

# Annual Report 2017



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# Introduction

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Gabi Calleja

**Coordinator**

The most important legislative milestone in 2017 was the introduction of Marriage Equality with the Bill being passed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July with all members of parliament bar one, voting in favour of the legislation. Malta became the 25<sup>th</sup> country in the world to introduce marriage equality. This was the next logical step following the introduction of Civil Unions in 2014.

The lead up to the General Election held in June also provided the opportunity to determine the position of the main political parties on a range of LGBTIQ issues through the manifesto which this year was drawn up in collaboration with ARC. The manifesto addressed the gaps in legislation and policy that still need to be addressed.

These include: trans specific and trans sensitive health care provision as well as the review of the intersex treatment protocol, a process that is yet to be completed; the resourcing and training of educators; police training; equality provisions beyond employment; improved prevention, testing and treatment of HIV; an end to the lifetime ban on blood donation for men who have sex with men; access to reproductive health services and better access to third party adoption.

Following discussions with the then Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity MGRM entered into a Public Social Partnership which ensured funding for the Rainbow Support Service for a three year period. The agreement allows for the consolidation and enhancement of service provision which was also enabled through the allocation of a full-time social worker provided by FSWS.

MGRM brought to a close the UNI-Form project with the publication of the Country Report and the launch of the online reporting form and app in September. MGRM also participated in two monitoring exercises coordinated by the European Commission testing the adherence of social media companies to the code of conduct on online hate speech. MGRM was able to attain the status of trusted flagger which ensures that any reports it submits will receive prompt attention by the media companies.

MGRM was also able to secure funding to enhance its capacity to address HIV issues and to advocate for enhanced testing, prevention and treatment for HIV. It was able to purchase a number of home testing kits and to disseminate them as well as to run an online campaign promoting testing.

Access to schools continues to grow and the collaboration established with the MEDE's Student Support Services has led to various opportunities to provide training and to collaborate with schools in ensuring the smooth transition of trans children and youth as well as providing a number of workshops to staff and students. MGRM representatives also participated in a number of European events to share Malta's Trans, Gender Variant and Intersex Students Policy. The Rainbow Support Service continues to provide a monthly support group for trans prisoners and to be present at Drachma group meetings.

MGRM collaborated with G-SAM on the #BrokenLens project, funded through Agenzija Zghazagh's Be Active Scheme, to produce a short documentary on the representation of LGBTIQ characters and issues in the media launched in October 2017.

MGRM participated in a number of events related to Malta's presidency of the European Union organised by the various Ministries including an HIV Conference; an LGBTIQ Conference; a Gender Based Violence Conference and a Hate Crime and Hate Speech Conference. MGRM also continued to participate in a number of International events including the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference. MGRM also hosted the TCEN Regional Meeting in preparation for the next CHOGM to take place in London in April of 2018.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of the management committee and other volunteers. Their dedication and growing expertise enables MGRM to continue to fulfil its mission as it takes on new projects and initiatives. This year we would particularly like to thank Mark Grech who will be standing down from the committee having provided years of service to the organisation and representing MGRM with distinction both Nationally and Internationally.

# Reports

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Colette Farrugia Bennett

## Rainbow Support Service

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 LGBTIQ identities, family relationships and dynamics, coming out and HIV related health matters and trans specific health issues, among others. The social welfare team has also continued to provide support services through the National Gay Helpline and the Rainbow Support Service. Four members of the team, Ms Beverley Abela Gatt, Ms Colette Farrugia Bennett, Mr Michael Farrugia, and Mr Eman Galea, have been working in the Rainbow Support Service to meet the needs of these service users. In February 2017, MGRM entered into an agreement with the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity for a period of three years. Through this service agreement MGRM was able to have the capacity of a full-time social worker working within the organisation. Mr Michael Farrugia started working for 40 hours a week from July 2017 till the end of the same year.

During 2017 the Rainbow Support Service incorporated the Social Work service, a Youth Group for LGBTIQ persons aged between 15 and 25, Psychological Support, a Legal Consultancy Service, provision of Supports Groups in the communities, consultation services for professionals and educators, and training and awareness raising sessions with professionals and members of society.

During 2017, the Social Work service was in contact with around 50 individuals who identify as LGBTIQ, and parents of LGBTIQ children and adults. Of these service users, some required regular one-to-one sessions, while others required short term work. An estimate number of interventions, face-to-face, telephone, email or online chat contact, amounts to 200. The LGBTIQ Youth Drop-In has met with over 10 young people, some of whom were more regular than others, and a few of them required one-to-one support sessions. The Legal Consultancy Service assisted around 50 persons whose issues amongst others were mainly related to civil union or marriage registration, the registration of children, the protection of asylum seekers identifying as LGBTIQ, and the legal changes in case of Trans individuals and Trans children. The Psychological Support was offered to 4 persons who required financial support in accessing a psychologist or psychotherapist in private practice. A further approximate 50 sessions were conducted with other professionals and educators in the process of consultation about LGBTIQ issues, especially in relation to clients or students they are working with.

The LGBTIQ Youth Drop-In was conducted on a weekly basis in Malta, and eleven times in Gozo since its inception in July of 2016. The Rainbow Support Service also held a Weekend Live-In for LGBTIQ young people which focused on the theme of relationships from a youth perspective. The main participants of this event were young people who attend the LGBTIQ

Youth Drop-In and other young people who are currently involved in LGBTIQ NGOs. The young people who participated were able to meet different professionals who delivered various workshops relating to the theme. During 2017 the Rainbow Support Drop-In was also host to two students who are reading for a degree in Youth Work. Both students were present and participated during the Youth Drop-In Live-In.

The Youth Drop-in service also continued supporting the Gay Straight Alliance at MCAST (GSAM) which was launched in October of the previous year. It also supported the young people involved in the development and implementation of the project The Broken Lens that was launched in October 2017. The Broken Lens is a short documentary that speaks about media representation of LGBTIQ issues and individuals.

The LGBTIQ Youth Drop-In in Gozo is being implemented in collaboration with LGBTI+ Gozo. This service met with a number of challenges in the first six months - namely the provision of a venue to hold these monthly sessions as well as marketing of the service. A venue has been identified through the support of Aġenzija Żgħazagħ.

Throughout 2017, the Rainbow Support Service also collaborated closely with Drachma LGBTI and has provided the service of a social worker within the Drachma bi-monthly community meetings. A social worker has been present for around 22 meetings organized by Drachma LGBTI and was instrumental in providing supportive interventions both within the group context and on a one-to-one level when required.

In 2017, the social workers of the Rainbow Support Service have continued to receive supervision from professionals who have experience in working in this field. The social workers received 12 group supervision sessions. Supervision is the space for both personal and professional growth, and reflection on the lives of clients that social workers are working with.

In November 2017, the Rainbow Support Service was invited by LGBTI+ Gozo to participate in their Open Day 2017. The event was held at The Duke's Shopping Mall in Victoria and intended to increase the visibility of LGBTIQ issues with the general public in Gozo. The staff from the Rainbow Support Service was present for the open day where they set up a stand with various resources and did outreach work with individuals during the event.

Throughout 2017, the Rainbow Support Service continued to collaborate with the HIV Clinic at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH) and the GU Clinic to seek ways of how to support members of the LGBTIQ community who are HIV positive. The Rainbow Support Service was also hosting a weekly HIV self-testing drop-in between the months of July and September. MGRM also organised an online awareness campaign around European HIV-HEP Testing Week in November and December aimed at encourage at risk individuals to come forward for testing. A number of banners were produced and disseminated online mainly through facebook, instagram and twitter.

The support group for trans\* individuals at Corradino Correctional Facility continued to take place throughout 2017. This service is being carried out by a social worker and a counselling psychologist. The support is carried out every three to four weeks, and is available for those trans inmates who are both in the female and male sections. The support groups are

currently being carried out in both sections since there are trans inmates in both sections, and thus 11 support group sessions were held in total.

The Rainbow Support Service met with over 10 students who were focusing their research on LGBTIQ issues in various areas of study including Social Work, Social Policy, Gender Issues, Counselling and Psychology, etc.

#### 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

This service offered training session delivery to over 15 organisations, services and agencies, namely in the field of education, social services and health. These also included lectures provided to Social Work & Social Policy, Youth and Community Studies and Human Resources Management students as well as training to MEDE Student Support Services professionals. An ongoing collaboration was also established with St Catherine's High School and a number of educational resources were donated to the school as part of the VOPS project. During 2017 the Rainbow Support Service continued to strengthen their relationship with post-secondary educational institutes and provided training at the Institute for Tourism Studies and at MCAST.

### **HIV Prevention, Testing, Treatment and Support**

MGRM prioritised health issues as a core action point for 2017. In this regard special attention was given to dealing with HIV infection, especially in MSM, and also STIs.

The figures show a year on year increase in the rate of HIV, especially among MSM, with a concomitant rise in STI infection. As a result MGRM, and its support function, Rainbow Support Services, have taken a number of initiatives to help combat this.

In particular, MGRM and RSS members have had various meetings with various stakeholders, including the Health Promotion department, the GU clinic, the HIV clinic, as well as on the political level within the Ministry of Health. A special HIV subcommittee of MGRM has been set up, which meets regularly and includes experienced stakeholders in its composition. As a result various initiatives have been taken, including with other relevant organisations.

MGRM actively participated in a consultation exercise conducted between the Ministry for Health and the LGBTIQ Consultative Council on developing the National Strategy on HIV. MGRM also collaborated with the National Health Promotion during the latter's participation in the European MSM Internet Survey 2017.

