



CRPD

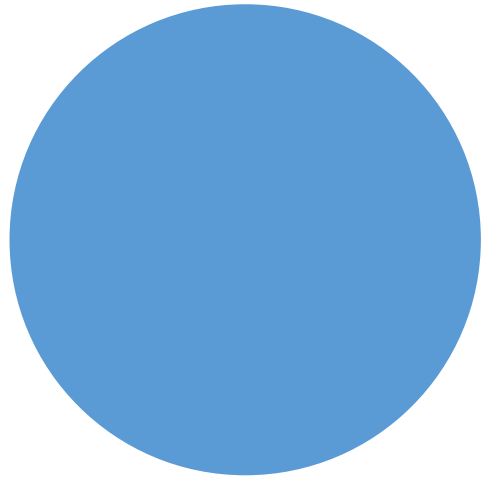
Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (Malta)

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Accessible Europe

5th December 2019



Future of Accessible Audio
Visual media services, TV and
video programming



THE MALTA EXPERIENCE

THE AUDIO VISUAL SPECTACULAR

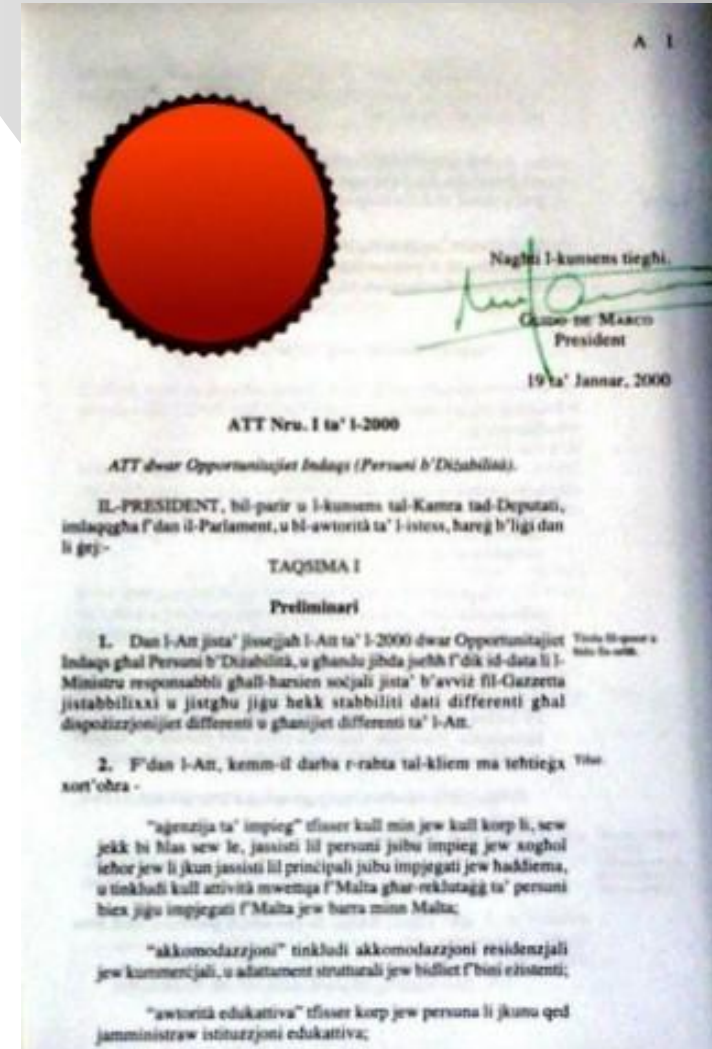
The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

