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PRESS RELEASE

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LAUNCH OF GHN 'SUMMARY OF ACTIONS 2021'

On Saturday 17th September at the Gay Health Network (GHN) AGM in Outhouse Dublin 1, GHN will launch the 'Summary of Actions 2021' on the 27th year since our formation'. This report highlights the outputs on sexual health and mental health and well-being for gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men (gbMSM).

(You can view the Summary of Actions 2021 [here](#))

Ciaran McKinney (GHN Chairperson) said 'this report shows the vast amount of effort in promoting the Man2Man programme and made possible between our Communications Director, Administration Manager, the GHN Board and network members along with our partners in the SHCPP and HSE'.

Bill Foley (GHN Secretary) said that 'Advocacy and Representation are key to GHN to facilitate our role to improve services for the health and wellbeing of gbMSM'. Actions in 2021 such as; submissions to the Government LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy; and to the United Nations Periodic Review 2021 (Ireland Section), on the 'state of sexual health services for gbMSM'. Letters to Minister Frank Feighan TD, calling for the re-opening of the GMHS STI Clinic and the provision of full access to services. A Press Release called on the government to enact legislation banning conversion therapy, see (<https://gayhealthnetwork.ie/news/>)

Pádraig Burke, (GHN Communications Director) said 'Evidence-based actions by GHN are aligned with the aims of the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015 to 2020, "to improve sexual health and wellbeing" and "to reduce negative sexual health outcomes" amongst gbMSM who are a population group "at increased risk of STIs and HIV"'.

He also indicated that 'In 2021 we produced new creatives, imagery, films and social media engagement. Made possible by the collaboration of GHN member groups and especially by those who appeared in the four films. '[Our Sexual Health](#)', '[Our Mental Health](#)' and '[PEP](#)' and on '[PrEP](#)' – HIV prevention methods.

A primary part of our promotion is the four Man2Man websites in English (www.man2man.ie), French (fr.man2man.ie), Portuguese (pt.man2man.ie) and Spanish (es.man2man.ie).

The SHCPP HSE engaged an outside agency to run a rigorous review of the GHN outputs 2021 through a panel and by individuals recruited for the research. The results continue to show the large traffic to the Man2Man website and also the huge awareness and trust in the information provided by the various campaigns.

Finally, the GHN Annual Report 2021 highlights the continued success in collaboration and participation of GHN member groups, the LGBTQI+ community, the HSE, SHCPP and others. We remain committed to the delivery in Ireland of a comprehensive Man2Man programme for the years ahead.

To this end, we would also like to announce some forthcoming events;

- **Screening** of the films ‘**Voices From Afar**’ for GAZE at Culture Night 2022, Friday 23 September, at Outhouse, view the trailer [here](#) and for more information visit: <https://gayhealthnetwork.ie/voicesfromafar/>
- **Gay Health Forum 2022 (GHF 2022)** at the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission on 18 November 2022. Further information on GHF 2022 will be updated from the 22nd of September next, at www.gayhealthforum.ie and form info@ghn.ie

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GHN

Founded in 1994, Gay Health Network (GHN) comprises a network of organisations across the island of Ireland providing resources and expertise in relation to the support, prevention and awareness of HIV and STIs, information on sexual health, and mental health and wellbeing for gay and bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (gbMSM).

GHN liaises closely with the LGBTQI+ community and its constituent groups, including commercial social venues and HIV/sexual health organisations. We also consult and collaborate with national and local representatives from public STI/GUM services and both the Public Health and Health and Wellbeing Departments of the HSE. GHN manage the Man2Man programme and the website (www.man2man.ie), delivered in partnership with the SHCPP (HSE).