MGRM and the Rainbow Support Service access funding through which a number of HIV self-testing were made available to the LGBTIQ community. An HIV self-testing drop in was set up between the months of July and September.

Two members of MGRM also participated in a high level meeting on HIV as part of the EU Presidency which was immediately followed by a European conference on HIV bringing together representatives of civil society and health service providers in the field of HIV.

### **Blood Donation Ban**

Throughout the year MGRM also advocated for the removal of the lifetime blood donation ban on men who have sex with men and for the introduction of a deferral period of six months to one year. The ban can no longer be justified given the effectiveness of modern testing methods and although still somewhat discriminatory given that it would exclude those in monogamous relationships it would still constitute a step forward.



## Michael Farrugia

### International Relations

MGRM continues to involve itself in extensive international work and networks. In particular, MGRM is an active member of ILGA-Europe, TGEU, IGLYO and the Commonwealth Equality Network. The following is a summary of the international activities and work undertaken by MGRM committee members:

#### The Commonwealth Equality Network Meeting (TCEN) – London/Malta

In preparation for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held in London in 2018, Gabi Calleja attended a network meeting of TCEN coordinated by Kaleidoscope Trust which acts as TCEN's Secretariat. The activists from all around the commonwealth met over a week and drew up an advocacy strategy aiming to maximise their impact at CHOGM as well as the months leading up to it. MGRM also hosted one of the two regional meetings of the network in October which continued to build on the January meeting. The participants had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister and Minister Helena Dalli and discussed how best to build on the Malta CHOGM of 2015.

#### EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, - Brussels, Belgium

Following the involvement of MGRM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monitoring Exercise on the response of IT Companies to notifications of illegal hate speech Gabi Calleja attended the 31 May session of the High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. The meeting was devoted to the issue of online hate speech, and in particular to debrief on the progress made in the implementation of the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online. The third meeting of the High Level Group registered a very broad participation, with 57 representatives from 27 Member States, representatives of various services of the European Commission (DG JUST, DG CNECT, DG HOME), the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Parliament (Secretariat of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI)), the Council General Secretariat, representatives of Council of Europe and OSCE/ODIHR, as well as representatives of academia, 57 civil society organisations and 4 private IT companies (Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter, YouTube). identity/expression, using the evidence and the recommendations included in the global report launched during the event.

#### Good Practice Exchange Seminar organised by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, and hosted by the Government of Portugal on 26 and 27 June 2017 in Lisbon.

At this good practice exchange seminar, civil servants from the governments or national human rights institutions of 16 Member States and Norway: Learned about and discussed an overview of legislation and policies related to bullying based on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression or sex characteristics; Discussed effective approaches to combating bullying and fostering tolerance with fellow civil servants, experts including from civil society, and European institutions; Shared and learned about specific case studies and good practices to combat bullying based on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression and sex

characteristics. Gabi Calleja gave a presentation on Malta's policy framework with respect to LGBTIQ Students and measures taken to ensure policy implementation.

#### Active Activism – Berlin, Germany

Alex Caruana attended an activist training that was set over five days. It was an intensive skills-based training programme meant for young people in Europe who have a strong interest in LGBTIQ rights. It consisted of practical modules on topics such as public speaking, campaigning, creating trans inclusive organisations, video editing and community organising. Participants put their learning into action through a series of individual and group challenges.

#### Hamburg Pride – August 2017

Colette Farrugia Bennett attended both the pride march and several other events that were taking place during that week. Colette was a guest speaker in a discussion around the organisation of prides around Europe and the atmosphere that these events are organised in, whereby she contributed about the history of Malta's prides. The discussion also focused on rights for same-sex couples and transgender community, and the developments taking place locally. Colette also addressed the pride attendees following the end of the pride march whereby she focused on the need for solidarity with other countries whereby LGBTIQ persons are still being violated, including the freedom of assembly for pride parades

#### UNI-Form 3<sup>rd</sup> Partners' Meeting, Closing Conference and Round Table in - Brussels, Belgium

Gabi Calleja attended the final partners meeting of the UNI-Form project held between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Inspector Silvana Gafa' from the Police Victim Support Unit also participated in the Conference and Round Table on Hate Crime and Hate Speech organised by ILGA-Europe. The Online Reporting Form and App was launched during the Closing Conference of the project which was held at the European Parliament.

#### ILGA-Europe Advocacy Network and Annual Conference – Warsaw, Poland

Gabi Calleja together with Michael Farrugia attended the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of November. The theme of this year's gathering, which was the largest to date with over 400 participants, was Change! Communities Mobilising, Movements Rising! Michael Farrugia also attended the Advocacy Network Meeting which focused on Hate Crime. Gabi Calleja served as part of the Charing Pool throughout the Conference. Both MGRM representatives attended a range of workshops and plenary sessions.

## Countering Hate Speech Online – Dublin, Ireland

Michael Farrugia represented MGRM in a day workshop which brought together different civil society organisations who participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monitoring Exercise. The general aims of the workshop was to discuss how the process of reviewing notifications on hate speech online and the feedback to/communication with notifiers work and can be improved; to discuss and foster understanding on context related specificities (e.g. language/code of haters); as well as how to foster cooperation and coalition building between trusted flaggers and platforms to counter online hatred.

## Gabi Calleja

### Media

The issue that garnered most media coverage throughout 2017 was the debate on Marriage Equality. Controversy centred on the introduction of gender neutral terms. MGRM continued to communicate its message in all types of media, ranging from television, radio and printed news, to the internet and through the use of social networks such as, Instagram, Twitter & especially Facebook.

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

- The debate on marriage equality;
- Pride Week
- The X Marker on passports and I.D. Cards
- HIV testing, prevention and treatment.

Below are some of the articles or programmes in which MGRM featured or which reflect the main LGBTIQ issues that were dealt with by the media throughout the year.

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	Malta Bans Gay Conversion Therapy: Young LGBTQ Campaigners Tell Their Story <a href="http://the-ipf.com/2017/01/11/malta-gay-conversion-therapy/">http://the-ipf.com/2017/01/11/malta-gay-conversion-therapy/</a>	IPF Online	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
2	End LGBTIQ segregation within the Church - spiritual director Community struggling with self-imposed social constraints, says Charlo Camilleri <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170115/local/end-lgbtqi-segregation-within-the-church-spiritual-director.636530">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170115/local/end-lgbtqi-segregation-within-the-church-spiritual-director.636530</a>	Times of Malta	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
3	Malta planning rapid HIV testing as Europe seeks to adopt effective policies <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/health/73965/malta_planning_rapid_hiv_testing_as_europe_seeks_to_adopt_effective_policies">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/health/73965/malta_planning_rapid_hiv_testing_as_europe_seeks_to_adopt_effective_policies</a>	MaltaToday	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
4	Rapid HIV testing in the pipeline as part of an EU-wide plan Number of cases involving gay men on the rise <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170131/local/rapid-hiv-testing-in-the-pipeline-as-part-of-an-eu-wide-plan.638180">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170131/local/rapid-hiv-testing-in-the-pipeline-as-part-of-an-eu-wide-plan.638180</a>	Times of Malta	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2017
5	++MALTA LGBT ++Malta LGBT	Associated Press	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2017
6	280 people with HIV in Malta – Rapid Testing to be introduced <a href="https://www.tvn.com.mt/en/news/280-people-with-hiv-in-malta-rapid-testing-to-be-introduced/">https://www.tvn.com.mt/en/news/280-people-with-hiv-in-malta-rapid-testing-to-be-introduced/</a>	TVM	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2017
7	Oh these young people <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-02-01/blogs-opinions/Oh-these-young-people-6736169835">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-02-01/blogs-opinions/Oh-these-young-people-6736169835</a>	Malta Independent	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2017
8	Once-conservative Malta leaps ahead on LGBT rights <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-02-07/local-news/Once-conservative-Malta-leaps-ahead-on-LGBT-rights-6736170127">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-02-07/local-news/Once-conservative-Malta-leaps-ahead-on-LGBT-rights-6736170127</a>	Malta Independent	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
9	Malta is the seventh-best place in Europe for LGBT workers, report claims Housing discrimination and lower wages push down Malta's score <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170213/local/malta-is-the-seventh-best-place-in-europe-for-lgbt-workers-report.639523">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170213/local/malta-is-the-seventh-best-place-in-europe-for-lgbt-workers-report.639523</a>	Times of Malta	13 <sup>th</sup> February
10	HIV: 122,000 Europeans are unaware they are infected <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/health/74413/hiv_122000_europeans_are_unaware_they_are_infected">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/health/74413/hiv_122000_europeans_are_unaware_they_are_infected</a>	MaltaToday	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017

