

LGBTI+ Gozo has been growing in a steady way. This year we will be celebrating 5 years since inception. The organisation had worked hard to maintain its status as a leading organisation in Gozo, and a stable place where individuals can engage in safe and secure conversations. In the last year 2019 the organisation worked on numerous projects that sets a good structure for the coming year.

Research Survey

The first LGBTI research survey, in which 80 queer gozitans who live in Gozo were interviewed about their coming out experience, among other questions they were asked, what challenges they faced and what would they like to see on the island for more equal representation. These questions were sent via google form and compiled by Lea Jacob and presented in an event Gbejniet Frisky.

This was the first in which LGBTI research was done specifically for Gozo, and although limitations included not reaching to the whole community it serves as a starting point to understand the challenges and reality of the 21st century Gozo.

Action Plan

The organisation worked on the first LGBTI action plan for Gozo. This was written after the research consultation done with queer individuals interviewed. This action plan which is to be achieved by the end of 2020 includes 15 points. These are:

1. Research Paper
2. Academy for active members
3. Non Binary Project
4. Continuation of youth hub
5. Open Training - Better Together
6. International Opportunities
7. GU Clinic Discussion
8. Stronger membership
9. Social and Cultural events,
10. Office Space
11. Collaboration with another organisation,
12. Professional Engagement
13. Social Support
14. Media
15. Health Wellbeing

The executive committee invites all members to join in helping out and contribute with their skills and attributes

Pride Malta - Gozo event

As LGBTI+ Gozo sits in the Pride committee, it also organises the official Gozo event as part of Malta Pride programme. With Nemours events across Malta, Gozo event marks the official kickoff of Malta pride and is usually held within the first weekend of Malta Pride celebrations. This year's pride will be on Saturday 12th September with LGBTI+ Gozo event

on the 5th of September. The organisation will be launching a photo exhibition shedding light to Non-Binary individuals in Gozo.

Love is Love

Love is Love is the annual open day of LGBTI+ Gozo. Happens in collaboration with the Ministry of Gozo as part of #inhobbok, the event attracted numerous online engagement through its real-life stories. As a means of celebrating all kinds of love the organisation organises a human library experience showcasing what is love to various LGBTI individuals is held at Villa Rundle Gozo. This happens during Valentine's market organised by the Ministry for Gozo which gives a great exposure to the work of the organisation and its partners.

International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

On the 17th of May, every year LGBTI+ Gozo together with the international community commemorates the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). The organisation is committed to remembering the hardship of LGBTI activist in the face of adversity both locally and abroad and so organisations a discussion involving key activist, politicians and other stakeholders promoting and celebrating their work to promote diversity. This discussion allows Gozitan organisations to meet up together and foster greater dialogue on the challenges that Gozo faces to be more open and inclusive.

We stand with LGBTI+ Gozo.

After the success of We stand with LGBTI+ Gozo. An online campaign that saw 17 celebrities such as Ben Camile, Ira Losco, The Travellers so to name a few the organisation will be launching the second cohort of celebrities to celebrate our 5 year anniversary. During the 2018 campaign we mobilized just over 60,000 engagements on Facebook.

International

For the first time, LGBTI+ Gozo participated in the IGLYO AMC conference in Helsinki. The organisation had worked also to have a partnership with two other LGBT organisations across Europe. First International opportunity is to be in Lecce Italy, in April, this is about youth activists and mental health. Secondly, a summer camp in France were over 60 youths from 6 different countries meet for a week of activities, this is to be held in August (both of these got postponed due to the COVID-19)

The organisation is now also a full member of ILGA-Europe, this continues with the work of last year in which the organisation became a member of IGLYO . The international approach to give members of LGBTI the opportunity to represent and get international exposure is a priority.

LGBTI+ Gozo was also asked by the Ministry for Gozo to represent the Ministry in a conference in Colombia about Gender Violence, this was to be held at the end of May but was cancelled due to the 2020 pandemic.

LGBTI+ Gozo was also going to participate in a youth training held by IGLO at the end of May in Budapest in which it was going to serve as a training to connect urban and rural activists. This will now be held online

Social media.

Social media LGBTI+ Gozo is present in all major social media platforms:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lgbtiplusgozo/>
Over 2,500 likes, reaching a total of 5,000 individuals every month.
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/lgbtigozo
Over 450 followers.

LGBTI+ Gozo is also regularly present in local media through News Conferences, Press Releases, TV, Radio and Newspaper Interviews.

Future events.

Better together

In 2015, as LGBTI+ Gozo was just formed the organisation set stone a series of informative educational workshops on various aspects of sexuality. Professionals gave a series of workshops open to the general public. Sexuality in kids, Sexuality and Spirituality among others were well attended. After the great success of this pilot project 5 years later the organization will once again organise 5 of these events across 2020.

Office space.

Borg, explained that the organisation is now looking for an office space that will serve as the main hub of activity for the organisation. This office space is needed in order for LGBTI+ Gozo to have a sustainable future. Whilst this is a challenge, the organisation believe that



having a space where queer Gozitans can connect and seek services is important. The visibility of an inclusive Gozo comes from certain artifacts. The Office is one of them. Together with the Office Space the organisation will work to appoint a full time worker with it. This full time worker will be through the Civic programme, in which the government can appoint a civil employee working with an organisation.

Reb Xiberras
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