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Colette Farrugia Bennett

Acting Coordinator

2018 was a year of change for MGRM. We saw and welcomed new volunteers and new projects, while we also brought to a close project and bid farewell to Gabi Calleja, after she chaired the organisation for over ten years. Gabi's departure was a result of a new development in the policy field around LGBTIQ issues, and this was the establishment of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Sex Characteristics (SOGIGESC) Unit within the Human Rights and Integration Directorate. I took the role of Acting Coordinator and saw MGRM through till this AGM where a new setup of co-chairs is being proposed for the future of MGRM's leadership.

Last year MGRM saw a spring of new volunteers who joined the committee and others who supported us throughout events and activities for the LGBTIQ community. The new energy combined with the existing one saw several developments in projects, the launch of MGRM's new website, more presence on the social media, our continued professional support to the LGBTIQ community, contribution to the development of policies and the LGBTIQ Action Plan.

2018 was the second year that MGRM held the Public Social Partnership with the Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity which ensured the funding for the consolidation and enhancement of the Rainbow Support Services. Mid-year, the service underwent some changes in the distribution of hours and the full-time social worker's hour, however the service continued to strive and an additional social worker was identified by FSWS to offer some hours per week, bringing the RSS team to a total of five social workers.

April saw the launch of a publication which documents the history of the LGBTIQ movement in Malta through the publication of *A Seat at the Table* authored by Simon Bartolo and comprising

narratives and recollections of a number of activists, policy makers and politicians reflecting on the changes in the LGBTIQ rights landscape over the past 20 years or so. The launch of the publication was attended by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Minister for Equality Helena Dalli who bought feature in the publication.

MGRM brought to a close the Be Active Scheme project funded by Agenzija Zghazagh entitled LGBTIQ Youth Activism - the past and the present. This project brought together a publication the documented the story of nine activists who were pioneers in LGBTIQ activism in Malta and twelve activists from the younger generation who will lead LGBTIQ activism to the future.

MGRM and the Rainbow Support Service sought the collaboration of the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society in the development of the Rainbow Families Network. This network was launched during Pride Week and sets to provide a monthly safe space for same-sex families with children, and families with transgender children and youth. This project has brought about several other policy and advocacy work through the consultation processes that MGRM and PFWS engaged in with the RFN participants.

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.

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 Gabi Calleja, Nadine Theuma and Michael Farrugia who will be standing down from the committee having provided years of service to the organisation.

Colette Farrugia Bennett

Social Welfare

During the past year, the social welfare team has continued to offer support to individuals and families requesting face-to-face meetings to discuss issues around 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. Five members of the team, Ms Beverley Abela Gatt, Ms Colette Farrugia Bennett, Mr Michael Farrugia, Mr Eman Galea and Ms Gillian Busuttill have been working in the Rainbow Support Service to meet the needs of these service users. During the year 2017, MGRM had entered in 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 was working for 30 hours a week from July 2017 till the end of the same year. In 2018 Ms Michael Farrugia was working at a full-time capacity between the months of January and June 2018. Following this period Mr Michael Farrugia decreased the number of hours which were taken up by the other social workers.

During 2018 the service was funded by the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity through the service agreement entered into in February 2017 and supported by Agenzija Zghazagh. This service incorporates the Social Work service, a Youth Group for LGBTIQ persons aged between 13 and 18, Psychological Support, a Legal Consultancy Service, provision of Support Groups in the communities, consultation services for professionals and educators, and training and awareness raising sessions with professionals and members of society.

During 2018, the Social Work service was in contact with around 56 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 over 300 interventions. 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 30 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 3 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 Rainbow Support Service has continued to offer a safe social meeting place for LGBTIQ young people to come together at the LGBTIQ Youth Drop-In on a regular basis. The Rainbow Support Service LGBTIQ Youth Drop-In also continued to support the Gay Straight Alliance at MCAST (GSAM). Unfortunately, the young people who were actively involved and participated in GSAM finished their academic journey within MCAST and a new group of younger students has taken up the work related to the running of the student organisation. The young people involved in GSAM were being supported in the production of a publication dealing with youth activism. This publication was launched in October 2018 in collaboration with Agenzija Zghazagh.

The structure of the Rainbow Support Service Youth Drop-In changed to accommodate further the needs of the young people who attend. In fact the service is being run every first and third Friday of the month between 5pm and 7pm. Through the collaborative work with other NGOs working with the LGBTIQ community namely LGBTI+ Gozo as well as Agenzija Zghazagh and the Gozo 6th Form, an LGBTIQ Youth Drop-In is held in Gozo on a monthly basis. The monthly sessions are held at the Agenzija Zghazagh youth hub which is found within the Sir Michelangelo Refalo 6th Form in Gozo.

In October 2018, the Rainbow Support Service of MGRM reached an agreement with Agenzija Zghazagh which resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between the two which allows the possibility for the Rainbow Support Service to engage a Youth Worker to assist in the engagement of young people and running of the Rainbow Support Service **LGBTIQ Youth Group**.

Throughout 2018, the Rainbow Support Service has 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 2018, 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.

Trans support group at CCF

The support group for trans* individuals at Corradino Correctional Facility continued to take place throughout 2018. This service is being carried out by a social worker. 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. Throughout the year 2018, 12 support group sessions were held in total.

The Rainbow Support Service met with over 6 students who were focusing their research on LGBTIQ issues in various area of study including Social Work, Social Policy, Gender Issues, Counselling and Psychology, etc. Following the introduction of a full-time worker at MGRM the organisation has had the capacity to have students on placement. Between the months of January and May 2018 MGRM was host to two students. The organisation had the opportunity to have a student from MCAST reading for a degree in Health and Social Management and another student from the University of Malta reading for a degree in Social Work. Both

students had the opportunity to engage with different service users and professionals according to the needs of the organisation and their respective educational institute.

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. During 2018 the Rainbow Support Service continued to strengthen their relationship with post-secondary educational institutes and continued to provide support at the Institute for Tourism Studies, MCAST and Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary.

In March 2018 the social workers of the Rainbow Support Service and other members of MGRM participated in the conference Queer 360 organised by Willingness Malta. The conference was aimed at professionals who want to increase their knowledge and skills with particular focus to the LGBTIQ community. Social workers and members of MGRM gave four workshops with varying topics like domestic violence, the elderly, and social work intervention with the LGBTIQ community amongst other topics.

Collaboration with the Gender Department and the Gerontology Department at the University of Malta in their Elderly Project

The Gender Department and the Gerontology Department are currently working on a project concerning the elderly LGB community in Malta. MGRM is collaborating with the two departments in the project by helping in the recruitment of participants and carrying out the interviews with participants. Through this study MGRM has continued to increase its capacity and knowledge in working with LGB elderly. In fact MGRM was invited to participate in a conference discussing sexuality and intimacy amongst the aging and elderly generation in January 2018. Following this conference, the social workers of the Rainbow Support Service were invited to contribute in a publication that is meant to document the discussions covered during the conference. Over the summer of 2018, two of the social workers within the Rainbow Support Service worked together to research and write a paper dealing with sexuality, intimacy and healthcare of older LGBTIQ individuals.

The Rainbow Family Network

The MGRM has been in contact with the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society since the latter's inception in 2016. In 2018, discussions about possible collaborations were carried out and the two organisations agreed to initiate the Rainbow Families Network. This network is made up of same-sex parents and parents of Trans children. The main idea behind this project is to provide a safe and welcoming space for these families where they can meet and share experiences with different families who are going through the same experiences. The Network's primary objective is to create spaces where rainbow families can meet. Moreover, the Network also aims to give these families a voice and act as a bridge between these families and other entities which are relevant to their wellbeing. During the first Network meeting that took place in September 2018 the parents were asked to give feedback about what they want to get out of this Network apart from it being a safe space to socialise. The President's Foundation for the Welfare of Society and the MGRM are in discussions to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that will ensure the continued collaboration between the two organisations.

