

Annual Report 2013

Malta **Gay** Rights Movement

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Introduction

Gabi Calleja
Coordinator

This was an important year for MGRM. The run up to the National Elections in March saw MGRM involved in campaigning and advocating for LGBT rights with all the main political parties. LGBT issues were mentioned to varying degrees in the manifestos of the PL, PN and AD with AD coming out in favour of marriage equality and parenting rights and PL proposing Civil Unions at par with marriage as well as the setting up of an LGBT consultative council. The MGRM also drew up its own equality objectives for the 2013-2018 legislature.

The highlight of 2013 was the work done with the LGBT consultative council on the drafting of the Civil Union Bill and the tabling of the bill in parliament on the 30 September 2013 with the second reading going through parliament in December. Despite opposition to the bill, primarily with respect to parenting and adoption rights, MGRM worked with government and the council to ensure that the principle of equality at par with marriage was not compromised.

Following the election the government, almost immediately, sought to reach an agreement with Joanne Cassar regarding the right of post-operative trans persons to marry. The case was withdrawn from the European Court of Human Rights following a settlement that was reached with Joanne Cassar and the passing of Bill No. 5 implementing changes to the Civil Code by which trans persons shall be considered for all civil purposes, including with regard to the capacity of that person to exercise the right to marry, as belonging to the acquired sex.

The work on gender identity and expression also continued with discussions within the consultative council regarding a proposed Gender Identity Bill. Following MGRM's participation in a roundtable discussion organised by ILGA-Europe and TGEU, discussions were also held with Neil Falzon, the author of MGRM's bill to see whether it met the TGEU checklist. The issues were then raised within the consultative council.

MGRM continued to offer support through the National Gay Helpline as well as through email, facebook and face-to-face meetings. However, the major initiative which MGRM was able to launch this year is the Rainbow Support Service with funding obtained through the US Embassy. This enables MGRM to provide social work and legal support to LGBT individuals and their families. It also led to the setting up of the LGBT youth drop-in which is also supported by Agenzija Zghazagh who will also ensure the sustainability of this service.

MGRM hosted the final meeting of the Mediterranean Solidarity Network which focused on introductory training on intersex issues as well as the identification of areas of work that were of interest to the network members.

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.

MGRM has continued to build on its relationship with other groups and has collaborated with aditus, We Are, LGBT Labour and Drachma on a number of initiatives such as the consultative council and the Rainbow Support Service.

While MGRM is financially in a good position having been successful in acquiring three grants in 2013, 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.

MGRM was able to secure funding through the EEA/Norway NGO Grant that allows MGRM to employ a part-time policy and programmes officer who would take on and develop some of MGRM's work programme. We also secured a Grundtvig Grant which will allow MGRM to participate in a number of training mobilities with the project partners.

As we look ahead to 2014 and beyond with optimism, my thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who have contributed to MGRM's work throughout the year and to all our partners in the Maltese LGBT and broader human rights movement.

Reports

Colette Farrugia Bennett

Social welfare

During the past year, the social welfare team has continued to offer support to individuals and families requesting face-to-face meetings to discuss issues around LGBT identities, family relationships and dynamics, and health matters, among others. The social welfare team has also continued to provide support services through the National Gay Helpline. Two members of the team, Ms Colette Farrugia Bennett and Ms Beverley Abela, worked on a funding proposal to set-up the Rainbow Support Service. The proposal was submitted to both the NGO Government Fund and the US Embassy. The latter chose to fund the Rainbow Support Service project which started in September 2013 while it is hoped that the NGO fund application re-submitted in 2013 will allow for the continuation of the service up to December 2015.

Rainbow Support Service

This service is funded by the US Embassy and Agenzija Zghazagh, and its planning phase started in September 2013 and the services were open to the public in October 2013. This service incorporates the Social Work service, a Youth Group for LGBTIQ persons aged between 15 and 25, Psychological Support, and a Legal Consultancy Service. The project also allows for the provision of workshops or training to schools and professionals involved in the provision of social welfare services.

