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*Welcome Remarks delivered by H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta, at the “Theories of Personal Identity: Synchronic and Diachronic Identity” Lecture, organized by the Moscow Centre for Conscious Studies, 25 June 2018*

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Distinguished guests,  
Dear friends.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to San Anton Palace, which is 400 years old and represents an important part of Malta’s cultural legacy.

I hope that all of you will enjoy this interesting lecture, in these historical surroundings.

I would like to this opportunity to officially welcome Professor Swinburne to Malta. I hope you will all find some time to explore the vast historical and cultural heritage of our islands, during your time here.

Let me also commend the Moscow Centre for Consciousness Studies, within the Philosophy Department of the Moscow State University, for facilitating today’s lecture.

Furthermore, I am pleased to note that the Centre’s ethos is truly inspirational, as I am informed that it aims to nurture mutual respect, to foster a spirit of inclusion, and to promote intellectual freedom.

I believe that these are three essential components, to achieve constructive and fruitful dialogue, both within universities but also across society at large.

Professor Swinburne, I am sure that your expertise in the areas of philosophy and theology will provide much food for thought.

Let me also augur continuing success to the Moscow Centre for Conscious Studies, and its future activities in Malta and beyond, and to each and every one of you.