Work with asylum seekers

In 2017 MGRM was engaged in addressing the situation of LGBTIQ persons in Chechnya. The organization had been trying to lobby support from the Government of Malta with the possibility to help and support Chechen LGBT individuals who are seeking asylum due to the persecution they face in Chechnya. MGRM is collaborating with ILGA Europe and the Russian LGBT Network. Both organisations are supporting individuals who are being persecuted because of their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation. At the end of the year 2017 a Chechen family was successful in arriving in Malta where they requested asylum. The social workers from the Rainbow Support Service have been supporting the family to start integrating in Malta. The social workers also accompanied the family in their appointments with the refugee commission and other entities in regards to their asylum application. The family received their refugee status at the end of May 2018. During the month of June and July, the family was supported in applying for residency permits, work permits, employment and other services. Professionals supporting the family encountered some difficulties with accommodation and employment. The family was supported during the move from private rent to a residential setting where continued support was provided. MGRM continued to support and follow the family and work was done in relation to accessing benefits, employment and education.

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. The policy was revised and should come into force in the first half of 2019 once Nucleic Acid Testing becomes available.

Trans Health

In 2017, the Rainbow Support Service and MGRM organized a focus group about trans health. During this meeting trans individuals and/or their families highlighted the difficulties they face in accessing health services. This has led to work being done in regards to advocacy to trans-specific healthcare amongst other things. A meeting with the Health Minister was requested. As a result of these meetings work started to be done in preparation of the setting up of the Gender Wellbeing Clinic. Following the issue of the proposal for the Gender Wellbeing Clinic MGRM held a consultation session with the trans community and their families. The feedback gathered from these sessions was compiled and presented to relevant authorities in an effort to improve upon the proposal for said clinic. The Clinic was officially inaugurated on the 12th of November 2018 and continues to benefit from the support of the Rainbow Support Service.

Collaboration with the Department for Health Promotion

In January 2018, MGRM met with ARC and the Department for Health Promotion in an effort to create more awareness and come up with new ideas in terms of outreach. This working relationship has developed and collaborative work between these parties is ongoing.

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 and CHOGM, London 2018

The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) met in London towards the end of January to plan for the CHOGM meeting being held in the same city in April of that year. The TCEN members met with a number of members of the House of Commons in order to garner support and maximise their impact during the CHOGM summit and the various Forums preceding the summit. Gabi Calleja participated in the Women's Forum and was also invited to give a presentation to UNISON partners and stakeholders. The Prime Minister of Malta met with the TCEN representatives during CHOGM. The role of MGRM member on the TCEN management board was handed over to Mark Harwood following CHOGM.

7th European Transgender Council - Antwerp, Belgium on the 28th June to July 1st 2018.

Eman Galea and Alex Caruana represented MGRM in this year's TGEU council. The three days were packed with discussions, panels, activities and voting for the new representatives in the council. Diverse themes have been discussed such as accessibility, racism, sex work within the LGBTIQ community.

Countering Hate Speech Online – Dublin, Ireland/Brussels, Belgium

Michael Farrugia represented MGRM in a number of workshops where different civil society organisations who are participant in the Monitoring Exercises of Hate Speech Online. The general aims of the workshops were 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.

The workshops took place in Dublin – June 2018 and in Brussels – March 2018 and September 2018.

Health4LGBTI – Brussels, Belgium

Michael Farrugia represented MGRM in a two-day workshop in Brussels in February 2018. The aims of the Health4LGBTI pilot project are to raise awareness of the specific health inequalities and barriers experienced by LGBTI people and to increase understanding of how best to reduce them; focusing on overlapping inequalities stemming from discrimination and unfair treatment on other grounds. The project also aims to provide European health professionals with relevant tools to allow them to develop the right skills and knowledge to overcome these barriers.

Preparation and attendance for Lambda Queer Camp 2018 – Berlin, Germany

Michael Farrugia represented MGRM in a preparatory meeting held in Berlin, Germany in June 2018. The aim of this meeting was for camp leaders to get to know each other and start working on plans for the actual camp that was happening in August 2018. The Queer Summer Camp is an Erasmus project organised by the German LGBTIQ organisation Lambda together with partner organisations including Q – Queer Student Association, MAG Jeunes LGBT in France and Malta Gay Rights Movement.

Mr Eman Galea, social worker from the Rainbow Support Service of MGRM attended the Queer Summer Camp as a camp leader in August 2018. Mr Eman Galea formed part of the leader's group that was responsible to see that the youth attending the camp are kept safe and that the running of the camp runs smoothly. Mr Eman Galea facilitated LGBTIQ youth-oriented workshops and was a go to person for the Maltese participants.

IGLYO- Annual Members' Conference 2018

MGRM attended IGLYO's Annual Member's Conference (ACM) 2018 between the 4th October and 7th October, represented by Oriana Farrugia in Edinburgh, Scotland. This year's AMC was hosted by LGBT Scotland on the premises of the renowned Festival Theatre, where they organised 4 days of scheduled work and cultural activities. The days were packed with capacity building workshops; reviewing 2018's Annual Report and 2017's Finance Report; attending Plenary sessions; listening to panels on various subjects, mainly focusing on transgender issues; drafting proposals; voting on IGLYO's work plan 2019 and Budget 2019; approving membership fees and voting on case by case situations of breach of rules; voting for the nominated executive board members; liaising with over 50 international LGBT organisations; and meeting people like DIVA Magazine's editor. LGBT Scotland also managed to schedule visits to key buildings in Edinburgh like the Scottish Parliament and a colourful treasure hunt around this magnificent city.

MGRM actively contributed towards the current 2019 IGLYO Work Plan, by proposing to include a clause stating that IGLYO is internationally focusing on the awareness and visibility regarding bisexuality. The proposed clause was voted in by the majority.

IGLYO gives a space for international LGBT organisations to annually come together and consult one another in order to achieve goals within the respective countries. This is why MGRM's representative created a contacts list of various representatives present at the AMC to be able to consult one another through one uniting platform.

Media

The issue that garnered most media coverage throughout 2018 was the debate on changes to the Embryo Protection Act and the X-Factor controversy towards the end of the year. 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 access to reproductive health services;
- ILGA Europe Rainbow Index
- Pride Week Events
- Conversion Practices
- Trans healthcare

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	When do children develop their gender identity? http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-01-06/health/When-do-children-develop-their-gender-identity-6736183301	Malta Independent	6 th January 2018
2	Malta Tops European LGBTIQ Inclusive Education Index https://lovinmalta.com/news/news-international/malta-tops-european-lgbtqi-inclusive-education-index	LovinMalta	24 th January 2018
3	183 civil unions in 3 years https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180124/local/183-civil-unions-in-3-years.668793	Times of Malta	24 th January 2018
4	Malta obtains highest scores on inclusive education for LGBTIQ youths https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/83938/malta-obtains_highest_scores_on_inclusive_education_for_lgbtqi_youths#.XJe-uyhKjIU	MaltaToday	24 th January 2018
5	Malta obtains the highest scores on LGBTIQ inclusive education indicators http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-01-24/human/Malta-obtains-the-highest-scores-on-LGBTIQ-inclusive-education-indicators-6736183981	Malta Independent	24 th January 2018
6	MEP tfahhar lil Malta għad-drittijiet li ngħataw lill-persuni LGBTIQ https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/news/mep-tfahhar-lil-malta-ghad-drittijiet-li-ngħataw-lill-persuni-lgbtqi/	TVM News	24 th January 2018
7	Employers' lobby hits out at 'extremist gay and feminist groups' https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180129/local/employers-lobby-hits-out-at-extremist-gay-and-feminist-groups.669181	Times of Malta	29 th January 2018

