



MENS
AID
Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT
2 0 1 9

Men's Aid Ireland is a national charity that supports men and their families experiencing Domestic Violence. Our mission is to de-stigmatise Domestic Violence and raise awareness of the trauma affecting men and their families. We aim to do this through advocacy, education, practical and emotional support.

#SUPPORTINGOURMEN

Our society has neglected abused men for decades.

We are 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.

Hi, I was given your name by my doctor. I am a 77 year old and really I feel that I should just roll up into a ball and die. I have realised for some time that I am suffering mental abuse from my wife, and have been for 40 odd years.

Amen, now **Men's Aid Ireland**
Company Registration No: **489263**
Register Charity No: **13025**

St. Anne's Resource Centre,
Railway Street,
Navan, Co. Meath

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Men's Stories

2. Chairperson note

3. 2019 at a glance

4. Our services

- i. *Confidential Helpline Support*
- ii. *Outreach Support*
- iii. *Court preparation and Accompaniment*
- iv. *Counselling*
- v. *Training*
- vi. *Advocacy and Lobbying*
- vii. *Presentations*

5. Principle activities, objectives, beneficiaries

6. Financial Accounts

7. Governance Code

8. Acknowledgements

"I have only just found your website after an article I read in the Irish Times. I have suffered for years at the hand 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.

I have endured endless psychological abuse with sporadic episodes of physical abuse with each variety increasing in severity over the years. The most recent physical episode started with a slap across the face and eventually resulting in a knife being pulled on me. I held a kitchen stool between us to fend her off. My five year old son was screaming at her to put the knife down. I was really frightened. I took the knife and pretended to go to the Gardai. Instead I went to a friend who is a Garda and spoke to her confidence. She put me in touch with a counsellor and my wife came with me. She went on the offensive and told half-truths, she said she was the victim.

After the knife incident my wife stated that she had looked back and realised she had treated me terrible. The abuse continues. I have been slapped, kicked, punched, and scratched. I have endured some appalling incidents of verbal abuse in public places. I have come home to find all the doors locked with keys inserted so that I can't open them. I had belongings thrown into the bin or across the room. On one occasion I came home to find all my belongings in the front garden.

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."

- Steven.*

"Dear Sir or Madam

I will start with my father being the victim of my mother's abusive behaviour. I too have fallen victim of her actions. Her main aim is to get all the assets by claiming to be an abused wife. She was the one abusing my father mentally and physically. Some members of our family are disgusted that she would lie to achieve her goal, and others don't want to know or get involved. 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*

"My name is Peter and I am being abused physically, mentally and verbally by my husband. The abuse started on the day we said I do. After our wedding reception we went to our room where he began to shout at me that I didn't say my vows properly. He said I ruined the day for him. I was a little shocked as I was choked up saying my vows because I love him so much. I explained this to him and that's when he first hit me. He slapped me across the head and said he was regretting the day already. From that time on he has told me I am his biggest mistake, he has hit, punched and kicked me on many occasions. On one occasion he was beating me in the street, the Gardaí arrested us both. They treated the abuse as a "fight" because we are both male. I have lost all my confidence and my family as I no longer visit due to the existing bruising and the fight that will entail when I get back. I feel like my world has collapsed and I don't know what to do."

- Peter*

* Not actual names

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

A message from Seamus Scott, Chairperson of Amen Support Services Ltd, Trading as Men's Aid Ireland.

I am pleased to welcome our annual report for 2019. With the publication of each annual report, we are able to reflect on the work we do and look for ways in which we can improve our services. I am happy to say we are moving forward and growing our services and are very grateful for all the support we received in 2019.

The information provided in our annual report outlines the work conducted by our staff showing the service and aims to provide the reader with a better understanding of the organization and the men contacting us.

You will see from the Annual Report that numbers are rising each year, we as a charity have been given the task to support and help the men who have nowhere else to go, they are our brothers, our fathers, uncles or cousins, without Mens Aid life would be very difficult when faced with the trauma of domestic abuse or domestic violence, we have a responsibility to help all victims.

Men's Aid provides a high-quality service for male victims of domestic abuse, including services for family members and friends who contact the service on a daily basis.

To run the services we rely on state funding and donations from our supporters which we are extremely grateful, especially in these difficult times.