Since October 2013, the Social Work service has been in contact with over 25 individuals and families and has met with over 25 young people through the youth group. During the official launch that took place in December 2013, the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sports confirmed Agenzija Zghazagh shall continue to fund and provide the location for the LGBTIQ Youth Group. The funding period for this service is until September 2014, however an application for the Government's NGO Fund was submitted in December 2013 and MGRM is currently awaiting news about its application.

Grundtvig - Learning Partnership

In February 2013, Ms Colette Farrugia Bennett, attended a preparatory visit for a Learning Partnership project under the Grundtvig Funding Scheme. Seven partners attended the initial meeting and once the project application was submitted, only four partners received the funding. MGRM's application was placed on a reserve list and

in December 2013, we were informed by the EUPA, that further funding was made available and thus our participation in the project could proceed. Thus, MGRM joined the Learning Partnership in December 2013, as did the Lithuanian organisation, LGL. The project is now formed of six partners, with a German organisation, the VNB, in the role of coordinator. The other partners include the Waldschloesschen (Germany), GOBS (England), LGL (Lithuania) and KPH (Poland). A mobility to each organisation's country is planned and the project will end in July 2015. This project is coordinated by Ms Colette Farrugia Bennett with the support of Ms Gabi Calleja, as the person legally responsible for the project funding.

The project title is "Queer Pathways into Diversity: 'being different' as a key factor in LGBT*Q European Adult Education (QuPiD)". It aims at strengthening political LGBT*Q (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*gender and Queer) adult education as an important strategy to combat anti-homosexual, -bisexual and -trans*gender tendencies, policies and violence in European societies and to work for the respect of different ways of living without discrimination – enabling inclusion and active citizenship of marginalized groups.

The first mobility that MGRM will take part in will be held in Poland and is being organised by KPH. The topic under discussion will be LGBT*Q - together, side by side, or against?. Ms Colette Farrugia Bennett will be attending this first mobility as a staff member of this project, and Ms Ruth Baldacchino and Ms Romina Tolu as learners

National Gay Helpline

MGRM continues to operate the National Gay Helpline (NGH) through a call divert system. However, most calls for support are now diverted to the Rainbow Support Service.

Training

Training on LGBT issues this past year included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students as well as with ETC employment advisors dealing with the organisations work and discrimination faced by the LGBT community.

Mark Grech

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 2013.

IDAHO Congress 2013 – The Hague, Netherlands

Gabi Calleja attended the first European edition of the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) conference held in The Hague on Thursday, 16th May. Over 700 participants from all over Europe were present. These included the Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties Helena Dalli who also endorsed the call for an EU Roadmap on LGBT Equality on behalf of the Maltese Government.

The theme of the conference was: Joining Forces, Moving Forward; in Europe and beyond. At various venues in The Hague, in sub-sessions and workshops, participants in the IDAHO conference were able to enter into discussion with one another about how the emancipation of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people (LGBTs) can be improved at the European level, and what people can learn from each other.

Friday 17th May participants assisted to the presentation of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) Study on homophobia within the EU which took place at The Hague University of Applied Sciences. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion and an address by Vivianne Reding, Vice-president of the European Commission and Commissioner responsible for justice, fundamental rights and citizenship.

ILGA-Europe annual conference – Zagreb, Croatia

The annual conference of ILGA-Europe took place in Zagreb, Croatia, between 24th and 26th October 2013, with the theme 'Family Matters! Reaching Out to Hearts and Minds'.

Gabi Calleja attended in her role as Co-chair of the executive board of ILGA-Europe and was also on a workshop panel discussion looking at Strategic Campaigning for Marriage Equality. Mark Grech obtained a scholarship to attend the conference.

The conference was addressed by Stavros Lambrinidis, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights; Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director of Equality within the Directorate General Justice at the European Commission; Vesna Pusić, First Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs; Miguel Vale de Almeida, Anthropologist, LGBT activist and professor at the Instituto

Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa (ISCTE) in Lisbon and Uzra Zeya from the US State Department.

