



MEN'S
AID
Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Empowering
& supporting
Survivors of
Domestic
Violence.

#IMD2023

"When I picked up the phone to call Men's Aid, I wasn't sure what to say and thought that I wouldn't be believed. Hearing Joyce's compassionate tone and her reassuring words straight away put me at ease. I felt safe telling her my story. Joyce was the first person I talked with about my abusive situation, that was the start of my healing journey, that first call to Men's Aid".
- Tony



OUR MISSION

To empower and support men, their children and families who are experiencing domestic abuse/violence to be safe.

OUR VISION

We will provide a Domestic Violence service underpinned by a Children First principle and victim centric / human rights proofed approach aimed at ensuring all victims of Domestic Violence / Coercive Control receive the required support to be safe. Our service is specific to support male victims, their children and families.

OUR VALUES

1. CONFIDENTIALITY

We respect each person's privacy and abstain from sharing sensitive information internally and/or externally. Mindful we have a duty of care to ourselves and our clients and will take the initiative to raise any safety issue, on a case-by-case basis such as a child protection matter.

2. PROFESSIONALISM

We always conduct our duties in a professional manner.

3. RESPECT

We demonstrate ethical behavior and act responsibly amongst our community in the DSGBV and amongst wider stakeholders.

4. EMPATHY


We are empathetic, listen with sensitivity and without judgment or prejudice and support each other and those we support.

5. INTEGRITY

We will deliver our service in a non-discriminative way, doing the right thing even when no one is watching. We will act in a manner that reflects equality, inclusion, transparency, and fairness.

6. ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable and responsible for all our actions when representing the organization locally, nationally, and internationally.

A man with a beard and a blue beanie is carrying a young child on his shoulders. The child is wearing a white beanie, a grey scarf, and a tan jacket. The man is wearing a grey sweater and a dark blue jacket. They are outdoors in a park with autumn foliage in the background. The man is looking to the right, and the child is looking towards the camera with a smile.

"I wish this peer support group existed years ago as it would have helped me understand my options better. This group is truly the best support I have had during my difficult time."
- Tom

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



On behalf of our team, my fellow board directors, I would like to present our 2022 Annual Report.

As Chair, I am immensely proud of the entire team at Men's Aid. We are Ireland's **only dedicated domestic violence service supporting men and their families across Ireland.**

We are committed to meeting the needs of the male victim in line with **the 3rd National Strategy for Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Zero Tolerance**, published by the Department of Justice in June 2022.

We provide a national domestic violence support service underpinned by a Children First principle, a victim centric and human rights proofed approach aimed at ensuring all victims, their children and families receive the required support and service provision.

We recognise the hurt and pain that all victims of domestic violence and coercive control endure. We particularly have regard to the high intimate partner homicide rates amongst women in crimes associated with Domestic Violence and Coercive Control. In this regard we stand together with all of society in condemning these acts.

You will read about our 2022 data in this report. Our data is both concerning and welcomed.

The growth in the number of callers is evidence that men trust our frontline service, they feel confident, encouraged to make contact, seek help, knowing they are contacting a confidential safe space to disclose what has happened to them.

At Men's Aid, victims are represented across every demographic: age, (18+) class, socio-economic status, educational achievement, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual preference, religion, physical ability, or employment; no one is completely immune.

The increase in disclosures to Men's Aid shows the real need for more tailored strategies. **Our goal is to provide a targeted service meeting the needs of the male victim.**

We will continue to work collaboratively with the **Department of Justice and Minister for Justice Helen McEntee** to deliver the national strategy working alongside **Tusla, An Garda Siochana, The Courts Service, legal professionals, social workers, and all front line support services as well as the media** as we recognise this is a national social issue and we all have a part to play in eliminating DSGBV.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders, donors, supporters, fellow NGO colleagues, all stakeholders working in the area of DSGBV, my colleagues on the board and my predecessor Seamus Scott. And a very special thank you to the staff team who are so committed and passionate about helping the men we support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David Keane', with a horizontal orange line underneath.

David Keane

Chairperson, October 2023



"Whilst my marriage was very abusive and difficult, I stayed in a dangerous situation as I wanted to keep the bond with my children. It was the counselling support offered by Men's Aid that helped me choose positive choices and keep safe during that time. The kids are young adults now and they know I will always be there for them. I am in a new healthy relationship and life is good".

- John

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Welcome to our Annual Report 2022 and thank you for your interest and taking the time to read about our domestic violence support work.

In 2022, we supported another significant increase in demand for our frontline services.

We received 9,524 contacts.

This was an increase from 7,561 contacts in 2021, a 26% increase in demand year on year.

We are very encouraged to see an increase in demand for our frontline service. It tells us that more men have trust and confidence in our service and feel they can talk about their experience of domestic abuse. For too long, stigma, shame, fear meant that victims suffered in silence, with some older men delaying for years before telling anyone about the domestic abuse, they have endured during their life.

Reflecting on 2022 I can think of several key highlights. Firstly, 2022 commenced with **a strong media supportive spotlight on men's stories of domestic violence across Ireland**. TV, radio and print articles resulted in the highest level of calls on record, taken in one month as people reading, listening and watching identified with the coercive controlling behaviours which we have highlighted.

We extended our services adding three new part time roles, a support worker in **Galway Courts**, a support worker in **Waterford Courts** and we **launched the first LGBT+ Domestic Violence pilot programme** for Ireland.

