

# ANNUAL REPORT 20 23



## Empowering and Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Violence in Ireland

## **OUR MISSION**

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

## **OUR VISION**

To 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**
- 2. Professionalism**
- 3. Respect**
- 4. Empathy**
- 5. Integrity**
- 6. Accountability**

## **OUR SERVICE**

We are here to listen to and support victims. We develop trust with each caller, we promote confidence and identify potential risks. We provide and support safety planning options, help victims navigate the court system, inform victims of their rights, explain court protective orders, give information on access, custody, guardianship and offer referral to specific support services if needed.

**Ultimately, we support victims to be safe.**



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Kathrina Bentley



Welcome to our 2023 Annual Report and thank you for taking the time to read about our frontline work. Our small team continue to respond to extraordinary demand from men and their families experiencing domestic violence across Ireland.

In 2023, our national Domestic Violence service for men supported **8,682 contacts**. These victims are men ranging in ages from 18 to 90+ years of age from every village, town and county across Ireland.

I am always conscious when reporting data that these numbers represent lives, lives of our Grandfathers, Fathers, Brothers, Sons, Grandchildren and Friends. All of these men have families who are also impacted by a widespread social issue.

Men's Aid is a trauma informed, victim centric organisation, empowering & supporting men, their children & families experiencing Domestic Violence, **to be safe**. Our service is underpinned by a human rights approach which strives to ensure that all of our engagements are non-discriminatory in nature and in accordance with our National Strategy, 'Zero Tolerance', lead by the Department of Justice.

## ***What are we listening and responding to?***

- Men disclosing emotional and psychological abuse, constant verbal abuse, belittling, name calling, insults, having their confidence chipped away at, hurtful comments. Partners telling men they are useless, being told they don't earn enough, being told they are bad dads, threats of calling the Gardaí with false allegations of abuse/violence, threats of parental alienation, parental alienation, and access issues.
- Men telling us of financial abuse, that they have little or no access to money, men given a weekly allowance, their pin/online banking passwords known to his wife who withdraws money from their account, transfers money from his account to hers without agreement, men with physical injuries from kitchen items used as

weapons to harm them, a client who presented to us with visible stitches on his face, also telling us of the kicks and punches they received regularly from their wife.

- Our clients in both heterosexual relationships and same sex relationships who disclose sexual assault.
- Men staying in the abusive home as they have no accommodation options to escape to/they don't want to leave the children in the home with the abuser.
- The thousands of disclosures that are visible and invisible, some leaving lifetime scars.

Tackling the issue of domestic violence is a collaborative effort. We are committed to working closely with other services including An Garda Síochána, Tusla, the Department of Justice, frontline professionals, medical and health professionals, social workers, and the wider NGO services working across DSGBV. We are working towards the day when the needs of all victims are supported, everyone is safe, and perpetrators are held accountable.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our funders, donors, supporters, NGO colleagues, and statutory and non-statutory allies. My thanks go to our very small team, without whose commitment, passion and professionalism, we would not be changing and saving the lives of thousands of men across Ireland.

My thanks to our voluntary Board members who each give their time, experience and expertise to the organisation and to myself. I am always conscious that time is the most precious commodity. As we are a small team, my role is very proactive and time sensitive, and I am very grateful to have a supportive Board to help me in my position as CEO. It is hugely appreciated.

Thanks again for reading our annual report,



**Kathrina Bentley**

*CEO, Men's Aid Ireland.*

# HOW WE DELIVERED OUR MISSION IN 2023:

## 1. Directly through:

- National Confidential Helpline
- Court Support & Information Clinics
- Outreach Clinics

## 2. Our therapeutic supports included:

- Counselling Appointments
- Group Meetings

## 3. Our education workshops included:

- Women's Violence Against Men
- LGBT+ DV / IPV

## 4. Our national strategic advocacy and policy work included attendance and contribution with the following groups:

- Dept. of Justice - DSGBV - National Stakeholder Group
- Dept. of Justice - Panel Advisory - Zero Tolerance Strategy Implementation
- Dept. of Justice - Victims' Forum Group
  
- Family Law Courts Practitioners Forum - Dolphin House
- Family Law Justice Reform Group
- The Courts Service - Civil Society Group (new since March 2023)
- Dundalk Court Forum
- Legal Aid Consultative Panel
  
- Tackling DV in Louth - Breaking the Taboo Group
- Men's Health Forum - HSE
- LGBT+ IPV Network
- Dundalk DKIT - River Project - Steering Committee

## We also made submissions to Government on:

- Parental Alienation Policy Briefing - Submitted to Dept. of Justice
- Domestic Violence Leave Policy - Submitted to Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

## 5. Our academic research partnership with Trinity College Dublin

In 2023 Men's Aid partnered with Trinity College Dublin to produce evidenced based, academic research. The Irish Research Council provided funding. Lead by Dr. Melissa Corbally, Assoc. Prof. TCD, the research was presented at the European Conference of DSGBV in Iceland and again at a Canadian Conference on DSGBV. Men's Aid data was the only data shared to represent the experience of male victims in Ireland.

