



ŻGHAŻAGH
G H A L L - B I D L A

2ND MEETING
REPORT

DEMOCRACY

Mosta Local Council Hall

22nd May 2026

MEETING BRIEF



After the successful inauguration meeting that we had on the 8th of April 2026 (on the Education System), Żgħażaġh għall-Bidla conducted its 2nd meeting on the 22nd of May 2026, titled **Democracy**. Since the Maltese general election is due on the 30th of May, it was the natural step for the group to dedicate a politically-oriented meeting. Further, it is only essential that we, the young people, keep on making our voices heard; to mirror the kind of politics we want for our country.

Therefore, the 2nd meeting was divided into two parts. The first part comprised of a political debate between four politicians: Mr Mark Philip Camilleri Gambin (Momentum), Ms Sandra Gauci (ADPD), Dr Francesca Zarb (PL), and Dr Joseph Grech (PN). This debate offered an opportunity for youths to get a first hand experience of what our aspiring political leaders have to say, followed with several questions that were asked by the audience during the open floor Q&A. The debate opened up with a number of youth-related questions (as seen on page 2) addressed to all the politicians. Each politicians had around 6 minutes allotted to be used freely throughout the debate. This encouraged politicians to be concise in their rhetoric, which resulted into less time in circling around similar points, or in unfruitful rebuttals with political opponents.

In the second part of the meeting, the audience was divided into two groups, of which two remaining politicians (Dr Zarb and Mr Camilleri Gambin) each joined a different group. During this time, each group could go into detail with the respective politician on youth-related issues, having direct conversations with the politicians, and possibly concrete solutions to their issues.

Around 30 youths attended this meeting. Given that this meeting was done during exam periods, it was a great turnout of individuals who did their best to attend and participate. The meeting received positive feedback, and different persons continued to express their interest in collaborating, offering assistance, and joining future meetings.

Luke Fenech

Founder of Żgħażaġh għall-Bidla

THE INITIATING QUESTIONS



- Last year, a survey by the State of the Nation revealed that public interest in politics reached its lowest point, especially among youth - with one in three Maltese saying they are not interested in politics at all. Also, in 2022, the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) found that Malta is below average in political participation and civic education. How do you respond to this? What will your party do?
- In a study on young people in the EU last year, Maltese youths state that they are worried mostly about the environment. How can these young people here be less worried about the environment for the next 5 years?
- Many youths feel that this election is a game of giveaways. Do you believe that this is the case? Why?
- One of the major issues that we, young people, have is that we do not have a guarantee of a state pension, despite paying the national insurance. What solutions do you have for this?
- Due to the rising prices of owning a property, young people are delaying their independence. This issue also correlates with family planning, which is also a factor for our low-birth rate. How do you propose change?
- One of the burdens of this country is a lack of meritocracy. Young people are told that “it is not how much you know, but who you know”. Can you promise these youths here, that “it is not who you know that matters, but how hard you’re willing to work for.”

POINTS THAT WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE POLITICIANS

- Noted the need for economic diversification.
- Financial literacy and civic education is key, especially since people are voting at 16 years of age.
- On the higher rates of ovarian cancer and lower fertility rate, including chosen infertility.
- Piloting courses and investment in piloting courses. Discussing how the government can help.
- Value voting vs party voting.
- The separation between the legislative and executive. Notably due to conflict of interest.
- The difficulty to buy property: there is a fear that the schemes provided will only allow for contractors to increase property crises, noting that the government is helping the youths.
- Pensions - youths feel they may not qualify for a pension knowing the current child rate. Noted that the private pension is a response to this.
- On employment and corruption within the employment of the public service.
- Asked if values would be overridden by the will of the party.
- Spoke about constitutional rights within the constitution. Spoke about abusing law as a citizen, as a rebuttal from the politician.

POINTS THAT WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE POLITICIANS

- Will smaller (like ADPD) and newer parties (like Momentum), bring the party closer to youths? They're going to try to tackle smaller but significant problems which the larger parties tend to avoid solving. Over time, they will try to tackle larger problems but since these parties are relatively small, there isn't much that they can do, except of putting pressure on the larger parties.
- Language changes the way you think. Languages shouldn't be forced. It should be put in a way to be found interesting, and not something obligatory. There should be more exposure of the Maltese language for all ages, especially teens/young adults, like in books, or more mature shows and movies.
- There was a proposal for *politics* to be involved in the history subject, though there are doubts due to biased educators. Exposure to these topics should happen in early teen years, and not just after O-levels when youths have to vote.
- Over-tourism: What would be replaced as income instead of over-tourism? From an economic perspective, we could invest more in research and development, like in more interesting jobs. We should diversify. There was a disagreement with the increase in gaming, especially how it's now in relation to gambling.
- Employers only employ experienced workers, when younger people aren't given the opportunities to gain this experience. Youths should try to involve themselves more in their field and try to teach themselves skills for this.
- The big parties put the smaller parties in a lower class, to make the smaller parties seem less serious. Media still has a bias, in which news sources choose to headline bigger parties than smaller.

SNIPPETS





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