EU Network meetings – Brussels & Zagreb

Neil Falzon represented MGRM at the Advocacy Training held in Brussels between the 19th and 20th April while Mark Grech represented MGRM at the Advocacy Network meeting held in Zagreb on the 23rd 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 – Malta

Following Mediterranean network meetings in Nicosia, Cyprus, Athens, Greece and Istanbul, the 2013 meeting which was planned to take place in Albania was hosted by Malta due to funding regulation limitations of the EU. Delegates from MGRM, Drachma, Drachma Parents, aditus and LGBT Labour for Malta, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus and Italy took part in the meeting which was held between the 12th and 14th September.

The meeting involved introductory training on intersex issues which increased the knowledge and awareness of participants on the matter. Time was also spent exploring the future of the network which from 2014 would no longer benefit from ILGA-Europe funding and therefore had to find other ways of sustaining itself. A list of issues common to most network members were identified as potential areas for collaboration.

TGEU Round Table – Berlin, Germany

Colette Farrugia Bennett attended a roundtable on legal gender recognition jointly organized by TGEU and ILGA-Europe in Berlin in November 2013. The roundtable brought together government officials and trans activists from countries in which Legal Gender Recognition legislation is either under review or in which there exists an attempt to legislate. The roundtable aimed at discussing how to move the process of reform forward and presented good and best practices. The event offered a lot of space for informal interaction, to learn from each other's challenges and successes, and to understand what worked and did not work in other countries. The checklist proved useful in ensuring that Malta's proposed Gender Identity Law currently being drawn up will reflect the best possible practice.

Regional Conference on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons in Europe – Paris, France

The meeting was part of a number of regional events taking place around the world which would culminate at a global **conference** in Oslo in April. The goal was to take stock of the situation of LGBTI human rights in Europe, whilst other regional events would take stock of the situation in other parts of the world. All these meetings provided input for a next resolution to be adopted at the UN Human Rights Council, and thus follow-up on the first resolution on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity that was adopted in 2011. Most of the meetings were organised by countries or civil society and were thus not a formal UN Process.

The French government offered to organise the European meeting. Poland later decided to co-host it. Whilst the meeting was part of a broader global process, in content this meeting was designed to focus on relevant issues in the European context. A short outcome document was prepared on the basis of the discussions during the **conference** which served as input to the **conference** in Oslo. The meeting was attended by Gabi Calleja and Nadine Theuma. Gabi Calleja also attended the pre-conference meeting organised by ARC Foundation and ILGA-Europe as well as the Oslo Conference in April.

Intersex Forum

ILGA and ILGA-Europe organized the third Global Intersex Forum in November 2013, in Malta. Ruth Baldacchino and Silvan Agius co-facilitated the three-day forum which was also addressed by Minister Helena Dalli.

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, December 2013 – Gabi Calleja

Breaking the Walls of Silence, February 2013, Ljubljana – Gabi Calleja

ILGA-Europe Interview panel for Policy and Programmes Officer, July 2013, Brussels – Gabi Calleja

International Conference on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Oslo 15–16 April 2013 – Gabi Calleja

Gabi Calleja

Media

MGRM was present in the media throughout the year particularly in the build up to the General Elections in March and the tabling of the civil union bill in late September.

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 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of sodomy
- Meetings with political party representatives prior to the General Elections
- The presentation of the Civil Union Bill by Minister Helena Dalli
- IDAHO and the publication of the FRA survey results
- Pride Week

