



Formal Report on Unethical Fundraising Practices and Legal Irregularities in Televised Donation Marathons in Malta

Report by Doninu (Malta) International

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From its earliest observations and field engagement, **Doninu (Malta) International** has identified severe structural and ethical deficiencies within the voluntary sector in Malta—particularly regarding televised fundraising marathons. What follows in this report is based on factual evidence and documented experiences, with particular reference to one organisation in question, hereinafter referred to as *Foundation U*.

Although *Foundation U* is formally registered as a voluntary organisation with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO) and receives support from the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, it also operates a commercial television station. This raises serious concerns about its compliance with the spirit of nonprofit status and the proper use of public trust.

Our initial meeting with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, Mr. Jesmond Saliba, took place in the presence of the OCVO's legal counsel, Dr. John Sciberras Navarro, and lasted approximately three hours. During this meeting, we raised direct concerns regarding the financial burdens imposed on smaller NGOs in organising televised marathons. The Commissioner disclosed that, when he personally organised such events for the Dar tal-Providenza in the past, the cost incurred was around €50,000. This admission is documented and confirmed through our records.

When we questioned whether this practice violated laws and public trust—specifically the failure to inform donors that part of their contributions were used to cover private expenses rather than being entirely allocated to the advertised cause—the conversation turned confrontational. Instead of addressing the concerns constructively, the tone escalated, and the atmosphere became aggressive and hostile.

Despite this, **Doninu (Malta) International** presented a proactive and feasible solution: we proposed the purchase of broadcasting equipment that would allow marathons to be organised in a cost-free manner, managed and operated by students from MCAST as part of their training. The proposal aimed to ensure that

100% of all donations would go directly to the intended beneficiaries. We estimated the one-time equipment cost at €100,000, a sum equivalent to what a single marathon currently costs in “organisational expenses.” However, our proposal was disregarded without any consideration, revealing an apparent lack of interest in reform.

Subsequently, a separate meeting was held with **Hon. Julia Farrugia Portelli**, then-Minister, at the Ministry itself. Present at this meeting were Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo, Mr. Oliver Scicluna, and the Permanent Secretary at the time, Ms. Nancy Caruana. During this meeting, we again brought forward our concerns regarding the current operations of the sector. The Minister’s response to our point on financial misconduct was telling: “I know it costs fifty thousand euro.” Unfortunately, the meeting was cut short by the Minister, and we were unable to fully elaborate on our other concerns; however, we continued the discussion with the remaining ministry representatives.

Throughout these meetings, **Doninu (Malta) International** made its position clear: we fundamentally disagree with how this sector is being administered. Today, we are witnessing exactly what we warned about. Our vision—at the time dismissed—is now validated by unfolding realities.

It is also worth noting that attempts were made to influence our stance through financial incentives. Offers were made, implicitly or otherwise, suggesting access to funding. However, they failed to realise that **Doninu (Malta) International** operates **without financial gain**, without paid staff, and **without accepting donations**. We serve **from the heart**, and that is the true definition of voluntary service.

This report is our commitment to transparency, justice, and reform in the voluntary sector. It is our contribution to restoring the dignity and trust that the public places in NGOs and philanthropic initiatives.

This report presents an in-depth and critical examination of systemic ethical violations and legal discrepancies associated with televised fundraising marathons organized by certain foundations operating in Malta. The investigation focuses on the growing concern that such events, while ostensibly charitable, are being conducted in a manner that contravenes fundamental principles of transparency, accountability, and equity within the voluntary sector.

The report identifies and documents a pattern of **discriminatory financial practices** that disproportionately affect smaller non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) and community-based entities. These organisations are often excluded from access to high-profile fundraising platforms, which remain monopolized by larger foundations that benefit from preferential treatment, media exposure, and institutional support. This creates a **two-tier system** that undermines fair competition, violates the principles of equal opportunity enshrined in Maltese and European law, and distorts the spirit of charitable giving.

Furthermore, the analysis reveals **significant opacity in the management and allocation of funds raised during these televised marathons**. Public donations, often collected under emotional and urgent appeals, are not always subjected to independent financial audits or clearly reported in accordance with best practice standards. The lack of comprehensive post-event disclosures and the failure to publish beneficiary outcomes contribute to widespread public mistrust and the risk of misappropriation of funds.

