

Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement

Annual General Meeting

Date: 24 March 2020

Venue: Online via GoToMeeting

Members Present - JG, CC, KC, MN, CFB, MAA, MG, AC, RB, AC, MH, AD, MVG, FBP, MT, KF, EM, RP

Agenda

1. Appointment of Chairperson
2. Reading of Minutes
3. Reading of Annual Report
4. Presentation of MGRM Work Plan 2020
5. Nomination of Candidates for the new Committee
6. Appointment of Internal Accountant and External Auditor
7. Appointment of Lawyer
8. Changes to Statute

Minutes

Meeting started at 7.15pm

1. Appointment of Chairperson

CC nominated Dr Marceline Naudi as Chairperson. JG seconded Dr Naudi's nomination. Members approved unanimously.

2. Reading of Minutes of 2019 AGM

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were read by CC and approved unanimously.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report (Administrative and Financial) 2019

The Annual Report was introduced by Cynthia Chircop and respective members of the committee who contributed to the writing of the report presented the various sections and sub-sections. During the reading of the report discussions around respective areas arose.

MN introduced the section on Social Welfare. AC presented the sub-section on the Rainbow Families Network and the LGBTIQ Youth Group. CFB presented the sub-section on the Rainbow Support Services and the Trans Support Group at CCF, and a discussion took place on the different achievements of all sections.

CFB presented the Trans* Health sub-section of the LGBTIQ Health Section. JG presented the HIV sub-section. Both focused on the improvements in the various aspects. With respect to HIV, JG explained that treatment remained inadequate by today's standards and community-related work needed to be done to further empower the PLHIV community.

MN introduced the Projects section, and invited AC to introduce the TRANSformazzjoni project, the collaboration with Zfin Malta and ZiguZajg, together with the Safe and Seen project. The events were all well attended, and MGRM provided important input in the projects it collaborated in.

MN introduced the International Relations section. MH presented the Commonwealth Equality Network section and spoke about the various work MGRM is doing through the CEN. Alex spoke about the Critical Thinking Awareness Training, TGEU Extraordinary Assembly: Berlin, Transgender: International/Intersectional Conference: Edinburgh. CC spoke about the IGLYO/ILGA AGM and JG presented the PrEP in Europe section.

MN introduced the Media section and CC spoke about MGRM's participation in the various local media.

MN introduced the Advocacy and Lobbying Section. AC presented the LGBTIQ School Climate Survey, Education sections. Discussion centred around the work MGRM does with schools, and how educators react to this training. The participation of Hon Mr Evarist Bartolo was discussed. AC went on to discuss MGRM's work with the Victim Support Unit, where work focused not just on LGBTIQ but also on topics such as asylum seekers. AC also introduced the Local Networking topic that is mainly centred around the various Councils in which MGRM participate, together with the various organisations with whom MGRM works. MH spoke briefly about MGRM's participation in PHROM which is struggling since activity is low. Discussions are ongoing about rejuvenating the platform. JG presented work related to the Paceville Survey report and expounded on the media interest surrounding the report, together with the interest shown by members of the new government.

MN introduced the Marketing section, and CC spoke about the various online campaigns, work related to social media and website, together with the TRANSformazzjoni documentary, leaflets related to HIV, and various other reprints of existing leaflets related to the Rainbow Support Services. CC also spoke about MGRM's presence on social media and presented some statistics. JG presented the section on HIV Malta and presented statistics from hivmalta.com and the sub-committee's facebook page.

MN introduced the Events section and CC presented the University Research Symposium sub-section, TRANSformazzjoni Launch, and The Death and Life of Marsha P Johnson. KF introduced the Womenspace section.

MAA presented the If I speak: A Tunisian Documentary section. He described the event and how it progressed. JG presented the Fatta! Event and the manner in which HIV was included as a topic within the event.

JG Presented the Financial Report. The report has been seen by the organisation's internal accountant and is pending audit. Several questions were made by MT and RB surrounding the salary which MGRM pays its employee, and about whether MGRM should consider granting a one-time bonus to its employee. JG and CFB explained how the salary is pegged with the Foundation's salary scales, however we could consider granting one-time bonuses. The accounts will be approved at an extraordinary AGM and will then be submitted with the annual returns.

Following due discussion both Annual and Financial reports for 2019 were approved unanimously.

4. Presentation of MGRM Workplan 2020

CC presented the draft Work Plan which is still under review. Once it is reviewed and published it will be presented and approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

5. Candidates for the MGRM Committee

The positions that need to be filled are those of two Co-Coordinators, one Administrator, one Treasurer and five Members. The nominations received were the following:

Cynthia Chircop was nominated by KF and seconded by AC for the post of Co-Coordinator. The post was uncontested, and her election was confirmed by a vote of confidence by the members.

Colette Farrugia Bennett was nominated by JG and seconded by AC for the post of Co-Coordinator. The post was uncontested, and her election was confirmed by a vote of confidence by the members.

Kirsty Farrugia was nominated by MH and seconded by FBP for the post of Administrator. The post was uncontested, and her election was confirmed by a vote of confidence by the members

Joe Grima was nominated by CC and seconded by AC for the post of Treasurer. The post was uncontested and his election was confirmed by a vote of confidence by the members

Five nominations were received for the post of Member.

1. Mark Harwood nominated by FBP and seconded by CC
2. Frederick Bartolo Parnis nominated by KF and seconded by MH
3. Mohamed D'Ali Agrebi nominated by JG and seconded by KF
4. Amanda Cossai nominated by AC and seconded by KF
5. Kim Cauchi nominated by AC and seconded by CC

All five nominations for the five posts were uncontested and the election of the nominees was confirmed by a vote of confidence by the members.

6. Appointment of Internal Accountant and External Auditor

Marisa Xuereb, was nominated by JG and seconded by FBP as Internal Accountant. Alison Attard was nominated by JG as external auditor, and seconded by FBP. Ms Xuereb and Ms Attard's appointments were approved unanimously.

7. Appointment of Lawyer

Neil Falzon was nominated by JG and seconded by AC as Lawyer to MGRM for 2020. Approved unanimously.

8. Amendments to Statute

CC presented the amendments to the statute which proposed going back to a single coordinator. This is because although two nominations were received for the post of co-coordinators, CFB would remain a silent coordinator and preferred to return to the post of member. A discussion ensued on whether MGRM should shift to having one rather than two co-coordinators. RB and MT questioned whether it was ideal to change the statute so soon after it had been changed to appoint two co-coordinators which was felt as a better position to be in from a governance point of view. CFB was encouraged by various members to retain the role of co-coordinator and CFB accepted. Following discussions, it was decided that MGRM would not amend the statute, and the amendments were therefore rejected. MN reminded the committee that the post of co-coordinator was a position that carried legal responsibilities and needed to be taken seriously.

MG asked whether MGRM was still considering moving the organisation to become a legal entity. RP suggested that this should be an important item on the agenda for the new committee. All present agreed that this should be an important discussion held as soon as possible.

Dr Marceline Naudi congratulated the new committee members, and thanked the assembled members present. The AGM was brought to a close.

Meeting ended 21:50