11	Work on law permitting marriages between gay couples <a href="https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/work-law-permitting-marriages-gay-couples/">https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/work-law-permitting-marriages-gay-couples/</a>	TVM	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2017
12	Helena Dalli announces bill to legalise gay marriages <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/74647/gay_marriage_to_be_legalised_in_malta">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/74647/gay_marriage_to_be_legalised_in_malta</a>	MaltaToday	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2017
13	Gay marriage to be introduced in Malta soon Bill to change name of civil union to marriage being drafted <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170221/local/gay-marriage-to-be-introduced-in-malta-soon.640309">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170221/local/gay-marriage-to-be-introduced-in-malta-soon.640309</a>	Times of Malta	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2017
14	Publication of best practices for rights of transgender persons launched in Malta <a href="https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/pubblikkazzjoni-bl-aqwa-ppublication-of-best-practices-for-rights-of-transgender-persons-launched-in-maltaratticighad-drittijiet-ta-persuni-trans-titnieda-fmalta/">https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/pubblikkazzjoni-bl-aqwa-ppublication-of-best-practices-for-rights-of-transgender-persons-launched-in-maltaratticighad-drittijiet-ta-persuni-trans-titnieda-fmalta/</a>	TVM	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017
15	Il-PN favur żwieg għal persuni gay <a href="http://netnews.com.mt/2017/02/22/il-pn-favur-zwieg-ghal-persuni-gay/">http://netnews.com.mt/2017/02/22/il-pn-favur-zwieg-ghal-persuni-gay/</a>	Net News	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017
16	PN backs gay marriage <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170222/local/pn-backs-gay-marriage.640377">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170222/local/pn-backs-gay-marriage.640377</a>	Times of Malta	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017
17	€135,000 to MGRM for support services to LGBTIQ persons <a href="https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/e135000-to-mgrm-for-support-services-to-lgbtq-persons/">https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/e135000-to-mgrm-for-support-services-to-lgbtq-persons/</a>	TVM	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
18	€135,000 lill-Malta Gay Rights Movement biex jgħinu lill-persuni LGBTIQ <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/02/24/e135000-lill-malta-gay-rights-movement-biex-jghinu-lill-persuni-lgbtq/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/02/24/e135000-lill-malta-gay-rights-movement-biex-jghinu-lill-persuni-lgbtq/</a>	One News	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
19	'X' gender option to be added to passports and ID cards Non-binary gender marker to join 'male' and 'female' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170224/local/x-gender-option-to-be-added-to-passports-and-id-cards.640544">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170224/local/x-gender-option-to-be-added-to-passports-and-id-cards.640544</a>	Times of Malta	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
20	Disney breaks new ground with its first gay character Beauty and the Beast's LeFou to get an 'exclusively gay moment' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170306/local/disney-breaks-new-ground-with-its-first-gay-character.641292">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170306/local/disney-breaks-new-ground-with-its-first-gay-character.641292</a>	Times of Malta	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
21	LGBTIQ Rights Sibt il-Punt with Manuel Micallef	One Radio	11 <sup>th</sup> March
22	Marriage Undermined <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170312/religion/Marriage-undermined.642207">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170312/religion/Marriage-undermined.642207</a>	Times of Malta	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
23	UNJONI ĊIVILI: TLIET SNIN TA' EŻEMPJU GĦAL PAJJIŻI OĦRA <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/04/14/unjoni-civili-tliet-snin-ta-ezempju-ghal-pajjizi-ohra/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/04/14/unjoni-civili-tliet-snin-ta-ezempju-ghal-pajjizi-ohra/</a>	One News	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
24	163 registered civil unions in three years <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170415/local/163-registered-civil-unions-in-three-years.645261">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170415/local/163-registered-civil-unions-in-three-years.645261</a>	Times of Malta	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
25	FILMAT: Il-Partit Nazzjonalista se jinkludi l-gay marriage fil-programm elettorali <a href="http://netnews.com.mt/2017/05/13/filmat-il-partit-nazzjonalista-se-jinkludi-l-gay-marriage-fil-programm-elettorali/">http://netnews.com.mt/2017/05/13/filmat-il-partit-nazzjonalista-se-jinkludi-l-gay-marriage-fil-programm-elettorali/</a>	Net News	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
26	PN to include gay marriage in manifesto 'It is the next logical step' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170513/local/pn-to-include-gay-marriage-in-manifesto.647860">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170513/local/pn-to-include-gay-marriage-in-manifesto.647860</a>	Times of Malta	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
27	Il-Gimgha fil-Pjazza <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/05/14/kapitli-godda-diskussi/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/05/14/kapitli-godda-diskussi/</a>	One News	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
28	Gay marriage law before summer, Muscat pledges <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170516/local/1000-persons-with-disability-have-found-jobs.648146">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170516/local/1000-persons-with-disability-have-found-jobs.648146</a>	Times of Malta	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2017

29	Malta retains first place among 49 countries when it comes to LGBTIQ rights <a href="https://www.tv.mt/en/news/malta-retains-first-place-among-49-countries-when-it-comes-to-lgbtiq-rights/">https://www.tv.mt/en/news/malta-retains-first-place-among-49-countries-when-it-comes-to-lgbtiq-rights/</a>	TVM	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
30	PM: Civil Union for gay couples to become marriage by summer <a href="https://www.tv.mt/en/news/pm-l-pm-civil-union-for-gay-couples-to-become-marriage-by-summer-civil-ghal-koppji-gay-tinbidel-fi-zwieg-sas-sajf/">https://www.tv.mt/en/news/pm-l-pm-civil-union-for-gay-couples-to-become-marriage-by-summer-civil-ghal-koppji-gay-tinbidel-fi-zwieg-sas-sajf/</a>	TVM	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
31	Malta retains top place in Europe gay rights ranking <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/77277/malta_retains_top_place_in_europe_gay_rights_ranking">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/77277/malta_retains_top_place_in_europe_gay_rights_ranking</a>	MaltaToday	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
32	Malta offers 'best rights' for gay people <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170517/local/malta-offers-best-rights-for-gay-people.648245">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170517/local/malta-offers-best-rights-for-gay-people.648245</a>	Times of Malta	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
33	Malta top of the list of ILGA-Europe's Rainbow Index <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-05-17/local-news/Malta-top-of-the-list-of-ILGA-Europe-s-Rainbow-Index-6736174356">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-05-17/local-news/Malta-top-of-the-list-of-ILGA-Europe-s-Rainbow-Index-6736174356</a>	Malta Independent	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
34	Busuttill says Bedingfield's blogs reveal Labour's true homophobic beliefs <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/election-2017/77406/busuttill_says_bedingfields_blogs_betray_labours_true_homophobic_beliefs">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/election-2017/77406/busuttill_says_bedingfields_blogs_betray_labours_true_homophobic_beliefs</a>	MaltaToday	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
35	The rush for the gay vote <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/comment/editorial/77430/the_rush_for_the_gay_vote">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/comment/editorial/77430/the_rush_for_the_gay_vote</a>	MaltaToday	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017
36	Naivety or a distraction from the real issues? <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170524/blogs/naivety-or-a-distraction-from-the-real-issues.648918#.WSfINdbsyfA.gmail">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170524/blogs/naivety-or-a-distraction-from-the-real-issues.648918#.WSfINdbsyfA.gmail</a>	Times of Malta	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
37	Labour, PD come out in favour of gamete donation <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/election-2017/77605/labour_pd_come_out_in_favour_of_gamete_donation">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/election-2017/77605/labour_pd_come_out_in_favour_of_gamete_donation</a>	MaltaToday	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
38	This one is for you <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170528/opinion/This-one-is-for-you.649170">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170528/opinion/This-one-is-for-you.649170</a>	Times of Malta	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
39	Gay marriage <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170601/letters/Gay-marriage.649592">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170601/letters/Gay-marriage.649592</a>	Times of Malta	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017
40	PD MPs to vote unequivocally in favour of Equal Marriage. <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-06-26/local-news/PD-MPs-to-vote-unequivocally-in-favour-of-Equal-Marriage-6736175927">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-06-26/local-news/PD-MPs-to-vote-unequivocally-in-favour-of-Equal-Marriage-6736175927</a>	Malta Independent	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
41	MGRM reports 15 cases of online hate speech in six weeks Online platform removed one of every three cases reported  <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170602/local/mgrm-reports-15-cases-of-online-hate-speech-in-six-weeks.649676">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170602/local/mgrm-reports-15-cases-of-online-hate-speech-in-six-weeks.649676</a>	Times of Malta	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017
42	Parliament to kick off with gay marriage debate <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78195/parliament_to_kick_off_with_gay_marriage_debate">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78195/parliament_to_kick_off_with_gay_marriage_debate</a>	MaltaToday	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
43	PN will vote in favour of gay marriage <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78381/pn_will_vote_in_favour_of_gay_marriage">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78381/pn_will_vote_in_favour_of_gay_marriage</a>	MaltaToday	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2017
44	Art as a place of refuge <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170623/social/Art-as-a-place-of-refuge.651432">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170623/social/Art-as-a-place-of-refuge.651432</a>	Times of Malta	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2017
45	Gender-neutral terms in marriage law 'logical solution' - MGRM <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170627/local/gender-neutral-terms-in-marriage-law-logical-solution-mgrm.651792">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170627/local/gender-neutral-terms-in-marriage-law-logical-solution-mgrm.651792</a>	Times of Malta	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
46	200 gay marriages since civil union legislation Opposition to object to replacement of 'husband' and 'wife' by 'spouse' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/parliamentary-debate-on-gay-marriage-underway.651753">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/parliamentary-debate-on-gay-marriage-underway.651753</a>	Times of Malta	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
47	Marriage remains a union exclusively between man and woman – Archbishop <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-06-26/local-news/Marriage-">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-06-26/local-news/Marriage-</a>	Malta Independent	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017