Again in 2022 we were involved in supporting the "Go Purple" Domestic Violence awareness campaign. Garda Stacey Looby who founded

the **"Go Purple"** domestic violence awareness campaign lead by An Garda Síochana, saw her local initiative go from local to national, with the support of Garda stations and divisions nationally getting behind the campaign.

We have made numerous submissions at national strategy level representing the men, their children and families who use our service to ensure the voice of all victims, survivors and their families are heard and included in national policy.

Our working relationships with key agencies were strengthened through the many meetings, dialogue and data shared as we all have one common goal, inclusion, safety, and the elimination of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in our society.

We would not be able to deliver high standards of support effectively and impactfully without the support of our frontline colleagues. May I take this opportunity to thank Detective Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan and his team at the Garda National Protective Services Bureau and members of An Garda Síochana nationally, Emer Darcy and her team across the Courts Service, especially the great Courts Service teams in Dolphin House, Dublin, Galway, Waterford Courts where we have offices. The Department of Justice, who we work closely with on many

national strategy working groups, the social workers based in community, hospital, frontline settings who often refer clients to our service, the medical and healthcare professionals and GP's, who also make referrals to our service on behalf of their patients, and finally the legal professionals, Legal Aid Board, solicitors, and barristers as we support those navigating our family / criminal law system.

I am very grateful for the support and guidance of our Board of Directors, all who give their expertise and time in a voluntary capacity.

We are very thankful to our funders in 2022, Tusla, Department of Justice and the Community Foundation Ireland, who without their funding and grants, victims would not be able to avail of our services.

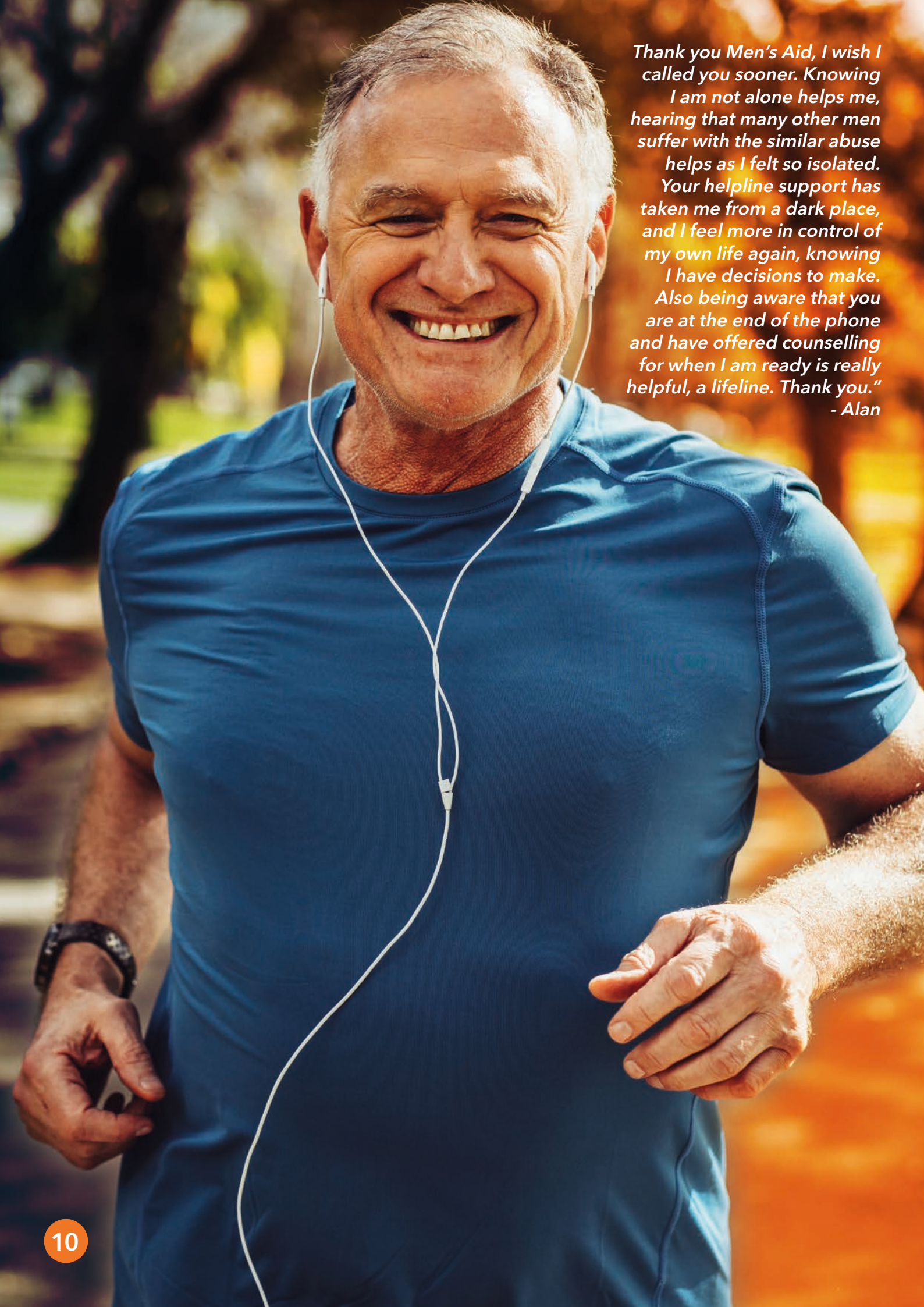
Lots done, so much more to do, we are committed and driven to to continue supporting victims of domestic violence.