We are thankful for your continued support and generosity which is helping to make a vast difference and gives hope and encouragement to so many men who without us would not be able to avail of these crucial services.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Amen Support Services, T/A Mens Aid Ireland I present this report to you and thank you for your continued support.

Seamus Scott
Chairperson

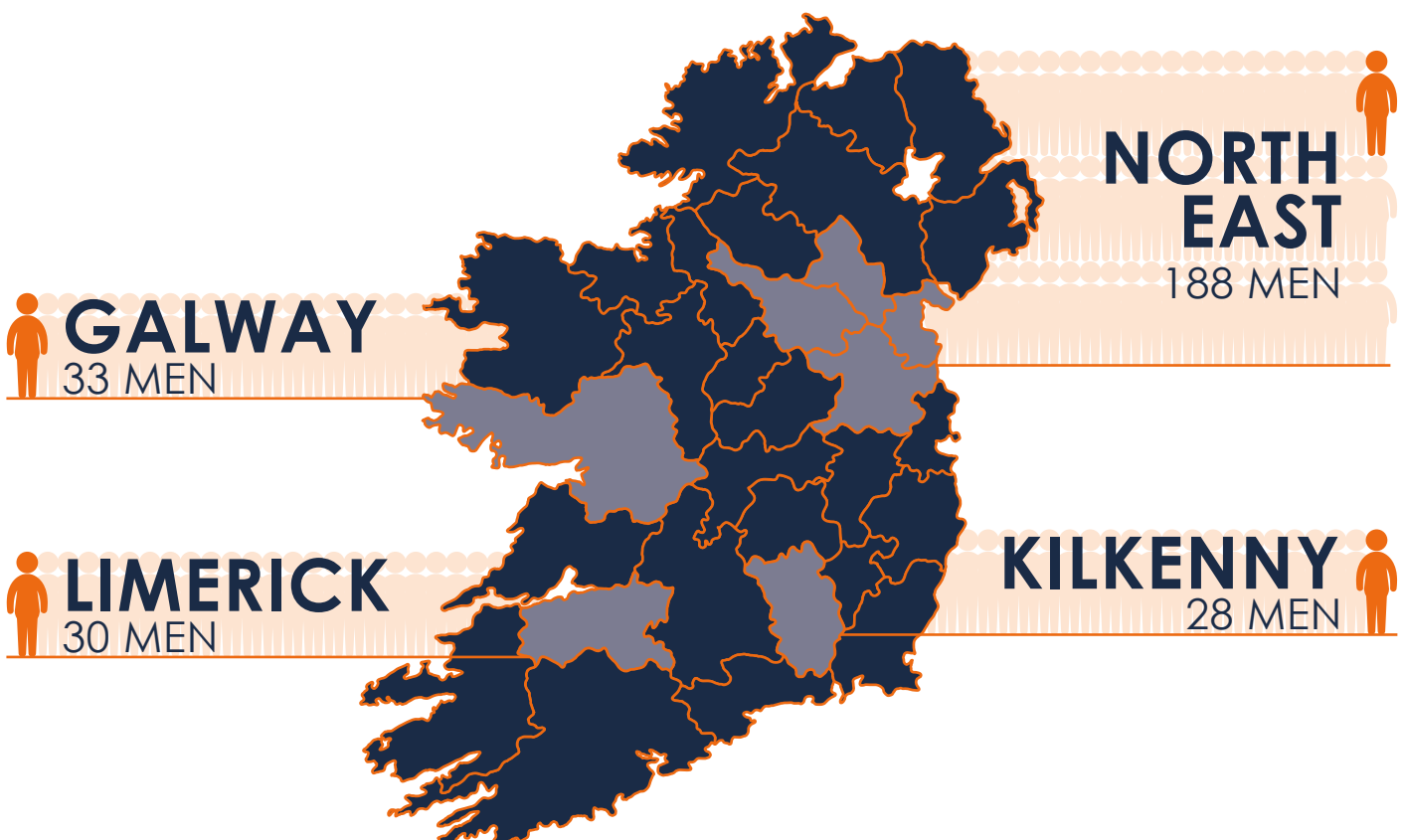
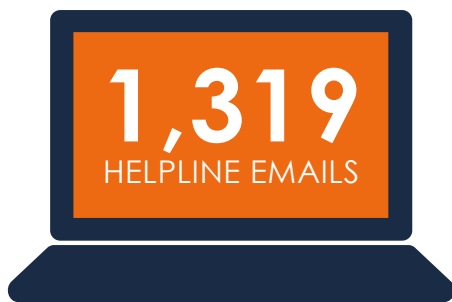


