

Newsletter

February 2024 - Issue 78



Jesus takes up His Cross

Lent has come. We are offered an opportunity to slow down, to take stock and listen more attentively to our higher intelligence. For 40 days Jesus wandered in the desert, reflecting on His path in life, tempted at every corner to do wrong. Overcoming darkness during His pilgrimage through the wilderness of Judaea cemented faith in His earthly mission. From that moment on, His was the way of selfless service to others, eventually taking up His cross for them too.

YMCA Malta has been reflecting on what it means to serve others. The past month has seen us participating in social projects designed to enlighten, enrich and fight for justice. From an educational presentation on becoming a homeless teen; podcast production on a range of youth-oriented social issues; signatory to a statement for the rights of migrants in peril on the Mediterranean – we are always ready to do what we can for those in need.

This Lent, please consider contributing to one of our campaigns or projects. Whether you can donate a few hours of your time as a volunteer, or some extra change you may have left over from your monthly budget – we are always greatly appreciative of your generosity and social responsibility.

Every night, our shelters provide comfort, safety and a chance for a better tomorrow. Join our 40-day Lent campaign and sponsor a bed in one of our homeless shelters. You will help us help those who do not have a place to call home in Malta.

[Sponsor a Bed](#)

Baħar Ċimiterju

[3,041 people died or disappeared in the Mediterranean in 2023](#): one of the worst years on record. To combat this 'Sea Cemetery' in our very own backyard, YMCA Malta co-signed an activist statement urging the Maltese and EU authorities to stop collaborating with corrupt actors in North Africa who are known for human rights violations, and to promptly and humanely aid those in distress at sea, as well as the organisations helping them.

A protest on February 18th at Gardjola Gardens helped solidify the intention of this joint statement. We endorsed it as one of Malta's leading voices on social justice issues and will continue to endorse such events until justice has been done for these voiceless migrants.





Human Library

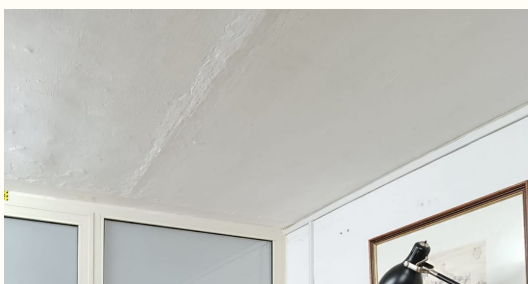
The concept of a 'Human Library' was born in Denmark in 2000 and has since spread to over 70 countries around the globe – including Malta. Attendants who visit the 'Library' have an unmissable opportunity to talk to people from all walks of life, often on socially taboo topics. The goal is simple: *spread human kindness and break deeply ingrained stigmas*.

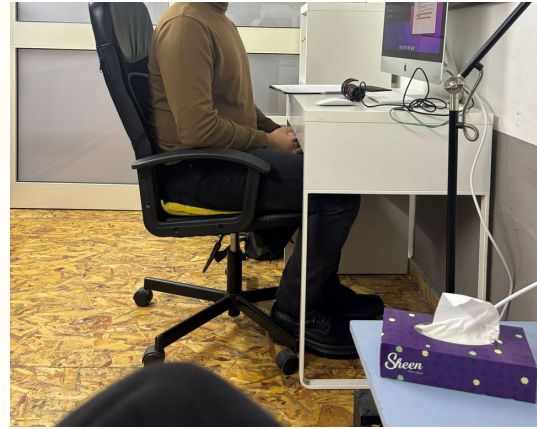
Last week we proudly presented at the Junior College for this year's edition. Young people had the opportunity to learn more about the '*Life of a Homeless Teenager*' by hearing our beloved former service-user Louise Pace talk about her experiences as a homeless youth. Raising awareness face-to-face in this manner is a deeply powerful and enriching experience.

WARNING: Awesome Podcasts on the Way

Our 2022 research study '[The Culture of Youths in Malta](#)' confirmed that 54% of Maltese youth vote of their own free will. We wanted to elaborate on this important statistic and give our young people a platform and a voice in their *own* future.

We have been producing a series of podcasts as part of our participation in the '*My Voice to Europe*' project. These audio awareness pieces raise social concerns directly from young people before the upcoming MEP EU Elections in June this year. Stay tuned via our social channels for the imminent release of these groundbreaking podcasts.





Early Invitation

We would also like to invite you to register early for our [My Voice to Europe Conference](#) to be held this May. This FREE event will welcome MEPs and MEP Candidates of the upcoming election, stakeholders and young people to the publication of the findings being put forward by our youth. We invite all those interested in the future of the EU to come along. Light refreshments will be served.

[Join Our MPs](#)

Y'Academy Presents...

Camino de Santiago – The Way of St. James – is an ancient pilgrimage through parts of France, Portugal and Northern Spain. Ever since the tomb of St. James was discovered in 813 at the place known today as Santiago de Compostela, pilgrims have walked various paths towards his resting place in veneration of the patron Saint of Spain.

Author Zsolt Bernath has walked the French Way – the almost 900-km route from the

French-Spanish border to the Atlantic Ocean – three times in his life. In a unique initiative presented by the Y'Academy, Zsolt will share his experiences, feelings and thoughts about the journey, including audiovisual footage of the 5-week pilgrimage.

Y'Academy is a service offered by YMCA Malta dedicated to enhancing team dynamics and professional development for companies and NGOs. This includes tailor-made training sessions, interactive workshops, and creative team-building activities.

This is a FREE event. All are welcome.

[Join Pilgrimage](#)



THE WAY

AUTHOR ZSOLT BERNATH
TALKS ABOUT HIS PILGRIMAGE
CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
(THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES, SPAIN)

TIME: 27 MARCH 2024, 17:00
VENUE: VALLETTA DESIGN CLUSTER



Thank you...

HSBC for providing us with the equipment needed to give our Y Communal Home a fresh lick of paint.





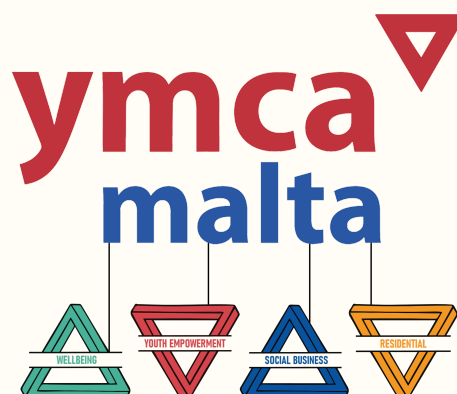
Huge thanks to Is-Swieqi Local Council and the Alfred Mizzi Foundation for joining our [Needs Support Programme](#).

Neriku Caterers for participating in the CSR initiative.



Thank you to all of our readers

If you would like to support us further, click [here](#)



Facebook: [YMCA Malta](#)
Youtube: [YMCA Malta](#)
Instagram: [YMCA_Malta](#)

Linkedin: [YMCA-Malta](#)
Website: ymcamalta.org
Email: info@ymcamalta.org