Best wishes,



Kathrina Bentley

CEO, October 2023



Thank you Men's Aid, I wish I called you sooner. Knowing I am not alone helps me, hearing that many other men suffer with the similar abuse helps as I felt so isolated. Your helpline support has taken me from a dark place, and I feel more in control of my own life again, knowing I have decisions to make. Also being aware that you are at the end of the phone and have offered counselling for when I am ready is really helpful, a lifeline. Thank you."

- Alan

OUR SERVICES



1. NATIONAL HELPLINE

Our Helpline is staffed by highly experienced and trained support workers. The Helpline is the first point of contact to Men's Aid services and from the moment a victim calls, they are listened to, believed and supported. Each caller is given the time and understanding to talk about their experience in a safe confidential space.

For most men, making the first telephone call to our service is the first step towards healing and getting support. Picking up the phone, dialling our number and speaking about the abuse experienced, sometimes for the first time, can be the most daunting and frightening moment, we know this and we understand this.



2. ONE TO ONE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our outreach service is an in person appointment and an opportunity to get help and support completing various paperwork or more guidance on forms such as access, maintenance, domestic violence orders etc.

We also sign post to other services depending on the needs of the victim, such as legal matters, court support, risk and safety planning are offered..



3. COURT SUPPORT & INFORMATION CLINICS

Our court support and information clinics were available in Dublin, Galway and Waterford in 2022.

Our service includes:

- Supporting and listening
- Developing Trust & Promoting confidence

- Identifying potential risks
- Providing risk and safety planning options
- Help to navigate our court systems
- Informing victims of their rights
- Explaining court protective orders
- Information on access, custody, guardianship
- Referral to specific support services if needed



Our Waterford Court Support & Information Clinic is kindly funded by Community Foundation Ireland.

This new part time role commenced in the summer of 2022, during which time Carmel, our support worker covering Waterford and the South East supported 62 male victims of domestic violence. The Community Foundation Ireland kindly granted an extension on this important role and funding continues until April 2025 for which we are very grateful.



4. COUNSELLING APPOINTMENTS

Our team of therapists are all qualified and fully trained psychotherapists. They have additional years of experience and specialist training in the area of supporting male victims of domestic violence including coercive control.

We provide 1:1 in person counselling support for victims of domestic violence, partner violence, familial abuse including coercive control. Counselling currently takes place in Navan, Co. Meath. We are hoping to expand this service subject to funding.



5. PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Our peer group meet in person once a month in Navan, Co. Meath.

"I felt listened to, and heard" Isolation during abuse and trauma is common. Human and social connections are vital for mental health and well-being. Meeting other survivors of abusive relationships can improve your wellbeing, allowing you to talk openly about your experience. Our peer support groups are facilitated by psychotherapists.



Our team work tirelessly representing the voice of male victims in advocacy, policy and research:

1. NATIONAL & STRATEGIC CONSULTANCY GROUPS

We advocate for better supports and service provision for male victims by representing the voice of male victims, their children and families at a national and strategic level. We contribute at Government through, submissions, Oireachtas appearances and key stakeholder meetings.

Men's Aid - Advisory Panel members of the following collaborative groups:

- Department of Justice - DSGBV National Stakeholder Group
- Department of Justice - Zero Tolerance Strategy Implementation Group
- Department of Justice - Victims Forum Group
- Family Law Courts Practitioners Forum - Dolphin House, Dublin Family Law Courts
- Family Law Justice Reform Group
- Dundalk Court Forum
- Legal Aid Consultative Panel
- ECP Legal Aid Group
- County Louth & County Meath Working Group - Domestic Violence Resource Park
- Tackling Domestic Violence in Louth - "Breaking the Taboo" Group
- Men's Health Forum, HSE
- LGBT+ IPV Service Provision Group

2. RESEARCH

In line with the national strategy Zero Tolerance - we work towards gaining independent evidence based academic research with universities across Ireland. Men's Aid recognises the importance of academic evidence based research and we are committed to working along those in academia in order to provide informed responses to vulnerable men and their families. The evidence based independent research nurtures enhanced knowledge exchange between the academic and civic society partners with a view to more effectively responses to this complex and multifaceted challenge.

Studies with academic partners are one of the many key actions in our national strategy tackling DSGBV. In 2022, we continued our partnership with Dr. Corbally of Trinity College Dublin and her team.

3. AWARENESS AND EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

In 2022 we delivered workshops to both frontline professionals and workplace settings. Delivering to workshops to UCD, Sexual Violence practitioner group, the many Garda divisions but in particular the DPSU's and probationary Gardai, the Ballymun Community Law Centre, Social Work students at Trinity College Dublin, DKIT Level 8 class of 2022, MABS, the **"Breaking the Taboo"** interagency group in Louth.

We delivered many workshops to businesses across Ireland as some started to prepare their **"Domestic Violence Leave"** policy and training for staff. Our workshops were available as 45 minute sessions to 3 hour sessions.

In 2022 we delivered our strategy 2022 - 2025.

We gathered the views of both the public and key stakeholders whilst forming our 2022 - 2025 strategy by internal and external consultations. The ever-changing landscape in terms of meeting the needs of the victims requires us to tailor our services, and to do that we must listen to the victims and survivors.

