

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Request for Tender: Masculinity Research Project

Commissioning organisation	Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC)
Project	Masculinity Research Project
Tender title	Research into Attitudes and Norms of Masculinity among men aged 16-65
Maximum budget	€45,000 (including VAT)
Tender issue date	30/07/2026
Deadline for questions	07/08/2026
Submission deadline	21/08/2026
Contact	Olha Khoroshevskya, We-Consent, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre – olha.khoroshevskya@rcc.ie

1. Background

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) provides counselling, advocacy and support to survivors of sexual violence, and delivers education and prevention programmes – including the We-Consent programme – aimed at building healthy relationships, consent and respect. As part of this work, DRCC is launching a new project focused on masculinity, recognising that understanding how masculine norms and attitudes are formed and expressed is central to effective violence prevention.

DRCC wishes to commission an external research company to carry out a study into attitudes and norms around masculinity among men aged 16-65 in Ireland, to inform the design of future prevention and education initiatives.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is an Irish registered charity (RCN: 20021078, CHY: 8529) governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees and regulated by the Charities Regulator under the Charities Act 2009. We are a national organisation with a specific local focus for some of our services in Dublin and surrounding counties.

Project vision

This project is grounded in moving beyond a traditional ‘deficit model’ of prevention, in which men are framed solely as a risk or a problem to be addressed. Instead, We-Consent is building a collaborative, invitational space in which men are engaged as active participants in shaping a healthier, safer culture. The intention is to shift the narrative from what masculinity is not (e.g. ‘not toxic’) towards what it can affirmatively be – reflective, supportive and emotionally literate. The commissioned research will underpin this approach: it should surface real, lived experience rather than academic abstraction, and its findings will directly shape both the tone and content of DRCC’s subsequent engagement and programme work with men and boys.

2. Purpose and objectives

The purpose of this research is to build an evidence base on current attitudes and norms of masculinity among the target group, to directly inform DRCC's programme and communications design. Specific objectives include:

- To understand how men aged 16-65 in Ireland perceive and experience masculinity, including sources of influence (peers, family, media, sport, online spaces).
- To identify attitudes and norms that may contribute to, or protect against, harmful behaviours including sexual violence and lack of consent.
- To explore openness to, and preferred formats for, engagement on these topics.
- To provide actionable recommendations for the design of DRCC's masculinity-focused prevention work.

3. Scope of work

DRCC is seeking a mixed-methods study combining qualitative and quantitative research. Tenderers should propose a methodology but are expected to address:

1. Quantitative strand – a survey capturing attitudes, norms and behaviours at scale, with a robust and representative sample of the target group.
2. Qualitative strand – in-depth engagement (e.g. focus groups and/or interviews) to explore the meaning and context behind quantitative findings.
3. Analysis and synthesis – integration of qualitative and quantitative findings into a coherent set of insights.
4. Recommendations – practical, actionable recommendations for DRCC's prevention and education work.

Tenderers should propose their own recommended sample sizes, recruitment approach and fieldwork methods, with rationale.

4. Deliverables

- Inception report confirming methodology, sampling and project plan
- Data collection instruments (survey, discussion guides) for DRCC review and sign-off
- Draft findings report for DRCC feedback
- Final research report, including executive summary, methodology, findings and recommendations
- Presentation of findings to DRCC staff/stakeholders
- Anonymised dataset and any supporting materials, in an agreed format

5. Ethical and safeguarding requirements

Given the sensitivity of the subject matter, tenderers must demonstrate a trauma-informed, ethical approach, including:

- A clear ethics and data protection (GDPR) framework, including informed consent procedures
- Safeguarding protocols for participants who may disclose experiences of harm during fieldwork, including a distress/referral pathway
- Evidence of research ethics approval or an equivalent internal ethics review process
- Secure, confidential data storage and handling

6. Timeline

Indicative timeline (tenderers may propose adjustments with rationale):

- Tender issued: 30/07/2026
- Deadline for clarification questions: 07/08/2026
- Submission deadline: 21/08/2026
- Quantitative research: September 2026
- Qualitative research: October 2026
- Final report delivery: January 2027

7. Budget

The maximum budget for this project is **€45,000 including VAT**. This covers all three workstreams.

Tenderers should provide a clear cost breakdown showing:

- Workstream A: Quantitative strand
- Workstream B: Qualitative strand
- Workstream C: Analysis, final research report and presentation
- VAT (clearly stated)

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre's procurement policy requires that we seek competitive quotes for this piece of work. Tenderers exceeding €45,000 may not be considered.

Supplier invoices must be issued in euro.

