

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltgayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme Marriage Equality Campaign TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. Keep website and FB page updated. Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach to volunteers Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltagayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March ▪ Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme ▪ Marriage Equality Campaign ▪ TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. ▪ Keep website and FB page updated. ▪ Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. ▪ Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach to volunteers ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF ▪ Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. ▪ Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . ▪ Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltagayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March ▪ Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme ▪ Marriage Equality Campaign ▪ TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. ▪ Keep website and FB page updated. ▪ Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. ▪ Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach to volunteers ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF ▪ Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. ▪ Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . ▪ Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltgayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March ▪ Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme ▪ Marriage Equality Campaign ▪ TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. ▪ Keep website and FB page updated. ▪ Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. ▪ Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach to volunteers ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF ▪ Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. ▪ Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . ▪ Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltagayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme Marriage Equality Campaign TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. Keep website and FB page updated. Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach to volunteers Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltgayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March ▪ Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme ▪ Marriage Equality Campaign ▪ TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. ▪ Keep website and FB page updated. ▪ Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. ▪ Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach to volunteers ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF ▪ Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. ▪ Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . ▪ Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltgayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme Marriage Equality Campaign TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. Keep website and FB page updated. Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach to volunteers Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltgayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March ▪ Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme ▪ Marriage Equality Campaign ▪ TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. ▪ Keep website and FB page updated. ▪ Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. ▪ Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach to volunteers ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF ▪ Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. ▪ Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . ▪ Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay Rights Movement**

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltagayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme Marriage Equality Campaign TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. Keep website and FB page updated. Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach to volunteers Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy

Annual Report 2012

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

The first part of the year was taken up with the launch of MGRM's position paper on marriage equality and the promotion of MGRM's Think Before You Speak: Making Life Better for LGBT Youth Campaign funded through the Voices Foundation.

The highlight of 2012 were the advocacy efforts which finally bore fruit with changes to the criminal code extending hate crime legislation and the extension of the NCPE remit both of which included the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This involved a concerted effort by MGRM together with aditus, LGBT Labour, Drachma and Drachma Parents, We Are, Graffiti and Integra following two incidents involving lesbian couples in January and February.

Following the appointment of a new Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, the MGRM together with aditus was able to hold a series of meetings focusing on the Gender Identity Bill. Meetings were also held with MP Evarist Bartolo on the part of the PL and by the end of the legislature a consensus seemed to have been reached. We hope these will come to fruition in the following months. Other advocacy efforts focused on opposition to the *Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012* and the *Embryo Protection Act*.

MGRM was again present with two representatives at the Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting, this year held in Istanbul, Turkey. MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are and Drachma on a number of initiatives. These included meetings with Transgender prisoners and the Prison Director; legal advice to LGBT individuals and families; participation in Pride Week and the promotion of activities organised by other groups through MGRM's network.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. We also continued to work towards raising awareness on LGBT issues through the organisation of a number of workshops and training sessions, participation in TV and Radio programmes and submitted letters to newspapers in response to articles and features that were published throughout the year.

The number of elected committee members and regular volunteers remains small and capacity building continues to be an important priority if the work of MGRM is to be sustained. Our aim is therefore to secure funding that would allow MGRM to employ a part-time policy officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme.

My thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year. I would like, in particular, to mention Colette, as administrator of MGRM's email account and her contribution to the social welfare team, Nadine for her excellent work on the Think Before Youth Speak Campaign and website which she continues to keep updated, and Neil for the collaborative effort with aditus on a number of advocacy initiatives and his invaluable support as legal advisor provided on numerous occasions throughout the year.

My final thanks this year go to Ruth Baldacchino, who has been an active member on the MGRM committee for many years and who has contributed to the growth and professionalization of the organisation in many ways. She was instrumental in developing MGRM's work on trans issues as well as in guiding MGRM through the strategic planning process.

Ruth has also been very much involved in the international and European spheres through her work as a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe's executive boards, posts which she held for a number of years. Over the past year she has also taken a leadership role in ILGA and ILGA-Europe's efforts to support the establishment of an intersex movement.

Ruth has also been at the forefront in establishing the field of queer studies at the University of Malta developing and teaching a credit which is now running successfully for the second year. We know she will continue to contribute to the LGBT movement and that her expertise will remain available to us.

