



30th April, 2026

Re: The New Legislation Banning the Recreational Use of Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas)

The OASI Foundation welcomes the introduction of the new legislation in Malta prohibiting the recreational use of nitrous oxide, commonly referred to as “laughing gas.” This important legal development marks a significant step forward in safeguarding public health, particularly young people who have increasingly been exposed to this substance in social and recreational settings.

Over recent years, the OASI Foundation has been at the forefront of raising awareness about the emerging risks associated with nitrous oxide misuse. Through community outreach, education, and direct engagement with individuals affected by substance use, we have witnessed firsthand the growing normalization of this drug and its potentially harmful consequences, both physically and psychologically.

Nitrous oxide is often perceived as harmless; however, its misuse can lead to serious health complications, including neurological damage, oxygen deprivation, and increased vulnerability to risky behaviours. The introduction of this legislation sends a clear and necessary message: recreational substance misuse, regardless of how “trivial” it may appear, carries real risks that must not be overlooked.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all stakeholders, policymakers, professionals, and community members who contributed to bringing this issue to national attention and to the implementation of this measure. Collaborative efforts such as these are essential in responding effectively to evolving drug trends, particularly those affecting younger generations.

While this legislative step is commendable, it must be accompanied by continued education, prevention strategies, and accessible support services. Addressing substance use requires not only regulation but also sustained investment in awareness, early intervention, and rehabilitation.

The OASI Foundation remains committed to its mission of promoting recovery, resilience, and informed choices within our community. We will continue to advocate for evidence-based approaches and to support individuals and families affected by substance use. This is a step in the right direction, towards a healthier, safer future for all.

One step at a time. One day at a time.