The team at Men's Aid are supported to provide the above support service through the following:

- Ongoing training, in all aspects of domestic violence, coercive control, trauma informed, suicide ideation, family law etc.
- Develop deep understanding of the dynamics of Domestic Violence and Coercive Control (internal & external training)
- Having a support leader amongst the frontline team
- Undergoing accredited training
- Clear understanding of the in-camera rule and its impact on our roles
- Confidentiality
- GDPR
- We are governed by Children First guidelines



"It didn't dawn on me for years that it was domestic abuse, because I didn't know it could happen to men. so I didn't recognise the signs. What started out with isolating me from my family and friends turned into emotional and psychological abuse. I'm just starting my new safe chapter, it's a slow process but Men's Aid are with me for support, knowing this encourages me to keep going"
- Adam

9,524 CONTACTS

**1 in 4 were
first time
callers**

**26%
increase
compared
to last year,
2021**

**73%
increase
compared to
2020**

4,098

Helpline calls

1,346

Helpline calls missed
(2/3 calls missed outside of
9am - 5pm Monday to Friday)

1,534

**Emails dealt with
relating to DV**

1,193

**Texts dealt with
relating to DV**

267

**Outreach
appointments**
across our Navan (211),
Dundalk (42), Cavan (11),
Drogheda (3) support clinics.

449

**Court support
& information
appointments**
Dublin Dolphin House (318),
Galway (71*), and Waterford
Courts (60*).

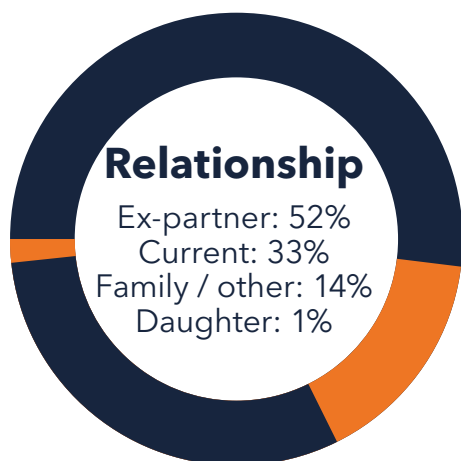
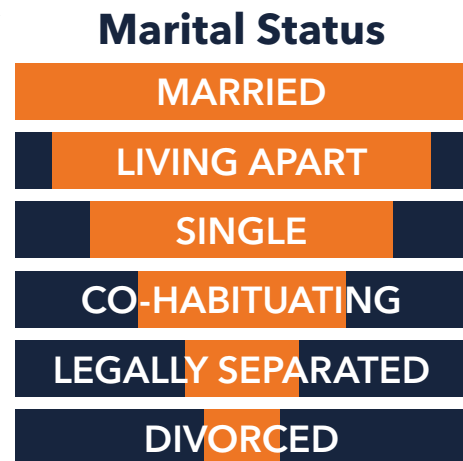
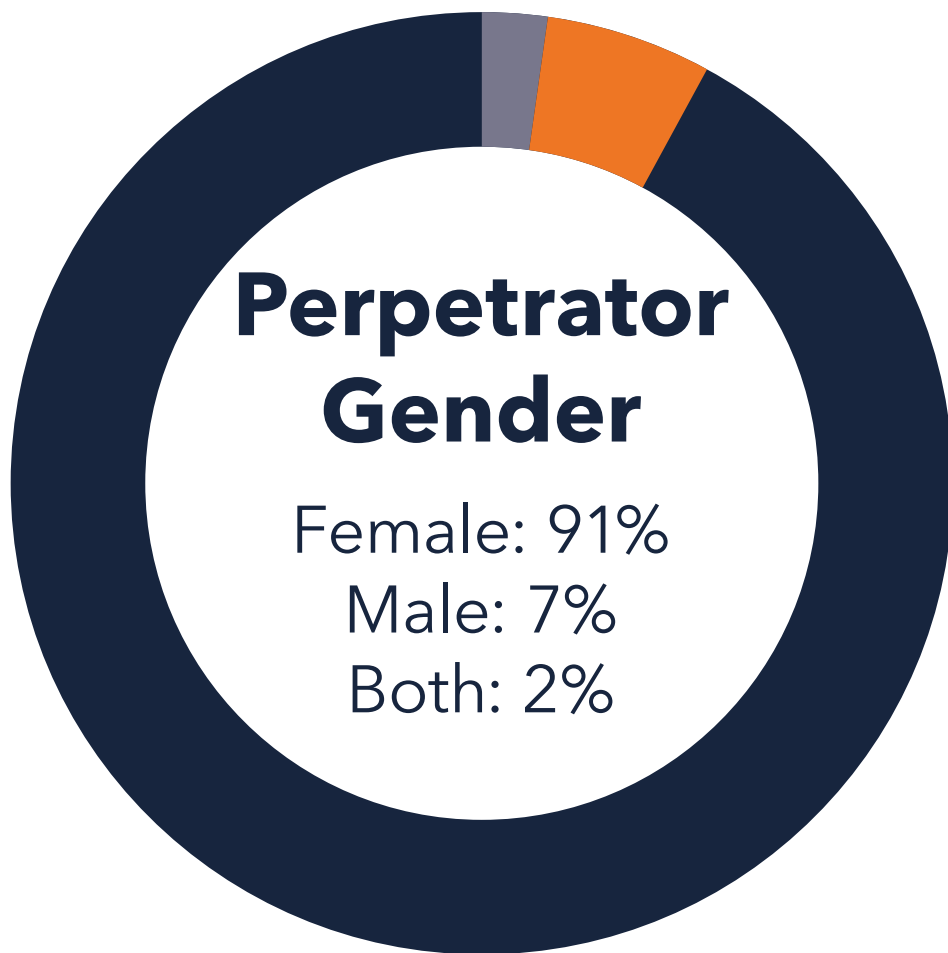
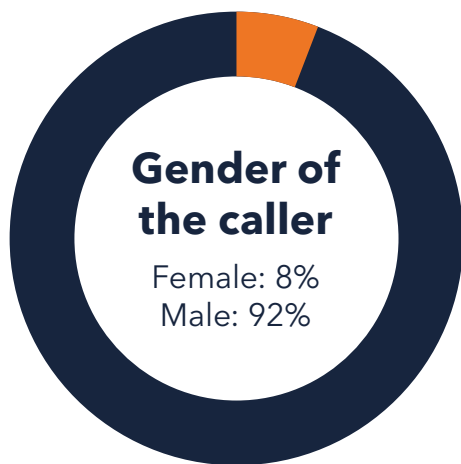
61