Reports

Gabi Calleja

Social welfare

First contact

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through the Support email and increasingly through Facebook. It is estimated that around 100 individuals were assisted throughout the year ranging from adolescents and young people going through the coming out process to trans children, youth and prisoners to couples facing child custody, relationship or immigration difficulties. A number of parents are also increasingly being referred to the Drachma parents support group.

National Gay Helpline and Support Services

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. An average of two calls per week are received. This does not include other requests received through email and Facebook. Around 20 face-to-face sessions are conducted throughout the year by members of MGRM's social welfare team.

Training

A training session was organised for sedqa's counsellors and social workers in June delivered by Colette and Gabi. Training on LGBT issues this past year also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community. Sessions were also delivered to Youth.Inc students. Two round table discussions were also organised by the US Embassy in collaboration with MGRM focusing on Gay Visibility in the Media presented by Charles Taylor and the other on Supporting LGBTQ Students in Secondary Schools: Lessons from the United States presented by Jim Bogden. Gabi also delivered a presentation during the Equinet Conference held in Malta in September focusing on difficulties faced by LGBT persons in reporting discrimination.

Meetings

A meeting was held with the counselling team at Junior College together with representatives from We Are who were identified as the key link for LGBT students attending the sixth form. A meeting was held with NCPE following the extension of their remit attended also by other groups. During this meeting the need for consultation and training were highlighted. Two meetings were also held with the Commissioner for Children together with aditus to discuss issues related to Trans children in education. Representatives from MGRM and aditus also met with a number of Trans Prisoners, the Prison Director and the Prison Board focusing on the detention conditions of trans prisoners.

Mark Grech and Ruth Baldacchino

International Relations

MGRM continues to attach great importance to participating in the international arena, believing this improves and sustains our capacity and development building. As such, MGRM committee members were involved in a number of international conferences and meetings in 2012.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Dublin, Ireland

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland, between 18th and 21st October 2012, with the theme 'Advancing LGBTI equality in challenging economic times'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe, while Ruth Baldacchino and Mark Grech obtained scholarship and MEUSAC funding to attend the conference. Ruth was also part of the chairing pool of the conference.

The conference was addressed by the Irish deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, and other politicians, as well as by Nils Muižnieks, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Dublin

Mark Grech was the MGRM representative to attend the EU Network meetings in Brussels and Dublin, In April and October.

The meetings comprise representatives of EU member states and pre-accession countries, and provide a useful collaborative event mainly focusing on advocacy strategies and joint workings.

Solidarity and Networking Conference – Istanbul, Turkey

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus and Athens, Greece, the 2012 meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Delegates from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Albania were also joined by new network members Italy.

The meeting involved two days of advocacy training which helped participants explore different strategies facilitated by Sonia Herrero an external trainer and a day focusing on hate crime which is a serious concern in Turkey facilitated by Lilit and Silvan from ILGA-Europe.

The next meeting is planned to take place in Albania in 2013.

TGEU Council Meeting – Dublin, Ireland

The 4th European Transgender Council took place between the 7th and 9th September in Dublin. More than 200 delegates from 37 countries took part, including Ruth Baldacchino, Gabi Calleja and Colette Farrugia Bennett from MGRM. Entitled “Trans Rights Now! Realizing recognition, respect and equality” trans people and human rights activists, civil society and policymakers convened to discuss legislations, policies, strategies and best practices which ensure trans equality. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sent their welcome messages, whilst Irish Minister for Social Protection Jane Burton and Senator Katherine Zappone opened the largest European trans human rights gathering. A wide range of workshops and plenaries touched on a variety of topics, including International Case Law and Creative Trans Activism.

ILGA World Conference

The 26th ILGA World Conference took place in Stockholm between the 12th and 16th December 2012 with the theme “Global Rights, Global Respect”. More than 450 LGBTI activists gathered together from over 100 countries. Ruth Baldacchino attended as MGRM, outgoing ILGA World Board member, and Chairing Pool member. Ruth presented a workshop on *Queer Migration*, chaired the technical workshops (organizational) and technical plenaries, which included overseeing all electoral procedures were adhered to.