	remains-a-union-exclusively-between-man-and-woman-Archbishop-6736175865		
48	So what's this gay marriage bill all about? There's more than meets the eye to a proposed marriage equality bill <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/so-whats-this-gay-marriage-bill-all-about.651662">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/so-whats-this-gay-marriage-bill-all-about.651662</a>	Times of Malta	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
49	Gay marriage law would not change school textbooks - MGRM Gay lobby dismisses concerns raised by PN MPs <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/gay-marriage-law-would-not-change-school-textbooks-mgrm.651702">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/gay-marriage-law-would-not-change-school-textbooks-mgrm.651702</a>	Times of Malta	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
50	PN 'will support' gay marriage law, Busuttil insists Opposition leader dismisses talk of dissent <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/pn-will-support-gay-marriage-law-busuttil-insists.651660">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/pn-will-support-gay-marriage-law-busuttil-insists.651660</a>	Times of Malta	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
51	Tonio Fenech leads PN old guard's charge against gay marriage But current MPs including PD pledge support for marriage equality bill <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/tonio-fenech-leads-pn-old-guards-charge-against-gay-marriage.651713">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170626/local/tonio-fenech-leads-pn-old-guards-charge-against-gay-marriage.651713</a>	Times of Malta	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
52	Simon Busuttil: Decision to vote in favour of gay marriage is sensitive issue for PN <a href="https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/simon-busuttil-decision-to-vote-in-favour-of-gay-marriage-is-sensitive-issue-for-pn/">https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/simon-busuttil-decision-to-vote-in-favour-of-gay-marriage-is-sensitive-issue-for-pn/</a>	TVM	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
53	Church's Cana Movement fears gay marriage opens door to sperm donation <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78509/churchs_cana_movement_fears_gay_marriage_opens_door_to_sperm_donation">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78509/churchs_cana_movement_fears_gay_marriage_opens_door_to_sperm_donation</a>	MaltaToday	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
54	Gay marriage split would condemn PN to eternity in Opposition, Busuttil warns 'We will not allow anyone to get away with murder' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170628/local/gay-marriage-split-would-condemn-pn-to-eternity-in-opposition.651938">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170628/local/gay-marriage-split-would-condemn-pn-to-eternity-in-opposition.651938</a>	Times of Malta	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
55	Gay marriage discriminates against children, Cana Movement says 'Equality before the law should not be a pretext to deny differentiation' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170628/local/gay-marriage-discriminates-against-children-cana-movement-says.651900">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170628/local/gay-marriage-discriminates-against-children-cana-movement-says.651900</a>	Times of Malta	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
56	Gay Marriage on Principle <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170629/opinion/Gay-marriage-on-principle.651918">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170629/opinion/Gay-marriage-on-principle.651918</a>	Times of Malta	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
57	Children's book introduces young to mum and mum Teaching about love in all its forms <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170629/local/childrens-book-introduces-young-to-mum-and-mum.651767">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170629/local/childrens-book-introduces-young-to-mum-and-mum.651767</a>	Times of Malta	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
58	Different terminology for gay couples in Marriage Equality Bill all but ruled out Introducing some form of new terminology is not equality - minister <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170702/local/different-terminology-for-gay-couples-in-marriage-equality-bill-ruled.652103">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170702/local/different-terminology-for-gay-couples-in-marriage-equality-bill-ruled.652103</a>	Times of Malta	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2017
59	Marriage equality 'a matter of principles, not political convenience' – PM Amendments which erode equality cannot be accepted <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170702/local/marriage-equality-a-matter-of-principles-not-political-convenience-pm.652222">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170702/local/marriage-equality-a-matter-of-principles-not-political-convenience-pm.652222</a>	Times of Malta	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2017
60	PN seeks to retain mother/father terms in proposed marriage equality law Government shoots down proposal to amend language <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170702/local/pn-seeks-to-retain-motherfather-terms-in-proposed-gay-marriage-law.652229">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170702/local/pn-seeks-to-retain-motherfather-terms-in-proposed-gay-marriage-law.652229</a>	Times of Malta	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2017
61	Opinion - Gay marriage: PN stance smacks of heterosexism - Helena Dalli <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-03/newspaper-opinions/Gay-marriage-PN-stance-smacks-of-heterosexism-6736176111">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-03/newspaper-opinions/Gay-marriage-PN-stance-smacks-of-heterosexism-6736176111</a>	Malta Independent	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2017
62	[ANALYSIS] Is gay marriage Simon Busuttil's last stand? <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78622/analysis_is_gay_marriage_simon_busuttils_last_stand">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78622/analysis_is_gay_marriage_simon_busuttils_last_stand</a>	MaltaToday	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
63	Gay marriage: how do newly elected PN MPs feel about replacing text with gender neutral terms?	Malta Independent	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017

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64	Muscat tests conservative PN MPs by calling vote on gay marriage Bill <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78695/muscat_tests_conservative_pn_mps_by_calling_for_vote_on_gay_marriage_bill">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78695/muscat_tests_conservative_pn_mps_by_calling_for_vote_on_gay_marriage_bill</a>	MaltaToday	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
65	MGRM dismisses PN motion challenge as 'unnecessary and discriminatory' <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78676/former_mp_urges_pn_to_grant_free_vote_on_marriage_equality_bill">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78676/former_mp_urges_pn_to_grant_free_vote_on_marriage_equality_bill</a>	MaltaToday	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
66	Second reading of gay marriage law approved by Parliament, final vote on Wednesday <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-05/local-news/Parliament-debates-second-reading-of-gay-marriage-bill-gender-specific-terms-dominates-debate-6736176240">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-05/local-news/Parliament-debates-second-reading-of-gay-marriage-bill-gender-specific-terms-dominates-debate-6736176240</a>	Malta Independent	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
67	Watch: Edwin Vassallo to vote against gay marriage Bill 'What are we left with when we put our conscience aside?' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170705/local/edwin-vassallo-to-vote-against-gay-marriage-bill.652479">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170705/local/edwin-vassallo-to-vote-against-gay-marriage-bill.652479</a>	Times of Malta	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
68	Gay marriages bill sails through first vote - government to reject opposition amendments Busuttill: No free vote on something promised in the electoral programme <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170705/local/small-silent-protest-against-gay-marriage-law-outside-parliament.652526">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170705/local/small-silent-protest-against-gay-marriage-law-outside-parliament.652526</a>	Times of Malta	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
69	Marriage Equality	One TV	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
70	X'qalu l-Membri Parlamentari dwar l-abbozz ta' ligi dwar żwieg ugwali? <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/07/05/xqalu-l-membri-parlamentari-dwar-l-abbozz-ta-ligi-dwar-zwieg-ugwali/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/07/05/xqalu-l-membri-parlamentari-dwar-l-abbozz-ta-ligi-dwar-zwieg-ugwali/</a>	One News	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
71	Gay marriage catechism <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170706/opinion/Gay-marriage-catechism.652516">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170706/opinion/Gay-marriage-catechism.652516</a>	Times of Malta	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
72	Marriage Equality Bill dismantling concept of traditional family - protestors Edwin Vassallo urged to 'keep strong' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170711/local/marriage-equality-bill-dismantling-concept-of-traditional-family.653065">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170711/local/marriage-equality-bill-dismantling-concept-of-traditional-family.653065</a>	Times of Malta	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
73	Simon Busuttill: MPs obliged to vote according to party line on gay marriage <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78770/mps_obliged_to_vote_according_to_partys_position_insists_opposition_leader">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78770/mps_obliged_to_vote_according_to_partys_position_insists_opposition_leader</a>	MaltaToday	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
74	[WATCH] Pro-lifers, religious leaders dub Maltese gay marriage bill a 'Marxist law' <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78851/opponents_of_marriage_equality_bill_stage_valletta_rally">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78851/opponents_of_marriage_equality_bill_stage_valletta_rally</a>	MaltaToday	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
75	'Marriage is between man and woman' - protesters outside Parliament insist <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-11/local-news/Marriage-is-between-man-and-woman-protesters-insist-6736176486">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-11/local-news/Marriage-is-between-man-and-woman-protesters-insist-6736176486</a>	Malta Independent	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
76	'Gay marriage leads to abortion'... but only under Labour <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/comment/blogs/78816/gay_marriage_leads_to_abortion_but_only_under_labour">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/comment/blogs/78816/gay_marriage_leads_to_abortion_but_only_under_labour</a>	MaltaToday	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
77	Fenech's leaked letter on gay marriage exposes a deeper rift inside the PN <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78848/fenechs_leaked_letter_on_gay_marriage_exposes_a_deeper_rift_inside_the_pn">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78848/fenechs_leaked_letter_on_gay_marriage_exposes_a_deeper_rift_inside_the_pn</a>	MaltaToday	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
78	"I cried and suffered, but the worst is over," says transgender Alex Caruana Says he chose to speak up to help others facing same dilemma <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170712/timestalk/i-cried-and-suffered-but-the-worst-is-over-says-transgender-alex.653023">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170712/timestalk/i-cried-and-suffered-but-the-worst-is-over-says-transgender-alex.653023</a>	Times of Malta	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
79	Gay rights lobbyists hail Bill's 'fulfilled aspirations' Celebrations in Valletta tonight <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170712/local/gay-rights-lobbyists-hail-bills-fulfilled-aspirations.653073">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170712/local/gay-rights-lobbyists-hail-bills-fulfilled-aspirations.653073</a>	Times of Malta	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
80	[WATCH] People are pretty relaxed about Malta legalizing gay marriage today <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78847/watch_people_are_pretty_relaxed_about_malta_legalizing_gay_marriage_today">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78847/watch_people_are_pretty_relaxed_about_malta_legalizing_gay_marriage_today</a>	MaltaToday	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017