2019 AT A GLANCE

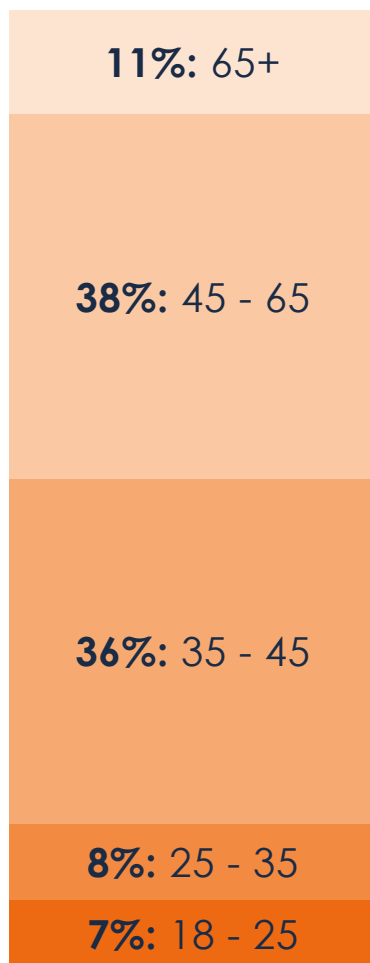
Service Provision Summary:



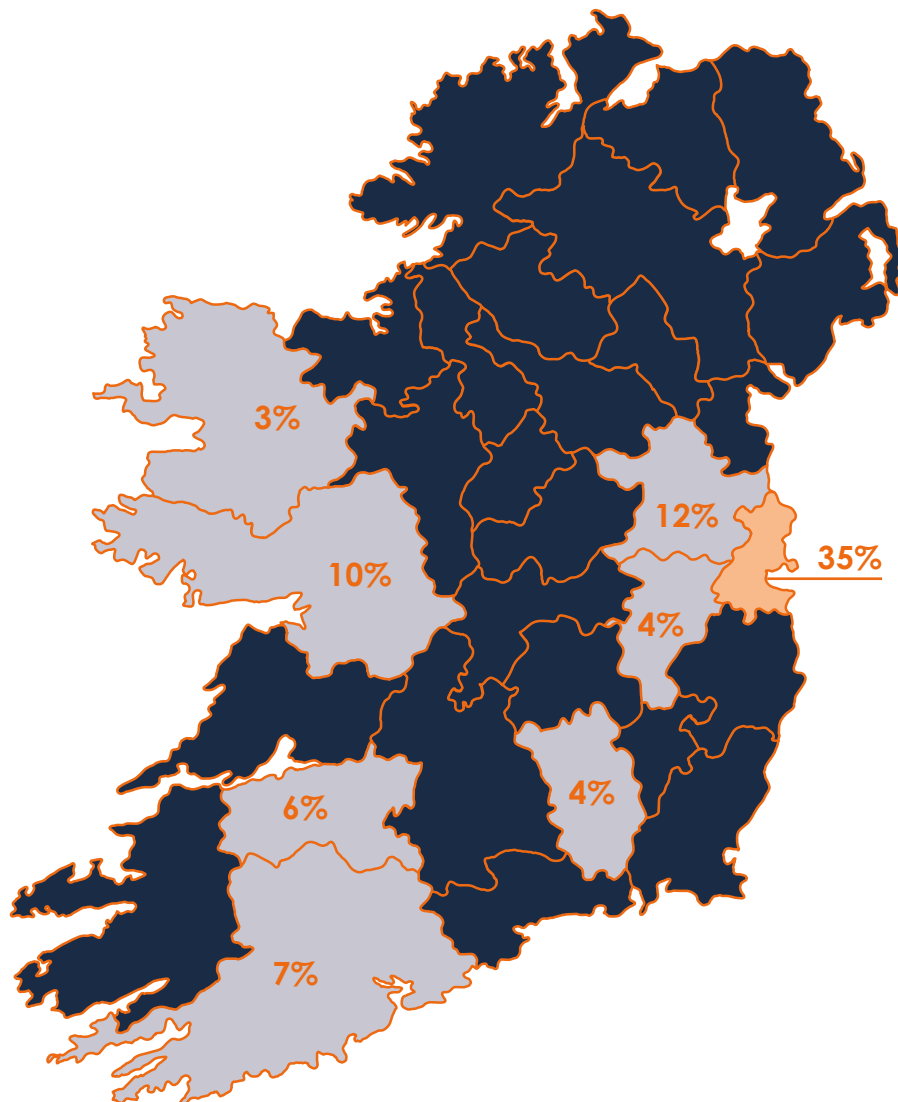
Number of men and their families supported through our Helpline, Outreach, Court Accompaniment and Counselling services.



