

Dialogue on social security entitlements for women

As part of the activities organised during the Focus Week to mark the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the National Council of Women organised a public dialogue at the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta on the theme of social security entitlements for women.

Earlier this month, Leanda Barrington-Leach of the European Women's Lobby said: "Women tend to live longer than men, but they don't have as much savings and security backup as men, so they are often poorer."

Joe Camilleri, Director General (Social Security), gave a presentation on social security measures, with particular reference to retirement and widows' pensions. This was followed by a discussion where those in attendance shared their thoughts and concerns.

In the European Union, 17 per cent of women experience poverty, compared to 15 per cent of men. In all age groups, women face a higher risk of poverty after separation, divorce or the death of their partner. For this reason women must be more aware of their entitlements which they can claim.

The 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion aims to raise awareness about poverty and social exclusion – which directly affects one in six Europeans. It aims to mobilise a number of partners in the fight against poverty as well as promote social integration and encourage clear commitments on drawing up EU and national policies to tackle poverty and social exclusion.

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