This was deemed to be the most successful ILGA World conference for many reasons:

1. ILGA and RFSL (host organization) successfully ensured funding for the highest number of scholarships which were delivered to about half of the delegates. As a result, participants were more diverse with increased participation from activists from Africa and Asia (particularly from Middle East).
2. The largest conference with 450 representatives, which also reflects the 25% increase in ILGA membership since the 2010 Sao Paulo Conference, bringing ILGA membership up to 1005 member organisations (including MGRM).
3. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General addressed the conference, stating “The UN stands with you as you highlight ongoing abuses, dispel prejudices and insist on nothing short of freedom and equality for all.”
4. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the conference declaring “all people are unique and all are entitled to respect”. This was the first time a Head of Government was present at an ILGA conference.
5. Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General, Salil Shetty, addressed AI’s support of LGBT Rights in his speech to the conference.
6. Argentina’s Vice-President, Amado Boudou travelled to Stockholm to receive an ILGA award on behalf of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose

government has delivered the world's leading Gender Recognition legislation and marriage equality.

7. The City of Stockholm hosted the ILGA delegates to the a grand reception in the Nobel Prize reception hall (Gold Room) in City Hall.
8. The conference had 9 plenaries and 8 sets of workshops with a total of 58 workshops, over 5 days of conference. The conference was preceded by 9 pre-conference meetings (including the Intersex Forum, Trans Pre-conference, and the Women's Pre-Conference).

The Conference approved a number of organisational changes, including the creation of an Intersex Secretariat and the decision for the host city for the next World Conference in 2014, which will be Mexico City.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the second Global Intersex Forum in December 2012, in Stockholm. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which saw 37 participants representing 33 intersex organisations and supportive institutions from all continents.

The Forum agreed to affirm the principles of the first Global Intersex Forum and extended the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

During the Forum, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with a representative from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Forum also called on the ILGA members who were at the World Conference to support the creation of an Intersex Secretariat within the ILGA structure.

Other conferences and seminars attended

ILGA-Europe Board meetings, February, May, September, November 2012 – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Programmes Director, February 2012, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

Baltic Pride – June 2012 – Riga – Gabi Calleja

IGLYO Conference - Promoting Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue in the LGBTQ Youth Sector – April 2012

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in response to the homophobic incidents that took place in the beginning of the year and the subsequent campaign for the introduction of hate crime legislation. MGRM's campaign for marriage equality and its response to the cohabitation bill and embryo protection bill was also featured on various media.

MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television and printed news, to the internet and new media through the use of social networks such as Twitter & especially Facebook.

The most noted instances of MGRM 's media presence occurred around several key events, issues & cases such as:

- The launch of the marriage equality position paper in January
- Campaign for introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation
- IDAHO
- Pride Week
- Cohabitation Bill
- Embryo Protection Bill

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2012.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	MGRM: we want same sex couples to have same rights and status of opposite sex couples	Maltastar.com	13 th January 2012
2	Gay rights movement 'optimistic' about same-sex marriage legislation	Maltatoday	13 th January 2012
3	Civil marriages should not remain gender specific - MGRM	The Times of Malta	13 th January 2012
4	MGRM appeals for civil unions for same-sex couples	Independent	14 th January 2012
5	L-MGRM determinata li tkompli bl-isforzi tagħha	L-Orizzont	15 th January 2012
6	MGRM and aditus: Need of Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime laws	Maltastar.com	22 nd January 2012
7	NGOs call for urgent homophobic hate crime legislation	Maltatoday.com.mt	22 nd January 2012
8	NGOs call for 'hate crime' to also cover anti-gay acts	The Times of Malta	23 rd January 2012
9	Hate crime	TV AM - PBS	24 th January 2012
10	Hamrun demonstration calls for broader hate crime law	The Times of Malta	26 th January 2012