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured throughout 2013.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	Gay rights activists welcome consensus on adoptions http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130116/local/gay-rights-activists-welcome-consensus-on-adoptions.453387	The Times of Malta	16 th January 2013
2	Parties 'closer' to recognise gay couples http://www.maltastar.com/dart/20130119-parties-closer-to-recognise-gay-couples	Maltastar.com	20 th January 2013
3	Consultative council to draft law on civil unions http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130204/elections-news/consultative-council-to-draft-law-on-civil-unions.456186	Times of Malta	4 th February 2013
4	Gay couples will struggle to adopt regardless of law' http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130204/local/-Gay-couples-will-struggle-to-adopt-regardless-of-law-.456144	Times of Malta	4 th February 2013
5	Nationalists leave gay vote waiting for answers to MGRM questions http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/elections2013/Nationalists-leave-gay-vote-waiting-for-answers-to-MGRM-questions-20130302	Malta Today	2 nd March 2013
6	Il-PN ma jweġibx lill-MGRM http://www.inewsmalta.com/dart/20130302-il-pn-ma-jwe-ibx-lill-mgrm	iNews Malta	2 nd March 2013
	PL and AD respond to LGBT poll http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130303/local/PL-and-AD-respond-to-LGBT-poll.459929	Times of Malta	3 rd March 2013

7	Jubilation greets transsexual marriage announcement http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/Jubilation-greets-transsexual-marriage-announcement-20130404	Malta Today	3 rd April 2013
8	LGBT consultative council to be set up on Monday http://www.independent.com.mt/2013-04-18/news/lgbt-consultative-council-to-be-set-up-on-monday-1418002436/	Independent	18 th April 2013
9	Ibbuljar u persuni LGBT: "Hemm bżonn iktar minn kuxjenza" http://www.inewsmalta.com/dart/20130421-ibbuljar-persuni-lgbt-hemm-onn-iktar-minn-kuxjenza	iNews Malta	21 April 2013
10	Government sets up LGBT consultative council http://www.independent.com.mt/mobile/2013-04-22/news/government-sets-up-lgbt-consultative-council-1441890305/	Independent	22 nd April 2013
11	Malta becomes signatory to declaration to combat discrimination against LGBT persons http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/Malta-becomes-signatory-to-declaration-against-discrimination-suffered-by-LGBT-community-20130516	Malta Today	16 th May 2013
12	Fear and loathing in school: 91% report negative experience because they are gay http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/world/fra-report-idaho-survey-20130517	Malta Today	17 th May 2013
13	Malta not providing equality of rights' http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130517/local/-Malta-not-providing-equality-of-rights-.470021	Times of Malta	17 th May 2013
14	Malta behind in equal rights for LGBT citizens http://www.di-ve.com/news/malta-behind-equal-rights-lgbt-citizens	di-ve.com	17 th May 2013
15	On the Occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO)	MGRM/aditus	17 th May 2013
16	Martin Scicluna lambasted by gay lobby http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/Martin-Scicluna-lambasted-by-gay-lobby-20130519	Malta Today	19 th May 2013
17	'Human rights are not a matter of maturity' – gay rights campaigner Gabi Calleja http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/Human-rights-are-not-a-matter-of-maturity-gay-rights-campaigner-Gabi-Calleja-20130520	Malta Today	20 th May 2013
18	Marriage Equality, a Distorted View http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2013-05-20/opinions/marriage-equality-a-distorted-view-1635221508/	Independent	20 th May 2013
19	MGRM launch 'Love is Love' pride week http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/MGRM-launch-Love-is-Love-pride-week-20130615	Malta Today	15 th June 2013
20	Malta Gay Rights Movement announces 'Love is Love' pride week http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2013-06-16/news/malta-gay-rights-movement-announces-love-is-love-pride-week-1834156041/	Independent	16 th June 2013
21	'Breaking the Silence' LGBT debate held on Malta campus http://gozonews.com/38031/breaking-the-silence-lgbt-debate-held-on-the-malta-campus/	Gozonews.com	19 th April 2013