AGE PROFILE OF CALLERS IN 2019



LOCATION OF CALLERS IN 2019



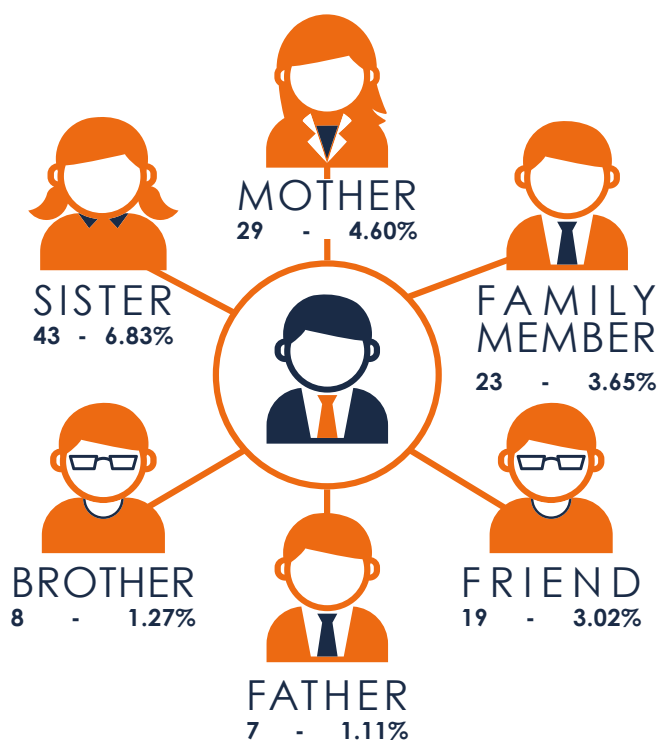
REASON FOR CALLERS MAKING CONTACT IN 2019

CRISIS INFO

RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR IN 2019



- CURRENT PARTNER 53%
- EX PARTNER 35%
- FAMILY MEMBER/RELATIVE 11%



OUR SERVICE PROVISION

1. CONFIDENTIAL HELPLINE SUPPORT

Our Helpline continues to be the main point of contact and first point of contact. It operates Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

Callers benefit from assistance and information on a range of issues but firstly our listening ear is critical. We are here to offer comfort, support, reassurance and invaluable information on family law, legal orders, courts and custody matters. One full time and two part time support workers operated the Helpline in 2019. Each team member is highly skilled and trained in the broad and complex discipline of domestic abuse and legal orders.

2. ONE TO ONE OUTREACH SUPPORT

One to one appointments are in person rather than by phone. It is an opportunity for those experiencing domestic abuse to make an appointment to come speak with us. These appointments on average last 50minutes and if needed return appointments can be made. During 2019 these appointments were available in Navan, Drogheda, Cavan, Monaghan, Kilkenny, Limerick and Galway.

3. COURT ACCOMPANIMENT AND COURT PREPARATION

In 2019 our funding for Court Accompaniment only covers one family district law court – Dolphin House, Dublin.

Here our qualified and trained support worker (retired Garda) offers clients information, assistance and support in advance of court appearances. Also offering support submitting paperwork to the courts. This funding is provided by the Department of Justice (CSVC).

4. COUNSELLING

Men's Aid provides qualified psychotherapy counselling with experienced professionals who have worked in the areas of addiction, mental health, domestic violence for decades. Our counselling is face to face and offered as a block of six sessions, same day/time that suits our client.