8. Tenderer requirements

Tenderers are asked to keep submissions concise and focused, while addressing each of the following:

a) Organisational Profile

- Company overview and relevant capabilities
- Team members proposed for this project, with their roles and relevant expertise
- Details of any subcontractors or associates involved in delivery

b) Statement of Work

- Proposed methodology and approach for each workstream, including how the qualitative and quantitative strands will be integrated
- How the proposed approach aligns with DRCC's charitable purpose and strategic objectives
- How interdependencies between workstreams will be managed
- Proposed timeline with key milestones
- Approach to ethical research, safeguarding and trauma-informed practice

c) Experience and Case Studies

- Relevant experience, particularly with charities, NGOs, or public/community sector organisations
- At least two case studies of comparable projects
- At least two referees who can speak to relevant past work

d) Pricing

- Detailed cost breakdown, in line with Section 7
- Any assumptions or exclusions underpinning the costing
- Where any element of the work is offered pro bono, please state its value separately

e) Understanding of Context

- Demonstrated understanding of the crisis support sector and DRCC's work
- Approach to trauma-informed research design principles
- Consideration of equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility standards throughout the research design

9. Evaluation criteria

Tenders will be evaluated against the following weighted criteria:

Criterion	Weighting	
Understanding of the brief and relevance of proposed approach	20%	
Methodological rigour (mixed-methods design, sampling, analysis)	20%	
Relevant experience — gender, masculinity, violence prevention or related fields	25%	
Ethics, safeguarding and trauma-informed practice	15%	
Value for money / cost	20%	

10. Submission details

Deadline: 5pm on Friday 21st August 2026

Format: Doc or PDF formatted document 10 pages max

Submit: Tenders must be submitted via the 'electronic tenderbox' available on www.etenders.gov.ie. Only tenders submitted to the electronic tenderbox will be accepted. Tenders submitted by any other means (including but not limited to, by email, fax, post, hand delivery, etc.) will NOT be accepted.

Tenderers must ensure that they give themselves sufficient time to upload and submit all required tender documentation before the deadline for receipt of tenders. Tenderers should take into account the fact that upload speeds vary.

It is the responsibility of the tenderer to ensure that their response is uploaded and submitted correctly before the deadline for receipt of tenders. For any technical difficulties with www.etenders.gov.ie please contact the eTenders helpdesk.

Queries: Questions about this tender should be sent directly through the tender platform. Please submit queries by 10.00am on Friday 7th August 2026 to allow time for response.

This tender process will be conducted in line with best practice for Irish charities. All information provided will be treated confidentially.

11. Eligibility and Compliance

Tax Clearance

The successful tenderer must be able to demonstrate that their tax affairs are in order prior to contract award. Irish-based suppliers must be capable of providing a valid Tax Clearance Certificate or Revenue Online Service (ROS) Tax Clearance Access Number issued by the Irish Revenue Commissioners. Non-Irish suppliers must provide equivalent official documentation from the relevant tax authority in their jurisdiction confirming tax compliance or can apply for non-resident tax clearance through Revenue's TC1 form. Where a non-EU supplier has staff working in Ireland, including employees or contractors, the supplier must also provide documentation demonstrating compliance with Irish payroll, PAYE, and social insurance requirements, as applicable.

Supplier invoices must be issued in euro.

Our charity does not engage in taxable activity and is not registered for VAT. As such VAT is a cost to DRCC and the supplier's relevant VAT rate and cost for the supply of specified services must be included in the tender. Cost evaluation will be based on the VAT inclusive price.

Payment terms must be specified. Tax compliance documentation is not required at the tender submission stage; however, tenderers must include a statement confirming that they are tax compliant and that the required evidence will be provided promptly if they are successful. Failure to provide satisfactory tax compliance documentation prior to contract award may result in disqualification.

Insurance

The successful Tenderer shall, at its own expense, effect and maintain for the duration of the Contract the following minimum insurance cover:

- **Professional Indemnity Insurance:** not less than **€1,000,000** in respect of any one claim and in the aggregate.
- **Public Liability Insurance:** not less than **€2,000,000** in respect of any one occurrence.
- **Employer's Liability Insurance:** not less than **€13,000,000** in respect of any one occurrence (where applicable).

Tenderers must provide, with their submission, confirmation of the above insurance arrangements and may be required to furnish copies of insurance certificates prior to contract award. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to request updated evidence of insurance at any time during the Contract period.

12. Terms and conditions

- DRCC reserves the right not to award the contract to the lowest-cost bidder, or not to award the contract at all.
- All materials produced under this contract remain the property of DRCC.
- The successful tenderer will be required to sign a data processing agreement in line with GDPR.
- DRCC reserves the right to request a presentation/interview with shortlisted tenderers.