22	Prime Minister Receives Soldier Award for Supporting Gay Rights http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/Prime-Minister-receives-Soldier-Award-for-supporting-gay-rights-20130618	Malta Today	18 th June 2013
23	Il-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat jingħata s-Soldier Award http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5zUlp5ppE&feature=youtu.be	One News	18 th June 2013
24	Il-PN hu impenjat li jżomm punt ta' kuntatt mal-MGRM – Simon Busuttil http://www.maltarightnow.com/?module=news&t=a&aid=99848166&cid=19	maltarightnow.com	18 th June 2013
25	Imniedi l-video "It Gets Better" http://www.maltarightnow.com/?module=news&at=lmniedi+l-video+%22It+Gets+Better%22&t=a&aid=99848212&cid=19	maltarightnow.com	19 th June 2013
26	Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Include the Ground of Sexual Orientation in Anti-discrimination Provisions.	MGRM/aditus	20 th June 2013
27	Hundreds attend Malta's Gay Pride Parade in Valletta http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130622/local/in-support-of-gay-rights.474918	Times of Malta	22 nd June 2013
28	Threat to human rights undermines consultative council's role http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2013-07-11/news/threat-to-human-rights-undermines-consultative-councils-role-2052718593/	Independent	11 th July 2013
29	Why Can't Gay Men Donate Blood http://dive.com/lifestyle/why-can%E2%80%99t-gay-men-donate-blood	Di-ve.com	24 th July 2013
30	U.S. Embassy awards MGRM \$26,000 http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/U-S-Embassy-awards-MGRM-26-000-20130808	Malta Today	08 th August 2013
31	US Embassy Awards Grant to Malta Gay Rights Movement http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2013-08-09/news/us-embassy-awards-grant-to-malta-gay-rights-movement-2287534083/	Independent	09 th August 2013
32	'Malta's IVF law reinforces inequalities' - Joint press statement with Malta Gay Rights Movement	Aditus/MGRM	6 th September 2013
33	Malta's IVF Law 'Reinforces Inequalities' http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2013-09-06/news/maltas-ivf-law-reinforces-inequalities-2517958656/	Independent	6 th September 2013
34	IVF law 'unashamedly homophobic', NGOs say http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/IVF-law-unashamedly-homophobic-NGOs-say-20130906	Malta Today	6 th September 2013
35	Shake up of Church is Necessary http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130922/	Times of Malta	22 nd September

	ocal/Shake-up-of-Church-is-welcomed.487144		2013
36	Civil Unions law will give same sex couples same rights, duties, as married couples http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20131014/ocal/civil-liberties-bill-will-give-gay-couples-same-rights-duties-as-married-couples.490275	Times of Malta	14 th October 2013
37	Bill proposes Civil Unions for same-sex couples http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2013-10-14/news/bill-proposes-civil-unions-for-gay-couples-2881978368/#.UlvW3bkuSUg.email	Independent	14 th October 2013
38	Civil unions to be equal to marriage in all but name http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/Equality-minister-presents-civil-union-bill-20131014	Malta Today	14 th October 2013
39	Pass 'il quddiem fil-qasam tad-drittijiet ċivili http://www.orizzont.com.mt/oldarticles/article111799.html	L-Orizzont	15 th October 2013
40	"Hemm rieda politika biex l-affarijiet jimxu 'l quddiem" - Gabi Calleja http://www.inewsmalta.com/dart/20131020-hemm-rieda-politika-biex-affarijiet-jimxu-quddiem-gabi-calleja	Inewsmalta	20 th October 2013
41	MGRM Press Statement http://maltanewsonline.com/mgrm-press-statement/	Maltanewsonline	23 rd October 2013
42	Families are about relationships, commitment and love http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/Families-are-about-relationships-commitment-and-love-MGRM-20131023	Times of Malta	23 rd October 2013
43	Content, scope of bill in line with commitments – Gabi Calleja http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2013-10-28/news/content-scope-of-bill-in-line-with-commitments-gabi-calleja-3005906946/	Independent	28 th October 2013
44	Rainbow Support Service Launched http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20131206/ocal/rainbow-support-service-launched.497880#.UrwkONKAQ8k	Times of Malta	6 th December 2013

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Membership

The number of paid members in MGRM has slightly decreased from last year. The current membership now stands at around 50 members of which about 18 are lifetime members. This idea of lifetime membership seems to be on the increase becoming popular as it's a one-time payment of 80 Euro. The membership form is still available online and payment can be effected through the website MGRM's HSBC account. Payment also can be effect via Pay Pal this has being the most common way of payment. Renewal is the most paid during Pride week as this makes people aware of the importance that membership can help the movement in lobbying and also sometimes during events that are organized during the year and also when MGRM put up stand during parties. Unfortunately, although email reminders are sent out frequently they are not that fruitful. This is an area on which MGRM needs to build as this is a source of funding as well as because of the implication of representation.