11	Prime Minister announces review of hate crimes	Maltatoday.com.mt	7 th February 2012
12	Hate crime laws probed	The Times of Malta	7 th February 2012
13	LGBT Issues	Bejnietna - Smash TV	8 th February 2012
14	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Reporter	16 th February 2012
15	Discrimination of LGBT Persons	Quadro – NET TV	28 th February 2012
16	Hate crime legislation will not privilege gay people	The Independent on Sunday	22 nd February 2012
17	Hate crimes amendments 'major step in human rights development	Maltatoday.com.mt	2 nd March 2012
18	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Tagni – ONE TV	12 th April 2012
19	IDAHO	NET TV	17 th May 2012
20	Woman of courage award for head of Malta Gay Rights Movement	The Times of Malta	25 th May 2012
21	Maltese MEPs vote in favour of EU resolution condemning homophobic laws, discrimination	Malta Today	29 th May 2012
22	Iz-zwieg tal-Gays Dritt?	Dissett – PBS	8 th June 2012
23	Straight talking on gay rights	The Times of Malta	13 th June 2012
24	Gay rights movement welcomes passing of hate crimes amendments	Malta Today	20 th June 2012
25	MGRM welcomes approval of hate crime law	The Times of Malta	20 th June 2012
26	Video: Colourful Gay Pride parade in Sliema	Timesofmalta.com	30 th June 2012
27	Trans Issues	Xarabank	12 th July 2012
28	IVF law 'inherently homophobic' – gay rights movement	Malta Today	31 st July 2012
29	IVF bill 'discriminatory' - MGRM	The Times of Malta	31 st July 2012
30	Legal recognition of same-sex couples	Reporter	6 th August 2012
31	AD endorses MGRM's position on marriage equality	Malta Today	21 st August 2012
32	Ftit wisq' - Gabi Calleja	inewsmalta.com	28 th August 2012
33	Cohabitation bill disappoints gays	Malta Today	28 th August 2012
34	Legal recognition of same sex couples	Realta' - PBS	12 th September 2012
35	Rights of LGBT Persons and Families	PL Congress – ONE TV	18 th September 2012
36	Recognition of same sex couples and GI Issues	Bejnietna - Favourite	5 th October 2012
37	'Mellieha honour' ruling sent message that homophobia can be condoned – MGRM	Malta Today	10 th October 2012
38	Mellieha gay jibes case - 'A very negative message'	Independent.com.mt	11 th October 2012

39	Recognition of same-sex couples	Bondi+ - PBS	22 nd October 2012
40	Recognition of same-sex couples	Affari Taghna – ONE TV	09 th November 2012
41	MGRM	Distinti – NET TV	9 th December 2012

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly improved from last year. The current membership now stands at around 70 members of which about 18 lifetime members. Lifetime membership seems to be becoming increasingly popular involving a one time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available on line and payment can be effected through the website to MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has been the most common method of payment. Renewal of membership generally happens during Pride week and during events that are organized throughout the year as well as when MGRM puts up stands during parties. Although email reminders are sent out frequently response is poor. Membership is an area which MGRM needs to build on both for funding implications as well as those relating to representation.

Gabi Calleja

Advocacy & Lobbying

Advocacy and lobbying work are a central part of MGRM's work. Within the framework of the current Strategic Plan, the MGRM Committee focused on a number of priorities, which were used to develop an advocacy strategy for the year. The priorities are split in terms of legal changes and policies, which require change to be inclusive of LGBT and their families.

1. Legal Equality:
 - a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition;
 - b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)
 - c. Equal Treatment between persons
 - d. The introduction of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and the recording of homophobic and transphobic motivated crime.
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education
 - c. Periodic Review Charter on the Rights of the Child

3. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families
 - a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
 - b. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
 - c. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
 - d. Social Security & Housing provisions
 - e. Think B4 U Spk Campaign
4. Meeting Members of Parliament
5. Local networking
6. Participation in Public Events

1a. Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition

In December 2010, we saw MGRM's proposed *Gender Identity Act* tabled in Parliament by MP Evarist Bartolo. During 2012, MGRM and aditus met with Minister Chris Said and MP Evarist Bartolo both individually and jointly in an attempt to reach a consensus on the procedure for gender identity recognition. During the final meeting held in November agreement seemed to have been reached with both parties agreeing to a new gender identity recognition procedure that would be open to non-operative or pre-operative transsexuals and that would involve the setting up of a panel of experts who would ensure that applicants understood the legal and social implications of the procedure. AD came out in support of the gender identity bill as proposed by MGRM.