**Men attending our
peer support group**

538

**counselling
appointments**

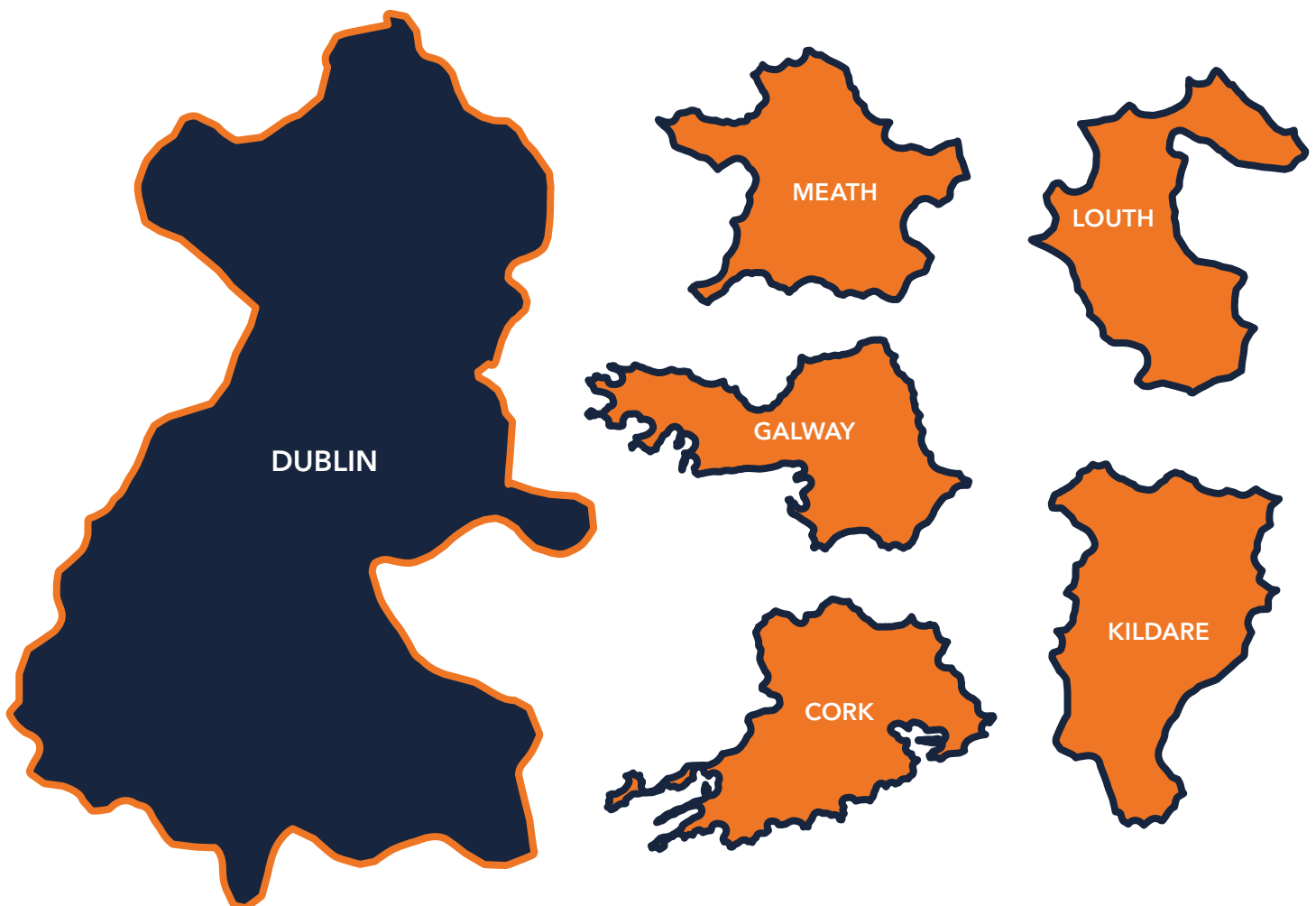
* New roles commenced mid 2022



Types of Abuse: in order of highest disclosed



Highest contacts per County



Men's Aid launches Ireland's First LGBT+ Domestic Violence Initiative



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

On Thursday the 9th of June 2022 **Senator Tom Clonan** launched our LGBT+ Domestic Violence Initiative at Regent House, Trinity College Dublin. This new initiative was the first of its kind in Ireland and was Funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Melissa Corbally of Trinity College Dublin.

