



Making invisible men, visible.

"I am so grateful to Men's Aid, they found a way to continue supporting me by phone and zoom. My home life was a living hell during lockdown. The Helpline and counselling support literally saved my life". Barry, 45, Dublin.

Report 2020





About us

Our society has chosen to neglect abused boys and men for decades. Men's Aid is determined to continue to offer a safe place for men to speak about their experiences in the strictest of confidence. Taking that first step is vital in order to start to heal and rebuild.

Men's Aid is working hard to secure accommodation solutions for victims who are male, including GBTQI+. We believe all genders deserve equal supports in order to live life free from the threat of harm.

Men's Aid Ireland

St. Anne's Resource Centre
Register Charity Number 13025
RCN: 20039479

Railway Street
Company Registration Number 489263
Co. Meath.



A note from our Chairperson – Seamus Scott

Hello everyone,

I am extremely grateful for all the support we have received in 2020. In particular for the dedication of the Men's Aid team and their sterling work supporting men given the challenges Covid-19 brought to us all.

In 2020 we saw the best of times and the worst of times. To ensure continuity of our services, the team quickly adjusted and adapted to remote working. In fact, the team responded to the growth in demand at the frontline all through Covid 19.

Our Board have been solid in directing and working in the wings behind our team and ensuring we continued to respond to the broad and complex needs of vulnerable victims of domestic violence.

We welcomed new board members who brought along new insight and experience. Without people giving their time and energy on the board we would not be able to accomplish so much with a small team and tiny government funding.

In January 2020, the board and I were delighted to welcome our new CEO Kathrina Bentley who brings a new energy to our mission and is a very dedicated person. Kathrina is committed to our cause and what it stands for and is striving to bring greater awareness to the many changes that need to happen for men and the families subjected to domestic violence including coercive control.

I was encouraged to see the response from the Dept. of Justice, Tusla and An Garda Síochána with their strong messaging encouraging any person who is not safe to come forward for support with their national #StillHere campaign. It was also terrific to see the #StillHere supported by media outlets and the public.

We are very thankful for the donations received from around the country, all donations go towards our frontline services. We would not be able to do what we do without the funding from Government and Tusla for which we are grateful.

We are thankful for your continued support and generosity which is helping to make a vast difference to the lives of thousands of men. Your support gives confidence and encouragement to the men to come forward and seek our help.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Men's Aid I present this report to you and thank you for your continued support.

Seamus Scott
Chairperson



“Hi, I was given your name by my doctor.

I am 72 years old and really I feel that I should just roll up into a ball and die. I have realized for some time that I am suffering mental abuse from my wife, and have been for 40 odd years”.

*John **



Men’s stories – How they impact the whole family

1. Hi Mens Aid,

I have only just found your website after an article I read in the paper. I have suffered for years at the hand's of my wife. We have been married over seven years and have two children ages 5 and 3.

The verbal abuse started before we were married and the physical a few months into it. Initially I didn’t realise what was happening. When my wife started to push me around, I started to push her back. But as her abuse became serious I quickly got the measure of the situation and simply stood to take it.

I realised that retaliation "was not the solution".

The verbal abuse is still simmering in the mode of “don’t start me”, which I know will once again progress into physical form. I never know one day to the next what her mood is going to be, or how it may develop. I am truly walking on egg shells never knowing when one is going to break. I hold the same aspirational values as women i.e. to have mutual respect in a relationship and not have to endure violence.

Seamus. *

A daughters story ...

Dear Sir or Madam

She has claimed to be the victim of extreme domestic violence for the past ten years. My father has never abused my mother. She was the abuser. My father is ill now and living in a dump while she still lives in our lovely house. My mother is winning with her lies. I could write a lot more but not today. Can you please tell me more about your organisation or help us with some information on what he can do?

Eimear *





“Hi Men’s Aid,

Just dropping a note to say thank you. Last year was very difficult for my children and I. Thankfully their mum has moved out and so the kids are safe.

We can finally live in peace. Thanks for your support in the past.

JB





Making invisible men, visible.

Chief Executive's Report

Dear reader,

Thank you for picking up our annual report to read about our support service. I joined the team of Men's Aid in January 2020 and it was an extraordinary year to say the least. Given the low levels of reporting we wanted to make it as easy as possible for the student or men experiencing abuse to find us and seek support and very quickly we rebranded and renamed to Men's Aid.

As a national service who has been supporting men experiencing domestic violence for over 20 years, our team have a unique understanding of what it is like for men subjected to violence, coercive control, parental alienation even child abduction.

Our team are the experts on the ground and we know the challenges faced by men to come forward and seek support. We understand the gender bias, the fear, the shame, the stigma men feel. We listened to thousands of hours of disclosures including fear, isolation, and shame, stories of horrific violence, suicide ideation, and homelessness.