81	Malta 15th European country to legalise gay marriage, Edwin Vassallo votes against <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-12/local-news/Malta-15th-European-country-to-legalise-gay-marriage-PN-MP-Edwin-Vassallo-votes-against-6736176528">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-12/local-news/Malta-15th-European-country-to-legalise-gay-marriage-PN-MP-Edwin-Vassallo-votes-against-6736176528</a>	Malta Independent	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
82	Watch: Celebrations in full swing as Castille is lit up in rainbow colours for gay marriage law <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-12/local-news/Gay-marriage-vote-Celebrations-have-kicked-off-in-Castille-Square-6736176527">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-07-12/local-news/Gay-marriage-vote-Celebrations-have-kicked-off-in-Castille-Square-6736176527</a>	Malta Independent	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
83	“Grazzi għal dan il-pass, l-imhabba rebhet fuq kollox” <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/07/12/grazzi-għal-dan-il-pass-l-imhabba-rebhet-fuq-kollox/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/07/12/grazzi-għal-dan-il-pass-l-imhabba-rebhet-fuq-kollox/</a>	One News	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
84	[WATCH] Malta legalises same-sex marriage, as parliament votes in favour of marriage equality bill <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78874/malta_legalises_sam_esex_marriage_as_parliament_votes_in_favour_of_marriage_equality_bill">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78874/malta_legalises_sam_esex_marriage_as_parliament_votes_in_favour_of_marriage_equality_bill</a>	MaltaToday	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
85	Today's vote 'is final chapter in gay marriage stand-off' Vassallo to continue to 'fight for what is right' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170712/local/todays-vote-is-final-chapter-in-gay-marriage-stand-off.653071">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170712/local/todays-vote-is-final-chapter-in-gay-marriage-stand-off.653071</a>	Times of Malta	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
86	Watch: Marriage Equality Act approved with Edwin Vassallo voting against 'We have reached an unprecedented level of maturity' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170712/local/marriage-equality-act-approved-with-edwin-vassallo-voting-against.653120">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170712/local/marriage-equality-act-approved-with-edwin-vassallo-voting-against.653120</a>	Times of Malta	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
87	AD welcomes gay marriage vote 'Mutual respect should be the order of the day' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170713/local/ad-welcomes-gay-marriage-vote.653195">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170713/local/ad-welcomes-gay-marriage-vote.653195</a>	Times of Malta	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
88	Politics after yesterday <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170713/opinion/Politics-after-yesterday.653148">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170713/opinion/Politics-after-yesterday.653148</a>	Times of Malta	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
89	Archbishop, on Malta's first day of marriage equality, can only tweet about carobs and oranges <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78887/archbishop_on_malt_as_first_day_of_marriage_equality_can_only_tweet_about_carobs_and_oranges">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78887/archbishop_on_malt_as_first_day_of_marriage_equality_can_only_tweet_about_carobs_and_oranges</a>	MaltaToday	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
90	Church insists: Marriage should be between a man and a woman Hopes law are not followed by measures that diminish dignity of children <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170713/local/church-insists-marriage-should-be-between-a-man-and-a-woman.653164">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170713/local/church-insists-marriage-should-be-between-a-man-and-a-woman.653164</a>	Times of Malta	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
91	Il-midja barranija tirreagixxi <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/07/13/il-midja-barranija-tirreagixxi/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/07/13/il-midja-barranija-tirreagixxi/</a>	One News	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
92	Do we want discrimination between children? <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170813/opinion/Do-we-want-discrimination-between-children.655522">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170813/opinion/Do-we-want-discrimination-between-children.655522</a>	Times of Malta	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
93	Gay marriage: ecclesiastical fall-out <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170716/opinion/Gay-marriage-ecclesiastical-fall-out.653353">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170716/opinion/Gay-marriage-ecclesiastical-fall-out.653353</a>	Times of Malta	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
94	Malta: From a bastion of Catholicism to leader in gay rights <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78995/malta_from_a_bastion_of_catholicism_to_leader_in_gay_rights">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/78995/malta_from_a_bastion_of_catholicism_to_leader_in_gay_rights</a>	MaltaToday	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2017
95	Man caused ravage at apartment after date with transgender <a href="https://www.tv.mt/en/news/man-caused-ravage-apartment-date-transgender/">https://www.tv.mt/en/news/man-caused-ravage-apartment-date-transgender/</a>	TVM	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
96	Reazzjoni vjolenti wara li sar jaf li l-mara kienet transgender <a href="http://netnews.com.mt/2017/07/25/reazzjoni-vjolenti-wara-li-sar-jaf-li-l-mara-kienet-transgender/">http://netnews.com.mt/2017/07/25/reazzjoni-vjolenti-wara-li-sar-jaf-li-l-mara-kienet-transgender/</a>	Net News	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
97	LGBTIQ awareness Familja Wahda with Lilian Maistre	Radju Malta	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
98	60 new HIV cases – twofold increase in gonorrhoea cases <a href="https://www.tv.mt/en/news/60-new-hiv-cases-twofold-increase-gonorrhoea-cases/">https://www.tv.mt/en/news/60-new-hiv-cases-twofold-increase-gonorrhoea-cases/</a>	TVM	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2017

99	PN gives Frank Portelli the thumbs down for xenophobic, homophobic rants <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/79396/pn_gives_frank_portelli_the_thumbs_down_for_xenophobic_homophobic_rants">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/79396/pn_gives_frank_portelli_the_thumbs_down_for_xenophobic_homophobic_rants</a>	MaltaToday	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2017
100	Frank Portelli rebuked by his own party for comments about migrants and gay people PN says xenophobia and homophobia go against party principles <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170801/local/frank-portelli-rebuked-by-his-own-party.654645">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170801/local/frank-portelli-rebuked-by-his-own-party.654645</a>	Times of Malta	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2017
101	LGBTIQ awareness Familja Wahda with Lilian Maistre	Radju Malta	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
102	Imħassba bil-kumment ta' Chris Said <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/08/19/imhassba-bil-kumment-ta-chris-said/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/08/19/imhassba-bil-kumment-ta-chris-said/</a>	One News	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
103	Watch: 'When my father came out... he changed for the better' Emily was 15 when her father came out to her <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170827/local/watch-my-father-is-happy-now-and-i-love-him.656547">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170827/local/watch-my-father-is-happy-now-and-i-love-him.656547</a>	Times of Malta	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
104	Same sex couples can marry as from Friday All provisions of the amended marriage law set to come into force <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170829/local/same-sex-couples-can-marry-as-from-friday.656746">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170829/local/same-sex-couples-can-marry-as-from-friday.656746</a>	Times of Malta	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
105	[WATCH] 'Parents said my gay father would go to hell', children speak out <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/80095/watch_parents_said_my_gay_father_would_go_to_hell_children_speak_out">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/80095/watch_parents_said_my_gay_father_would_go_to_hell_children_speak_out</a>	Maltatoday	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
106	WATCH: Gay parents open up about how they raised their children <a href="https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/watch-gay-parents-open-up-about-how-they-raised-their-children/">https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/watch-gay-parents-open-up-about-how-they-raised-their-children/</a>	TVM	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
107	Bil-film: Il-ħajja ta' koppji gay u wliedhom <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/08/30/bil-film-familji-lgbtqi-ffilm-li-juri-r-realtajiet-li-jaffaccjaw/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/08/30/bil-film-familji-lgbtqi-ffilm-li-juri-r-realtajiet-li-jaffaccjaw/</a>	One News	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
108	#OurChildrenAreAlright video looks into the everyday lives of Malta's LGBTIQ families <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-08-30/local-news/OurChildrenAreAlright-video-looks-into-the-everyday-lives-of-Malta-s-LGBTIQ-families-6736178447">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-08-30/local-news/OurChildrenAreAlright-video-looks-into-the-everyday-lives-of-Malta-s-LGBTIQ-families-6736178447</a>	Malta Independent	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
109	Watch: Video launched to help overcoming prejudice towards LGBTIQ families Five families share their experience <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170831/local/watch-video-launched-to-help-overcoming-prejudice-towards-lgbtqi.656872">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170831/local/watch-video-launched-to-help-overcoming-prejudice-towards-lgbtqi.656872</a>	Times of Malta	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2017
110	Civil marriage is open to same sex couples as from Friday <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-08-31/local-news/Civil-marriage-is-open-to-same-sex-couples-as-from-Friday-6736178494">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-08-31/local-news/Civil-marriage-is-open-to-same-sex-couples-as-from-Friday-6736178494</a>	Malta Independent	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2017
111	Qatgħu l-kuntatt miegħu meta qalilhom li hu gay <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/09/02/iggieled-biex-jghix-hajtu-kif-xtaq/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/09/02/iggieled-biex-jghix-hajtu-kif-xtaq/</a>	One News	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2017
112	185 unjoni civili fi tliet snin <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/09/03/185-unjoni-civili-fi-tliet-snin/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/09/03/185-unjoni-civili-fi-tliet-snin/</a>	One News	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017
113	LGBTIQ Rights Anchovy	Facebook Live	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
114	Gay Pride March celebrates civil rights achievements in recent years <a href="https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/iccelebrati-l-kisbiet-fid-gay-pride-march-celebrates-civil-rights-achievements-in-recent-years-civili-waqt-il-gay-pride-march/">https://www.tv.m.com.mt/en/news/iccelebrati-l-kisbiet-fid-gay-pride-march-celebrates-civil-rights-achievements-in-recent-years-civili-waqt-il-gay-pride-march/</a>	TVM	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
115	Iccelebrata il-'Gay Pride' fil-Belt Valletta <a href="http://netnews.com.mt/2017/09/09/iccelebrat-il-gay-pride-fil-belt-valletta/">http://netnews.com.mt/2017/09/09/iccelebrat-il-gay-pride-fil-belt-valletta/</a>	Net News	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
116	[WATCH] Gay Pride 2017: 'A message of hope to all those coming out' <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/80331/slideshow_valletta_c_celebrates_gay_pride_legacy">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/80331/slideshow_valletta_c_celebrates_gay_pride_legacy</a>	MaltaToday	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
117	Watch: Hundreds celebrate as Valletta welcomes Gay Pride 'Everyone can be who he or she wants to be' <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170909/local/watch-">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170909/local/watch-</a>	Times of Malta	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2017

