**Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children)**

**International Conference April 2024**

at

**The Auditorium, Attard Parish Centre, Attard, Malta**

**Friday 26April 15:00-19:30 for Professionals**

**Saturday 27 April 09:00-13:30 for Professionals and Interested Others**

Theme: Happier and healthier Children when brought up by equal and shared Parenting

*Supported by: The Ministry for Social Policy and Children’s Rights and*

*The Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector*

**Speakers:**

**Simona Maria Petcu** Ph.D., a psychologist; an author, an Authorized Mediator and university lecturer. She organized conferences, workshops and congresses for professionals who are called to resolve disputes with minors (judges, prosecutors, psychologists and mediators) about Parental Alienation. She taught theoretical and practical approaches to parents/clinicians at the National Institute for the Advancement and Training of Lawyers. She teaches Parental Alienation at the National Institute of Magistracy to future prosecutors and judges. She is President of APISET and the Head of Health Media Group.

**Alexandru Asmarandei** Judge at the First Instance Court of the 3rd District of Bucharest, Romania, with 10 years of professional experience, in which he has conducted court hearings in Civil law, Family law cases and in Criminal Law proceedings.

**Nicoleta Monica Bratu** Judge proficient in pedagogical and legal studies and activities, former teacher, former lawyer (almost 9 years), and, since 2010, a judge, currently a judge at the Bucharest Court resolving civil disputes, including family and minor matters.

**Philip Marcus** was appointed a Judge of the Jerusalem Magistrates Court in Israel in 1995 and served as a Judge of the Family Court from its opening in 1997 until he retired from the Bench in 2012. Since retiring, he has lectured on five continents, and is consulted by governments and organizations around the world, about family law and family court system reform, therapeutic jurisprudence and prevention and handling of child psychological maltreatment, including parental alienation; his articles have been published in peer reviewed journals.

**Dr Claire Casha** holds a lecturing post with the Department of Child and Family Studies within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta. Claire graduated from the University of Malta with a first class Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) degree in 1998 and a distinction Master in Family Studies degree in 2014. She was awarded a PhD in Social Policy from the University of York in 2024. Her PhD study focused on fathers' views of parenting arrangements post-separation and explored the interface between family law and doing family through gender. She has delivered briefing sessions organized by ‘Positive Parenting Malta’ under the patronage of the Ministry for Social Policy and Children’s Rights on shared parenting to legal and helping professionals.

**Dr Malcolm Paul Agius Galea** Parliamentary Secretary for Active Ageing, with 17 years experience as family doctor emphasising the importance of psychological and social aspects for a holistic family well-being.

**Dr Conrad Borg Manchè** Lawyer and the Mayor of Gżira for the past 9 years, is passionate about

Environmental justice and family justice in separation cases advocating mainly shared and co parenting.

**Karl Wright** A Systemic Family Therapist and an accredited Clinical Supervisor running his own practice in Malta and in Gozo, besides being part of the Management of the Institute of Family Therapy –IFT Malta, where he is also the Academic Coordinator for the B.A. Psychological Therapies and a tutor on the Institute Courses.

**Ingrid Baldacchino** Psychotherapist highly specialised in assessing and dealing with Parental Alienation and its dynamics. Many years working with families going though separation. One of the first professionals to identify Parental Alienation locally.

Friday 26 April

15:00 Registration and Welcome Coffee

15:45 Hon Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli: Opening Speech

16:00 Karl Wright and Ingrid Baldacchino: Introduction

16:30  Simona Maria Petcu Taking Parental Alienation to Court: How to deal with it?!

17:00   Alexandru Asmarandei:  Indicators of Parental Alienation in the Trial.

17:30   Coffee

17.55 Dr Malcolm Paul Agius Galea: Psychological and Social Aspects in Family Wellbeing

18:00    Nicoleta Monica Bratu: Parental Alienation - a different perspective of it,

among policies, procedures and freedom

18:30 Philip Marcus: Alienating Behaviours are Child Psychological Maltreatment:

An International Update

18:45 Claire Casha: Shared Parenting in Malta

19:00    Questions to Panel

19:15 Karl Wright and Ingrid Baldacchino: Conclusion

19.30 Refreshments

Saturday 27 April

09:00   Registration and Welcome Coffee

09.45 Ingrid Baldacchino: Introduction

10:00   Simona Maria Petcu: Educational Aspects on the Phenomenon of Parental Alienation

in Courses for Judges and Prosecutors

10:20   Alexandru Asmarandei: The Profile of the Alienating Parent

10:40   Nicoleta Monica Bratu: Premises/ Causes of Parental Alienation

11:00   Questions and Answers to Speakers

11:20   Coffee

11:40   Workshop 1 Parental Alienation Early Detection & Early Intervention

11.40 Workshop 2 Equally Shared Parenting

12:30   Reports from the Workshops

12:50 Dr Conrad Borg Manchè: Overview on Equally Shared Parenting

13:00   Questions to Panel

13.15 Ingrid Baldacchino Conclusion

13:25 HSBC Malta Foundation *Art Competition* Award Presentation

13.30   Lunch

The conference is free of charge. Register by email to [admin@happyparentingmalta.com](mailto:admin@happyparentingmalta.com)

First come, first served. For more details you can also contact us by Mobile or WhatsApp +356 77603330 / +356 99565730 *Those who attend will eventually get a certificate of participation.*

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