As part of a much wider bill two clauses were introduced which shifted the application to change the gender marker on official documents to a lower court thus making it slightly more accessible and made it possible for trans persons applying for change in legal gender to present documentation proving they have undergone irreversible gender reassignment surgery thus eliminating the need for the court to appoint an expert to verify this fact through an invasive medical examination.

1b. Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)

MGRM in partnership with aditus and other NGO's was able to successfully lobby for the extension of the NCPE remit to include sexual orientation and gender identity among other grounds. The changes to the Equality for Men and Women Act were passed by Parliament in June.

1c. Equal Treatment between persons

MGRM has continued to lobby for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation outside the field of employment. This issue was raised in a number of meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family as well as with the Leader of the Labour Party.

1d. Inclusion of homophobic and transphobic hate crime legislation and reporting of homophobic and transphobic-motivated crime

In January, a teenaged lesbian couple was attacked on a bench in Hamrun by two teenagers. The case was later brought to court, and the boys were sentenced to fines of 500 euros. A 35-year-old woman, who became involved, was fined with 50 euros.

In February, an off-duty bus driver attacked two lesbian passengers on a city bus. He was charged of causing injury and disrupting public order. The bus company Arriva

dismissed the driver after the incident and emphasised that they have a zero tolerance policy on violence on any grounds.

Following a joint press statement between MGRM and aditus as well as reactions from other NGO's, meetings with the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said a public protest organised jointly with other organisations and the drafting of changes to the criminal code drawn up by Neil Falzon parliament amended the *Criminal Code* regulating hate crimes, extending the scope of the law also to sexual orientation and gender identity in June.

2a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates

MGRM together with aditus met with three MTF transgender inmates hosted in the adult male section of the prison and one MTF transgender inmate hosted in the YOURS section. Following the drawing up of a report by aditus which was submitted to the prison director and the OPM, a meeting was held with the Prison Director and following that another meeting with the Prison Board. The report highlighted a number of issues raised by the transgender inmates relating to their treatment in prison including the lack of recognition of their preferred gender identity. A number of policies adopted by other countries relating to the hosting of transgender inmates were subsequently passed on to the director of prisons and the prison boards as examples of good practice. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2013.

2b. Inclusion of Trans children and youth in education

Meetings were held with the Commissioner for Children and the Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a case of a trans child that requested assistance. The case is ongoing.

2c. Periodic Review Charter of the Rights of the Child

MGRM in collaboration with aditus contributed to Malta's periodic review on the implementation of Charter of the Rights of the Child by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that was held in January 2013. aditus consulted various human rights organisations, including MGRM, and produced a shadow report with the aim of giving a clearer picture of certain key elements relating to children's well-being in Malta. MGRM contributed on issues faced by LGBT children and children living in LGBT families.

3a. Awareness Raising of LGBT individuals and their families

- a. Lobbying towards the recognition of LGBT families.
- a. Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.
- b. Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.
- c. Social Security & Housing provisions

This area covers a number of MGRM's strategic objectives and therefore a number of actions are associated with it.

In January of 2012 MGRM launched its Position Paper arguing for marriage equality in Malta. This position paper was extensively used following the government's publication of Bill 120, *AN ACT to provide for the regulation of cohabitation* also known as the Civil Partnerships and Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2012. A consultation meeting was held with the LGBT community who supported MGRM's opposition to the Bill. A number of other meetings were held with Minister for Justice,

Dialogue and the Family outlining MGRM's position. Official feedback was also submitted as part of the consultation process initiated by the government. A meeting was also held with the leader of the Labour Party with respect to the legal recognition of LGBT families.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. The proposed cohabitation bill included a clause which would facilitate the adoption of a child by the non-biological parent on the death of the biological parent.

In July, the government proposed a bill concerning in vitro fertilisation (IVF). The *Embryo Protection Act* establishes that IVF should only be available for married couples or unmarried, opposite-sex couples in a stable relationship. The act which was passed in October criminalises gametes [sperm and egg] donation by third parties as well as surrogacy. Penalties include fines as well as a prison sentence. MGRM submitted feedback to this bill and raised the issue with both the government and the opposition.