	hundreds-celebrate-as-valletta-welcomes-gay-pride.657599		
118	Prime Minister, Helena Dalli attend gay pride activity <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-09-09/local-news/Prime-Minister-Helena-Dalli-attend-gay-pride-activity-6736178814">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-09-09/local-news/Prime-Minister-Helena-Dalli-attend-gay-pride-activity-6736178814</a>	Malta Independent	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
119	Bir-ritratti: Isir il-Pride March fi sfond ta' kisbiet godda <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/09/09/bir-ritratti-isir-il-pride-march-fi-sfond-ta-kisbiet-godda/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/09/09/bir-ritratti-isir-il-pride-march-fi-sfond-ta-kisbiet-godda/</a>	One News	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
120	Police Union chief is in favour of gender neutral uniforms <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-09-11/local-news/Police-Union-chief-is-in-favour-of-gender-neutral-uniforms-6736178855">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-09-11/local-news/Police-Union-chief-is-in-favour-of-gender-neutral-uniforms-6736178855</a>	Malta Independent	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
121	Gender neutral options for uniforms 'will benefit more than just LGBTIQ individuals' <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-09-13/local-news/Gender-neutral-options-for-uniforms-will-benefit-more-than-just-LGBTIQ-individuals-6736178979">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-09-13/local-news/Gender-neutral-options-for-uniforms-will-benefit-more-than-just-LGBTIQ-individuals-6736178979</a>	Malta Independent	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
122	LGBTIQ awareness Familja Wahda with Lilian Maistre	Radju Malta	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
123	The X factor in Marsa <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170919/editorial/The-X-factor-in-Marsa.658343">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170919/editorial/The-X-factor-in-Marsa.658343</a>	Times of Malta	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
124	Mobile App to report hatred towards LGBTI persons <a href="https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/mobile-app-to-report-hatred-towards-lgbti-persons/">https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/mobile-app-to-report-hatred-towards-lgbti-persons/</a>	TVM	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
125	LGBTIQ awareness Dwarna with Mariella Dimech	TVM	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
126	LGBTIQ awareness Familja Wahda with Lilian Maistre	Radju Malta	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
127	UNI-Form App Illum Ma Steph	NET TV	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2017
128	MGRM welcomes 100 hours leave for couples undergoing IVF treatment <a href="https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/mgrm-welcomes-100-hours-leave-for-couples-undergoing-ivf-treatment/">https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/mgrm-welcomes-100-hours-leave-for-couples-undergoing-ivf-treatment/</a>	TVM	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
129	MGRM dismisses PN motion challenge as 'unnecessary and discriminatory' <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/81088/mgrm_dismisses_pn_motion_challenge_as_unnecessary_and_discriminatory">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/81088/mgrm_dismisses_pn_motion_challenge_as_unnecessary_and_discriminatory</a>	MaltaToday	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
130	A manifestation of prejudice <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/comment/editorial/81097/a_manifestation_of_prejudice">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/comment/editorial/81097/a_manifestation_of_prejudice</a>	MaltaToday	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
131	IVF for same-sex couples - Claire Axiak <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20171009/opinion/IVF-for-same-sex-couples-Claire-Axiak.659962">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20171009/opinion/IVF-for-same-sex-couples-Claire-Axiak.659962</a>	Times of Malta	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
132	Commodini Cachia tattakka l-mozzjoni ta' Adrian Delia <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/10/10/commodini-cachia-tattakka-l-mozzjoni-ta-adrian-delia/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/10/10/commodini-cachia-tattakka-l-mozzjoni-ta-adrian-delia/</a>	One News	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
133	Trans children Ilsien in-Nisa with Claire Agius	TVM	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
134	LGBTIQ awareness Familja Wahda with Lilian Maistre	Radju Malta	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
135	Lucinda – transgender child who began to feel she was born in wrong body at age of 3 <a href="https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/lucinda-transgender-child-who-began-to-feel-she-was-born-in-wrong-body-at-age-of-3/">https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/lucinda-transgender-child-who-began-to-feel-she-was-born-in-wrong-body-at-age-of-3/</a>	TVM	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
136	FIRST: 'X' marks the gender <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-10-11/local-news/FIRST-X-marks-the-gender-6736180056">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-10-11/local-news/FIRST-X-marks-the-gender-6736180056</a>	Malta Independent	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
137	Man injured in Paceville, says he was victim of hate crime <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/82124/man_injured_in_paceville_says_he_was_victim_of_hate_crime">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/82124/man_injured_in_paceville_says_he_was_victim_of_hate_crime</a>	MaltaToday	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2017

138	“Tawni xebgħa ponn għax jien gay” – żagħżuġ Malti <a href="http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/11/12/tawni-xebgħa-ponn-ghax-jien-gay-zaghzugh-malti/">http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/11/12/tawni-xebgħa-ponn-ghax-jien-gay-zaghzugh-malti/</a>	One News	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
139	Academics, audience members butt heads on gamete donation, surrogacy <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-11-13/local-news/Academics-audience-members-butt-heads-on-gamete-donation-surrogacy-in-parliamentary-committee-6736181371">http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-11-13/local-news/Academics-audience-members-butt-heads-on-gamete-donation-surrogacy-in-parliamentary-committee-6736181371</a>	Malta Independent	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
140	LGBTIQ awareness Familja Wahda with Lilian Maistre	Radju Malta	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
141	Where has the Maltese gay club gone? <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/arts/entertainment/82132/where_has_the_maltese_gay_club_gone">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/arts/entertainment/82132/where_has_the_maltese_gay_club_gone</a>	MaltaToday	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
142	Effect of surrogacy on children should not be ignored, parliamentary committee hears <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/82169/effect_of_surrogacy_on_children_should_not_be_ignored_parliamentary_committee_hears">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/82169/effect_of_surrogacy_on_children_should_not_be_ignored_parliamentary_committee_hears</a>	MaltaToday	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
143	PN commemorates Transgender Remembrance Day <a href="https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/pn-commemorates-transgender-remembrance-day/">https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/pn-commemorates-transgender-remembrance-day/</a>	TVM	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
144	Il-Partit Nazzjonalista jfakkar l-International Transgender Day of Remembrance <a href="http://netnews.com.mt/2017/11/20/il-partit-nazzjonalista-jfakkar-l-international-transgender-day-remembrance/">http://netnews.com.mt/2017/11/20/il-partit-nazzjonalista-jfakkar-l-international-transgender-day-remembrance/</a>	Net News	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
145	Registration of gay marriages stalled Legal notice bringing law into force not yet published <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20171124/local/registration-of-gay-marriages-stalled.663887">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20171124/local/registration-of-gay-marriages-stalled.663887</a>	Times of Malta	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
146	World AIDS Day 2017   Fighting HIV together <a href="https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/announcements/social/82685/world_aids_day_2017_fighting_hiv_together_">https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/announcements/social/82685/world_aids_day_2017_fighting_hiv_together_</a>	MaltaToday	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
147	Malta had the third largest increase of new HIV-AIDS cases in EU <a href="https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/malta-third-largest-increase-new-hiv-aids-cases-eu/">https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/malta-third-largest-increase-new-hiv-aids-cases-eu/</a>	TVM	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2017
148	Gay conversion therapy - Frank Muscat <a href="https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20171212/opinion/Gay-conversion-therapy-Frank-Muscat.665453">https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20171212/opinion/Gay-conversion-therapy-Frank-Muscat.665453</a>	Times of Malta	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
149	LGBTIQ awareness Familja Wahda with Lilian Maistre	Radju Malta	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
150	LGBTIQ awareness Familja Wahda with Lilian Maistre	Radju Malta	29 <sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Manifesto: Equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people in the 2017 – 2022 legislative period**

In the run up to the General Election held at the beginning of June 2017, MGRM teamed up with ARC to draw up a manifesto setting out actions that the Maltese Parliament and Executive should take towards an ever more inclusive and just society for its LGBTIQ citizens. The manifesto proposals were also discussed during a public meeting for members of the LGBTIQ community which was attended by the leaders of the two main political parties together with senior officials from AD and PD. The issues addressed in the manifesto related to

- Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics
- Education and young people
- Leadership against prejudice
- Equality in employment and services
- Equality for LGBTIQ families

In all the political parties were asked to state their position on 18 different measures. All parties committed to introduce all or most of the measures proposed.

**Marriage Equality**

The issue of marriage equality first hit the media in February when during a conference being organised to launch the European Network of Parent Minister Dalli was asked whether there were any plans in hand to introduce marriage equality. The Minister replied in the affirmative given that the MEAE and Consultative Council had been working on a draft bill to this end. The leader of the opposition also followed with expressions of support for the introduction of marriage equality. In the lead up to the General Election, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat promised that should the Labour Party be re-elected, Marriage Equality would be the first piece of legislation to be passed by the new legislature. Members of MGRM participated in the parliamentary committee discussions around the marriage equality bill. Most of the opposition centred around the introduction of gender neutral language. The Bill was passed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July and was followed by a celebration held in Castille Square. Further provisions were subsequently introduced to allow for the change from Civil Union to Marriage. Marriage between same-sex couples became possible from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

**UNI-Form Project Addressing Hate Crime and Hate Speech**

MGRM was successful in obtaining funding in order to address hate crime under-reporting through the UNI-Form project which was lead by ILGA-Portugal. The objectives of the project which started in November 2015 and came to a close in November 2017 were:

- combat discrimination and violence against LGBT persons and underreporting figures and increase knowledge on homophobic and transphobic hate crime
- implement applicable EU legislation
- creating a uniform reporting mechanism
- promote networking among all involved actors and

- raising the awareness of LGBT victims of hate crime and encouraging trust-building relationships among relevant stakeholders

The Country Report based on a number of interviews conducted with representatives of Victim Support Services, Security Forces, representatives of the Judiciary and Victims resulted in the publication of a Country Report for Malta. The report made a number of recommendations to address identified short-coming. The project also launched the first ever LGBTIQ hate crime reporting app which is available both online and through mobile phone and is also accessible in Maltese and English. The reporting form together with information on the project can be accessed at: <http://www.uni-form.eu>. The app was launched at a conference at the European Parliament in Brussels in September. The Inspector heading the Malta Police Force Victim Support Unit also attended. A leaflet promoting the app was also published.