A particularly alarming aspect of this investigation is the **inadequate regulatory oversight exercised by the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO)**. The report highlights a pattern of selective enforcement and passive tolerance of irregularities in the sector, which contradicts the CVO's statutory mandate under Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta. In several documented instances, the CVO has failed to act on credible complaints, has not conducted thorough compliance assessments, and has not ensured that all foundations operate within the confines of the law and ethical fundraising standards.

The findings outlined in this report raise **serious legal concerns** under both domestic and international frameworks, including the **United Nations Convention Against Corruption**, the **General Principles of Administrative Law**, and **EU principles on non-discrimination and fair access to public resources**. These concerns necessitate urgent policy intervention and legal reform.

In conclusion, the report provides a series of **structured and actionable recommendations** designed to address the deficiencies identified. These include:

- The mandatory publication of independently audited financial reports by all foundations conducting televised fundraising.
- The equitable regulation of access to national fundraising platforms.
- The introduction of clear criteria for fundraising ethics, transparency, and accountability.

- A complete review and strengthening of the regulatory powers and practices of the CVO to ensure independence, impartiality, and full compliance with Maltese and EU law.

This executive summary aims to serve as a call to action for legislators, regulators, civil society actors, and the Maltese public to demand greater integrity, fairness, and transparency in the management of charitable funds and the governance of the voluntary sector.

1. Introduction

Televised fundraising marathons have emerged in recent years as a highly visible and widely utilized mechanism through which non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and charitable foundations in Malta solicit public donations. These events, often broadcast on national television and accompanied by emotional appeals and extensive media coverage, are generally presented to the public as transparent, benevolent initiatives aimed at supporting vulnerable communities and addressing urgent social needs.

However, despite their ostensibly altruistic objectives, there is growing concern regarding the underlying financial, ethical, and legal dimensions of these televised fundraising activities. Preliminary observations and stakeholder testimonies indicate the presence of systemic challenges, including a lack of transparency in the collection and allocation of funds, potential conflicts of interest, inequitable access for smaller NGOs, and insufficient regulatory oversight by the competent authorities.

This report therefore undertakes a rigorous and comprehensive examination of the structural and procedural frameworks governing televised fundraising marathons in Malta. It aims to critically analyse the operational practices of participating organisations, scrutinise compliance with applicable Maltese and European legal standards, and evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulatory mechanisms. Through this investigation, the report seeks to identify deficiencies that compromise the integrity and fairness of these fundraising efforts and to propose actionable recommendations to restore public trust and ensure ethical stewardship of charitable contributions.

2. Discriminatory Financial Demands on Small NGOs

The analysis reveals a significant and concerning disparity in the financial obligations imposed on smaller non-governmental organisations (NGOs) seeking to participate in televised fundraising marathons in Malta. These financial demands create an inherently uneven playing field that undermines the principles of fairness, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination within the voluntary sector.

Specifically, evidence gathered during this investigation indicates that smaller NGOs are routinely required to pay substantial fees—ranging from approximately €50,000 to €100,000—in order to organise and host a televised fundraising marathon. These fees ostensibly cover associated operational costs, including production, advertising, and administrative expenses. Notably, these charges are levied despite the fact that the Government of Malta provides the necessary public broadcasting airtime for such events free of charge, which ostensibly should alleviate the financial burden on organisers.

This financial barrier effectively excludes smaller and less-resourced NGOs from accessing televised fundraising platforms. As a result, participation is largely confined to larger, well-funded organisations capable of absorbing such significant costs. The consequence is a monopolisation of the fundraising space by a limited number of foundations, thereby restricting public visibility and fundraising opportunities for smaller entities that often serve niche or marginalised communities.

This practice constitutes a clear violation of established legal principles safeguarding equality and non-discrimination, both under Maltese and international law frameworks. Among the relevant provisions breached are:

- ***Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)***, which prohibits discrimination on any grounds such as wealth or organisational size, thereby ensuring equal access to opportunities and resources.
- ***Articles 11 and 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFREU)***, which guarantee freedom of association and protection against discriminatory treatment in the context of civil society participation and public engagement.
- ***Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta (Voluntary Organisations Act)***, which mandates equitable treatment and non-discriminatory practices within

the voluntary sector, ensuring that all registered entities can operate without undue hindrance.

