

**THE GREATER NEW YORK
GENDER ALLIANCE**

Fact Sheet

The Organization

The Greater New York Gender Alliance is a group of groups, encompassing the main gender-related organizations in the greater New York metropolitan area. GNYGA currently consists of five active groups, which serve a broad and varied membership. There are, as well, two or three other groups who are considering affiliation.

Formed in 1992 as a forum for communication and information exchange, the Greater New York Gender Alliance's purpose is to increase the social and political presence of the New York City area gender community, through outreach and mutual support and cooperation, and in sponsoring events that any single group could not support.

Annually, we sponsor Moonlight in Manhattan during April. This charity event is a long weekend featuring workshops, shopping, dining, theatre, clubs, and a dinner-dance. Gender people from as far away as Germany and Texas come to New York to enjoy the excitement of life in one of the world's great cities.

The Groups

Long Island Femme Expressions (LIFE) represents the crossdressing community of Long Island, but draws its membership from the surrounding counties as well. A particularly active group, it provides both "dress" and "non-dress" meetings. The group is focused towards the heterosexual crossdresser, and offers support and social activities. This group is especially well-known for its irreverent and openly plagiaristic newsletter, **Life Line**.

Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN) was organized in the autumn of 1991, and became affiliated with the Renaissance Education Association in July 1993. An open group, MGN meets the second Sunday of every month in the Murray Hill section of Manhattan, with a second social/cultural meeting toward the end of the month. Through our meetings and contacts, we engage in interactive discussion, information exchange, and advocacy in support of the gender community. Our primary goals are: to assist our members to enjoy life in their preferred gender role by assisting them in connecting with resources which will enhance their capabilities, to provide mutual support and social activities, to promote greater understanding through public education, and to support efforts to achieve civil rights and justice for our community.

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The Imperial Court of New York (ICNY) is a social, fund-raising organization associated with the drag community, which has raised over a hundred thousand dollars at community events, most notably the Night of a Thousand Gowns. The Imperial Court System is an affiliation of over fifty royal courts in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In New York, we meet monthly at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Our members have chosen to make a commitment, get involved, and make a difference. We are men and women who are proud to be who we are and challenge others to do the same. We are a group of active, concerned and vital members of the community.

The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) is an international organization with over fifty chapters and a thousand members. It was established to serve heterosexual crossdressers and their families, and encourages family participation at events and meetings. Security is a primary concern, along with support for the crossdresser and his wife. The local chapter, Chi Delta Mu, meets monthly in Northern New Jersey.

Crossdressers International (CDI) is a non-profit, non-sexual organization open to all who cross dress with a full feminine identity, regardless of sexual practices or orientation. For members and friends, CDI provides friendship and a secure, non-threatening environment. In New York, the group sponsors monthly meetings, parties, dinners, shows and many other functions. It serves as a membership organization to meet the educational, social and recreational needs of all crossdressers, transvestites and transsexuals.