### **Introduction of X Marker**

The introduction of the X marker on ID Cards and Passports became possible as from September. MGRM sought to disseminate information about this new procedure.

### **Access to Adoption for Same Sex Couples**

MGRM representatives held several meetings with officials from the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity in order to advocate for the setting up of new protocols with third countries. This was felt to be necessary given the limited access to adoption for same-sex couples despite the legal framework introduced through the Civil Union Act. It was suggested that Malta seek to establish agreements with a number of South American Countries as well as with a number of key US States such as California and New York. MGRM also advocated for the automatic recognition of parents who had children through IVF or surrogacy services abroad.

### **Trans sensitive and trans-specific Health Care.**

Following an amendment to the GIGESC Act which depathologised trans identities, MGRM continued to advocate for access to trans health care on the NHS and to ensure that mainstream health care service provision was trans sensitive and did not unwittingly out trans persons. A meeting was held with a number of trans persons and the issues raised were communicated to the Minister for Health. A request for a meeting to discuss the issues was sent and the meeting took place in October. A number of trans persons and parents of trans children attended and were able to tell their stories. Meetings were also held with the Chief Medical Officer to discuss the setting up of a Gender Clinic and to discuss the legal steps required to introduce trans specific health care on the NHS.

### **LGBTIQ School Climate Survey**

MGRM partnered with GLSEN and the University of Columbia in the US to adapt the GLSEN School Climate Survey to the Maltese context. The survey was conducted between May and September and around 150 responses from young people aged 13 to 22 who were in school were collected. A workshop to disseminate the initial results of the school climate surveys held in a number of EU countries took place during the ILGA Europe annual conference. The MGRM aims to launch the report towards the middle of 2018.

### Local networking

In 2017, MGRM continued to work with a number of entities through the LGBTIQ Consultative Council as well as through its membership in PHROM, the Platform for Human Rights Organisations in Malta and the Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations. It collaborated with other organisations for Pride Month and throughout the year met including Drachma, Drachma Parents, aditus, We Are, GSAM, ARC and LGBTI+ Gozo.

Nadine Theuma

## Marketing

This year MGRM developed and printed a number of publications as well as a documentary called *The Broken Lens* in collaboration with GSAM. MGRM also worked on the new MGRM website to be launched in 2018. All were possible with funding obtained through VOPS, Agenzija Zghazagh, ILGA-Europe and through the service agreement with the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity.

In the summer MGRM printed two leaflets promoting the HIV self-testing kits and an educational survey that was being carried out in collaboration with GLSEN.

During 2017 MGRM reprinted the Rainbow Support Service leaflets promoting the support service especially during activities and session deliveries.

**The Broken Lens** was a documentary that was produced by GSAM in collaboration with MGRM and the Rainbow Support Service. The production focused on media representation of LGTIQ individuals and issues in Malta. The young people working on the project interviewed a number of young people and other prominent personalities. The Documentary was launched in October 2017 at Agenzija Zghazagh Youth Village in St. Venera. The launch was attended by over 50 individuals.

**Website** - Our previous website was launched in 2012. The internet has evolved since then with most making use of tablets, smartphones and iPhone's rather than desktops or laptops to browse. The use of social media has also increased significantly. MGRM took the decision to redesign the website to embrace these changes and allow users to access information and engage with the website content related to MGRM activities.

The new site incorporates different sections on various topics such as information on MGRM, thematic areas such as health, security and education and the Rainbow Support Service. MGRM volunteers were trained in how to update the pages that fall under their portfolio. It works similar to a series of blogs and is easier for the information to be kept updated and for the user to interact with the organisation and the site. The website is mobile friendly and is connected to all MGRM's social media accounts including MailChimp. The site also includes all of MGRM's publications and a new online membership form.



## Events

Below is a list of the events and activities which MGRM organised and/or collaborated on during 2017 with the aim of community building and/or raising visibility of LGBTIQ issues.

- In the lead up to the General Election Allied Rainbow Communities (ARC) and the MGRM teamed up to organise a joint Q&A session Titled “**il-Manifest Elettorali u l-LGBTIQ**”. The event was attended by leading officials of the political parties including the Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat, Leader of the Opposition Simon Busuttil, Godfrey Farrugia from PD and Ralph Cassar from AD. The event provided the opportunity to discuss the positions of the political parties on a range of issues relevant to the LGBTIQ community.
- **Screening of Tom of Finland during the Valletta Film Festival.** On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June Gabi Calleja joined the lead actor Pekka Strang for a Q&A session after the screening. The film tells the story of Touko Laaksonen, a decorated officer who returns home after a harrowing and heroic experience serving his country in World War II. Life in Finland during peacetime proves equally distressing. He finds post-war Helsinki rampant with homophobic persecution, and men around him even being pressured to marry women and have children. Touko finds refuge in his liberating art, specialising in homoerotic drawings of muscular men, free of inhibitions. His work – made famous by his signature ‘Tom of Finland’ – became the emblem of a generation of men and fanned the flames of a gay revolution.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup> August the Rainbow Support Service organised a **Queer Summer BBQ** at the Agenzija Zghazagh Youth Village in St. Venera. A number of LGBTIQ young people and their parents came together for a fun evening.
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, MGRM in collaboration with Elton Borg organised a successful and well attended **launch event for Pride Week** with a party at Monaliza. Gabi Calleja also formed part of a discussion panel in a seminar organised by the GWU focusing on HIV and trans issues at the workplace.
- MGRM in collaboration with ARC hosted the Sparkle and Shine Its’ Christmas Time party at the Birdcage Lounge in Rabat with DJ Elton and Funkyfonk. A number of singers including Clinton Paul, Amber, Lyndsay Pace, Odessa Green together with the fabulous Madame J’adore, kept everyone entertained.

## Frederick Bartolo Pamis

### Accounts

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT For the year ended 31st December

	2017		
	€	€	€
<b>Income:</b>			
ILGA HRVDF			-
Rausing 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			-
Ministry for Civil Liberties Pride 2014			-
US Embassy Grant It Gets Better			-
US Embassy Grant Rainbow Support Service			2,282
Dutch Embassy Grant Pride Week			-
Grundtvig Mobility Grant			-
EEA/Norway Grant			-
NGO Grant 2014			-
NGO Grant 2015			-
Small Initiatives Scheme			-
IE Advocacy and Documentation Fund			843
Civil Society Organisations Fund			-
Be Active Scheme #OurStory			-
VOPS RSS Grant 2016			2,481
Civil Society Organisations Fund 2016			-
UNI-Form			9,354
PSP Agreement 2017 - 2019			26,619
VIIV Healthcare HIV Project			5,923
Civil Society Fund 2017			452
VOPS 2017			1,500
AZ Be Active Scheme Broken Lens			1,044
IE Refugee Fund			2,190
Donations & Fund-Raising			8,354
Membership Fees			<u>40</u>
			61,081
<b>Administration Expenses:</b>			
P.R. Literature & Brochures	3,388		
Salaries	19,591		
NI Contributions	-		
Rent	4,200		
Water & Electricity	130		
Printing	123		
Postage	8		
Telephone	736		
Internet & Web-based Subscriptions	527		
Office Stationery	3		
Books	-		

Legal Fees	218		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	450		
Professional Fees - Researchers	17,721		
Office Machine Maintenance	-		
Refreshments	535		
Premises Expenses	360		
Bank Charges	124		
Depreciation - Office Furniture & Equipment	<u>640</u>	48,755	
<b>Event Expenses:</b>			
Travelling	361		
Conferences	1,304		
Entertainment	-		
Permits	-		
Equipment Hire	316		
Training Costs	50		
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>3,749</u>	<u>5,779</u>	<u>54,534</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>			<u><u><b>6,546</b></u></u>

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

	<b>2017</b>	
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		
Office Furniture & Equipment		1,921
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Sundry Debtors	-	
Bank Current A/c #1	28,327	
Bank Current A/c #2	11,053	
Bank Savings	1	
Bank Current A/c #3 - EEA	19,953	
Bank Current A/c #4 - SIS	1,918	
Petty Cash	<u>812</u>	<u>62,064</u>
		63,985
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Sundry Creditors		1,000
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u><u>62,985</u></u></b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
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		5,033
Dutch Embassy Grant Pride Week Reserve		-
Grundtvig Mobility Grant Reserve		-
EEA/Norway Grant Reserve		-
NGO Grant 2014 Reserve		1,842
NGO Grant 2015 Reserve		-
Small Initiatives Scheme Reserve		-
IE Advocacy and Documentation Fund Reserve		-
Civil Society Organisations Fund Reserve		-
Be Active Scheme #OurStory Reserve		-
VOPS RSS Grant 2016 Reserve		2,519
Civil Society Organisations Fund 2016 Reserve		-
UNI-Form Reserve		22,876
PSP Agreement 2017 - 2019 Reserve		9,381
VIIV Healthcare HIV Project Reserve		2,077
Civil Society Fund 2017 Reserve		-
VOPS 2017 Reserve		1,908
AZ Be Active Scheme Broken Lens Reserve		20
IE Refugee Fund Reserve		6,850
Accumulated Surplus		<u>10,479</u>
		<b><u><u>62,985</u></u></b>