The discriminatory financial requirements undermine the integrity and inclusiveness of the fundraising ecosystem in Malta. They not only threaten the viability of smaller NGOs but also diminish the diversity of voices and causes represented in public fundraising campaigns, thereby weakening the overall social impact of charitable initiatives.

Addressing this structural imbalance is imperative to uphold the rule of law, promote fairness, and foster a genuinely inclusive environment where all voluntary organisations can equally contribute to Malta's social development.

3. Lack of Transparency in Use of Public Donations

A critical issue identified throughout this investigation pertains to the **lack of transparency in the management and allocation of funds raised during televised fundraising marathons**. This deficiency raises serious ethical, legal, and fiduciary concerns regarding the stewardship of public donations entrusted to these charitable campaigns.

It has been documented that a substantial portion of the funds donated by the public during these televised events is routinely allocated to cover the internal operational costs associated with organising and executing the marathon itself. These expenses may include production fees, marketing and promotional activities, administrative overheads, and related logistical expenditures. Importantly, these costs are **not consistently disclosed to the donors prior to or during the fundraising appeals**.

Moreover, post-event financial reports and public disclosures, when available, frequently fail to provide a clear, detailed, and itemised account of how the donated funds have been utilised. The absence of transparent and accessible financial reporting prevents donors from understanding the precise allocation of their contributions and inhibits effective public scrutiny. This lack of clarity fosters misconceptions among the public, who often operate under the reasonable assumption that **100% of their donations will be channelled directly toward the charitable cause or beneficiary advertised during the marathon**.

Such practices represent a fundamental breach of legal and ethical standards that govern voluntary organisations and fundraising activities. Specifically, they contravene the following regulatory and legal frameworks:

- ***Article 31 of the Voluntary Organisations Act (Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta)***, which mandates that voluntary organisations must maintain transparency in their financial affairs, ensure honest and accurate reporting of funds raised, and provide accessible financial statements to stakeholders and the general public.
- ***Consumer Protection (Unfair Trading) Regulations, Subsidiary Legislation 378.10***, which prohibit misleading commercial practices, including the dissemination of false or deceptive information that could influence consumer decisions. Misrepresenting the proportion of donations

that directly support the cause constitutes an unfair trading practice liable to legal sanction.

- ***Fundamental principles of administrative justice and fiduciary duty***, which require that organisations collecting funds on behalf of vulnerable individuals and groups act with integrity, honesty, and accountability. Trustees and managers of charitable funds are obligated to safeguard the interests of donors and beneficiaries alike, ensuring that funds are used solely for their intended purposes.

The lack of financial transparency erodes public trust in the voluntary sector, discourages future charitable giving, and jeopardises the reputation and legitimacy of NGOs and foundations involved. It also exposes these entities to potential legal liabilities and regulatory sanctions.

To safeguard the integrity of public fundraising efforts, it is imperative to establish clear and enforceable standards for the full disclosure of fundraising costs and comprehensive, audited financial reporting. Such measures will promote accountability, restore donor confidence, and ensure that charitable donations genuinely advance the social missions they intend to support.

4. Abuse of Air Time and Recurrent Fundraising

This investigation has uncovered compelling evidence indicating that a specific foundation, whose primary operations and mission activities are conducted predominantly outside the territorial jurisdiction of Malta, utilises the platform of televised fundraising marathons with an unusually high frequency. The foundation in question reportedly holds between **three to six such fundraising marathons annually**, each generating an estimated amount of approximately **€100,000**.

While the foundation publicly attributes a portion of the collected funds to “expenses” related to the organisation and execution of these events, there is a conspicuous **lack of transparent disclosure regarding the exact breakdown of operational costs versus the actual sum of funds effectively directed towards the charitable cause**. The opacity surrounding the final allocation of these donations raises substantial concerns regarding financial accountability and ethical fundraising practices.