8	LGBTIQ rights https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180130/letters/LGBTIQ-rights.669272	Times of Malta	30 th January 2018
9	15 human rights NGOs say Ezabe hate speech acquittal 'condones anti-migrant sentiment' https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/84179/15_human_rights_ngo_s_say_ezabe_hate_speech_acquittal_condones_antimigrant_sentiment#.XJe-WChKJIU	MaltaToday	1 st February 2018
10	Plan for transgender care in coming weeks https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180215/local/plan-for-transgenders-care-in-coming-weeks.670737	Times of Malta	15 th February 2018
11	L-ewwel pass għal aktar servizzi tas-saħħa b'xejn għall-persuni transgender https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/news/l-ewwel-pass-ghal-aktar-servizzi-tas-sahha-bxejn-ghall-persuni-transgender/	TVM News	15 th February 2018
12	Legal notice issued for transgender healthcare provision, free of charge http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-02-15/local-news/Legal-notice-issued-for-transgender-healthcare-provision-free-of-charge-6736184901	Malta Independent	15 th February 2018
13	Helena Dalli: Malta l-ewwel fl-UE bi drittijiet għal persuni trans http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=63386	Inewsmalta	16 th February 2018
14	Beating the populist drum - Paula Cauchi https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180403/opinion/Beating-the-populist-drum-Paula-Cauchi.675241	Times of Malta	3 rd April 2018
15	Hospitals should allow trans people to write pronoun 'regardless of legal name' https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180406/local/transgender-healthcare-public-consultation-launched.675558	Times of Malta	6 th April 2018
16	National health service will offer full medical care for transgender patients https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/85866/malta_to_be_one_of_halfdozen_countries_to_provide_holistic_transgender_services#.XJe57ihKJIU	MaltaToday	6 th April 2018
17	Imniedi dokument ta' konsultazzjoni dwar servizzi ta' saħħa għal persuni transgender https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/news/immiedi-dokument-ta-konsultazzjoni-dwar-servizzi-ta-sahha-ghal-persuni-transgender/	TVM News	6 th April 2018
18	Malta to offer specialised healthcare services for transgender people http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-04-06/local-news/Malta-to-offer-specialised-healthcare-services-for-transgender-people-6736187553	Malta Independent	6 th April 2018
19	"Il-ktieb għadu mhux mitmum" – il-PM dwar id-drittijiet indaqs https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/news/il-ktieb-ghadu-mhux-mitmum-il-pm-dwar-id-drittijiet-indaqs/	TVM News	13 th April 2018
20	Unconditional healthcare - Claire Axiak https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180418/opinion/Unconditiona-l-healthcare-Claire-Axiak.676724	Times of Malta	18 th April 2018
21	Changes to the Embryo Protection Act remove discrimination - MGRM https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180426/local/changes-to-the-embryo-protection-act-remove-discrimination-mgrm.677511	Times of Malta	26 th April 2018
22	MGRM says Embryo Protection Act amendments will end current discrimination https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/86457/malta_lgbtiq_rights_movement_says_embryo_protection_act_amendments_will_end_current_discrimination#.XJe9yChKJIU	MaltaToday	26 th April 2018
23	L-MGRM favur il-ligi għall-protezzjoni tal-embrijuni http://www.one.com.mt/news/2018/04/26/l-mgrm-favur-il-ligi-ghall-protezzjoni-tal-embrijuni/	One News	26 th April 2018

24	Tfal imwiela permezz tal-IVF mhumiex differenti minn tfal oħra http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=65754	Inewsmalta	27 th April 2018
25	Tonio Fenech Demands Gay Rights Movement Adds 'E' To The LGBTIQ Community https://lovinmalta.com/news/local/tonio-fenech-demands-gay-rights-movement-adds-e-to-the-lgbtqi-community	LovinMalta	2 nd May 2018
26	"L-orjentazzjoni sesswali għandha tiġi mghallma fl-iskola kmieni"... Omm li għandha binha gay http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=66128	Inewsmalta	8 th May 2018
27	Malta żomm u ssaħħa l-ewwel post fil-qasam ta' persuni LGBTIQ f'49 pajjiż madwar l-Ewropa http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=66339	Inewsmalta	14 th May 2018
28	Malta żzomm l-ewwel post fid-drittijiet tal-persuni LGBTIQ fl-Ewropa https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/news/malta-zzomm-postha-l-ewwel-fid-drittijiet-tal-persuni-lgbtqi-fl-ewropa/	TVM News	14 th May 2018
29	Malta żzomm l-ewwel post fil-qasam tal-persuni LGBTIQ http://www.one.com.mt/news/2018/05/14/malta-zzomm-l-ewwel-post-fil-qasam-tal-persuni-lgbtqi-2/	One News	14 th May 2018
30	IVF and human rights - Silvan Agius and Gabi Calleja https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180517/opinion/IVF-and-human-rights-Silvan-Agius-and-Gabi-Calleja.679250	Times of Malta	17 th May 2018
31	Malta Tops European LGBT Human Rights Index For Third Consecutive Year https://lovinmalta.com/lifestyle/community/malta-tops-european-lgbt-human-rights-index-for-third-consecutive-year	LovinMalta	17 th May 2018
32	Leading the rainbow vision - Colette Farrugia Bennett https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180521/opinion/Leading-the-rainbow-vision-Colette-Farrugia-Bennett.679601	Times of Malta	21 st May 2018
33	Malta tops the gay rights league but daily life can still be a struggle for some https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/86983/malta_tops_the_gay_rights_league_but_daily_life_can_still_be_a_struggle_for_some#.XJe04yhKjIU	MaltaToday	24 th May 2018
34	Compensation for transgender prisoners kept in male section despite living as women https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180529/local/compensation-for-transgender-prisoners-kept-in-male-section-despite.680338	Times of Malta	29 th May 2018
35	Seven transgender prison inmates awarded €5,000 each in damages for 'truly disgusting' treatment https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/court_and_police/87176/seven_transgender_prison_inmates_awarded_5000_each_in_damages_for_truly_disgusting_treatment#.XJe5SihKjIU	MaltaToday	29 th May 2018
36	Prigunieri transgender ikkumpensati fuq ksur tad-drittijiet u diskriminazzjoni fil-ħabs https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/news/prigunieri-transgender-ikkumpensati-fuq-ksur-tad-drittijiet-u-diskriminazzjoni-fil-habs/	TVM News	29 th May 2018
37	Authorities will not appeal constitutional court ruling that found human rights breach of transgender prison inmates https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/87212/authorities_will_not_appeal_constitutional_court_ruling_that_found_human_rights_breach_of_transgender_prison_inmates#.XJe7RShKjIU	MaltaToday	30 th May 2018
38	Dignity is a human right in prison, too https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/interview/87294/dignity_is_a_human_right_in_prison_too#.XJe66ihKjIU	MaltaToday	3 rd June 2018

39	Updated: Embryo Protection Act amendments pass through Parliament http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-06-19/local-news/Delia-allows-for-open-vote-on-IVF-says-law-will-mean-death-before-birth-6736192054	Malta Independent	19 th June 2018
40	Id-drittijiet LGBTIQ idahħlu lil Malta f'suq turistiku ġdid http://www.one.com.mt/news/2018/06/24/id-drittijiet-lgbtqi-idahħlu-lil-malta-fsuq-turistiku-gdid/	One News	24 th June 2018
41	Gender Incongruence removed from Mental Health Chapter through ICD 11 http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-06-25/local-news/Gender-Incongruence-removed-from-Mental-Health-Chapter-through-ICD-11-6736192308	Malta Independent	25 th June 2018
42	Malta remains role model in EU for LGBT inclusivity https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180721/life-features/malta-remains-role-model-in-eu-for-lgbt-inclusivity.684921	Times of Malta	21 st July 2018
43	New "safe space" for LGBTIQ families to share experiences https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180827/local/new-safe-space-for-lgbtqi-families-to-share-experiences.687746	Times of Malta	27 th August 2018
44	LGBTIQ families may discuss and receive professional advice at President's Palace https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/lgbtiq-families-may-discuss-and-receive-professional-advice-at-presidents-palace/	TVM News	27 th August 2018
45	ARA: "Hidma lejn soċjetà tassew inklussiva" http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=70141	Inewsmalta	27 th August 2018
46	Safe space for LGBTIQ families created http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-08-27/human/Safe-space-for-LGBTIQ-families-created-6736195457	Malta Independent	27 th August 2018
47	"Jirreferu għalina l-omosesswali bħala imsieken jew imġienen" http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=70179	Inewsmalta	28 th August 2018
48	Vuċi għall-qraba ta' persuni LGBTIQ http://www.one.com.mt/news/2018/08/28/vuci-ghall-qraba-ta-persuni-lgbtqi/	One News	28 th August 2018
49	Gay men to be able to donate blood by next February https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/health/89120/gay_men_to_be_able_to_donate_blood_by_next_february#.XJe2pyhKJIU	MaltaToday	29 th August 2018
50	Irgiel gay b'pass eqreb biex jagħtu d-demmm... fi żmien sitt xhur apparat apposta biex jittestja d-demmm tagħhom http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=70248	Inewsmalta	30 th August 2018
51	Check Out Every Single Event Happening At Malta Pride Next Week https://lovinmalta.com/lifestyle/things-to-do/heres-every-single-event-happening-at-malta-pride-next-week	LovinMalta	September 2018
52	Why Isn't A Life-Saving HIV Prevention Medication Available For Free In Malta? https://lovinmalta.com/lifestyle/health/why-isnt-a-life-saving-hiv-prevention-medication-available-for-free-in-malta	LovinMalta	September 2018
53	Anzjanità b'dinjità għal persuni LGBTIQ http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=70441	Inewsmalta	4 th September 2018
54	'Pride' is a tool for social change Clayton Mercieca https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/interview/89354/pride_is_a_tool_for_social_change__clayton_mercieca#.XJe3WihKJIU	MaltaToday	9 th September 2018
55	LGBTIQ families may not be the norm but they are definitely normal - Rainbow Families Network http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-09-09/local-news/LGBTIQ-families-may-not-be-the-norm-but-they-are-definitely-normal-Rainbow-Families-Network-6736196074	Malta Independent	9 th September 2018