## 6. Campaigns

Due to our small team and very limited resources in 2023 we focused on four specific national campaigns to support:

- **#GoPurple** - April 2023
- **#Men'sHealthWeek** - June 2023
- **#Pride** - June 2023
- **#InternationalMen'sDay** - November 2023

### International Men's Day / November 2023.

We were proud to welcome again for the third consecutive year Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, to our offices to formally launch our Annual Report on IMD 2023. We also were delighted to welcome Dr. Melissa Corbally of TCD, as our keynote speaker. We thank the Minister McEntee and her department for her continued support of our work.

### Training (Internal & External)

We recognise the importance of ongoing internal and external training for all the team. In 2023, we focused on trauma informed and suicide awareness training. We also launched our **Practitioner's Guide** and provided a training day to go through the guide in detail. All other mandatory training such as *Children First, Safe Talk, Assist* was also completed. Our CEO completed the Law Society, Certificate in Charity Law, Trusteeship and Governance.

**All the team at Men's Aid are Trauma Informed trained.**



## **WE CONTINUE TO MEET A DIVERSE RANGE OF VICTIMS/SURVIVORS INCLUDING THE:**

- Majority of men (40 - 65 years)
- Isolated farmers
- Older men (65+ years) - new trend in 2023
- Young adults (18 to 23 years)
- Victims with addiction challenges
- Victims with disabilities
- Traveller/Roma community
- Homeless men
- Parents with abusive adult children
- Men from ethnic minority groups
- LGBT+ community
- Men with suicide ideation
- Victims with mental health issues
- Female victims
- Victims requiring translation/language support
- Men from over 50 nationalities

### **Our Educational workshops (Male Victim/Female Perp)**

**A total of 11 workshops were delivered in 2023.** These were delivered to groups such as Probationary Gardaí, Domestic Violence Coordinator Gardaí, UCD, Trinity College social work students, DKIT Level 8 students, Ballymun Law Centre, ICGP medical students, Barnardos.

### **Our LGBT+ Domestic Violence**

### **Workshops**

**A total of 34 workshops were delivered in 2023, where we met 848 participants.**

#### **The audience included:**

An Garda Síochána, Maynooth University, AWARE, Queer Men's Circle, Blanchardstown Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force, TU Shannon, TU Athlone, Focus Ireland, Salvation Army, Midlands LGBTQ Project, Full Spectrum (LGBTQ Disabled Group), Gay Health Network, Legal Aid Board, Cappagh Hospital, Bagnalstown FRC, Mater Hospital - Social Work Dept., Cappagh Hospital - Medical Staff, Waterford Homeless Shelter, Outhouse, Eglington Direct Provision Centre (Galway), PTSB, Youth Reach centres, Beaumont Hospital Mental Health Unit, Barnardos, Amber Women's Project, Grant Thornton, Safer Blanchardstown, Sonas, Louth Local Development - Drogheda, Red Door Project- Drogheda, Community schools, AKIDWA, FLAC - LGBTQ Steering Group, Navan Pride, Women's Aid, LGBTQ Switchboard, HIV Ireland, LGBT Ireland, Belong To, Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI), Gay Community News (GCN), Dublin City Council, Union of Student's in Ireland (USI), Cork Gay Men's Project, Link Project Cork, Dundalk Outcomers, ShoutOut, Sankalpa, Rialto Community Drug Team, Men's Network, Amach - Galway, Outcomers - Dundalk, National LGBTQ+ Federation (NXF), Clare Haven - Women's Refuge, HSE - LGBTQ+ & DV Health Coordinator, DCU - School of Psychology, National Ploughing Championships.

