

The Strickland Foundation

The Strickland Foundation is a public benefit organisation set up by Mabel Strickland in 1979 ahead of her retirement from public life. Miss Strickland, daughter of Lord Strickland, a former governor in the British colonial service and a prime minister of Malta, was a journalist, newspaper owner and politician. She made her mark in public life right from the time she started editing her two English language newspapers, *Times of Malta* and *The Sunday Times of Malta*, in the mid-1930s up to the time she entered politics.

In her own words, she wanted The Strickland Foundation “to be of service to the people of Malta by helping in the development of freedom of thought and expression which, through a free press, is essential to the maintenance of democracy and basic for the proper development of the country”.

She established the foundation on a sound footing when, to keep the Strickland legacy alive, she placed the majority shareholding interest in Allied Newspapers Limited, publishers of the two newspapers, in trust under The Strickland Foundation.

Allied Newspapers Limited, which traces its roots to the first publishing house set up by Lord Strickland in Valletta in 1921, has developed into the island’s leading news and information organisation. The group’s printing company, Progress Press, operates from a state-of-the-art printing house at Mriehel.

The Strickland Foundation plays an active part in the promotion of high standards of journalism, and in the promotion of human rights and voluntary organisations. Its flagship project is a journalism internship scheme. It has also been actively involved in the training of journalists through the organisation of specialised courses, talks, and seminars and, also, through scholarships. The foundation also supports heritage organisations and community development work.

The objectives of The Strickland Foundation are:

- To foster the national interest and in particular to promote democratic principles, the observance of human rights, and the exercise of a free press;
- To uphold the European character of Malta and support Malta’s continued presence in the Commonwealth;
- To help improve the standard of Maltese journalism, and the preservation of its freedom and independence.
- To support philanthropic and charitable causes; the advancement of education, including physical education and sport; and the advancement of religion, health, social and community services, culture, the arts, national heritage and environmental protection and improvement;

- To finance scholarships and other activities for the attainment or furtherance of any of these objectives;
- To assist in such manner as may be advisable and within the means available persons who are or were employees of Allied Newspapers Limited and Progress Press and members of their families.

The council of The Strickland Foundation is composed of:

Judge Giovanni Bonello, Chairman

Ronald Agius

Frank Bonello F.C.I.B.

Mario de Marco LL.M. (Cantab.), LL.D., M.P.

Marcel Cassar F.I.A., C.P.A.A., M.B.A. (Wales).

Executive Secretary: Peter Portelli

The seat of The Strickland Foundation is 36, Villa Parisio, Mabel Strickland Street, Lija. Tel: 2143 5890; e-mail address: admin@thestricklandfoundation.com