This pattern of recurrent televised fundraising by a single entity, combined with the substantial use of **national public broadcasting infrastructure at no direct cost**, prompts critical questions about the propriety of such usage. Specifically, it calls into question the appropriateness of utilising **publicly funded airtime** to facilitate what may be perceived as a **commercial-like operation**, conducted under the façade of philanthropic activity. The repeated monopolisation of a public broadcasting resource by one organisation effectively limits equitable access for other voluntary organisations and challenges the intended purpose of free airtime provision as a public benefit.

Furthermore, the fact that the collected funds are predominantly earmarked for missions and charitable activities conducted **outside Maltese territory** compounds concerns related to the oversight and justification of such fundraising efforts. This geographical disjunction between fundraising locale and project execution heightens scrutiny over the legitimacy of the foundation’s public benefit registration in Malta and whether the use of public resources aligns with local priorities and legal standards.

The practices identified in this context raise significant legal and regulatory issues, particularly relating to the potential misuse or misapplication of privileges granted under:

- ***The Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO) Guidelines***, which regulate the conditions and ethical standards for voluntary organisations benefiting from public support, including access to state resources and exemptions.
- ***The Public Finances Management Act***, which governs the appropriate use and accountability of public assets and infrastructure, emphasizing transparency and safeguarding against improper utilisation of taxpayer-funded services.
- ***State Aid Rules at both European Union and Maltese national levels***, which aim to prevent distortions in competition and unfair advantages conferred through public support or subsidies, ensuring that public resources are not exploited for commercial benefit under the guise of charitable activity.

In summary, this situation exposes systemic vulnerabilities in the regulatory framework governing the allocation of public broadcasting resources and the monitoring of repeated fundraising activities by a single organisation. It underscores the urgent need for enhanced controls, stringent auditing, and clear criteria to prevent the exploitation of public goods and to preserve the integrity and equitable operation of Malta's voluntary sector.

5. Inaction and Complicity of the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations

A particularly troubling dimension emerging from this investigation concerns the apparent **knowledge and subsequent inaction by the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO)** regarding the unethical and potentially unlawful practices documented in televised fundraising marathons. There is substantial and credible evidence indicating that the CVO is fully cognizant of the issues outlined in this report, including discriminatory financial demands, lack of transparency in fund usage, and repeated monopolisation of public broadcasting airtime by certain foundations.

Despite this awareness, the CVO has consistently failed to initiate or enforce corrective or preventive measures that would address, mitigate, or eliminate these irregularities. This pattern of **regulatory inertia and passive oversight represents a profound breach of the CVO's mandate**, which is to safeguard the interests of the voluntary sector, uphold ethical standards, and ensure public trust in charitable organisations operating within Malta.

Such inaction has deleterious consequences for the sector at large. It significantly **undermines the integrity and credibility of the voluntary sector**, fostering an environment where unethical practices can flourish unchecked. Furthermore, it engenders **public distrust not only towards the implicated NGOs and foundations but also towards the very regulatory body entrusted with their oversight and accountability**. This erosion of confidence jeopardises public willingness to donate, participate, and engage in civil society initiatives, ultimately weakening social cohesion and the effectiveness of charitable endeavours.

From a legal and ethical standpoint, the CVO's failure to act contravenes multiple statutory and governance frameworks, including but not limited to:

- ***The Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations Act***, which explicitly charges the CVO with the responsibility to monitor, regulate, and enforce compliance among voluntary organisations, ensuring adherence to applicable laws and ethical codes.
- ***The Code of Ethics for Public Officials***, which mandates that officials exercise their duties with impartiality, diligence, and integrity, prioritising the public interest and maintaining accountability in the execution of their functions.

- ***European Union Principles on Good Administration and Governance***, which require public authorities to act transparently, efficiently, and responsively, taking proactive steps to prevent maladministration and protect the rights and interests of stakeholders.

The apparent complicity or neglect by the CVO not only violates these binding obligations but also exposes the office to potential reputational and legal risks. It necessitates urgent remedial action to restore effective oversight, including enhanced investigatory powers, transparent reporting mechanisms, and a clear framework for sanctioning non-compliant organisations.

Addressing this institutional failure is critical to re-establishing confidence in Malta's regulatory system, safeguarding the integrity of the voluntary sector, and ensuring that public donations are managed ethically and in full compliance with the law.