56	HIV medication should be free - LGBTIQ action plan https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180914/local/hiv-medication-should-be-free-lgbtiq-action-plan.689134	Times of Malta	14 th September 2018
57	Sports, schools and workplaces are next frontier for LGBTIQ strategy https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/89480/sports_schools_and_workplaces_are_next_frontier_for-lgbtiq_strategy#.XJe9TChKjIU	MaltaToday	14 th September 2018
58	Imniedi t-tieni pjan t'azzjoni għal persuni LGBTIQ http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=70782	Inewsmalta	14 th September 2018
59	Titnieda t-tieni Strategija u Pjan ta' Azzjoni għall-Ugwaljanza tal-Persuni LGBTIQ http://www.one.com.mt/news/2018/09/14/titnieda-t-tieni-strategija-u-pan-ta-azzjoni-għall-ugwaljanza-tal-persuni-lgbtiq/	One News	14 th September 2018
60	Gay Pride Day: New strategy to focus on 'mainstreaming' of LGBTIQ rights within society launched http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-09-15/local-news/Gay-Pride-Day-New-strategy-to-focus-on-mainstreaming-of-LGBTIQ-rights-within-society-launched-6736196359	Malta Independent	14 th September 2018
61	All colours of the rainbow as Valletta hosts Pride parade https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180915/local/all-colours-of-the-rainbow-as-valletta-hosts-pride-parade.689208	Times of Malta	15 th September 2018
62	Valletta celebrates gay pride as activists hope for greater understanding https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/89505/valletta_celebrates_gay_pride_as_activists_hope_for_greater_understanding#.XJe1rihKjIU	MaltaToday	15 th September 2018
63	Thousands attend Pride March to commemorate achievements and objectives of LGBTIQ community https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/thousands-attend-pride-march-to-commemorate-achievements-and-objectives-of-lgbtiq-community/	TVM News	15 th September 2018
64	'We urge the Church to be more inclusive and embracing towards LGBTIQ youth' - Drachma http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-09-15/local-news/We-urge-the-Church-to-be-more-inclusive-and-embracing-towards-LGBTIQ-youth-Drachma-6736196380	Malta Independent	15 th September 2018
65	Pride 2018 parade takes place in Valletta http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-09-15/local-news/Pride-2018-parade-takes-place-in-Valletta-6736196381	Malta Independent	15 th September 2018
66	Son, meet your gay parents https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180917/local/wheres-your-mummy.689265	Times of Malta	17 th September 2018
67	Karly Naudi: My earliest memory is running around the roof of my childhood home in my mother's heeled boots https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/question_and_answer/89545/karl_naudi_my_earliest_memory_is_running_around_the_roof_of_my_childhood_home_in_my_mothers_heeled_boots#.XJe4xShKjIU	MaltaToday	19 th September 2018
68	'Homophobic' comments on X Factor slammed by the government https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181022/local/homophobic-comments-on-x-factor-slammed-by-the-government.692304	Times of Malta	22 nd October 2018
69	Updated X Factor contestant's gay conversion comments trigger backlash https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/television/90315/x_factor_contestants_gay_conversion_comments_trigger_backlash#.XJe1TChKjIU	MaltaToday	22 nd October 2018
70	Updated: Watch - X Factor audition raises ire after contestant describes gay marriage a 'sin' http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-10-22/local-news/Watch-X-Factor-audition-raises-ire-after-contestant-describes-gay-marriage-a-sin-6736198191	Malta Independent	22 nd October 2018

71	FIRST: Conversation with Karly Naudi http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-10-23/local-news/FIRST-Conversation-with-Karly-Naudi-6736198221	Malta Independent	23 rd October 2018
72	TVM's X Factor decision 'did untold damage' to LGBTIQ youth - Equality Minister https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181024/local/tvms-x-factor-decision-did-untold-damage-to-lgbtqi-youth-equality.692462	Times of Malta	24 th October 2018
73	Helena Dalli: Il-vidjow tal-"gay li kkonverta" ma kellux jixxandar http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=72343	inewsmalta	24 th October 2018
74	Ir-Rappreżentanza Permanenti ta' Malta għall-Unjoni Ewropea timmarka l-Jum Dinji għall-Għarfien dwar Persuni Intersex http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=72422	inewsmalta	26 th October 2018
75	Matthew Grech demands government and MGRM apology after audition clip was removed http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-10-30/local-news/Matthew-Grech-demands-government-and-MGRM-apology-after-audition-clip-was-removed-6736198595	Malta Independent	30 th October 2018
76	Il-Ministru Dalli tirreagixxi għad-diskors tad-deputat Stellini li ddefenda d-dritt ta' Matthew Grech li fuq X-Factor qal li kien gay u kkonverta wara li sab lil Alla http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=72806	inewsmalta	5 th November 2018
77	'LGBTIQ People Don't Need Any Cure': Government Condemns Gay Conversion Comments After X Factor Malta Officially Apologises https://lovinmalta.com/opinion/reactions/lgbtiq-people-dont-need-any-cure-government-condemns-gay-conversion-comments-after-x-factor-malta-officially-apologises	LovinMalta	5 th November 2018
78	Equality Minister Hits Out At TVM For Allowing Gay Conversion Comments On X Factor Malta https://lovinmalta.com/news/equality-minister-hits-out-at-tvm-for-allowing-gay-conversion-comments-on-x-factor-malta	LovinMalta	5 th November 2018
79	New clinic for transgender individuals to open on Monday https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181106/local/new-clinic-for-transgender-individuals-to-open-on-monday.693612	Times of Malta	6 th November 2018
80	Equality is Malta's beacon - Helena Dalli https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181107/opinion/equality-is-maltas-beacon-helena-dalli.693648	Times of Malta	7 th November 2018
81	"Pass kbir għall-komunità trans Maltija" http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=73105	inewsmalta	13 th November 2018
82	'Queen of totalitarianism': Edwin Vassallo lambasts Helena Dalli over X Factor criticism https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181114/local/queen-of-totalitarianism-edwin-vassallo-lambasts-helena-dalli-for.694263	Times of Malta	14 th November 2018
83	"Tragward importanti favur l-ugwaljanza" http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=73156	inewsmalta	14 th November 2018
84	Sex into pizzas doesn't go https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181115/editorial/sex-into-pizzas-doesnt-go.694292	Times of Malta	15 th November 2018
85	'Ir-riskju li terapiji ta' konverzjoni għadhom iseħħu f'pajjiżna hu wieħed reali...ebda każ il-Qorti' - il-Ministeru għall-Ugwaljanza http://www.inewsmalta.com/article.php?ID1=73257	inewsmalta	17 th November 2018
86	LGBTIQ tourism next target for Malta https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/91167/lgbtiq_tourism_next_target_for_malta_#.XJe80ihKJIU	MaltaToday	23 rd November 2018

