



# MALTA UNION OF TEACHERS

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The Hon. Prime Minister of Malta  
Dr. Joseph Muscat  
OPM

Dear Hon. Prime Minister,

The Malta Union of Teachers is extremely concerned at the way cases of alleged child abuse are being treated by the police force, especially where educators are concerned.

The MUT notes that:

- a) There appears to be no uniform way in how such cases are dealt with. In some cases allegations that reach the police are investigated in a highly professional manner and action is taken if and when the police believe they have a case. In other cases it appears that once the allegation reaches the police no investigation is carried out at all and the person who allegedly abused is prosecuted immediately. Moreover it is highly confusing to see how some people have their names published on day one, while others do not. This gives rise to concern because it appears that there are two weights and two measures in the way people are treated by the same police force.
- b) The police inspector who was recently behind the case of Mr Anthony Callus is the same inspector who is behind a case of another educator, which case has been dragging on for over three years in the Gozo courts, and in both cases it clearly appears that the persons involved were simply arrested and prosecuted without any proper investigation into the case. The Union wonders whether this is a coincidence or otherwise. This methodology is ruining the lives of educators who are involved, who end up being suspended from their work and/or having to resign, after their personal and professional reputation is literally rubbished on a simple allegation.
- c) The methodology apparently being applied by this inspector and/or the police force in these cases literally means that all one needs to do to "get rid" of the educator who disciplined his/her son/daughter is simply turn up at the police station and allege abuse. If one takes the Gozo case as an example, the educator would need years to clear his/her name. In the mean time the person passes through hell, in a literal sense, with an automatic suspension especially if in the civil service, a rubbished reputation and thousand of Euro expenses in defence lawyers.
- d) The methodology in question is also proving to be a death blow for many initiatives taken by educators within the context of extracurricular activities, and an even harder blow on NGOs who provide voluntary service to children. Outings, live-ins, exchanges abroad and similar activities will most definitely be affected. The MUT has been inundated with calls and emails from educators in various schools and volunteers in various organisations expressing their concern.

In light of the above the Union is asking your office to investigate the methodologies being used in such cases and to make the necessary changes in legislation to protect all parties concerned from the abuse of a system which appears to be flawed and incongruent. In the mean time the MUT is not excluding the issue of various directives in the upcoming scholastic year if the situation remains unchanged.

Regards,

Kevin Bonello  
President, Malta Union of Teachers