3b. Think B4 U Spk Campaign

<http://www.maltgayrights.org/think.php>

This project, funded through the Voices Foundation aimed to address the difficulties encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth related to the recognition of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a society that may not always be eagerly willing to accept difference.

The aims of the proposed project were:

- To reduce and prevent the use of homophobic and transphobic language in an effort to create a more positive environment for LGBTQ teens / youth;
- To raise awareness about the prevalence and the effects of homophobic and transphobic bullying and behaviour whilst encouraging respect towards individual peer differences;
- To overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation often experienced by LGBTQ youth through the provision of positive role models;
- To encourage parents to support their LGBTQ children and raise awareness of the parent support group run by Drachma.

The promotional tools for the campaign included viral videos, posters, postcards and lesson plans together with guidance notes. The material was distributed to schools with the collaboration of the PSD unit within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education. The posters and postcards were also used in other events such as the Diversity Day at MCAST. ONE TV also aired the video clips for free. This initiative was possibly with the support of the leader of the Labour Party, Joseph Muscat. A number of calls on the Helpline were received in response to the airing of these clips.

4. Meeting Members of Parliament

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, both from Government and Opposition to propose changes, discuss concerns and continue raising awareness about the legal and social situation of LGBT people in Malta and Gozo. We also met with members of the executive of AD – the Green Party. Meetings were held with Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Chris Said,

Joseph Muscat (PL), Evarist Bartolo, Michael Briguglio (AD), Angele Deguara (AD), and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando (Independent).

5. Local networking

In 2012, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities and made contact with or worked in collaboration with the following persons/ entities:

- NCPE – meeting following extension of NCPE remit
- Malta Council of Women's Organisations
- Drachma and Drachma Parents
- We Are
- Aditus
- LGBT Labour
- Integra
- Grafitti

6. Participation in Public Events

MGRM also participated in a number of activities organised by other organisations, which often served as a means to reach the general public and network with other organisation.

Mark Grech

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2012:

1. Protest

A peaceful rally was held in Hamrun on the 26th January 2012 calling for the enactment of Hate Crime Legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression following the press reports of homophobic related attacks in the area.

The event was held by MGRM in conjunction with Drachma, Drachma parents, Aditus foundation, Integra Foundation, Grafitti and LGBT Labour.

The event was well attended and sent a powerful message to Government and wider society on the need for Hate Crime legislation, so much so that such legislation was enacted later in the year.

2. Information Session regarding proposed GI Bill

An information session was held at the premises of the GWU in Valletta explaining the details and provisions contained within the proposed Gender Identity Bill and the marriage equality position paper as drafted by MGRM.

3. Human Library Higher Secondary and Diversity Day MCAST

MGRM members participated in a 'Human Library' which took place at the Higher Secondary in Naxxar where two members of MGRM's committee posed as LGBT books. The event was well attended and involved members responding to questions and queries from the students about their life as an LGBT individual. Lots of good feedback was obtained.

The MGRM also participated in MCAST's first every Diversity Day event organised on the main campus in Paola. MGRM put up a stand with posters and other campaign materials and responded to questions from staff and students.

4. PRIDE Week

'I am' was the theme for Pride Week 2012. It meant to remind everyone that LGBT individuals are part of society - just people, everywhere, living their lives and being themselves.

The only difference is that we still have to fight for rights that other people take for granted.. safe streets and schools, acceptance from parents, being treated equally in employment, recognition of our relationships and families, free healthcare.

The week was celebrated through a Pride March held in Sliema, which included the participation of the leader of AD Michael Briguglio, PL MP Owen Bonnici and Minister Chris Said as well as the American Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley. The celebrations also included a film festival and another successful WomenSpace event.

5. Consultation session on proposed cohabitation bill

A consultation session was organized by MGRM with the local LGBT community and stakeholders on the draft Cohabitation bill as published by the government.