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. Equal Treatment between persons
2. Social Policies
 - a. Prisons and police and detention services interaction with transgender inmates
 - b. Education and Young People
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.
4. General Election Campaign and Meetings with Politicians
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 2013, MGRM participated in the Roundtable organised by TGEU and met with author of the Proposed Gender Identity Bill, Neil Falzon to discuss whether the bill satisfied the checklist provided by TGEU. A number of shortcomings were identified in the current proposal based on the checklist and these were then discussed with the LGBT Consultative Council.

Following the General Elections the Government agreed to a settlement with Joanne Cassar which also led to the proposal of a Bill enacting amendments to the Civil Code. These ensured that trans persons will be considered for all civil purposes, including with regard to the capacity of that person to exercise the right to marry, as belonging to the acquired sex.

1b. 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 Parliamentary Secretary for Justice as well as with the Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

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

Following the General Election, MGRM contacted the newly appointed prison director to follow up on issues raised by transgender inmates in the previous year. This included submitting copies of the report issued in 2012. However, due to changes in the prison administration, intervention has been limited. MGRM will continue to follow up on these issues in 2014.

2b. Education and Young People

Meetings were held with the Minister for Education and Employment Evarist Bartolo and with the Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties Helena Dalli with regards to the recognition of trans children in schools. The MGRM also provided advocacy and support in respect to a number of cases of trans child that requested assistance. The cases are ongoing.

Gabi Calleja was also appointed to the Working Group set up by the Minister for Education and Employment to revise the Directorate's Anti-Bullying Policy.

3a. Equality for 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.

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 paper was instrumental in the debates around Marriage Equality and Civil Union prior to and following the General Election.

MGRM also continued to advocate for non-discriminatory adoption provisions with respect to single parent, second parent and third party adoption. This position was also supported by the LGBT Consultative Council set up by the government following the General Election.

The Civil Union Bill No. 20, was tabled in parliament on the 30th September 2013 and completed the 2nd reading phase in December 2013. Meetings by the Consideration of Bills Committee to discuss amendments to the bill were postponed to 2014. The PN stated they would be proposing a number of amendments to the bill including replacing mutatis mutandis with where applicable thus effecting the scope and applicability of the bill; the registration of a civil union being essential to its validity; the recognition of civil unions conducted abroad; the restriction of civil unions to adults without exception; the removal of any reference to priests among those licences to officiate; distinguishing between marriage and civil union by removing certain grounds for annulment such as impotence and consummation.

MGRM together with representatives from Drachma and aditus also attended a closed meeting requested by the PN following the tabling of the Civil Union Bill where issues of contention were discussed.

On the issuing of tenders by the PL government for the provision of IVF services, aditus and MGRM issued a joint statement reaffirming the discriminatory nature of the Embryo Protection Act.

4. General Election Campaign and Meetings with Politicians

Various members of the MGRM committee and volunteers met with MPs, from Government and Opposition as well as representatives of AD in the run up to the General Elections in March. MGRM representatives attended a number of meetings, seminars and events ensuring that the issue of LGBT rights remained firmly on the political agenda. This bore results as LGBT issues were referred to in all the three parties political manifestos. MGRM also sent out a questionnaire to the political parties requesting their position on a range of LGBT issues. Replies were received from the PL and AD. No reply was forthcoming from the PN. The responses and positions were made public through a press statement and the posting of the questionnaire results online.