# Workplan 2018

		<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>Goal 1: GOAL: To achieve legal equality of LGBTIQ individuals</b>	1a	The facilitation to the right to Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Bodily Integrity & Physical Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raise awareness on depathologisation legislation amongst medical &amp; health practitioners</li> <li>▪ Advocate for changes to Schedule 5 with regards to Trans healthcare</li> <li>▪ Facilitate the notarial declaration process and transitions between prison sections</li> <li>▪ Maintain communication with prison authorities</li> <li>▪ Facilitate access to information to trans inmates</li> <li>▪ Conduct an information meeting regarding the access to change the Gender Marker to X</li> <li>▪ Monitoring of GIGESC implementation with regards to prison trans inmates</li> </ul>
	1b	The provision of anti-discrimination legislation in the provision of goods and services to LGBTIQ people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awareness campaign on the Equality Bill targeting LGBTIQ community</li> </ul>
	1c	Marriage equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awareness raising on time-limit for conversion of civil unions to marriage</li> <li>▪ Ensure presumption of parenthood effectively implemented</li> </ul>
	1d	The enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to campaign for access to Reproductive Rights</li> <li>▪ Communicate with LGBTIQ community on need for review and position of MGRM</li> </ul>
	1e	Constitutional amendment to include sex characteristics (Intersex) in grounds of non-discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Liaise with MEAE and LGBTIQ Consultative Council on putting forward constitutional amendment</li> </ul>
	1f	Equal treatment in cohabitation legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raise awareness about the cohabitation legislation provisions</li> </ul>
	1g	Monitoring of effective implementation of civil union legislation with respect to mutual recognition; parenting rights; social security; housing; etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure presumption of parenthood effectively implemented</li> <li>▪ Meeting with MFCS re. access to adoption;</li> </ul>

<b>Goal 2: To have policies that refer to and are inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics</b>	2a	Mainstreaming of LGBTIQ issues in policy and service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitor drafting and implementation of mainstreaming policy for public service</li> </ul>
	2b	Professional Bodies to issue policies that address LGBTIQ issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set meeting with health and mental health professionals associations</li> <li>▪ Set a roundtable discussion with Institute of Maltese Journalists regarding reporting standards on LGBTIQ issues</li> </ul>
	2c	Health-care policies that are inclusive of LGBTIQ, including LGBTIQ segregated data in mainstream research and surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow-up with the Director for Human Rights &amp; Integration regarding reversal of life-time ban on blood donation by MSM</li> <li>▪ Improved pharmaceutical treatment regime for HIV</li> <li>▪ Introduction of free-of-charge PrEP &amp; PEP</li> <li>▪ Education campaigns for at-risk communities</li> <li>▪ Online Survey on HIV Testing with the LGBTIQ Community;</li> <li>▪ Campaign for World AIDS Day 2018</li> </ul>
	2d	Policies on the treatment of trans and intersex persons by government institutions and public entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocate for the setting up of the Gender Clinic in full respect of legal framework</li> <li>▪ Advocate for reestablishment of the intersex working group</li> </ul>
	2e	Safe and Inclusive school climates for LGBTIQ students and educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitor implementation of LGBTIQ Action Plan measures</li> <li>▪ Publication of School Climate Survey Results</li> <li>▪ Development of a module at University of Malta</li> <li>▪ Development of module for SMTs through Institute for Education</li> <li>▪ Submit proposal for in-service teacher training</li> <li>▪ Provision of training and consultancy services to schools on request</li> <li>▪ Liaising with schools to advocate for LGBTIQ students</li> </ul>
	2f	Social Security and Housing provision that is inclusive of LGBTIQ individuals and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitor implementation of Civil Union, Marriage Equality and GIGESC legislation</li> <li>▪ To check that forms with respect to applications for housing and social security now include same-sex couples and X provision</li> </ul>
	2g	National Implementation of LGBTIQ Action Plan on Equality adopted by Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contribute to drafting a new Action Plan and monitor its implementation</li> </ul>
	2h	The effective implementation of hate crime legislation and monitoring of hate crimes; support to victims; etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Publish Country report drawn up as part of the UNI-Form Project</li> <li>▪ Dissemination of the website and mobile reporting app</li> <li>▪ Maintain links with the Police Academy and Police Victim Support Unit</li> </ul>

<b>Goal 3: To bring about positive societal attitudes towards and the social inclusion of LGBTIQ people</b>	3a	Raise awareness and visibility of LGBTIQ people and the issues which affect them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in TV and Radio programmes</li> <li>Participation in LGBTIQ &amp; Women's Consultative Council</li> <li>TRANSformazzjoni Documentary Project VOPS 2018 Funding</li> </ul>
	3b	Promote a norm critical approach to gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training provided to Professionals</li> <li>Liaise with other NGOs in the provision of training &amp; workshops</li> </ul>
	3c	Raise the visibility and acceptance of LGBTIQ families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content on website specific to rainbow families</li> </ul>
	3d	Raise the visibility and awareness of LGBTIQ Elderly and advocate for inclusive policies and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on new website</li> <li>Set up meetings with the Department for the Elderly to discuss introduction of good practice guidelines</li> <li>Liaise with Gender Studies &amp; Gerontology Department on research study</li> <li>Re-issue Grey Pride booklet</li> </ul>
	3e	Raise awareness of how intersectionality can compound difficulties faced by LGBTIQ persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with CRPD to discuss issues around LGBTIQ issues and disability</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 4: To empower the LGBTIQ community to engage in social and political issues that are of direct concern</b>	4a	Engage the LGBTIQ community in MGRM's work with MGRM being clearer in communicating its goals, purpose and direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MGRM membership drive linked to facebook and new website</li> <li>Launch new website to be kept updated by respective committee members</li> </ul>
	4b	Increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBTIQ community and strive for greater participation and representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly newsletter to increase awareness of MGRM's work</li> <li>Leaflet on MGRM</li> <li>E-publication of Annual Report 2017</li> </ul>
	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One social event every quarter</li> </ul>
	4d	Encourage the emergence of positive LGBTIQ role models from within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page on website highlighting LGBTIQ Role Models</li> <li>Be-Active Project - LGBTIQ Youth Activism - the Past and the Present Booklet</li> </ul>
	4e	Promote respect for diversity within the LGBTIQ community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate and highlight intersectional issues in any publications and media tools</li> </ul>
	4f	Build the capacity of the LGBTIQ community to advocate on its own behalf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in EU monitoring of Code of Conduct</li> <li>Training of trans persons interested in appearing on media</li> </ul>

<b>Goal 5: Provide support, assistance and information on LGBTIQ issues to LGBTIQ persons and their families</b>	5a	Continue to develop the Rainbow Support Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of PSP Agreement</li> <li>▪ Support group for parents of trans children and youth</li> </ul>
	5b	Develop leaflets, booklets and other resources for LGBTIQ individuals and their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Publish Leaflets on Trans/Intersex</li> </ul>
	5c	Training of a broad range of professionals and service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide training on request</li> </ul>
	5d	Build our capacity and identify strategies to address the specific needs of bisexuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commemorate International Bisexuality Awareness Day - 23rd September</li> </ul>
	5e	Develop support services and raise awareness regarding LGBTIQ health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborate with Health Promotion on HIV and STI Campaigns; Participate in HIV Testing Week; Keep project webpage updated</li> <li>▪ Present workshops at the Queer 360 Conference and the MUMN 'Looking at health through the Gender Kaleidoscope' Conference</li> <li>▪ Participate in 'Reducing Health Inequalities Project' Final Conference and disseminate training tools</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 6: To network with other organisations in achieving common goals</b>	6a	Liaise with other LGBTIQ and non-LGBTIQ groups as well as individuals working on LGBTIQ and human rights issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participate in platforms such as PRIDE and HIV/AIDS working groups; PHROM and MCWO; ARC; Drachma; LGBTIQ/Gender Consultative Councils</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with G-SAM on Youth Activism Project</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with ARC on HIV Campaign &amp; PRIDE</li> </ul>
	6b	Make use of opportunities presented by CHOGM, EU Presidency and V18 in order to raise visibility of LGBTIQ issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attend Preparatory Meetings and CHOGM in April 2018</li> </ul>
	6c	Sharing of good practices and seeking opportunities for partnership with national as well as foreign entities	Respond to relevant requests for project partnerships when they arise
<b>Goal 7: To make MGRM a sustainable organisation</b>	7a	Increase the capacity of MGRM to achieve its mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Register with EUPA for EVS posting and issue call for internships related to specific initiatives;</li> </ul>
	7b	Establish funding streams and continue building on its human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work on building accounting system</li> <li>▪ Apply for VOPS; AZ; EU Funding; Arts Council; SIS</li> <li>▪ Launch new Membership Scheme</li> </ul>
	7c	Maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain links with TCEN; IE; TGEU; GLSEN; NELFA: ENP and IGLYO</li> </ul>
	7d	Improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initiate process to register MGRM as a legal entity</li> </ul>
	7e	Develop a communication strategy for the organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Draw up priority communication targets for 2018</li> <li>▪ Launch new website</li> </ul>
	7f	Clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a position paper on sex work</li> </ul>



