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HSBC Malta Employees Volunteer to Support SOAR Retreat for Survivors of Domestic Violence

A group of HSBC Malta employees have used their voluntary leave day on 24 June 2025 to support the SOAR Service, run by the St Jeanne Antide Foundation (SJAF), in preparing a new retreat space for women and children who have survived domestic violence.

The one-day initiative involved a team of HSBC volunteers helping to clear and tidy the garden of a villa, which SJAF will use to host a live-in retreat focused on healing, empowerment, and connection. The property, which had been unused for some time, required substantial outdoor maintenance to ensure it is safe and welcoming for its vulnerable guests.

The HSBC Malta team assisted with removing overgrown vegetation, trimming bushes and trees, clearing debris, and generally restoring the outdoor space, working under the guidance of SOAR's coordinators. Gardening tools and safety equipment were provided through joint efforts by SJAF and the bank.

Dr Paula Mamo, Deputy Chair of the HSBC Malta Foundation, said: "We are proud to support the SOAR Service, not only financially but also by giving our people the opportunity to contribute their time and energy. This is more than just a clean-up, it's a show of solidarity with women and children rebuilding their lives after trauma. Our team is honoured to play a small part in helping create a space where healing can begin."

Shakira Fenech, Head of the SOAR Service, expressed her gratitude: "This retreat will offer survivors of domestic violence a rare chance to reconnect with themselves and others in a peaceful and supportive environment. The help from the HSBC team is invaluable not only in preparing the space physically, but in affirming the community's belief in these women's strength and potential. We are truly thankful."

SOAR is a survivor-led support service that forms part of the St Jeanne Antide Foundation. It offers holistic, long-term support to women and children who have experienced domestic abuse, with services ranging from one-to-one support and peer-mentoring to community events, training, and advocacy.



Photocaption: The HSBC Operations Management Team who utilised their voluntary leave day to support SOAR – a service of NGO St Jean Antide Foundation

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