6. Legal and Ethical Implications

The comprehensive findings of this report highlight multiple breaches of established legal frameworks and ethical standards at the domestic, European Union, and international levels. These violations carry significant consequences, exposing implicated organisations and regulatory bodies to potential legal liabilities, reputational damage, and heightened scrutiny by oversight authorities.

Domestic Legal Frameworks

At the national level, the practices documented contravene several critical pieces of legislation designed to regulate the voluntary sector, protect consumers, and ensure transparent and accountable use of public resources:

- ***Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492)*** mandates transparency, equitable treatment, and proper governance among voluntary entities, ensuring that organisations act with integrity and accountability towards donors and beneficiaries.
- ***Consumer Protection Acts***, including the Consumer Protection (Unfair Trading) Regulations (S.L. 378.10), prohibit misleading practices that deceive or unfairly influence public donors, requiring full disclosure and honest communication about the use of donated funds.
- ***Financial Regulations and Public Finances Management Acts*** govern the appropriate use of public assets, including broadcast infrastructure, mandating responsible stewardship of taxpayer-funded resources and preventing their misuse for private or commercial gain.
- ***Broadcasting Authority Provisions*** regulate the allocation and use of national broadcast airtime, particularly when provided at no cost to non-profit entities, ensuring fair and transparent access and preventing monopolisation by single organisations.

European Union Legal Frameworks

At the EU level, the observed actions are in conflict with fundamental rights and regulatory principles enshrined in Union law, including:

- ***The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union***, specifically Articles 11 and 12, which protect freedoms of association and

non-discrimination, ensuring equal participation opportunities for all civil society organisations.

- ***Competition and State Aid Rules***, which prevent distortions in the market and unfair advantages derived from public subsidies or support, including the provision of free airtime or other state resources to particular organisations.
- ***Transparency and Good Governance Principles*** applicable across EU member states, which require public and quasi-public entities to conduct activities in a manner that is open, accountable, and subject to effective oversight.

International Standards

On the international stage, the breaches undermine widely accepted standards and principles governing humanitarian fundraising and charitable activities:

- ***Principles of Accountability, Transparency, and Integrity*** as articulated by global bodies such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Non-Governmental Organisations Accountability Charter, and related frameworks, which emphasise ethical stewardship of donor funds and full disclosure to all stakeholders.
- ***United Nations Guidelines on Fundraising***, which advocate for ethical fundraising practices that respect donor intent, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure that all collected resources are applied solely to their stated humanitarian purposes.

Consequences and Exposure to Legal Action

The cumulative effect of these breaches and omissions may expose the responsible entities—including NGOs, foundations, and regulatory authorities—to a variety of legal and administrative actions. Potential repercussions include:

- ***Civil litigation by donors*** alleging misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty, or misuse of donated funds.
- ***Regulatory sanctions or revocation of registration*** by national authorities overseeing voluntary organisations.
- ***Investigations and penalties imposed by competition or consumer protection authorities***, both domestically and within the EU.

- ***International scrutiny and reputational consequences***, potentially affecting future eligibility for funding, partnerships, and cross-border cooperation.

Given the gravity of these implications, it is imperative that immediate and comprehensive reforms be undertaken to address systemic deficiencies, restore compliance with applicable laws, and reinforce ethical governance throughout the fundraising sector.

7. Recommendations for Reform

In light of the serious ethical, legal, and operational deficiencies identified in the course of this investigation, the following comprehensive recommendations are proposed to restore transparency, fairness, and accountability within Malta's televised fundraising sector. Implementing these measures will safeguard public trust, ensure compliance with national and international standards, and promote equitable support for all voluntary organisations.

1. Mandatory Full Financial Disclosure

- All organisations conducting televised fundraising campaigns must be required to publish **comprehensive, detailed financial statements** covering the entirety of funds collected and their subsequent allocation. These disclosures should include, but not be limited to, itemised accounts of donations received, direct costs related to the cause, administrative expenses, and any other deductions or transfers.
- The financial breakdowns must be made **publicly accessible online** and in easily understandable formats to enable donor scrutiny and promote transparency.