Following the General Elections MGRM representatives met with a number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries to reiterate their concerns. These included the Minister for Education and Employment Evarist Bartolo; the Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties Helena Dalli; The Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity Marie Louise Coleiro Preca; The Parliamentary Secretary for Justice Owen Bonnici and the newly appointed leader of the Opposition Simon Busuttil.

5. Local networking

In 2013, MGRM continue to work with a number of entities also through the newly set up LGBT Consultative Council 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
- US Embassy

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 organisations.

Events

Below is a list of the most influential events and activities which MGRM organised and/or participated in during 2013:

1. PL Commemoration of the 40th anniversary from the decriminalisation of sodomy in 1973

A commemorative event was organised by the PL in January of 2013 held at Monaliza Lounge in Valletta to celebrate the 40th anniversary since the decriminalisation of sodomy. Gabi Calleja was one of the speakers at the event together with a number of politicians and LGBT community members.

2. 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.

3. PRIDE Week

'Love is Love' was the theme chosen for Pride Week 2013 held between the 17th and 23rd June as a means of celebrating our identities and relationships and our claim to the promise, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of a world in which all persons, irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity enjoy the protection and recognition they deserve.

The week was celebrated through an LGBT Film Festival held at St James Cavalier; the Women Space Event and the Pride March held in Valletta. A number of politicians and ambassadors as well as representatives from LGBT organisations participated.

As part of this year's Pride Week the MGRM also teamed up with the US Embassy to launch the It Get's Better video clip produced by the Embassy with the participation of a number of Maltese LGBT activists. The event was held at Monaliza Lounge and was attended by a number of Diplomats, politicians, activists and members of the LGBT community.

4. Launch of Civil Union Bill

MGRM, together with other members of the Consultative Council was present at the launch of the Civil Union Bill organised by the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties on the 7th of October.

5. Launch of Rainbow Support Service

The launch of the Rainbow Support Service was held on the 6th of December and was organised in collaboration with the US Embassy as the funders of the service and Agenzija Zghazagh who are collaborating with MGRM in the provision of the LGBTIQ Youth Drop-in.

6. Christmas drinks at Tom's Bar

The usual festive drinks get together was organized by MGRM, together with other LGBT organisations. This year's event was not particularly well attended and might need some rethinking and advanced planning in 2014.

Frederick Bartolo Parnis

Accounts

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December

	2013		
	€	€	€
Income:			
ILGA HRVDF			-
Raising Trust Fund			-
Support Groups Trust Fund			-
Youth Programme Funds			-
Civil Society Grant			-
Voices Foundation Grant			-
IE Capacity Building Grant			-
Marriage Equality			-
US Embassy Grant			-
Civil Society Grant 2			-
Grundtvig Preparatory Mtg Grant			1,005
Ministry for Civil Liberties Pride			400
US Embassy Grant It Gets Better			150
US Embassy Grant Rainbow Support Service			527
Dutch Embassy Grant Pride Week			300
Grundtvig Mobility Grant			-
EEA/Norway Grant			1,000
Donations & Fund-Raising			9,994
Membership Fees			<u>100</u>
			13,477
Administration Expenses:			
P.R. Literature & Brochures	1,728		
Salaries	593		
NI Contributions	-		
Rent	1,750		
Water & Electricity	152		
Printing	249		
Postage	13		
Telephone	572		
Internet & Web-based Subscriptions	394		
Office Stationery	3		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	50		
Professional Fees - Researchers	-		
Office Machine Maintenance	-		
Refreshments	1,665		
Premises Expenses	-		
Bank Charges	24		
Depreciation - Office Furniture & Equipment	<u>-</u>	7,193	

Event Expenses:

Travelling	-		
Conferences	1,509		
Entertainment	866		
Permits	-		
Equipment Hire	844		
Training Costs	100		
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>361</u>	<u>3,680</u>	<u>10,872</u>
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)			<u><u>2,604</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET**As at 31st December 2012**

