

# APPENDIX 1: ATTITUDES QUESTIONNAIRE

**Thank you very much for agreeing to complete this questionnaire.** It will probably only take you about fifteen to twenty minutes to fill it in, but your answers will help us for a long time in the future! Before you begin to look at the questions, please take a few moments to read the following information as it will help you to understand why we are doing this survey and what we would like you to do ...

## **What Is The Male Link?**

The Male Link is a voluntary network of individuals and groups throughout the northern counties. Members share a common belief that it is important to increase awareness of the issues facing all local men and seek to encourage practical projects to meet these needs.

## **Why Do An Attitudes Survey?**

Although males make up almost half of our population, very little is actually known about their attitudes and opinions. At best, we make assumptions about their thoughts and, at worst, we rely on stereotypes that are passed from one generation to the next. Today, there are many new projects being developed for local males of all ages. Yet until we get some idea of how males feel about a range of issues, these programmes will be "working in the dark". This questionnaire hopes to give us some basic feedback about the attitudes and values of males who live in our community.

## **Who Will Be Taking Part In This Survey?**

The Male Link are asking all the groups and individuals that they have contact with to complete a questionnaire and/or pass them out to others. This will include people from all backgrounds and interest groups in the north of Ireland e.g. young/old, town/country, gay/straight, working/unemployed, disabled/able-bodied etc. However, only males aged 15 years and over are being asked to participate. We hope to gather the responses of at least 500 people. This survey will, therefore, be one of the biggest ever pieces of research on local men.

## **Is This Like A Test?**

This survey is not like a test. There are no right or wrong answers - you will only be asked to give your opinions about a range of subjects. You don't have to be really smart to take part, because this is about your views not your knowledge.

## **What Are The Questions About?**

There are two main parts to this questionnaire:

- 1) The next page asks you to give a "Personal Profile" of yourself. This will help us to ensure that we have managed to get responses from a good cross-section of males. If we can't do this, the survey will be biased.
- 2) Pages 3 and 4 are the main part of the questionnaire. We have given a list of forty statements and you are asked to state how you feel about these. To do this there is a scale of options ranging from "Strongly Agree" (1) to "Strongly Disagree" (5). You circle whichever number represents your views. At the very end of this paper there is also an "Open Question" where you can write a couple of lines about issues which you feel are important.

Almost all the questions only ask you to tick a box or circle a number. Please try to answer all the questions and give your first thoughts on each statement. Don't spend a lot of time weighing-up your answers. There aren't any hidden catches.

## **Will Anyone Know Who I Am?**

You will not be asked for your name, so you will remain anonymous. The code at the top of this page refers to the person who distributed this questionnaire for The Male Link not the person who completed it.

## **Any Other Questions?**

If there's anything else you would like to know please contact:

- Colin Fowler (The Men's Project) - Belfast 310891
- Nuala Brady (Young Men and Positive Mental Health Project) - Ballybofey, Co. Donegal 32335
- Shirley Ewart (Research Student, Magee College) - Derry/Londonderry 375439

## Personal Profile/Information

Only tick one box for each question - give the answer which best describes you

### LOCATION:

a) Which county do you live in at the moment?

Antrim	
Armagh	
Cavan	
Derry / Londonderry	
Donegal	
Down	
Fermanagh	
Leitrim	
Louth	
Meath	
Monaghan	
Sligo	
Tyrone	
Other (please specify)	

b) Do you live in ...

A City	
A Town	
A Village	
The Countryside	

### AGE:

Which age group do you belong to?

15 - 18 years	
19 - 29 years	
30 - 39 years	
40 - 49 years	
50 - 59 years	
60 - 69 years	
70 - 79 years	
Over 80 years old	

### IDENTITY:

Do you see yourself as being ...

Straight / Heterosexual	
Gay / Homosexual	
Bisexual	

### RELATIONSHIPS:

Are you currently ...

Single	
In a relationship / married	
Separated / divorced	
Widowed	

### CHILDREN:

How many children/stepchildren do you have?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 or more

### HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE:

Do you ...

Live alone	
Live with parents	
Live with partner	
Live with partner and children	
Live with children	
Share accommodation with others	
Other (please specify)	

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS:

Are you currently ...

