

TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH

Life Network Foundation and Doctors for Life

The Hon. Prime Minister.
Auberge de Castille,
Valletta

15th April 2024

Dear Honourable Prime Minister,

On Thursday 11th April, the European Parliament approved a Resolution by which it proposed to include a fundamental right to abortion in the Charter of Human Rights of the European Union. This Resolution is not binding.

In order to include this right in the Charter of Human Rights of the European Union, the unanimous vote of the Council of Ministers is required. The Treaties do not provide that the European Union intervenes in issues such as abortion because these are left exclusively in the hands of the Member States according to the principle of subsidiarity.

The principle of subsidiarity is one of the main ones in the structure of the European Union and favours the smaller countries the most, since the European Union is an institution of sovereign states. Therefore, in certain matters the European Union cannot intervene except by unanimous agreement. With this our sovereignty, as the smallest country of the European Union, is protected.

That is why we ask you to put any concerns of the Maltese and Gozitan people to rest, that the Maltese Government in the name of the people, is not going to support the inclusion of this right in the aforementioned Charter. Other governments such as the Italian Government, have already expressed themselves against this proposal as contained in the Resolution of the European Parliament.

If the Maltese Government makes such a statement, it will send a clear message to the Maltese people, regardless of their political opinion, that the Maltese Government will continue to maintain that issues such as abortion and other matters, are in the exclusive jurisdiction of the Member States. Again in the case of Malta, in the Accession Treaty of 2004, there is a reserved right that, no matter what the Treaties say, the matter of abortion will always remain a matter to be decided by Malta and its institutions.

Dr. Miriam Sciberras
Chief Executive Officer
Life Network Foundation Malta