## DEMAND & RESPONSE 2023

IN 2023, WE SUPPORTED

8,682

CONTACTS TO OUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICE

ON AVERAGE,

VICTIM'S

CONTACTED OUR SUPPORT SERVICE

4 TIMES

### DEMAND LEVELS:

2020 - 5,500 CONTACTS

2021 - 7,561 CONTACTS

2022 - 9,524 CONTACTS

2023 - 8,682 CONTACTS

3,612

HELPLINE CALLS SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN

1,244

EMAILS RESPONDED TO

1,310

HELPLINE CALLS MISSED

117

OUTREACH APPOINTMENTS

• NAVAN, DUNDALK, DROGHEDA •

9

CHILD PROTECTION REFERRALS

1,244

TEXTS RESPONDED TO

628

COURT SUPPORT APPOINTMENTS

• DOLPHIN HOUSE, GALWAY & WATERFORD COURT HOUSES •

330

COUNSELLING APPOINTMENTS

110

MEN ATTENDED SUPPORT GROUP



## TYPES OF ABUSE:

### IN THE ORDER OF HIGHEST DISCLOSED

1. Emotional abuse
2. Physical abuse *(Increase on 2022 data)*
3. Parental alienation
4. Coercive Control
5. Psychological abuse
6. Economic/Financial abuse
7. Sexual abuse
8. Online abuse
9. Second wave abuse



## Perpetrator Gender

Female = 701 (94%)



Male = 212 (5%)

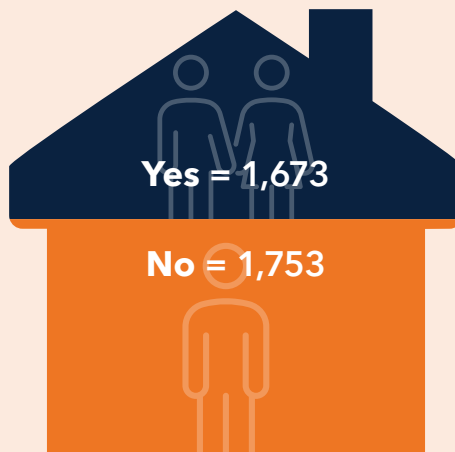


Both/Family = 29 (1%)



## Relationship of the caller with victim

- 4,944 = Male Victims
- 137 = Sisters of Male Victims
- 114 = Mums of Victims
- 112 = Fathers of Victims
- 79 = Social Workers
- 50 = Brothers of Victims
- 29 = Daughters of Victims
- 9 = Sons
- 8 = An Garda Síochána on behalf of a victim



## Living Together

## Gender Of Victim Supported

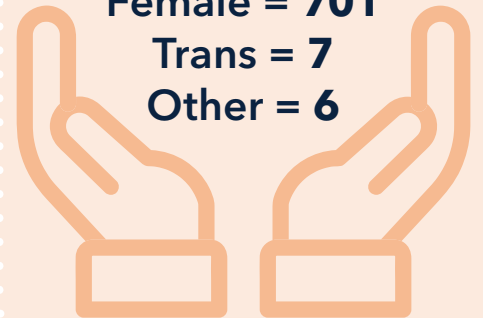
Male = 6,319

N/D = 1,188

Female = 701

Trans = 7

Other = 6



## Reported to An Garda Síochána

If you did NOT report to An Garda Síochána, why not?

1. Embarrassment and shame
2. Afraid of repercussions (eg: increase in violence)
3. A bad experience in the past with An Garda Síochána
4. Wanting to protect their wife/girlfriend/partner
5. Wanting to protect their children



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION


## Detailed profit and loss account - Financial year ended 31 December 2023.

INCOMING RESOURCES	€ 2023
H.S.E. - Tusla	365,966
Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime	120,500
Generated income	2,140
Donations - restricted income	-
Donations - unrestricted income	40,266
The Community Foundation Funds	35,000
<b>Gross surplus</b>	<b>563,872</b>
<b>Gross surplus percentage</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Overheads - Administrative Expenses	€ 2023
Wages and salaries	(370,706)
Employer's PRSI contributions	(35,787)
Counselling costs	(18,754)
Staffing costs	(12,720)
Client activities	(277)
Peer Group	(5,400)
Marketing, PR and advocacy	(1,248)
Rent payable	(13,750)
Insurance	(8,499)
Canteen & cleaning	(3,558)
Repairs and maintenance	(2,270)
Printing, postage and stationery	(5,410)
Telephone	(7,523)
Computer costs	(13,268)
Covid costs	-
Motor expenses & travel expenses	(7,094)
Contractors	(6,614)
Consultancy fees	(5,145)
Auditors remuneration	(4,325)
Bank charges	(208)
Stripe/iDonate charges	(185)
Launch event	(2,416)
General expenses	(143)
Supervision	(4,465)
Subscriptions	(400)
Depreciation of tangible assets	(4,918)
	(534,633)
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus</b>	<b>29,239</b>

A full set of our audited accounts are available on our website: [www.mensaid.ie](http://www.mensaid.ie)

## ORGANISATION INFORMATION: 2023

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

**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

"I would like to express my gratitude to your service and the support staff for supporting me in through what was a very tough time. I was in court, I couldn't have got through it without the support of Men's Aid team".



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice

Community  
Foundation  
Ireland

**TÚSLA**  
An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