5. TRAINING / ADVOCACY / PRESENTATIONS

During 2019 we also attended many public events, affording us the opportunity to represent men experiencing domestic abuse:

- Nightline Presentation - Trinity College
- Legal Aid Board
- Intro to Family Law
- Tusla Talk
- Financial Oversight/ Understanding Preparing Budgets
- Info Talk Limerick
- CPD Meeting (An Garda Siochana)
- Dublin Safer Families
- Health & Wellness Summit
- ACJRD Presentation
- Athlone IT Presentation
- Newstalk Pat Kenny
- Newstalk Montcrieff Show
- Walls Construction presentation
- DKIT - A Multiagency Perspective
- Mankind; Bristol - Conference
- Men's Health Symposium
- Ray Darcy Show
- Policing Authority Meeting
- DKIT Level 8 lecture
- KFM Radio



PRINCIPALS

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. The principle activity of the organisation is to provide practical information, support & qualified experienced psychotherapy appointments to male victims and their family members of domestic abuse.
2. To campaign nationally for greater recognition and support services for male victims from political and statutory bodies;
3. The organisation is a non-profit making entity and has charitable status with the revenue commissioners.
4. To produce evidence based research to help educate and inform Irish society about domestic violence.
5. To collaborate with all stakeholders responsible for tackling domestic violence in Ireland.
6. To offer gold standard training to frontline agencies.

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The main object of the organisation is to run and organise support, legal information and counselling for male victims of domestic abuse. Also extending information to family/friends of a victim.

ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

Amen [t/a Men's Aid] is the only national dedicated support service for male victims of domestic abuse in Ireland, providing:

- Crisis intervention
- Helpline supports
- Face to face supports to victims in the North East (Monaghan, Louth, Cavan and Meath).

We are committed to the highest ethical and efficient service delivery, promoting the empowerment, dignity and equality of male victims.

We provide:

1. Confidential Helpline
2. Outreach (One to one support with Legal orders/ family law information) Navan, Drogheda, Cavan, Monaghan
3. Counselling (By phone and in person)
4. Court accompaniment (Dolphin House Dublin only)
5. Training to frontline professionals
6. Advocacy

Beneficiaries:

- Men's services (All men incl marginalised LGBTQI+ / Roma & Travellers, Foreign Nationals / DP)
- Advocacy and civil rights
- Health promotion
- Mental health support
- Children's services
- Victim support
- Family services



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	NOTE	2019	2018
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		€	€
Loss for the financial year		(34,326)	(56,788)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:			
Depreciation of tangible assets		3,111	4,057
Accrued expenses/(income)		(995)	5,868
CHANGES IN:			
Trade and other creditors		2,622	(209)
Cash generated from operations		(29,588)	(47,072)
Net cash used in operating activities		(29,588)	(47,072)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		(29,588)	(47,072)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF FINANCIAL YEAR	10	46,003	93,075
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	10	16,415	46,003
Loss for the financial year		(34,326)	(56,788)
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		39,969	96,757
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		5,643	39,969

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 3 November 2020 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Seamus Scott
Director

Liam Carroll
Director

Given there was a complete change of Board from 2018 to 2019, one of the first priorities with the new Board was Governance. With this in mind, we were fortunate to recruit a Board member with extensive experience in regard to policies, procedures and guidelines, Olive O' Connor.

We now have a total of 43 guidelines policies and two safety statements in place.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Owen Connolly

2018 – 2019 (Retired June 2020)

Olive O' Connor

2018 – 2019 (Retired June 2020)

Patient Experience Specialist, Healthcare Advocate.

Seamus Scott

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, Mens Sheds, Families Support, and Men's Aid Ireland 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.

Liam Carroll BL

Liam 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.

Liam is also heavily involved in legal-based domestic violence support work and he volunteers with a number of domestic violence and abuse services catering for both men and women.

David Foot

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank all those who supported our life saving and life changing service in 2019. I would especially list to thank our funders, Tusla and the Department of Justice.

My special thanks to the team who answer each call and each email with so much compassion and understanding. It is my privilege as Chairperson to represent them all.

Looking back at 2019, it was a very challenging year however we know our service is a life line for so many men that it is our honour to be here to support them.



Seamus Scott
Chairperson



☎ 01 554 3811 | ✉ Hello@mensaid.ie
f t i @mensaidireland | www.mensaid.ie

MENS AID Ireland

