.org