



15 March 2017

Press Release

MAZI– Autism Friends and Relatives Association

Events for World Autism Awareness Day

April 2nd 2017

The MAZI- Autism Friends and Relatives Association was officially registered on April 30th 2012, under the Societies and Institutions Laws of 1972 and 1997. It was created by families and friends of persons with autism with the following goals:

- An increase in awareness and the enlightenment of the public about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- The organisation of seminars to correctly inform the various professionals involved in the field with regards to new scientific methods and outcomes
- Changes in legislature to secure and support the rights and the welfare of persons with ASD and other special needs or disabilities
- Upgrading and modernising services for diagnosis, education and treatment of persons with ASD
- Searching for more funding to provide state services and infrastructure
- Creating respite centers for persons with autism that aim to serve their needs and socialise them whilst at the same time providing respite for their families
- Informing and supporting parents

In keeping with our aim to inform and sensitise the public, the Association's Board of Directors announces that for April 2nd 2017, World Autism Awareness Day, a nationwide campaign is being organised with the slogan **"Same world...different perspective"** with a series of events both in Cyprus and abroad.



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The events schedules to take place are the following:

- With the approval of the Ministry of Education, and in collaboration with the Nicosia Community Police, printed material (leaflets) on Autism Awareness will be distributed in schools
- Appearance at Volleyball Tournaments Men (17/3/2017) and Women's Cup Finals
- Appearance at Basketball Tournaments Final Four Cup OPAP Men's A Category
- Appearance on television shows about awareness and sensitization
- 2/4/2017 – Event at THE MALL OF CYPRUS
- 2/4/2017 – Participation of marathon runners in the Rome and Thessaloniki Marathon
- 2/4/2017 – Presentation/Exhibition of posters created by students of the Department of Design & Multimedia, University of Nicosia in collaboration with our Association
- 2/4/2017 – Participation in the ' Light it up blue' event organised by the Pancyprian Autism Association
- 2/5/2017 – Strovolos Folklore Group event. All profits will be donated to our association
- 13/5/2017 – 2nd National Autism Conference – under the auspices of the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Costas Kadis

Official sponsor: Cooperative Central Bank

Supporters: Nicosia Community Police

Communication Sponsor: MK Prosopsis Ltd – Assistive Technology

The Autism Friends and Relatives Association "MAZI" wishes to thank all those contributing to its events with the slogan **"Same world... different perspective"** either through sponsored funds or other means. The participation of our fellow citizens in these events will once again, this year, prove that together we can create a better tomorrow for our whole society.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Board of Directors