	2013	
	€	€
Fixed Assets:		
Office Furniture & Equipment		-
Current Assets:		
Sundry Debtors	-	
Bank Current A/c #1	18,799	
Bank Current A/c #2	18,709	
Bank Savings	1	
Bank Current A/c #3 - Grundtvig	1,000	
Petty Cash	358	
Euros @ EUR 2.3294 : Lm 1	<u>-</u>	<u>38,867</u>
		38,867
Current Liabilities:		
Sundry Creditors		2,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>36,867</u></u>
Represented by:		
ILGA HRVDF Reserve		-
Raising Trust Fund Reserve		-
Youth Programme Funds Reserve		-
Civil Society Grant Reserve		-
Voices Foundation Grant Reserve		-
IE Capacity Building Grant Reserve		-
Marriage Equality Reserve		-
US Embassy Grant Reserve		-
Civil Society Grant 2 Reserve		-
Grundtvig Preparatory Mtg Grant Reserve		-
Ministry for Civil Liberties Pride Reserve		-
US Embassy Grant It Gets Better Reserve		-
US Embassy Grant Rainbow Support Service Reserve		19,189
Dutch Embassy Grant Pride Week Reserve		-
Grundtvig Mobility Grant Reserve		13,200
EEA/Norway Grant Reserve		(1,000)
Accumulated Surplus		<u>5,477</u>
		<u><u>36,867</u></u>

Workplan 2014

	Objectives	Actions
Goal 1	1a Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender equality within remit of Equality body (NCPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold meeting with new Human Rights and Equality Commission Explore potential collaboration on NAP
	1b Access to marriage for legally recognised Trans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> achieved
	1c Facilitation to Gender Identity Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue advocacy regarding the adoption of GI Bill
	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 Meet with Police Commissioner Explore current level of police training issues
	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 including non-discriminatory adoption provisions in terms of single parent, second parent and 3rd party adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with Marriage Equality Campaign Monitor effective implementation of civil union bill
	1g 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MGRM staff to facilitate training for educators and other professionals Deliver training to university students (on request)
	2b Health care policies that are inclusive of LGBT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor trans-inclusive health service initiative taken up by health ministry Advocating to reduce waiting time at GU Clinic
	2c Prisons and police interaction with transgender inmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet new prison director. Training proposal and good practice guidelines for prison staff.

	2d	Inclusion of different family forms, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in curricula (NCF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide resource list of books and other materials to Ministry for Education.
	2e	Social Security & Housing provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with individual cases as they arise. Monitor implementation of benefits related to passing of Civil Union Bill.
Goal 3	3a	Raising awareness and visibility of LGBT people and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIDE Week with a focus on passing of civil union bill. Set up pride week organising committee IDAHO – participate in European conference and any NGO events World Aids Day – collaborate with MMSA and Health Promotion Raise visibility of LGBT elderly Promote positive images of LGBT families
	3b	Raising the visibility and acceptance of LGBT families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote positive images of LGBT families
	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 project Participate in LGBT Consultative Council
	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.
Goal 4	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 Maintain Rainbow Support service Continue to raise awareness of Drachma Parents Group and upload related info on MGRM website Think B4 You Speak Campaign Raising awareness about Intimate Partner Violence
	4b	To increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and distribute leaflet on MGRM, pending availability of funding Refer to events through FB and website To hold 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 Week Feature on newspaper supplement Pride Week's theme TV appearances promoting Pride Week
	4d	Encourage the emergence of positive LGBT role models from within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archives project – Seek funding for 2015

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 FB updated and revamp website content. ▪ Communication of MGRM's 2014 workplan, 2013 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. ▪ Meetings with Trade Unions and other civil society organisations. ▪ Use existing networks to disseminate information about MGRM's events and campaigns
Goal 6	6a	To increase the capacity of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach to volunteers ▪ Secure Funding for Paid Staff Position ▪ Increase capacity to deal with intersex issues
	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); 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 IE Advocacy network and international conferences/seminars/round tables .
	6d	To improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oversee daily operations of staff member ▪ Refurbish MGRM premises
	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"> ▪ Draw up new Strategic Plan for 2015-2019
	6f	To clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As they arise