



A MALTESE PROPOSAL

If the European Union does not launch an urgent humanitarian mission in Libya, there will be a human tragedy in the Mediterranean in the coming days and weeks. Today, **Malta proposed to the European Union a humanitarian emergency package** to supply Libya and the immigrants there with food, medicines, and medical aid provisions. The situation in Libya is deteriorating and the demand for people to escape might increase exponentially. **The Maltese proposal to Europe is that of offering aid to immigrants in Libya and to fight human trafficking.** As it always has done, **Malta is ready to play its part**, however, given the spread of Covid-19 and with the ports of Malta, Italy, and Spain now closed, **the immigration challenge demands a European response and not that of a small, single country.** There is a need for the European Union to not let the crisis explode and to take immediate action in order to avoid a human catastrophe.



NEW CASES

There were **6 new cases of Covid-19** after more than a 1,000 tests were made in the last few hours. Among these there is an immigrant at the Hal Far open centre and a worker from Nepal. The health authorities made it clear that **the spread of Covid-19 is accelerating and that everyone should remain disciplined with regard to all directives currently in place.** The virus is spreading via local transmission and as such it is **important to stay at home and to protect the elderly and vulnerable persons.** In all, there are **384 persons who tested positive for the virus.** 2 are at the ITU, 10 at Mater Dei, 17 at Boffa Hospital, 16 at a private hospital, 2 at Mount Carmel, 1 at St Vincent de Paul, and 1 at the Gozo General Hospital. The rest of the patients are in isolation at their homes under medical observation. To this day, **44 persons who had tested positive have recovered from the virus.**



INSPECTIONS ON GROUPS AND THOSE UNDER QUARANTINE

50 persons were fined €100 each during the continuous patrols that the Police are doing to ensure that there are no groups of more than 3 persons in public places, as per the legal notice issued by the government. Indeed, **no one was found breaking obligatory quarantine during the 639 inspections carried out in the last 24 hours**. The appeal remains that **everyone should remain responsible and cooperate with the directives being issued by the authorities**.



AN INDISPENSABLE CONTRIBUTION

Everyday, a number of **diverse workers from various sectors, like their compatriots in the hospitals and the disciplined corps, are working 24 hours a day throughout the week in order to provide essential services**. Among these are **power generation and water supply workers**. Currently, **Enemalta and Water Services Corporation workers are doing their part too** so that, besides hospitals and homes for the elderly, during a time when more people than ever are gathered in their homes, they **ensure a continuous electricity and water supply**. They are working behind the scenes but they are indispensable.



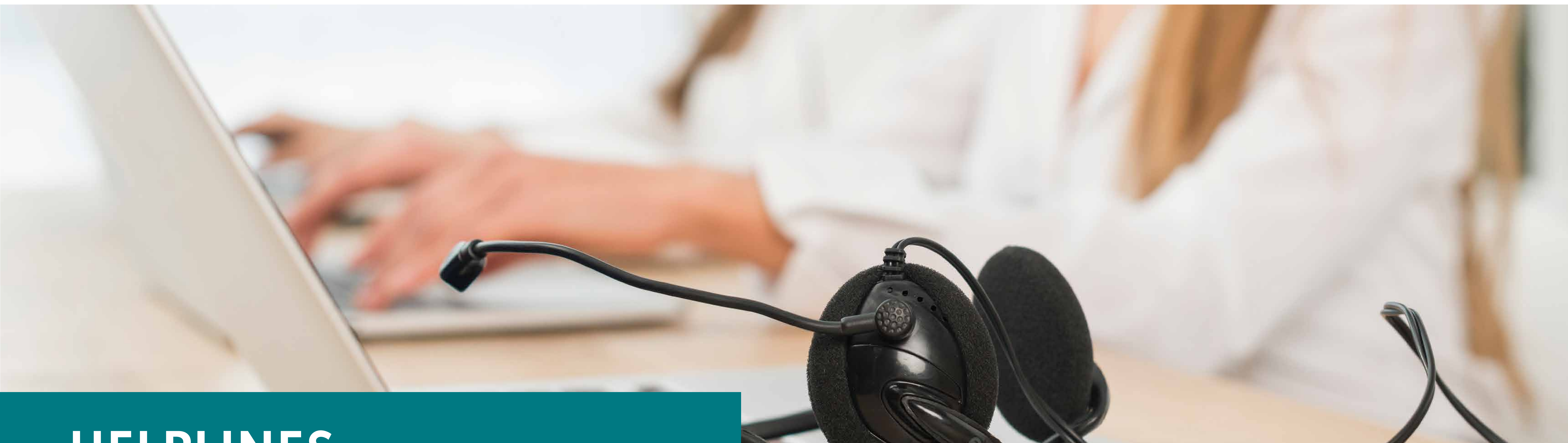
E-BOOKS

Even though its doors are currently closed because of the spread of Covid-19, **Malta Libraries is offering the facilities through which one might loan e-books**. Those who are interested should log onto **www.maltalibraries.gov.mt** for more information about the services offered. The website **maltalibraries.overdrive.com** and the reading app **LIBBY** provide free access to over 8,000 free ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines. Those already subscribed may register their membership card with Malta Libraries. Those who are not members **may apply online without the need of visiting their local library**.



DIER CONTINUES WORKING

As from **15 April**, the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations will temporarily close its doors in order to safeguard the public's as well as its worker's health. It will instead be providing **telephonic and online services**. DIER already has helplines in place—**1575 (for employees) and 1576 (for employers)**—as well as the email address **info.dier@gov.mt** in order to, among other things, offer guidance and clarifications to employees and employers during these particular circumstances that our country is going through. By law, any change in workers' employment conditions requires DIER's permission before coming into force.



HELPLINES

- 111** – For those who **experience symptoms of COVID-19** or those who require further **information**
- 21411 411** – For those in **mandatory quarantine** who require food and medical provisions
- 2294 4511/2294 4504** – To report **breaches of regulations** regarding public health and Covid-19 to the Police
- 1770** – Helpline for **emotional support and mental wellbeing**
- 1772** – For those who are **feeling lonely**
- 2545 1111** – For **Mater Dei, Boffa Hospital**, and **Sir Anthony Mamo** healthcare workers
- 2364 5002** – For **Primary Health Care, Gozo General Hospital**, and **Mount Carmel** employees
- 1575** – For employees to ask about wages and employment conditions
- 1576** – For employers to ask about wages and employment conditions
- 153** – For those who require **information** about the measures of the **financial package** which are administered by the **Department of Social Security**
- 144** – For those who require **information** about the measures of the **financial package** which are administered by **Malta Enterprise**
- 2204 2200** – For Maltese residents who are **stranded in another country and wish to return to Malta**
- 2598 1000** – For those who have **queries about the educational sector**
- 2169 2447** – For **hoteliers and tourists** who have queries about the announced measures
- 2590 3030** – For elderly **people without means of assistance** who require medicine, ready meals, or food products (fruit and vegetables)
- 2546 9111** – For those who work in the gaming industry.