87	Businesses to sport rainbow stickers welcoming LGBTIQ patrons and tourists - Helena Dalli http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-11-23/local-news/Businesses-to-sport-rainbow-stickers-welcoming-LGBTIQ-patrons-and-tourists-Helena-Dalli-6736199810	Malta Independent	23 rd November 2018
88	Malta can increase LGBTIQ tourism niche https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/in-nicca-turistika-tal-malta-can-increase-lgbtqi-tourism-niche-fmalta-tista-tikber-izjed/	TVM News	23 rd November 2018
89	Sexual health, reproductive rights - Daniel Attard https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181126/opinion/sexual-health-reproductive-rights-daniel-attard.695174	Times of Malta	26 th November 2018
90	Respect and compassion - Carmen and Carmel Conti, Stephanie Galea, Pat and Anthony Girard, Louisa and Philip Grech, Louise and Ivan Laferla, Joseph and Joseanne Peregin https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181128/opinion/respect-and-compassion-carmen-and-carmel-conti-stephanie-galea-pat-and.695343	Times of Malta	28 th November 2018
91	Rescued migrants must not be sent back to Libya, NGOs insist https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181128/local/rescued-migrants-must-not-be-sent-back-to-libya-ngos-insist.695364	Times of Malta	28 th November 2018
92	Health minister plays down suggestion of increased HIV incidence with gay tourism drive https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/91475/health_minister_plays_down_suggestion_of_increased_hiv_incidence_with_gay_tourism_drive#.XJe2MSHkJIU	MaltaToday	7 th December 2018
93	EU split down the middle over Maltese document on LGBTIQ discrimination https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/europe/91491/eu_split_down_the_middle_over_maltese_document_on_lgbtiq_discrimination#.XJe4cChKJIU	MaltaToday	7 th December 2018
94	Malta is LGBTIQ 'champion' in Europe – Politico https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/malta-is-lgbtqi-champion-in-europe-politico/	TVM News	7 th December 2018
95	Over 50% of Maltese LGBTI students subjected to psychological harassment at school http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-12-16/local-news/Over-50-of-Maltese-LGBTI-students-subjected-to-psychological-harassment-at-school-6736200882	Malta Independent	16 th December 2018
96	NGOs make impassioned plea for stranded migrants https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181228/local/ngos-make-impassioned-plea-for-sea-watch-3-migrants.697881	Times of Malta	28 th December 2018

Collette Farrugia Bennett

	Article/Programme	Medium	Date
1	Familja Wahda	Radju Malta	24 th January 2018
2	Familja Wahda	Radju Malta	13 th March 2018
3	Familja Wahda	Radju Malta	10 th April 2018
4	LGBTIQ families may not be the norm but they are definitely normal - Rainbow Families Network http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-09-09/local-news/LGBTIQ-families-may-not-be-the-norm-but-they-are-definitely-normal-Rainbow-Families-Network-6736196074	The Independent	9 th September 2018
5	Ilsien in-nisa	One TV	11 th October 2018

LGBTIQ Equality Strategy & Action Plan

As part of the LGBTIQ Consultative Council MGRM provided feedback on the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and Action Plan and ensured that this included all the measures that the Labour Party had subscribed to in the Manifesto prior to the 2017 General Election were included. The Equality Strategy & Action Plan covers a number of thematic areas including:

1. LGBTIQ Equality Measures
2. Right to education
3. Right to health
4. Equality in sport
5. Right to private and family life
6. Freedom from hatred
7. LGBTIQ Civil Society
8. Right to seek asylum
9. Promotion of LGBTIQ equality on an International level
10. Other LGBTIQ measures

Trans sensitive and trans-specific Health Care

Following an amendment to the Fifth Schedule of the Social Security Act in February of 2018, the government launched a public consultation on Transgender Healthcare. MGRM held a number of consultation meetings with officials from the Ministry for Health and also provided feedback to the public consultation in conjunction with the Consultative Council insisting on a self-determination model of care that was non-pathologising. The Gender Wellbeing Clinic was launched in November 2018 providing trans specific healthcare to those over 16 years of age through a multi-disciplinary team appointed by the Ministry for Health.

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 of 2017 and around 150 responses from young people aged 13 to 22 who were in school were collected. The report was drawn up by Columbia University Teachers College and the publication will be launched in 2019.

Amendments to the Embryo Protection Act

In June 2018, parliament enacted changes to the Embryo Protection Act which did away with discriminatory provisions and decriminalised gametes donation. The amendments were contested by a number of right wing and Christian organisations. The new protocols came into effect in October 2018. These allow for lesbian couples and single persons to access IVF treatments.

Education

In November 2018, MGRM and the President's Foundation invited Minister Evarist Bartolo to meet with the Rainbow Family Network to discuss issues they faced in schools. A number of issues were raised by both LGBTIQ parents, their children, trans youth and the parents of trans youth. The Minister took this feedback on board and it is expected that this will lead to concrete initiatives in State schools. The MGRM also continued with its collaboration with the National School Support Services providing training to helping professionals from a further two colleges.

Local networking

In 2018, 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. It collaborated with other organisations for Pride Month and throughout the year met including the President's Foundation, Drachma, Drachma Parents, aditus, We Are, GSAM, ARC and LGBTI+ Gozo.

LGBTIQ Youth Activism the past & the present

On the 30th October MGRM launched a publication in collaboration with GSAM called LGBTIQ Youth Activism: the past & the present. The launch was held at St James Cavallier and was well attended. Colette Farrugia Bennett, the acting co-coordinator of MGRM and Bizuayehu Castaniere, the representative of GSAM gave a short speech while Mark Grech read out and reflected on some excerpts from the publication. At the end of the event an animation of the book produced by Cynthia Chircop was screened.

Nine interviews were conducted with the people who were pioneers of LGBTIQ activism; those who started the fight for LGBTIQ rights. This was important to get to know their stories and perspectives in relation to activism.

Twelve interviews with the younger generation of activists, those who will determine the future of the LGBTIQ movement were carried out also. The book describes the rewards of activism as well as the challenges one might encounter along this journey.

The purpose of this project was to inspire the young and not so young to engage in activism and to stand for what is right no matter what, as the activists recall their beginnings, with the hope that the publication serves as a point of reference in the setting up of other youth lead organisations and encourages young people to get involved.

The publication was possible thanks to the funding and support of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh's 'Be Active scheme' which enables the engagement and participation of young people as well as organisations.

A seat at the table:

The Coming of Age of the LGBTIQ Movement in Malta by Simon Bartolo

On the 11th April MGRM launched a publication called A Seat at the Table: The Coming of Age of the LGBTIQ Movement in Malta by Simon Bartolo at the Old University of Malta. The event was attended by the Prime Minister of Malta, Dr Joseph Muscat, Minister for European Affairs and Equality Hon. Dr Helena Dalli, Parliamentary Secretary Hon. Dr Clifton Grima and other dignitaries. Dr Mark Grech, Toni Attard and Simon Bartolo read their favourite excerpts of the book.

Over a period of one year MGRM worked on a publication aimed at documenting the history of the LGBTIQ Movement. This was part of a project entitled A Seat at the Table: The Coming of Age of the LGBTIQ Movement in Malta co-funded through VOPS 2017. Simon Bartolo was commissioned to research and author the publication.

What started off as the personal thoughts of a Maltese man living in Brussels turned into a journey of discovery. The book highlighted the journey Malta has undergone resulting in a complete change in attitude towards LGBTIQ rights, from being ultra-conservative to having a legal framework that has been referred to by the United Nations as ‘a gold standard’.

Simon Bartolo met some of the courageous people who were an integral part of this ongoing change in the mentality of a whole nation. He set out with just one question in mind, ‘what was the magic that made it all happen?’ The answers he gets are surprising, touching, funny, and poignant, but always life-affirming.

