



Millennium Chapel Foundation  
Church Street,  
Paceville STJ 3043 -MALTA  
[Tel:21354464-21381172](tel:21354464-21381172)  
E-mail:[info@millenniumchapel.org](mailto:info@millenniumchapel.org)  
[www.millenniumchapel.org](http://www.millenniumchapel.org)

**Minister Joan Burton, TD**  
Minister for Social Protection  
Department of Social Protection  
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada  
Store Street  
Dublin 1  
Ireland

Malta 16th November 2012

Dear Minister,

I have no doubt that you have been inundated with correspondence regarding the 'PEP (People Experience Poverty)' meetings of EAPN members, organizations and NGO's stating the need for these 'PEP' meetings to continue.

Minister, I am not a member from any of the above mentioned. I am simply an individual person who had been given the **great opportunity** to participate in one of the annual 'PEP' conferences. Admittedly I was apprehensive and and intimidated at first , by the fact that I would be exposing my personal life crisis with so many strangers, and yes I even felt somewhat ashamed to be in the situation I was in, assuming that I would be made to feel uneasy and glared upon. Also that, all that I would have to share about my experience would fall upon deaf ears.

Minister , how very wrong my conception was. Quite the contrary. The welcoming approach from EAPN Staff and members felt so sincere. Also the interaction of all participants was comforting. I really felt part of, included and accepted as a person not being discriminated, who could speak out whole heartedly and without shame, to others attending, who understood and some who even related to my circumstance and situation. I felt as though, for the time I was participating in the conference, that I was amongst true friends.

My fear and apprehension disappeared. Only to be replaced with confidence and a surge of excitement toward the end of the conference. 'Excitement' to return to my country and a renewed 'confidence' to participate in radio shows and newspapers, so as to bring a wider non-stereotype and sensitive awareness of the **true reality** first hand of persons who are experiencing poverty. A voice for those who need to be heard and helped.

Through the 'PEP' conference, I have become active in voluntary work in my country and through my experience shared my ideas toward projects which are being developed and set up and running by NGO (Millenium Chapel) to aid and improve the lives of people and families in and experiencing poverty such as :

- Learning / developing/ improving on personal skills
- Tuition assistance for children
- Helping the family in needs and are the rist of Poverty
- Helping in Food AID Program
- Budget Skill and emotionial Skills

Dear Minister, I am only 1 (one) of the many who attended the EAPN 'PEP' conference. Had I not been given the opportunity to attend, I would certainly be unaware of how I could be of use to many others who are experiencing poverty and be able to contribute to societies valuable needy citizens. As a person who is experiencing poverty on a daily basis, I have gained so much knowledge of the EU politics regarding poverty, listening and learning directly from other people's difficulties and collectively working on ideas and solutions and implementing them. I have through these EAPN 'PEP' conferences been **empowered**.

So dear Minister, perhaps from my letter, you may understand how greatly beneficial and are of much importance these 'PEP' meetings are, and in my opinion really should be encouraged with direct contribution by those people affected and experiencing poverty.

Dear Minister, what could be more natural than to connect with those who are affected by poverty ?

Thank you Minister and thank you EAPN and to all others who are sensitive to us people experiencing poverty.

Sincerely,

Johanna Brincat