International research suggests there is a unique context of intimate partner violence in male-male relationships which points to the need for tailored prevention and intervention efforts for the specific realities of same sex relationships.

When we reviewed our 2021 data, we recognised a significant increase in engagement from men in same sex intimate partner relationships, hence we applied for funding for an LGBT+ pilot programme.

Over the time of the pilot our LGBT+ officer met with representatives from a wide range of organisations working with the LGBT+ community which included;

- LGBT Ireland/Belong To/HIV Ireland/The Switchboard/Outhouse/ Dublin Pride/TENI/NXF/GCN.
- Our LGBT+ Education Officer also met with other relevant stakeholders such as Focus Ireland / USI / Women's Aid / TCD / SONAS / FLAC / Rialto Community Drugs Team / An Garda Síochána.

Our Training sessions were researched, developed, designed and delivered, followed by evaluation and redevelopment to take account of learnings. As collaboration amongst the community and sector is imperative we founded the LGBT+ DV Coalition bringing together 18 agencies supporting the LGBT+ communities in various ways, everyone's focus on working together with the same objectives.

We continued to promote trust and build confidence, widening the net and promoting the program to a greater audience, exploring possible options and meeting specific LGBT+ needs.

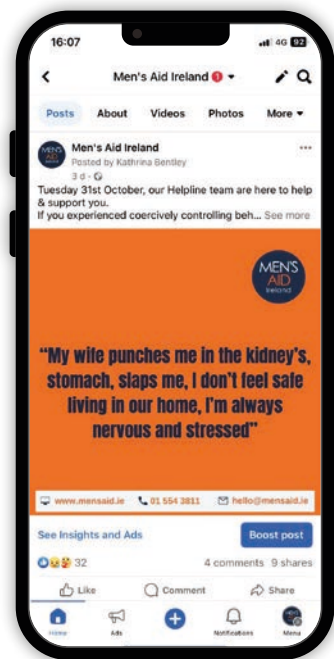
April to December 2022 Statistics:

- Training Sessions 19
- Training Participants 220
- Total Engagements 377
- Total Organisations (training) 26
- Total Organisations (engagement) 109

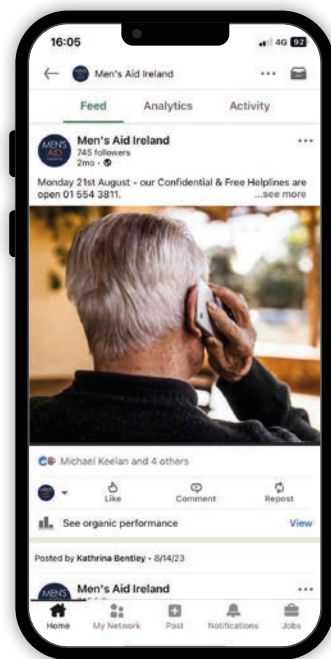
The pilot was so positively welcomed and continued to gain engagement and traction; the Department of Justice kindly continued to fund the pilot into 2023.