A lively and widespread debate was held, with the wider LGBT community endorsing MGRM's stance in rejecting the draft bill as wholly insufficient and not meeting the needs of same sex couples and their families. Silvan Agius, Policy Director of ILGA-Europe together with other LGBT persons currently living abroad were also able to follow and participate through skype.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations, and this was well attended at Toms Bar in December 2012.

The many individuals who attended, including not just from the LGBT community, but also including several politicians and representatives from different parties and organisations, enjoyed mulled wine and conviviality.

Workplan 2012

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to NCPE training Explore training needs of NCPE staff
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue follow up on Joanne Cassar's case
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill Meet with Minister for Justice and counterpart in opposition
	1d Inclusion of Homophobic hate crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about implications of the legislation To lobby for the inclusion of homo and transphobic hate crime in police data collection system
	1e Anti-discrimination in the provision of goods and services to LGBT people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on any new developments or directions provided by IE. Lobby Government and Opposition for extension of anti-discrimination legislation to goods and services
	1f Recognition and protection of rights for LGBT couples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign including mentioning Marriage Equality in electoral manifestos Fundraising for the campaign Participate in drafting of Civil Union Bill
	1g Non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference within Position Paper on same sex couples.
	1h Non-discriminatory recognition of reproductive rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for a more inclusive Embryo Protection Act
	Goal 2	2a Training of professionals, including police, psychologists, social workers, doctors and health workers.
2b Health.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Health page on Website Carrying out a prevalence study and raising awareness about testing in collaboration with Health Promotion Unit Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic Continuing with lobbying for the inclusion of sexual reassignment surgery in National Health Service

Goal 3	2c	Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Prison Director on implementation of good practice guidelines
	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with US Embassy to provide educational resources for schools
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise.
	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on the 40th anniversary of decriminalisation IDAHO World Aids Day Project Partner to (Gilbert Calleja) - Milkshake. Provide advice and collaborate.
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Marriage Equality Campaign strategy
Goal 3	3c	Build on work with other groups within LGBT movement; and others who are supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LGBT Labour, We Are, Drachma and Drachma Parents Participate in Grundtvig Preparatory Visit and apply for partnership in follow-up project Develop a collaboration policy
	3d	Obtain endorsement from professional bodies. All with the view of gaining and increasing public support statements from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reactions of support from MASW and MPA / MUPP Request that professional code of ethics include reference to homo and transphobia, and related issues.
	4a	Provide support, assistance and information on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data recording system for social welfare cases. Offer support through emails and face-to-face meetings on request. Operate the National Gay Helpline Secure funding in order to set up a social work support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Apply for funding on older LGBT people at Lotteries Good Causes Fund
Goal 4	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to workshops and events through FB and website To hold 2 social events in collaboration with other LGBT groups

	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's political events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advert (paid) on Sunday Times promoting Pride & Pride March ▪ Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme ▪ Marriage Equality Campaign ▪ TV appearances promoting Pride Week
		Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archives project - LGBT memorabilia
Goal 5	5a	Improving communication between MGRM and the wider community, with MGRM being clearer about its goals, purpose and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send out mail shots to inform lists about events and news. ▪ Keep website and FB page updated. ▪ Communication of MGRM's 2013 workplan, 2012 Annual Report and other important MGRM documents through mail shot, FB and website.
	5b	Liaising with non-LGBT groups and also individuals working on LGBT issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draw up list of research topics to forward to University Faculties and Departments. ▪ Liaise with Today Public Policy Institute - Martin Scicluna and other think tanks.
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach to volunteers ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6b	To Establish funding streams and build on MGRM's human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify potential core/project funding applications: EEA / Norway Grants; Lotteries Good Causes Fund; MEUSAC; VSO; Gay Romeo Foundation (April); Trut Foundation; CCF ▪ Increase membership base: incorporating membership and fundraising in all MGRM events and calls. Monthly appeal through website.
	6c	To maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership in ILGA , IGLYO , TGEU & FRA Platform. ▪ Participation in EU network and international conferences/seminars/round tables . ▪ Participate in Mediterranean Solidarity Network Meeting in Greece.
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position
	6e	Having clarity as to the purpose and history of MGRM, with explanation as to the background of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Strategic Plan and work plan annually
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in IE discussion on Surrogacy