2. Transparent Reporting Obligations

- Prior to the commencement of any fundraising marathon, organisations must submit a **declaration of intent** to both the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO) and the general public. This declaration should outline projected fundraising goals, anticipated costs, and intended use of funds.
- Upon conclusion of each campaign, organisations should be mandated to produce **independent, audited financial summaries** that verify the actual receipt and disbursement of funds. These reports must be submitted to the CVO and published publicly within a prescribed timeframe.
- Compliance with these reporting obligations should be monitored and enforced rigorously, with consequences for non-submission or misreporting.

3. Ban on Excessive Administrative Fees

- To prevent disproportionate diversion of donor funds toward administrative and organisational expenses, a strict cap should be imposed limiting fundraising costs to a maximum of **10% of total funds raised**.

- This threshold aligns with international best practices and ensures that the overwhelming majority of donations directly benefit the charitable cause.
- Any exceptions or justifications for exceeding this limit must be subject to prior approval by an independent regulatory authority.

4. Equal Access for All NGOs

- Public broadcasting airtime allocated for charitable fundraising must be made **equitably accessible to NGOs of all sizes**, with particular attention to removing financial barriers that exclude smaller or less well-funded organisations.
- The current practice of imposing substantial fees or indirect costs on smaller NGOs seeking to organise televised marathons should be abolished to promote inclusivity and uphold principles of non-discrimination, as mandated under both Maltese law and European human rights frameworks.
- A transparent and impartial allocation process should be established, overseen by an independent committee to ensure fairness and prevent monopolisation.

5. Independent Oversight Body

- The establishment of an **independent auditing and oversight board** is crucial to supervise major fundraising events, including televised marathons.
- This body should be empowered to conduct thorough audits, investigate complaints, and enforce compliance with financial disclosure, reporting standards, and ethical fundraising codes.
- Membership should include representatives from government, civil society, legal and financial experts, and donor advocacy groups to ensure diverse and balanced oversight.

6. Legislative Amendments

- The existing legal framework governing voluntary organisations, particularly **Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta (Voluntary Organisations Act)**, must be comprehensively reviewed and amended to incorporate stronger enforcement mechanisms.
- Amendments should introduce explicit provisions mandating transparency, accountability, and proportional use of funds, alongside clearly defined sanctions for breaches, including fines, suspension, or revocation of registration.

- Complementary updates should be made to related legislation, including consumer protection laws, financial management statutes, and broadcasting regulations, to create a cohesive regulatory environment that deters misuse and promotes ethical fundraising practices.

Adoption and rigorous implementation of these recommendations will restore the integrity of Malta's voluntary sector fundraising activities, reinforce public confidence, and ensure that charitable donations are deployed effectively and ethically to serve their intended humanitarian purposes.

8. Conclusion

This report unequivocally demonstrates the existence of systemic failures within the current regulatory framework and ethical oversight governing televised fundraising marathons in Malta. The evidence collected reveals that the present system disproportionately advantages a limited number of well-resourced and established foundations, while effectively marginalising smaller, less financially endowed non-governmental organisations. Such structural inequities not only hinder the inclusive participation of a diverse voluntary sector but also perpetuate discriminatory practices that contravene fundamental principles of fairness and equal access.

Moreover, the lack of transparency in the management and allocation of public donations, combined with the recurrent misuse of national public broadcasting resources, exposes the generosity of Maltese donors to exploitation. These practices undermine the integrity of charitable fundraising and erode public confidence in the voluntary sector as a whole.

The apparent inaction and passivity exhibited by the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations further compound these issues, signaling a critical deficit in effective governance, accountability, and regulatory enforcement. Without urgent and comprehensive reform, the credibility of Malta's entire philanthropic ecosystem remains at risk, potentially diminishing donor engagement and weakening vital civil society contributions.

In recognition of these serious challenges, this report calls for immediate, substantive reforms aimed at ensuring equitable access to fundraising platforms, enhancing financial transparency and accountability, capping administrative costs,

and instituting robust independent oversight mechanisms. Legislative amendments must reinforce these principles with enforceable sanctions to safeguard ethical standards and public interest.

Only through such decisive action can Malta honour the true spirit of volunteering and philanthropy—one grounded in fairness, openness, and respect for all organisations regardless of size or influence. Protecting public trust is paramount to sustaining a vibrant, inclusive, and effective voluntary sector that genuinely serves the needs of Maltese society.

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