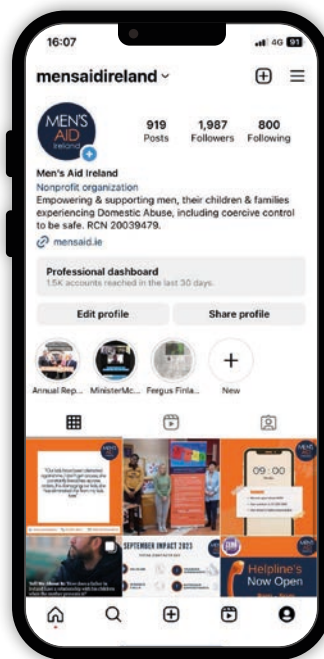
SOCIAL MEDIA & DIGITAL SNAPSHOT



Facebook
2,068 Followers



LinkedIn
591 Followers



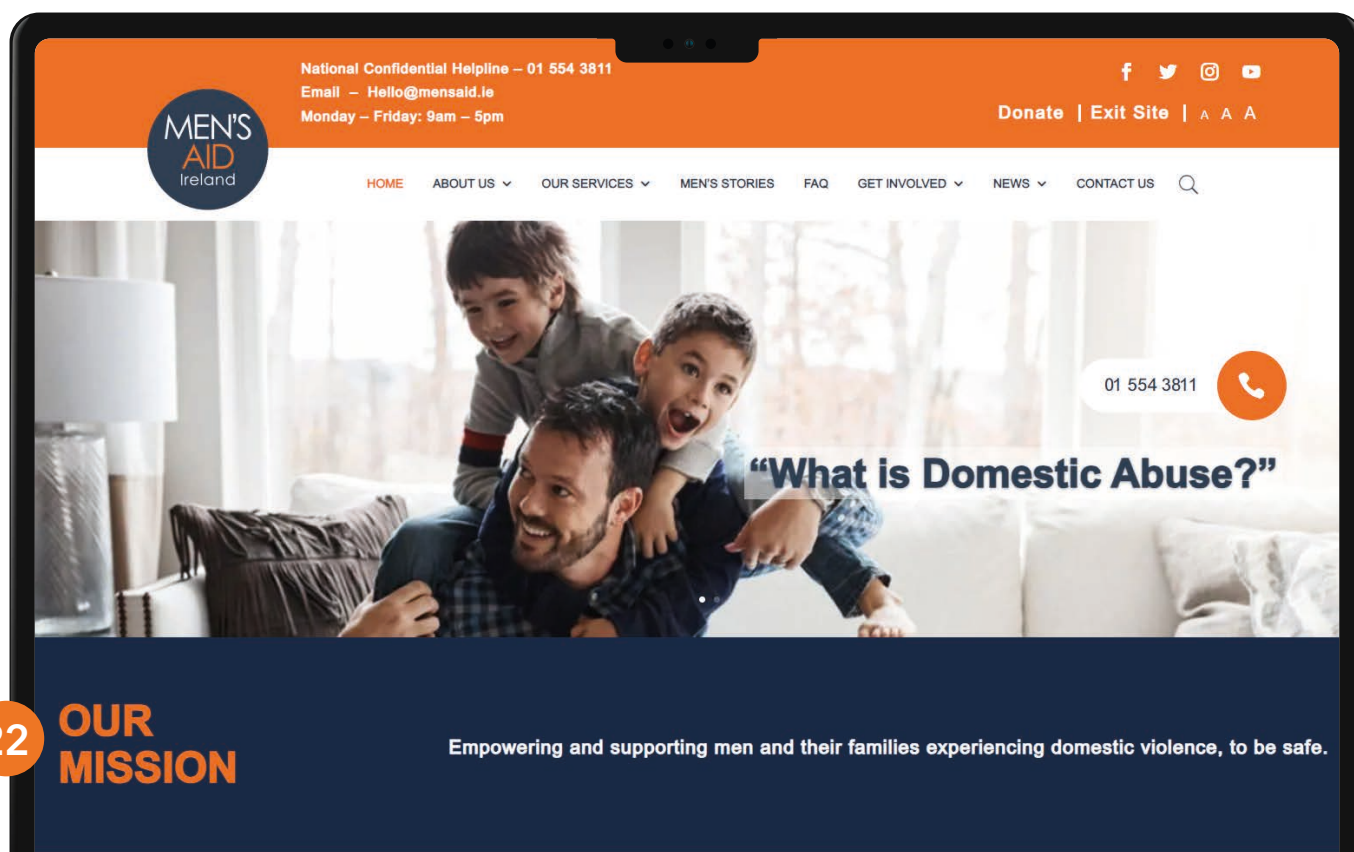
Instagram
1,592 Followers



X (Twitter)
2,995 Followers

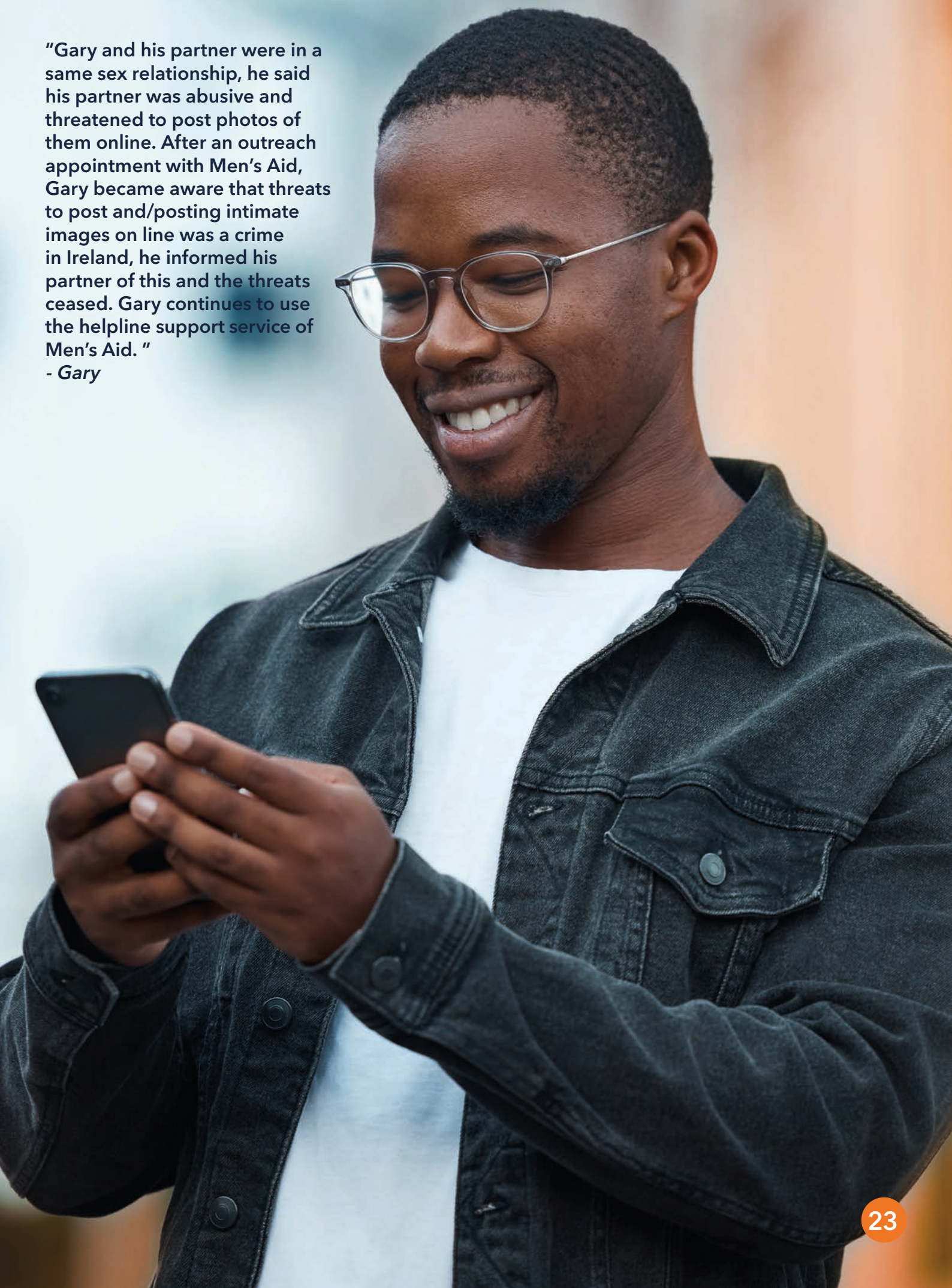
PAGE VIEWS 53,221 - MOST POPULAR PAGES:

