

Highlights

OUTREACH - PREVENTION - RESIDENTIAL - COMMUNITY - AFTERCARE

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Editorial Note

As we close another impactful month, we take a moment to reflect not only on what was accomplished, but on **why we do this work**. May 2025 was a season of **deep connection, courageous collaboration, and bold preparation** both locally and internationally.

From the **Refugees Conference** and the **YMCA Europe General Assembly** to our inspiring participation in the **NAYDO Philanthropy Conference** in **St. Louis**, YMCA Malta stood shoulder to shoulder with global partners in

reaffirming our collective commitment to **DAR: Dignity, Access, and Refuge**.

These aren't just words. They are the foundation of our **DAR Strategy - Not just a word. A Right** - a transformative roadmap we've set in motion as we approach **YMCA Malta's 50th anniversary in 2026**. DAR is not a campaign in the traditional sense. It is a movement a unifying vision to elevate voices, drive systemic change, and radically shift the way we approach homelessness, mental health, and youth empowerment in Malta.

The groundwork laid this month from strengthening partnerships and refining care practices to spotlighting our work on national and international platforms is all part of our growing momentum toward the **launch of DAR in September**.

To our staff, supporters, partners, and the communities we serve: thank you. You are part of something powerful. And as we continue this journey, may we never forget **dignity begins where visibility, voice, and value are restored**.

Global Engagements

YMCA Malta at NAYDO 2025

YMCA Malta proudly took part in the **NAYDO Philanthropy Conference** held in **St. Louis, USA**, a global gathering dedicated to advancing philanthropy, fundraising, and sustainable community impact within the YMCA movement.

We are deeply grateful to the [Gateway Region YMCA St. Louis](#) for their warm hospitality and to **NAYDO** for facilitating this dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences. A heartfelt thanks goes to our global partner [The Y](#), and to the **1,800 delegates** from across the **USA, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean** whose insight, energy, and commitment inspired us throughout the event.

Participation in NAYDO reinforces our belief that **local action thrives through global connection**. We returned to Malta energized and better equipped to scale our impact.



YMCA Malta at the YMCA Europe General Assembly

Together with over **120 young changemakers, staff, and leaders** from YMCAs across Europe and beyond, YMCA Malta proudly participated in this

year's **YMCA Europe Annual General Assembly**, a vibrant gathering designed to **spark connection, build trust, and ignite collaboration** across borders.

The event provided a valuable platform for dialogue, strategic planning, and youth empowerment, reinforcing our shared commitment to **social justice, peacebuilding, and inclusive community development**. Through interactive workshops, networking sessions, and cultural exchanges, we strengthened our collective vision for a future where no one is left behind.



YMCA Malta at the Refugees Conference

This conference brought together **practitioners, advocates, and humanitarian leaders** from across YMCAs in Europe and beyond to exchange best practices in supporting **displaced and refugee communities**.

The conference served as a powerful platform to reaffirm **YMCA's longstanding commitment to humanitarian work**, especially in times of crisis. Special focus was given to the **collective response of YMCA national movements** to the ongoing **war in Ukraine**, highlighting stories of resilience, cross-border solidarity, and the mobilisation of emergency support, housing, psychosocial care, and integration programmes.

Discussions also addressed the urgent need for sustainable, trauma-informed systems that restore **dignity, agency, and belonging** to people forced to flee their homes. YMCA Malta shared insights from its local outreach with migrants and refugees, contributing to a wider vision of inclusive, rights-based service delivery.

The conference reinforced that **refuge is more than shelter it is safety, connection, and hope**, and that through unified effort, we can help communities not just survive, but heal and rebuild.





From the Street to Support: Two Years of DAR in Action



2nd June 2025: Marks the second Anniversary since the opening of the **Drop-In Centre** in Hamrun.

Two years ago, we opened the doors to our **Drop-In Centre** in Hamrun, with a vision: ***to offer a safe, supportive space for individuals experiencing rooflessness, while working holistically to prevent long-term homelessness.*** We have mitigated countless cases of street homelessness, crisis-related admissions, and preventable incarceration by providing direct access to food, hygiene, mental health support, social work intervention, and emergency shelter pathways. This model not only restores dignity but also alleviates pressure on law enforcement and healthcare systems through early, community-rooted action.