- Established on 3rd November 1987



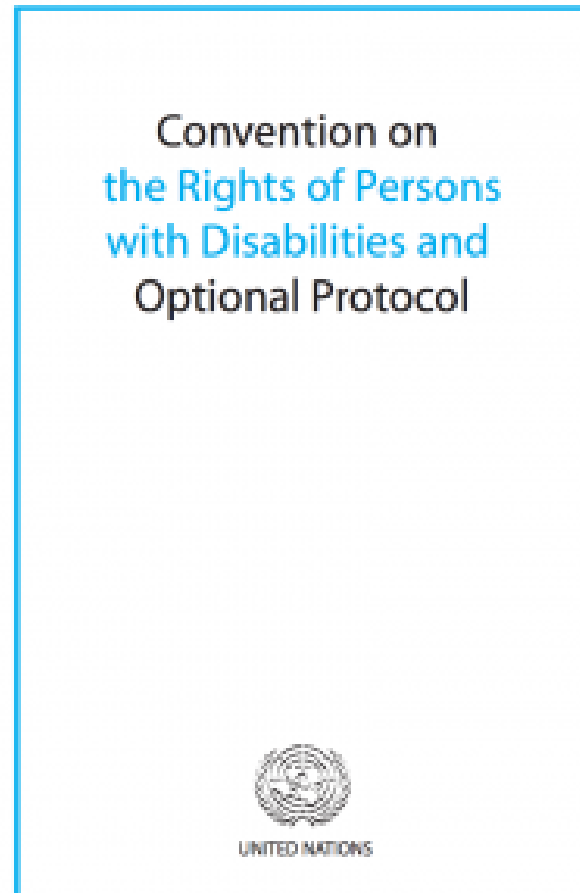
The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

- Set up at law in 2000 thanks to the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act, Cap 413
- It kept evolving through both practice and legal changes

