

I assent.

(L.S.)

MYRIAM SPITERI DEBONO
President

5th July, 2024

ACT No. XXIII of 2024

AN ACT to further amend the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act, Cap 581.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. The short title of this Act is the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Amendment No. 2) Act, 2024, and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act, hereinafter referred to as the "principal Act".

Short title.

Cap. 581.

2. Article 2 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of article 2 of the principal Act.

(a) the definition "domestic violence" shall be substituted by the following new definition:

" "domestic violence" means all acts or omissions, including verbal, physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence causing physical and, or moral harm or suffering, including threats of such acts or omissions, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, that occur within a family and, or in an intimate relationship, whether or not the perpetrator resides or has resided in the same residence with the victim, and shall also include children

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who are witnesses of violence within a family and, or an intimate relationship;";

(b) the definition "family or domestic unit" shall be substituted by the following new definition:

" " family or an intimate relationship" includes:

- Cap. 614.
- (a) current or former spouses, civil union partners or cohabitants in accordance with the Cohabitation Act, and their children;
 - (b) persons having or who had a child in common;
 - (c) persons related to each other either by consanguinity or affinity, civil union and, or cohabitation up to the third degree inclusively;
 - (d) persons who are or have been in a sentimental, and, or intimate relationship; and
 - (e) spouses whose marriage has been dissolved or declared null;".

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 253 of the 1st July, 2024.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

ELEANOR SCERRI
Clerk of the House of Representatives