Today, that vision is thriving. From the opening of our Drop-In Centre until the end of March 2025, your support has enabled us to welcome

- **800+** individuals through our doors, offering them warmth, dignity, and hope.
- The Drop-In Centre has recorded an incredible **13,348 visits**, each one a moment of connection, care, and possibility.
- With your help, we provided **2,698 showers, 1,691 washing machine loads, and 2,400 clothing giveaways**, meeting essential hygiene needs with dignity.
- We served **9,059 meals**, gave out **€66,185.91 worth of food bags** through our Needs Support Programme, and poured **9,288 cups of coffee**, offering nourishment and comfort in equal measure.
- Access to **1,049 computer/ internet sessions** and **2,025 phone calls** opened the door to communication, opportunity, and independence.
- Our team also carried out over **2,401 social work interventions**, helping service users take steps toward temporary accommodation, employment, training, and independent living.

These numbers represent real lives changed not by punishment, but by possibility. Beyond the numbers, the generosity of the community and CSRs has built a place where people feel seen, supported, and never alone.

This operation is 100% funded through voluntary contributions, your contributions and that makes this milestone especially meaningful. You are not just our partners; you are change-makers, partners in compassion, and advocates for a more just society.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding this work and reaching more individuals who need a way forward. While public safety is important, addressing poverty and social hardships requires compassion and not criminalisation.

Together, we can continue to turn emergency support into lasting impact.



Undergraduate students from the Faculty of Health Sciences (Mental Health) supports financially our front-line work.

Therapy is not a Luxury: Book a Session with us!



European Delegations in Malta



We had the pleasure of welcoming [YMCA Finland - Suomen NMKY:n Liitto](#) to our residential facilities. Their visit was a powerful exchange of ideas, compassion, and shared commitment to building a **more just society**. Together, we explored our **frontline work in homelessness, mental health, and youth support**, strengthening ties and inspiring new collaborations for social change across borders.



We also had the honour of welcoming [YMCA Europe](#) and [YMCA Romania](#) for an immersive visit across our key service locations including the **Head Office**, our **Drop-In Centre**, and our **Residential Shelters**. The visit offered a meaningful insight into the **comprehensive support system** we provide for **young people and individuals experiencing homelessness and vulnerability**.

We extend our sincere thanks to our guests for their interest, engagement, and reflections. Their visit reaffirms the importance of shared learning and solidarity in the ongoing work for **dignity, access, and refuge**.



FUNDED BY





Thank you/Grazzi ħafna

Donors that supported YMCA through May

- Hartons
- Victory Kitchen
- Malta Food bank
- The Alfred Mizzi Foundation
- Black Bull
- Maypole
- FSWS Head Office
- The Computer Clinic
- Express Trailers
- HSBC
- Royalty Beddings
- Westin Associates Club
- PG Holdings (Pavi/Pama)
- N Cordina

An enormous thank you to these organisations. Your philanthropy is much appreciated.

If you or an organisation you work, for would like to contribute towards our

cause, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Support Facelift My Shelter



As part of our **DAR Strategy (Dignity, Access, Refuge)**, our **365 Campaign** is thriving - a call to action for businesses and individuals to stand with us every single day of the year in support of people experiencing **homelessness, poverty, and social exclusion**.

€1 per day for 365 days, invested directly into life-saving and dignity-restoring services from emergency shelter and food support to mental health care, youth empowerment, and long-term housing solutions.

We are thrilled to welcome new partners who have committed to walk this journey with us, not just through financial support, but by embracing our mission and amplifying our message.

- **The Embassy Valletta Hotel**
- **St. James Hospital**
- **SG Malta**
- **Fenech & Fenech Advocates**
- **Remax Ltd**
- **Alellon Hospitality Malta**
- **Antilia Ltd.**
- **Atlas Insurance**
- **Cyberpass Ltd.**
- **CC Car Parks Ltd.**
- **Bonnici Bros.**
- **DFK Malta Ltd.**
- **ALDB Associates Ltd.**

- Serolf Trading Agency Ltd.
- HR Plus Co Ltd.
- Ben Estates Ltd.
- Arrowswift Contracts Ltd.
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