I have been encouraged to hear of Minister McEntee's commitment to this social issue and welcome the ambitious efforts in creating the next 3rd National Strategy to combat Domestic, Sexual and GBV. By including our data from 2020 and our frontline experience we will provide opportunities, as communities to reach out to victims and to work towards safer communities and a safer country.

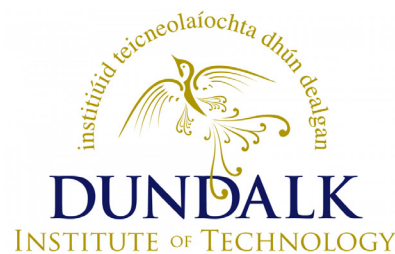
We are challenged every day by gender bias and inequality however, as I write this letter I am so proud of what our tiny team accomplished during 2020 as we know we changed and saved men's lives. We are hopeful our work will translate into national policy in order to reduce suicide, reduce homelessness and support the men on their journey to safety.

Equality and human rights are at the centre of all our work, always victim centric and we prioritise child safety with every call we take and every face to face meeting. Ireland has a lot of work to do to keep people and families safe and we are committed to work in a collaborative manner with fellow stakeholders to achieve zero tolerance for everyone.

Kathrina Bentley
CEO, Men's Aid
October 2021

Training

We are the experts in this field supporting men experiencing abuse, both from female and male partners. With over 20 years' experience, backed up with evidence based research from both Ireland the UK and across the globe. Our training is delivered by QQI level 6 accredited trainer and is in line with QQI standards. Our training can be delivered online and in person (in-line with covid-19 guidelines)



Impact

- We supported 5124 helpline calls
- Average call time increased to 40 + minutes
- Delivered 381 Counselling appointments
- Supported 182 men in the Dublin Family Courts.

2020 at a glance: Service Provision Summary:

The support services we provide include:

- National Helpline
- Face to Face information and support (Navan)
- Outreach (Dundalk, Monaghan, Cavan, Drogheda)
- Court Support (Dolphin House Family Law Court, Dublin & Dundalk Court House)
- Counselling (Navan in person, by phone & by zoom)
- Training Academy
- Advocacy, Lobbying, Policy.
- 5,124 men and their families supported through our Helpline, Outreach, Court Accompaniment and Counselling services.
- Helpline missed calls: 534.
- Highest Helpline volume day: November 2020, 40 calls got through our Helpline.
- Longer call duration as men wanted to talk and be heard (April – Dec 2020)

Top issues on Helplines:

1. Requesting information of court / legal order, law enforcement
2. Mental Health and Suicide ideation
3. Substance abuse by partner
4. Access, custody, guardianship issues including parental alienation
5. GBTQI+ / Farmers / Ethnic minority groups
6. Requiring safe accommodation to flee violence, with & without children



Who calls us and uses our support services ?

Our service is victim centric, supporting male victims and their families including:

- (18 year – 88 years old)
- LGBTQI+ people
- Older men 65+
- Traveller men
- Homeless men
- Men with addictions
- Men with mental health challenges
- Parents with abusive adult children
- Roma men
- Men in uniform (Garda, Army, Emergency Response)
- Men from ethnic minority groups
- Men with disabilities
- Isolated farmers
- Prisoners



Community Response Hubs & Court Support Locations

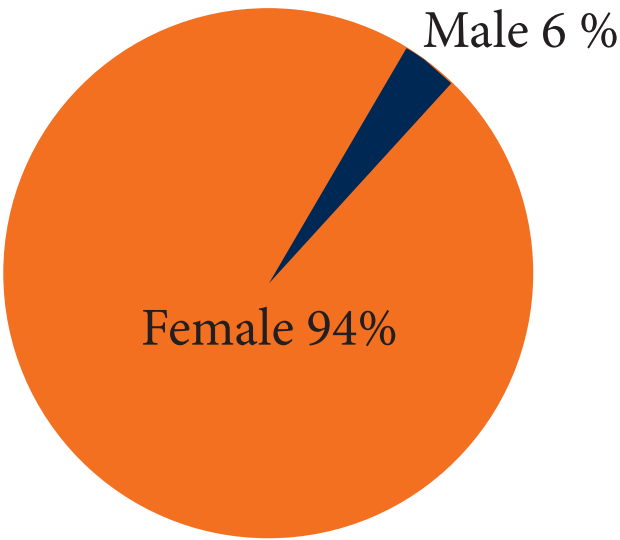
2020 at a glance:

Areas: 43% calls from Greater Dublin Area

Age Profile of callers:

18-25 years old	(7%)	
25-35 years old	(8%)	
35-45 years old	(12%)	
45-65 years old	(48%)	
65+ years old	(25%)	

Perpetrator Gender in 2020.