Employed / Self-Employed	
Unemployed	
Student	
Retired	
On a Training Course	
A full-time carer (e.g. looking after children or relatives etc.)	
Out of work long-term on health grounds	
Other (please specify)	

### PERCEIVED BACKGROUND:

Would you see yourself as belonging to ...

The Roman Catholic community	
The Protestant community	
Another Religious community (please specify)	
No religious community	
I do not wish to answer this question	

### COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE:

Did you complete this questionnaire ...

On your own	
With the help of someone else	

## Statements

Below is a list of forty statements. Some of these you might agree with and others you might even find offensive. These statements are designed to provoke a response. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the survey organisers. We would like you to tell us what your attitude is to each statement by **circling one of the numbers** from 1 - 5 ...

- 1** = you **Strongly Agree** with the statement  
**2** = you **Agree** with the statement, but not very strongly  
**3** = you are **Undecided** and can't make up your mind  
**4** = you **Disagree** with the statement, but not very strongly  
**5** = you **Strongly Disagree** with the statement

... As we said on the first page, please try to answer all the questions and give your first thoughts on each statement. Don't spend a lot of time weighing-up your answers. There aren't any hidden catches. We just want to hear your opinions.

	Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree
1. Real men don't cry	1	2	3	4	5
2. Men can care for children equally as well as women	1	2	3	4	5
3. The media portray men in a negative way	1	2	3	4	5
4. Men and women should always be treated equally	1	2	3	4	5
5. The man should be the chief breadwinner in a household	1	2	3	4	5
6. Hard men are given a lot of respect in our community	1	2	3	4	5
7. Religion can be a source of comfort and support for men	1	2	3	4	5
8. Male friends should feel free to show physical affection to each other	1	2	3	4	5
9. You should only go to the doctor when there is something seriously wrong	1	2	3	4	5
10. Going to the pub is a good way to relax	1	2	3	4	5
11. After separation/divorce, children should stay with their mother	1	2	3	4	5
12. It's good to show your sensitive side	1	2	3	4	5
13. Women don't understand men	1	2	3	4	5
14. Work experience is more important than education when getting a job	1	2	3	4	5
15. It's good to talk to other men about personal problems	1	2	3	4	5
16. Men can be discriminated against because they are men	1	2	3	4	5
17. Support services are geared towards women	1	2	3	4	5
18. Men's lives would be better if they looked after themselves more	1	2	3	4	5
19. Talking about your feelings is OK	1	2	3	4	5
20. Being gay or bisexual is as natural as being straight	1	2	3	4	5
21. Football is a man's sport	1	2	3	4	5
22. It's more acceptable for a man to sleep around than a woman	1	2	3	4	5
23. Sometimes suicide is the only escape from life's problems	1	2	3	4	5
24. It's useful for fathers to talk to other fathers	1	2	3	4	5

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| 25. It's harder to be seen as a "real man" if you are disabled                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 26. Men should be involved in improving their local community                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 27. Men need less emotional support than women                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 28. Men use their power to threaten each other                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 29. There's a lot of pressure on men to behave in a certain way                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 30. It's better to be on your own than in a relationship                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 31. Straight, gay and bisexual men should all be treated equally                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 32. Sometimes you don't do things in case you fail                                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 33. Family law upholds the rights of women more than men                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 34. Nursing is a good career for a man  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 35. Some men are abused by their partners   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 36. A man gets stick if he doesn't drink alcohol in the pub                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 37. "Men's Groups" are only for weak and sappy men                                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 38. It's more difficult for men to take on traditional female roles than vice-versa | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 39. Men's health is not taken seriously by the Health Services                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 40. Men shouldn't ask for help even if they've got a problem                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

### **OTHER COMMENTS**

This questionnaire does not cover everything to do with men. Subsequently, there may be other comments or suggestions that you would like to make about men's work/issues. If you would like to add anything further (for example, your opinion of "Men's Groups"; support available to men; hopes for men in the future etc.) please use the box below. However, only use this space if there is something you really want to say. Please don't feel obliged to fill the box for the sake of it!

**Thank You Very Much For Taking The Time To Help Us!**