



Helena Dalli

Malta (S&D)

Background

Helena Dalli is a socialist MP (PL, Labour Party) and the first female Commissioner from Malta. She was the former Equality Minister and was keen to get a portfolio in the civil liberties field. She entered the Maltese parliament in 1996 and worked on Women's Rights in the PM's office, including regulations on childcare services, drafting the gender equality bill and launching a White Paper on domestic violence .

She has been a Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (2013-2017) where she worked to strengthen equality and human rights, including a law to establish rights for transgender people and same-sex marriage. Dalli's work in the area of equality, including a law to ban gay conversion therapies, led Malta to claim top spot for best legal protection for LGBRIQ people. As a result she won the Hero of the Year award in 2016 in the European Diversity Awards in London. She introduced a national maternity leave fund to which all employers had to contribute. She helped restructure the Malta Medicines Authority. Her interest in equality and women's rights are all the more interesting given her past as a former Miss

Malta and short-lived film career as an assertive policewoman in a much-maligned Italian-American police thriller.