



European network of legal experts
in gender equality and non-discrimination

Non-discrimination country report 2025: highlights



Malta





Slow legislative reform:

The long-awaited Equality Act and Human Rights and Equality Commission Act (proposed since 2015) are still stalled in Parliament, leaving Malta with a fragmented legal framework.



Constitutional reform:

In December 2024, government announced planned constitutional amendments to strengthen protection against disability discrimination and improve access to justice.



Expanded policy strategies:

Recent strategies include: Anti-Racism Strategy 2021–2023 (first ever in Malta), Integration Strategy & Action Plan 2025–2030 (“I Belong” programme), LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2023–2027, and Active Ageing Policy 2023–2030.



Equality bodies' activities:

National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE, all grounds) and Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, disability) provide training, awareness campaigns, EU-funded projects, and input to national/EU consultations.



Disability rights progress:

CRPD Malta enforces accessibility standards, monitors compliance with the UNCRPD (incorporated in 2021), and implements the National Disability Strategy 2021–2030 focusing on deinstitutionalisation, independent living, and intersectionality.



Positive action on disability:

A variety of positive action measures are in place for persons with disabilities, including a quota in employment (companies with 20+ staff must employ persons with disabilities or pay compensation).



Case law remains scarce:

Enforcement remains very weak overall, with only one discrimination case (disability-related) reported in 2024, continuing a pattern of very low case numbers despite awareness initiatives.



Persistent gaps:

Discrimination by association and intersectional discrimination are not explicitly prohibited and multiple discrimination is only prohibited on the ground of disability. The prohibition of instructions to discriminate is more limited than under the directives.



Good practices:

CRPD's building accessibility compliance checks, disability employment guidelines, awareness campaigns, and the NCPE's targeted training and awareness work stand out as positive developments.



Challenges ahead:

Key obstacles include: legislative stagnation, low reporting and litigation, limited independence/resources of equality bodies, and weak follow-up on policy strategies. Civil society continues to call for stronger political will and enforcement.