Court Accompaniment Page

182 men



We listen
We believe
We Support
No judgement
Validation

Counselling:

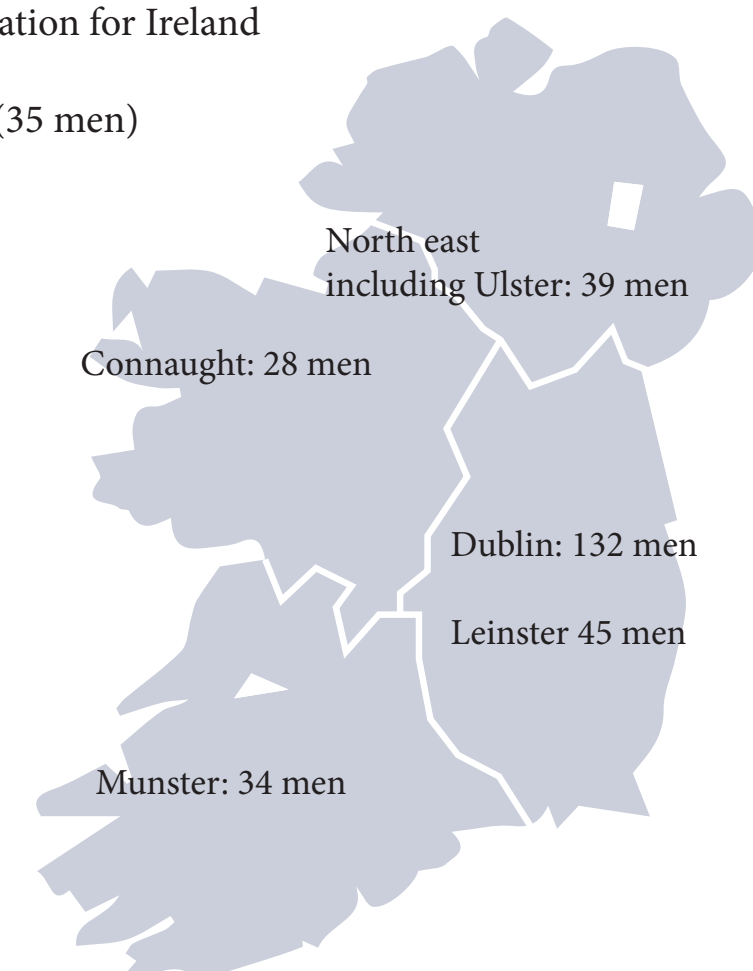
- 278 emergency counselling sessions by phone
Funded by The Community Foundation for Ireland
- 103 face to face Block counselling (35 men)



Rialtas na
hÉireann
Government
of Ireland



★ The Community
Foundation for Ireland





Awareness and Support

Our sincere thanks to Community Garda Stacey Looby of Navan Garda station for organizing #GoPurpleDay to highlight domestic abuse. It was an important day for Men's Aid and Meath Women's Refuge and we would like to thank Superintendent Fergus Healy, Inspector Peter Gilsenan and Sergeant Liam McCarville for their support. Thank you also to Meath Civil Defense, the ambulance services for attending and to Trim Fire Station who joined us virtually.

It was heart-warming to see the support from our local politicians, Helen McEntee TD and Damien English TD, local businesses and the general public come together to raise awareness and funding for Men's Aid and Meath Women's Service. A special shout out to Smith's SuperValu in Johnstown and Nally's SuperValu Trim who held bucket collections to raise funds for our vital services over that weekend.



In uncertain times, it is more important than ever to share experience, insights and advice with your peers so we can all learn from one another. With this in mind, we are having conversations with members across various sectors to understand how themselves and their teams have been coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, what they have learned from it and how they continue helping their customers.

For this week's instalment in the series we've chatted to Kathrina Bentley, CEO at Men's Aid.



Irish Independent  The Irish Catholic



Evening Echo

northern sound
The Spirit of Cavan & Monaghan

newstalk.com
106-108fm



shannonside
Longford, Roscommon & South Leitrim

Digital & Social Media engagement

As the world turned to digital platforms from March 2020 due to covid, we witnessed a considerable increase in engagement via our social media platforms and our website.

Visitors to our Website: www.mensaid.ie

21,437 users

20,391 new users

Twitter 1,050 = 794k impressions

Facebook 788 = Reached 17,318

Instagram 0 - 520 followers

Fundraising " Thank you " 😊

We would like to thank the exceptional generosity from a number of donors.

