



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Latest Seminar in Understanding Autism series – “Adolescence and Puberty: the emotional difficulties experienced during this transition”**

Seminars under the Government’s National Autism Strategy, Understanding Autism series started this week. The seminars will focus on the changes experienced during adolescence and puberty, sexuality/relationships, body changes, social media influences and strategies in managing this difficult period. This seminar has been divided into seven sessions which will be aimed at three different audiences, these being professionals and senior management, middle/junior management and frontline staff and also parents and volunteers.

The first two sessions, which started yesterday, saw key stakeholders in the form of professionals and senior managers and also middle/junior management and frontline staff attend. They were able to interact and exchange information and were given the opportunity to brainstorm with the speaker. This interaction was possible thanks to the new format of the seminars. The speaker for this seminar is Linda Woodcock from AT-Autism UK. She has delivered two previous seminars in relation to autism in Gibraltar this year, it is also worth noting that she is a parent to a young adult on the autism spectrum.

Today will see parents and volunteers together for a subject matter that has been specifically requested by attendees of previous seminars in the past with other seminars for parents and volunteers available during the course of the week.

The Minister for Equality, The Hon. Minister Samantha Sacramento, MP, said “I am pleased to say that this highly anticipated seminar is now underway this week and the sessions are being very well attended and we’ll receive, indeed we are still receiving requests for registration from all the relevant public sector departments, agencies and authorities as well as parents and volunteers, as we speak. Even though the seminars have already started, the Ministry of Equality will endeavour to register all registration requests throughout the week. The Ministry of Equality does not want any key stakeholders to miss on this opportunity to gain awareness and training on this important topic.

Ministry of Housing and Equality

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Anyone wishing to attend the seminar should get in touch with the Ministry of Equality by e-mail on [equality@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:equality@gibraltar.gov.gi) <<mailto:equality@gibraltar.gov.gi>> or on 20070112.