- What is Domestic Violence?
- Men's Stories
- Court Information
- Contact Us



"Gary and his partner were in a same sex relationship, he said his partner was abusive and threatened to post photos of them online. After an outreach appointment with Men's Aid, Gary became aware that threats to post and/posting intimate images on line was a crime in Ireland, he informed his partner of this and the threats ceased. Gary continues to use the helpline support service of Men's Aid. "

- Gary



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Detailed profit and loss account. Financial year ended 31 December 2022.

INCOMING RESOURCES	€ 2022	€ 2021
H.S.E. - Tusla	335,914	356,690
Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime	40,000	40,000
Generated income	-	250
Donations - restricted income	-	-
Donations - unrestricted income	30,658	39,648
The Community Foundation Funds	-	25,000
Department of Children	-	31,450
Gross profit	407,572	493,038
Gross profit percentage	100.0%	100.0%

Overheads - Administrative expenses	€ 2022	€ 2021
Wages and salaries	(305,059)	(215,003)
Employer's PRSI contributions	(31,537)	(22,121)
Counselling costs	(32,811)	(19,545)
Staffing costs	(5,242)	(3,663)
Client activities	-	(30,420)
Marketing, PR and advocacy	(5,108)	(12,898)
Rent payable	(12,860)	(12,180)
Insurance	(5,157)	(6,298)
Canteen & cleaning	(2,037)	(1,804)
Repairs and maintenance	(63)	(610)
Printing, postage and stationery	(6,424)	(9,444)
Telephone	(9,918)	(7,515)
Computer costs	(11,278)	(18,001)
Covid costs	(1,024)	(735)
Motor expenses & Travel Expenses	(10,733)	(1,692)
Consultancy fees	(17,074)	(12,359)
Auditors remuneration	(4,305)	(4,305)
Bank charges	(180)	(261)
Stripe/iDonate charges	(385)	(567)
General expenses	(3,047)	(1,090)
Supervision	(4,305)	(3,890)
Subscriptions	(975)	(1,025)
Depreciation of tangible assets	(3,854)	(1,291)
	(477,073)	(386,717)
(Deficit) / Surplus	(69,501)	106,321

A full set of our audited accounts are available on our website: www.mensaid.ie

"We have had many emails and comments from clients stating they want to thank us for our support, for listening and supporting them through their most difficult and emotionally challenging domestic abuse situations. They thank the team for their compassion, empathy, understanding and support. Some of the most difficult calls are when a caller is feeling suicidal due to an abusive situation, however they thank us for supporting them to get the right help and how they can see some light having reached out to Men's Aid".

Andrea McDermott, Clinical Manager, Men's Aid Ireland.





DEDICATION TO PAUL KELLAWAY

In early 2023 we sadly lost one of our dedicated team members, Paul, passed away just after his 50th birthday. We thank Paul dearly for his years supporting men who needed a listening ear, someone to talk to and be heard. Paul was an invaluable member of our organisation, we really miss his contribution, we miss his laughs and his friendship, and we think and talk of him often. Our Annual Report 2022 is dedicated to Paul Kellaway and all the men he helped over the years.

We miss you, RIP Paul.



ORGANISATION INFORMATION: 2022

Name	Amen Support Services T/A Men's Aid Ireland
Registered Address	St. Anne's Resource Centre, Railway Street, Navan C15 W0YX, Co. Meath
Chairperson	David Keane
Treasurer	Tomas Hyland
Secretary	Liam Carroll BL
Auditors	Paul Hehir, FDC Group, Cork.
Bankers	AIB, Navan, Co. Meath.
Phone	Helpline: 01 554 3811
Email	Hello@mensaid.ie
Website	www.mensaid.ie
Social Media	   



CRO No. 489263 | Registered Charity No. 20039479 | CHY No. 13025

The images in the photos used in this publication are not images of the persons who are referenced in the stories or service users of Men's Aid Ireland



Men's Aid Ireland