€50k was received in December 2020 from a corporate donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Large donations of €7,500, €5,000, €2,500 & €1k were also received in 2020.

Our thanks to Drew and David from Couch Eile who raised €593.

Huge thanks also to Colm and Robbie who hosted the bodhran workshop Bulabuzz and fundraised €1,152.00.

The Go Purple event raise €3,175 between ourselves and our friends in Meath Women's Refuge.

All funds go towards our frontline support work help the men and their families experiencing domestic abuse, including coercive control.

Statement of Accounts

Amen Support Services CLG
Statement of financial activities
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	Total
	Note			2020 €	2019 €
Income					
Donations		15,100	85,479	100,579	9,341
Charitable Activities		261,735	-	261,735	299,916
Total Income	4	276,835	85,479	362,314	309,257
Expenditure on					
Charitable Activities		253,250	1,260	254,510	323,928
Governance		9,151	-	9,151	41,325
Total Expenditure	5	262,401	1,260	(264,114)	(343,583)
Net (Expenditure)/ Income		14,434	84,219	98,200	(34,326)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		32	5,611	5,643	39,969
Total funds carried forward		14,466	89,830	103,843	5,643

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations. There are no recognised surpluses and deficits other than those passing through the statement of financial activities. A detailed breakdown of the above items is included in the notes to the financial statements

Statement of income and retained earnings
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 €	2019 €
Profit/(loss) for the financial year	98,200	(34,326)
Retained earnings at the start of the financial year	5,643	39,969
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	103,843	5,643

Governance

Men’s Aid Ireland is governed by a voluntary board of management lead by Chair Seamus Scott.

The Board provides oversight and strategic direction for the organisation. Board members do not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the charity. Upholding the highest standards of governance is a priority for the board.

Board of Directors



Seamus Scott (Chair – Appointed June 2020)

Seamus has trained in Counselling and Mediation, and has been working in the Non Profit sector for 15 years, with a special interest in Family Support. Seamus currently works and volunteers with 3 Irish charities; namely, Men’s Sheds, Families Support, and Men’s Aid with a view to working to meet and help the many demands facing Men, who are in need of support and professional help in the ever increasing area of Males experiencing abuse.



David Foot – Psychotherapist

David has been with the board since late 2018. He holds a degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy and works in private practise in Dublin with clients on a wide range of presenting problems, including survivors of abuse.



Liam J. Carroll - Barrister

Liam J. Carroll BL is from East Limerick and received his secondary education at St John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Limerick. He initially obtained an LLB Degree in Law before going on to study for his Masters in Law at the University of Limerick.Liam is a qualified Barrister, having been admitted to the Degree of Barrister-at-Law at the Honorable Society of King’s Inns. He has also been called to the Bar of Ireland and is a member of the Law Library of Ireland. Liam has worked in criminal, civil and family law in both Limerick and Dublin and has worked with the Legal Services Department of the HSE. He has also worked in the Research & Policy Division of the DPP.



Kate Liston - Family Law Solicitor

Kate graduated from NUI Galway in 2006 with an honours Bachelor of Corporate Law degree and was first admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales, Australia in February 2010, adding her name to the Roll in Ireland in 2017. Kate gained family law experience in another Limerick solicitors office before setting up Liston Family Law and has advised clients from across the mid-West including Limerick, Clare, Tipperary and Kerry. Kate is currently undertaking a Diploma in Family Law through the Law Society of Ireland concluding in Spring 2020 that is strengthening her expertise in this area of law



Thomas Hyland – Academic, University of Limerick

Tomás is originally from Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. He graduated from the University of Limerick in 2016 with a B.Tech. (Ed.), qualifying as a post-primary teacher for the subjects of Design and Communication Graphics, Technology, and Engineering. Tomás is an active researcher within the Technology Education Research Group (TERG) in Ireland and now lives in Athlone where he is employed as a research assistant in Athlone Institute of Technology. He is pursuing a PhD in Engineering Education through the University of Limerick where he is studying how people learn with respect to individual differences in cognitive ability. Tomás’ desire to support and help people is one of the primary motivations behind his interest in education and in his engagement with Men’s Aid.

Olive O’ Connor - (Retired June 2020)

Owen Connolly – Former Chair (Retired June 2020)

Acknowledgements

My special thanks to our incredible team who answer each call and each email with so much compassion, empathy and understanding. It is my privilege as CEO to represent our team.

I would to thank all those who supported our life saving and life changing service. Every donation in 2020 was needed and put to best use supporting vulnerable men. I would especially like to thank our funders, Tusla and the Department of Justice. Looking back at 2020, it was an extraordinary year however we know our service is a life line for so many men that it is our honour and privilege to be here to support them.

Kathrina Bentlev. CEO.