Through the project MGRM also started to create an archive of historical footage and photography related to the LGBTIQ movement in Malta. This will be an ongoing project and eventually will be available online.

Website

MGRM continued to add functionality to the new website. The beta site was launched in late 2017 and MGRM continued to increase its functionality throughout 2018. The website now allows users to select the publication they wish to order. Users can also select different types of membership and also donate to MGRM.

Social Media - RSS

Content

The Rainbow Support Service youth group continued to be promoted on social media, advising followers of the upcoming meetings a few weeks before through posts. Similarly, Kafe mill-Ufficju was advertised on social media through posts and event pages. The RSS page was also used to promote studies carried out locally by university departments, students as well as educational workshops by organisations.

In terms of post frequency, news and information (on studies, activities, workshops etc.) were shared a few times a month. Little other content was posted, which may be a reason for the slow increase in likes and low post reach over the year 2018.

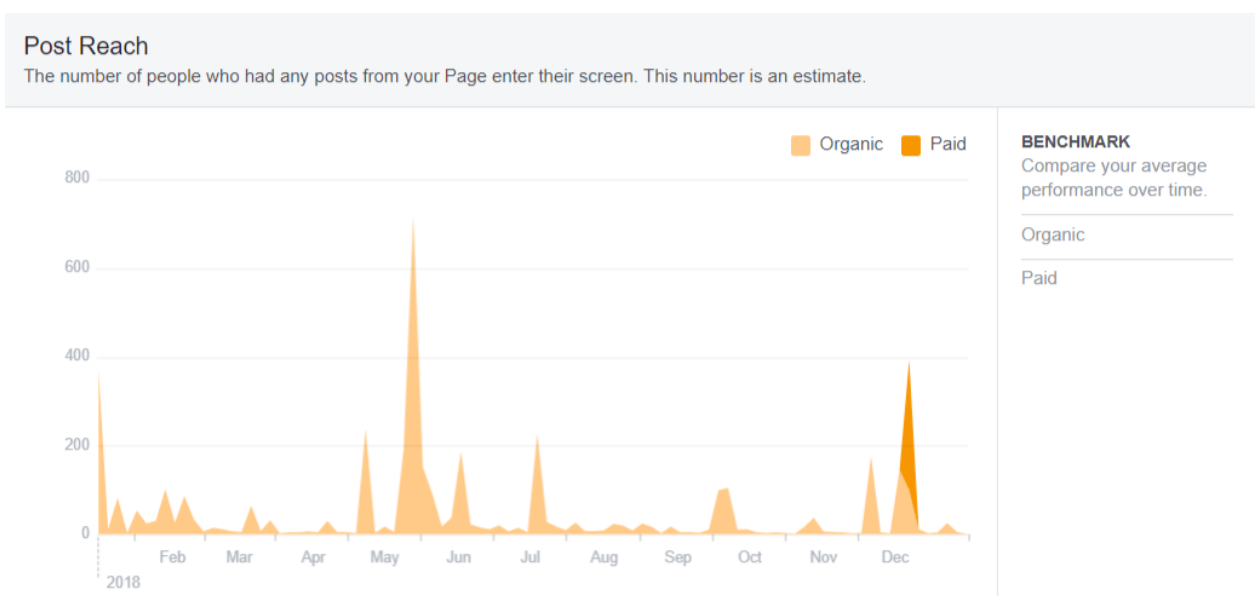
As attendance to the youth group dropped towards the end of the year, feedback on the RSS youth group was collected using a form shared on social media in December to be able to improve the group in the coming year and to figure out how to boost attendance.

Reach & Page Likes



(Page Likes for period 1/01/18 to 31/12/18)

Posts of the Rainbow Support Service page reached a peak of visibility on people’s news feeds towards the end of May and beginning of December, the former being organic reach and the latter being inorganic, ie. paid. The inorganic reach was due to boosting the Kafe mill-Ufficju event to help advertise it. The high organic reach in May was due to a number of posts, which collectively were promoting a study, Queer Camp, workshop or the youth group. The RSS page likes have increased by 144 likes from the start of 2018, which as mentioned earlier, could be attributed to the low frequency of posting on the page.



(Post Reach for period 1/01/18 to 31/12/18)

Social Media - MGRM

Content

International and local news, as well as reports and promotion of MGRM's own activities, social, educational and advocacy constitute the major part of the content shared on the page. The MGRM page was also used to promote studies carried out locally by university departments, students as well as educational workshops by organisations.

Posts with links gathered the most likes, with several posts attracting over 1,000 views, such as local news reports on the Gender Clinic, the announcement of the Rainbow Families Network, and Pride as well as promotion of the publications, *A Seat at the Table* and *LGBTIQ Activists: Past and Present*. Posts were relatively frequent, usually every few days.

Reach & Page Likes

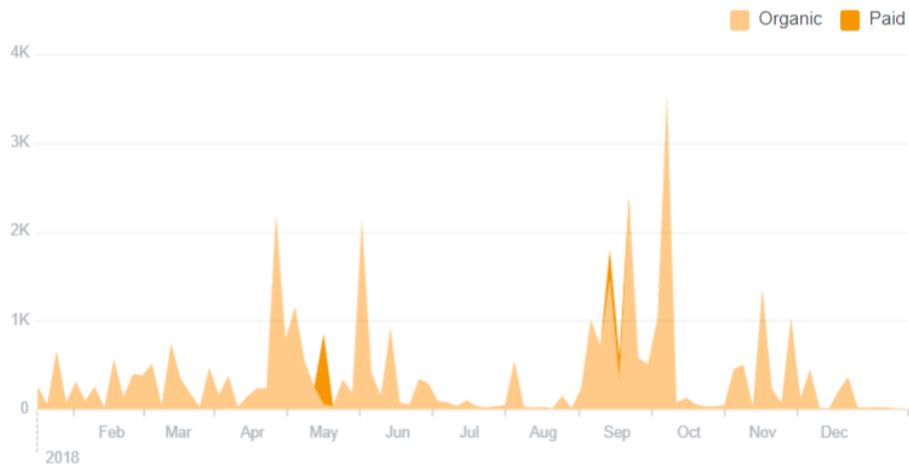
As of December 2018, the page likes stand at 3,057; an increase of 173 from the start of the year.



(Page Likes for period 1/01/18 to 31/12/18)

Post Reach

The number of people who had any posts from your Page enter their screen. This number is an estimate.



BENCHMARK
Compare your average performance over time.

Organic

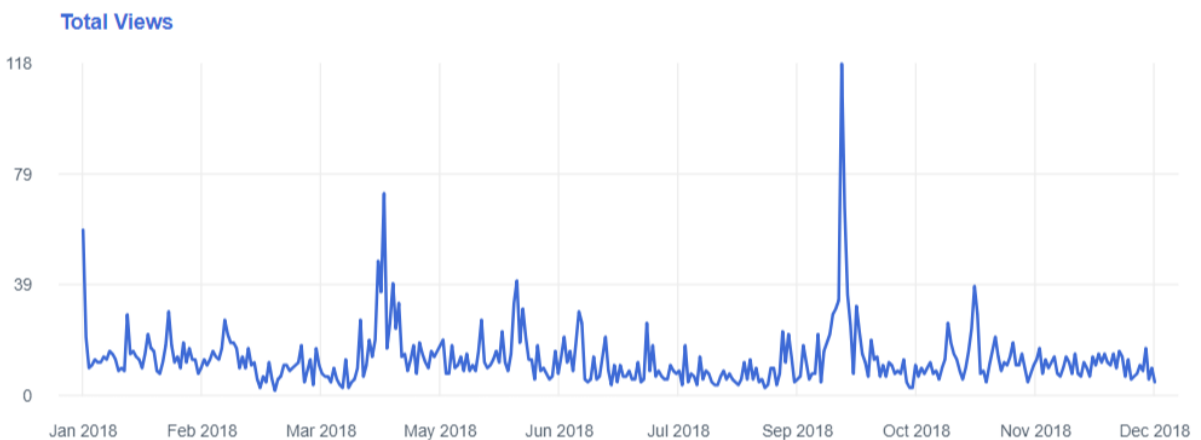
Paid

(Post Reach for period 1/01/18 to 31/12/18)

Post reach and page views was highest in mid-September, due to the numerous posts, photos and events during Pride Week as well as the march against domestic violence on Sep 22. Before that, the second highest peaks for post reach in May, is likely due to IDAHOT and April due to a number of posts; an interview with the PM, *A Seat at the Table* launch and the IVF Bill.