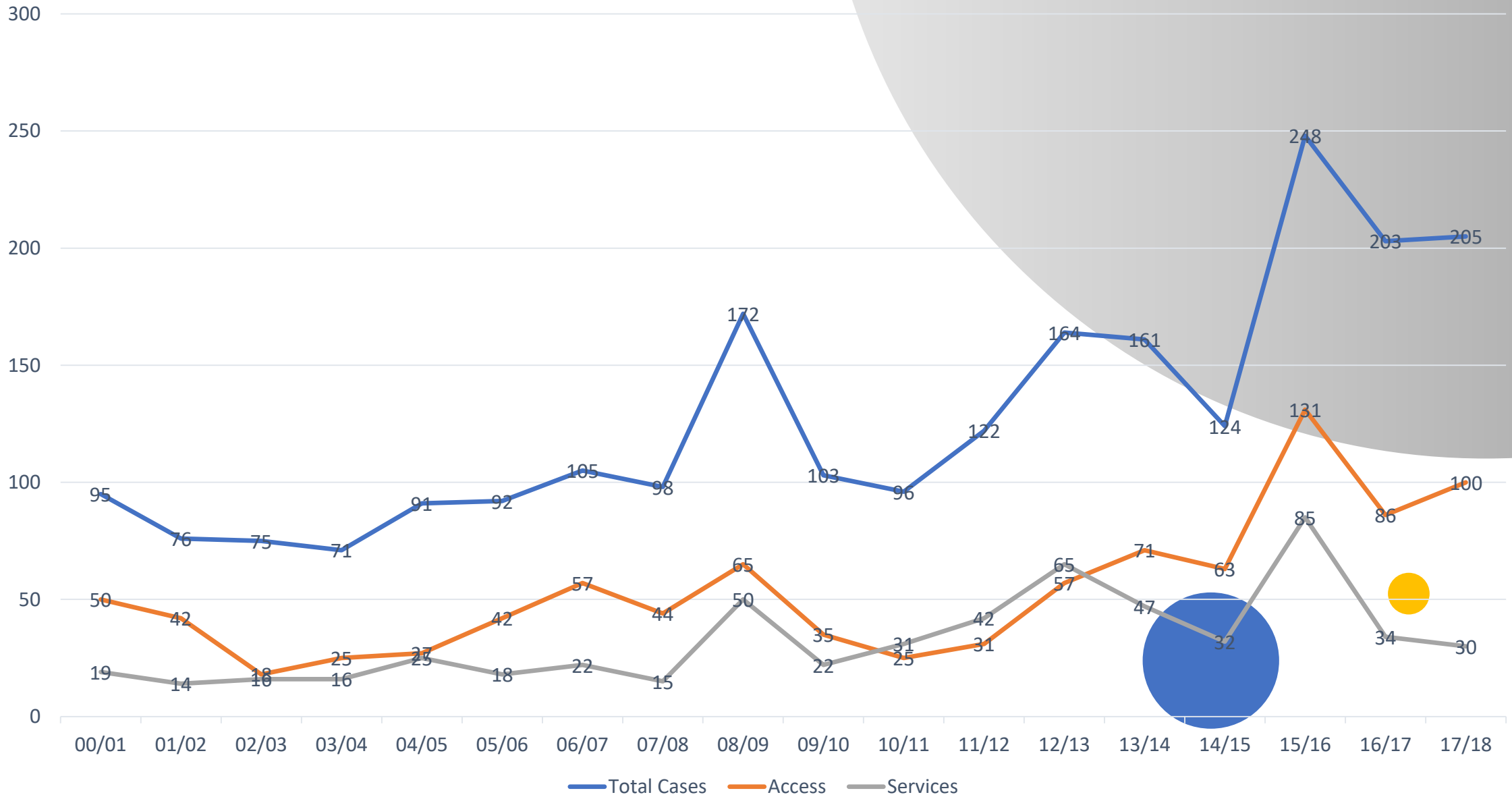


The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

- Malta signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol in March 2007, which were ratified in October 2012
- Commission was appointed the Independent Mechanism of the CRPD and its role is to protect, promote and monitor the implementation of the Convention



Total New Cases Reported compared with Access and Services – 2000/18



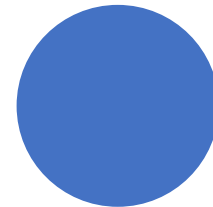
Comparison of cases reported

Cases reported 2000 – 2018	Total	Percentage
Accessibility	969	42%
Services	583	58%
Total	2,301	100%

Of these, only 2 cases featured complaints about inaccessible audio visual services

Cases Reported

- **Lack of subtitling on programmes provided by broadcasting company**
 - Service provider is planning to procure subtitles together with the movies it provides in its programming schedule
- **Lack of subtitling in current affairs programmes**
 - Lack of sign language interpreters and the short shelf life of such programmes exacerbate the problem. Signing only provided for 18:00 news bulletin.



Reasons for lack of accessibility – Maltese perspective

- **Usually all boils down to lack of resources**
 - Lack of sign language interpreters, even though LSM is an official language
 - Cost of introducing subtitles and audio descriptions
 - Lack of economies of scale due to micro-market
 - Local productions running on a shoestring budget
- **Only one production was ever offered with subtitling**

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Maltese subtitles introduced in local TV drama

Culture Minister Owen Bonnici and Parliamentary Secretary Justyne Caruana launch Maltese subtitles for local TV drama

Does accessibility to such services apply only to end users?

- Actors and opera singers are increasingly refusing to perform with blackface makeup...
- So why should non-disabled actors portray disabled people?



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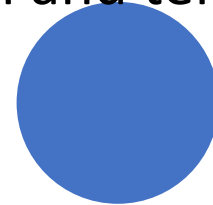
US SOPRANO REFUSES VERONA BLACKFACE

By Norman Lebrecht On July 25, 2019

The Metropolitan Opera soprano Tamara Wilson dug in her heels at the Arena di Verona and last night refused to continue singing Aida in traditional dark makeup.

Portrayal of disabled persons on the media

- Objects of pity or charity
 - Feature prominently in telethons
 - CRPD asked regularly to pass judgment on whether clips are acceptable
- Collaboration with Broadcasting Authority to lead to Enabling Environment on the Media
 - Held workshops with local producers
 - Produced a list of dos and don'ts regarding both portrayal and terminology





CRPD

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