Total Views

By Section



(Page Views for period 1/01/18 to 31/12/18)

Conclusion on Social Media Marketing

The target audience of the Rainbow Support Service being youths from 13-18, as well as over 25s for the Kafe mill-Ufficju, greater importance should be given to social media in the coming year to reflect an increasingly digital savvy audience. From all the local LGBTIQ NGOs, MGRM has the highest following on Facebook and it would be wise to take note of this. In light of the popularity of news posts, low increase of page likes from the beginning of the year indicates there is room for improvement.

It is encouraged that in the coming year, other content will be posted on the RSS and MGRM pages to increase awareness of the group meetings as well as boost interaction with the LGBT+ community whilst continuing the usual informative posts.

Events

Below is a list of the activities and/or events which MGRM organized and/or collaborated on during 2018 with various aims including; networking, raising visibility for LGBTIQ issues as well as community building.

Kafe Mill-Ufficcju

12 events took place, every fourth Friday of each month. These events were facilitated and hosted by a member of the Rainbow Support Service team. The attendance at each event varied from a few persons to ten to fifteen persons. The events focused at giving LGBTIQ persons aged 25 years and over with the social space to meet other persons like themselves and engage in conversation over a cup of tea or coffee. The development of these events came about after the Rainbow Support Service team identified a gap in the activities available to the community.

A seat at the table – Book Launch

On Thursday 12th April 2018, MGRM launched ‘A seat at the Table’ written by Simon Bartolo and published by MGRM at the Aula, Magna, University of Malta Valletta Campus. The event was held between 7:00 and 9:00pm.

‘A seat at the Table; The Coming Age of the LGBTIQ Movement in Malta’ documents the history of the LGBTIQ Movement, the change in attitude toward LGBTIQ individuals and rights, the legal framework by meeting some of the people who were an integral part of this ongoing change. This project was funded through the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPS 2017) managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations.

The event was well-attended and was a successful launch; it was also attended by leading official of the Government including the Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat and the Minister for European Affairs and Equality, Hon.Helena Dalli.

Pride Week & Parade

For another year MGRM, kept its annual appointment in the preparatory meetings held every month including a number of organisations for pride week, which was held in September 2018 as well as the annual pride march on Saturday 15th September with the theme 'Pride at the Heart of the Mediterranean'. An open-air free concert at Herbert Ganado Garden followed after the parade with a number of foreign as well as local artists.

As part of the pride week events, MGRM hosted Women Space on the 12th of September at Maori, Valletta;

Women Space

Womenspace is a highly anticipated female only evening event, traditionally held on the Wednesday of Malta's Pride Week. Its origin goes back to 2005, when a group of women decided to come together to host the first WomenSpace at Golden Sands under the umbrella of MGRM.

Back then it was a chilled-out BBQ, overlooking the mesmerising view of Ghajn Tuffieha while listening to some good music, reading poetry and socialising with kindred women. However, throughout the years Womenspace evolved into a night of meaningful representation of womanhood by various powerful female artists including; Ira Losco; Amber; Chiara; Becca Spiteri; Cryptic Street and Cheryl Balzan amongst many others.

2018 marked the 13th year of gathering women from all walks of life. Welcoming LGBTQ and heterosexual women to come together to relax in a safe environment, meet likeminded people, share stories and empower women's identity and diversity. WomenSpace's staple Mojito Bar was traditionally held, Maltese ftiras were available for the people, the bar was open and LGBT merchandise

was available. This could have not been possible without the time and energy of 10 volunteers putting WomenSpace together.

The evening was hosted at Maori in Valletta by Oriana Farrugia. The line-up was varied with poetry reading by 8March365; Brooke and Claudia Faniello entertaining the audience with solo singing; Cheryl Balzan playing an acoustic session; Cryptic Street hyped everyone with their great good feel vibes and finished off with El Masriya Belly Dancers dancing the night away.

Rainbow Families Network Project

On the 27th of August, a press conference launching the rainbow families project was held. Her excellency, Marie Louise Colleiro Preca, Aditus Director, Dr. Neil Falzon, President's Foundation Director, Ruth Farrugia, MGRM Coordinator, Colette Farrugia Bennett and MGRM Member, Alex Caruana spoke about the benefits of the space the project will provide for their families.

The Rainbow Families Network is facilitated by MGRM in collaboration with the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society with the aim to offer a space for same-sex families and their children, parents of trans children and the children, individuals currently attending the fostering and adoption courses, receiving IVF treatment and pregnant women to discuss and debate family life.

On the 13th of September 2018 a consultation meeting was held at the President's Private Garden at San Anton Palace with same-sex parents and their children along with parents of trans children and the children themselves. 26 same-sex parents and 5 parents some of them couples of trans youths were present.

On the 6th of October 2018 the second event was held between 5 and 7pm. The first hour included refreshments and during the following hour all the groups of children and adults brainstormed and discussed the points they wanted to present during the following 3rd meeting with Hon. Evarist Bartolo.

On the 10th of November 2018 the third rainbow families network event was held. The Minister for Education and Employment, Hon. Evarist Bartolo was invited/present for the meeting to meet and discuss with the parents, children and youths and discuss most of the feedback was given during the 1st Rainbow Families network event regarding the area of education and schools. Around 30 people attended.

LGBTIQ Youth Activism; The Past & The Present - Book Launch

On Tuesday 30th October, MGRM organised the launch of the book; 'LGBTIQ Youth Activism; The Past & The Present' at St. James Cavalier in Valletta. 'LGBTIQ Youth Activism; The Past & The Present' is a short narrative of the experiences of twenty-one activists within the Maltese society; nine interviews with the activists who were/are part of the LGBTIQ Movement and twelve younger activists within the LGBTIQ community. The narrative also gives the opportunity to youth to relate with the experience of other youth activists and their story and what motivates them to be engaged in advancing human rights. The Project was funded and supported by 'Aġenzija Żgħazagħ's Be Active scheme. The books were distributed in different educational institutions such as; MCAST, Junior College, Higher Secondary, the University of Malta, different youth hubs/youth drop ins and voluntary organizations.

Frederick Bartolo Pamis

Accounts

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December

	2018		
	€	€	€
Income:			
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			-
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			-
Civil Society Organisations Fund			-
Be Active Scheme #OurStory			-
VOPS RSS Grant 2016			2,519
Civil Society Organisations Fund 2016			-
UNI-Form			-
PSP Agreement 2017 - 2019			40,426
VIIV Healthcare HIV Project			600
Civil Society Fund 2017			-
VOPS 2017			6,692
AZ Be Active Scheme Broken Lens			-
IE Refugee Fund			10,737
VOPS 2018			1,086
Google Grant			2,335
AZ Be Active Youth activism Project			1,162
Agenzija Zghazagh MOU			-
Donations & Fund-Raising			4,750
Membership Fees			<u>60</u>
			70,366

Administration Expenses:

P.R. Literature & Brochures	1,743		
Salaries	27,829		
NI Contributions	-		
Rent	8,000		
Water & Electricity	1,474		
Printing	2,683		
Postage	88		
Telephone	773		
Internet & Web-based Subscriptions	231		
Office Stationery	118		
Books	1,704		
Legal Fees	-		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	-		
Professional Fees - Researchers	14,055		
Office Machine Maintenance	-		
Refreshments	512		
Premises Expenses	650		
Bank Charges	158		
Depreciation - Office Furniture & Equipment	<u>659</u>	60,678	

Event Expenses:

Travelling	8		
Conferences	1,948		
Entertainment	100		
Permits	-		
Equipment Hire	449		
Training Costs	-		
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>7,432</u>	<u>9,937</u>	<u>70,615</u>

NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)**(249)****BALANCE SHEET****As at 31st December**

	2018	
	€	€
Fixed Assets:		
Office Furniture & Equipment		1,357
Current Assets:		
Sundry Debtors	-	
Bank Current A/c #1	20,847	
Bank Current A/c #2	13,040	
Bank Savings	1	
Bank Current A/c #3 - UNIFORM	1	
Bank Current A/c #4 - VOPS18	3,895	
Petty Cash	<u>630</u>	<u>38,414</u>

	39,771
Current Liabilities:	
Sundry Creditors	1,300

TOTAL NET ASSETS 38,471

Represented by:

ILGA HRVDF Reserve	-
Rausing 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	5,123
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	-
CSOM Fund 2016 Reserve	-
UNI-Form Reserve	-
PSP Agreement 2017 - 2019 Reserve	9,946
VIIV Healthcare HIV Project Reserve	1,077
Civil Society Fund 2017 Reserve	-
VOPS 2017 Reserve	362
AZ Be Active Scheme Broken Lens Reserve	20
IE Refugee Fund Reserve	(3,886)
VOPS 2018 Reserve	2,834
Google Grant Reserve	6,286
AZ Be Active Youth activism Project Reserve	20
Agenzija Zghazagh MOU Reserve	5,000
Accumulated Surplus	<u>9,849</u>
	<u><u>38,471</u></u>

Workplan 2019

		Objectives	Actions
Goal 1: GOAL: To achieve legal equality of LGBTIQ individuals	1a	The facilitation to the right to Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Bodily Integrity & Physical Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise awareness on depathologisation legislation amongst medical & health practitioners ▪ Facilitate the notarial declaration process and transitions between prison sections ▪ Maintain communication with prison authorities ▪ Facilitate access to information to trans inmates ▪ Monitoring of GIGESC implementation with regards to prison trans inmates
	1b	The provision of anti-discrimination legislation in the provision of goods and services to LGBTIQ people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness campaign on the Equality Bill provisions targeting LGBTIQ community
	1c	Marriage equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness raising on time-limit for conversion of civil unions to marriage
	1d	The enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preservation of gametes is available for trans persons ▪ Monitor access to the IVF services
	1e	Constitutional amendment to include sex characteristics (Intersex) in grounds of non-discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaise with MEAE and LGBTIQ Consultative Council on putting forward constitutional amendment
	1f	Equal treatment in cohabitation legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not Raise awareness about the cohabitation legislation provisions
	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"> ▪ Ensure presumption of parenthood effectively implemented ▪ Meeting with MFCS re. access to adoption;

Goal 2: To have policies that refer to and are inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics	2a	Mainstreaming of LGBTIQ issues in policy and service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor implementation of LGBTIQ Equality Strategy & Action Plan 2018-2022
	2b	Professional Bodies to issue policies that address LGBTIQ issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set meeting with health and mental health professionals associations ▪ Set a roundtable discussion with Institute of Maltese Journalists regarding reporting standards on LGBTIQ issues
	2c	Health-care policies that are inclusive of LGBTIQ, including LGBTIQ segregated data in mainstream research and surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow-up with the Director for Human Rights & Integration regarding reversal of life-time ban on blood donation by MSM ▪ Improved pharmaceutical treatment regime for HIV ▪ Introduction of free-of-charge PrEP & PEP ▪
	2d	Policies on the treatment of trans and intersex persons by government institutions and public entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate for the setting up of the Gender Clinic in full respect of legal framework ▪ Advocate for reestablishment of the intersex working group
	2e	Safe and Inclusive school climates for LGBTIQ students and educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor implementation of LGBTIQ Action Plan measures ▪ Publication of School Climate Survey Results ▪ Development of a module at University of Malta ▪ Delivery of module at University of Malta ▪ Provision of training and consultancy services to schools on request ▪ Liaising with schools to advocate for LGBTIQ students
	2f	Social Security and Housing provision that is inclusive of LGBTIQ individuals and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor implementation of Civil Union, Marriage Equality and GIGESC legislation ▪ To check that forms with respect to applications for housing and social security now include same-sex couples and X provision
	2g	National Implementation of LGBTIQ Action Plan on Equality adopted by Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor implementation of LGBTIQ Equality Strategy & Action Plan
	2h	The effective implementation of hate crime legislation and monitoring of hate crimes; support to victims; etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain links with the Police Academy and Police Victim Support Unit

Goal 3: To bring about positive societal attitudes towards and the social inclusion of LGBTIQ people	3a	Raise awareness and visibility of LGBTIQ people and the issues which affect them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation in TV and Radio programmes ▪ Participation in LGBTIQ & Women's Consultative Council ▪ TRANSformazzjoni Documentary Project VOPS 2018 Funding
	3b	Promote a norm critical approach to gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training provided to Professionals ▪ Liaise with other NGOs in the provision of training & workshops
	3c	Raise the visibility and acceptance of LGBTIQ families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Content on website specific to rainbow families
	3d	Raise the visibility and awareness of LGBTIQ Elderly and advocate for inclusive policies and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Webpage on new website ▪ Liaise with Gender Studies & Gerontology Department on research study ▪ Re-issue Grey Pride booklet
	3e	Raise awareness of how intersectionality can compound difficulties faced by LGBTIQ persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor Implementation of LGBTIQ Equality Strategy & Action Plan
Goal 4: To empower the LGBTIQ community to engage in social and political issues that are of direct concern	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"> ▪ MGRM membership drive linked to facebook and new website ▪ Updating of website by respective committee members
	4b	Increase MGRM's visibility among the LGBTIQ community and strive for greater participation and representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly newsletter to increase awareness of MGRM's work ▪ Leaflet on MGRM ▪
	4c	Increase participation in MGRM's events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve visibility of MGRM events
	4d	Encourage the emergence of positive LGBTIQ role models from within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Page on website highlighting LGBTIQ Role Models ▪ –Disseminate LGBTIQ Youth Activism - the Past and the Present Booklet
	4e	Promote respect for diversity within the LGBTIQ community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporate and highlight intersectional issues on MGRM media
	4f	Build the capacity of the LGBTIQ community to advocate on its own behalf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in EU monitoring of Code of Conduct ▪ Training of trans persons interested in appearing on media

Goal 5: Provide support, assistance and information on LGBTIQ issues to LGBTIQ persons and their families	5a	Continue to develop the Rainbow Support Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of PSP Agreement ▪ Youth Group for LGBTIQ young people ▪ Re-negotiation of PSP Agreement for 2020-2022 ▪ Kafe' mill-ufficju ▪ CCF Support Group ▪ Rainbow Families Network ▪
	5b	Develop leaflets, booklets and other resources for LGBTIQ individuals and their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publish Leaflets on Trans
	5c	Training of a broad range of professionals and service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide training on request
	5d	Build our capacity and identify strategies to address the specific needs of bisexuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commemorate International Bisexuality Awareness Day - 23rd September
	5e	Develop support services and raise awareness regarding LGBTIQ health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with Health Promotion on HIV and STI Campaigns; Participate in HIV Testing Week; Keep project webpage updated ▪ Participate in UM Research Symposium in May ▪
Goal 6: To network with other organisations in achieving common	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"> ▪ Participate in platforms such as PRIDE; PHROM; ARC; Drachma; LGBTIQ/Gender Consultative Councils ▪
	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
Goal 7: To make MGRM a sustainable organisation	7a	Increase the capacity of MGRM to achieve its mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Register with EUPA for EVS posting and issue call for internships related to specific initiatives;
	7b	Establish funding streams and continue building on its human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work on building accounting system ▪ VOPS; AZ; EU Funding; Arts Council; SIS ▪ Membership Scheme
	7c	Maintain and seek new international links and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain links with TCEN; IE; TGEU; GLSEN; NELFA: ENP; OII Europe and IGLYO
	7d	Improve the administrative capacity and efficiency of MGRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiate process to register MGRM as a legal entity
	7e	Develop a communication strategy for the organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draw up priority communication targets for 2019 ▪
	7f	Clarify MGRM's position on major socio-political issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a position paper on sex work