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PRESS RELEASE

Lotto Luck for GMFA

BIG Lottery Fund for New Black Gay Men's Worker

London 16th October -- GMFA have been awarded a *Reaching Communities* grant by the BIG Lottery Fund to help tackle health inequalities experienced by London's Black gay men. The project will enable Black gay volunteers to pioneer peer education projects and deliver health promotion initiatives to their community.

"We're delighted that the increasing need for focused Black gay men's work has not been ignored," said Matthew Hodson, head of Programmes for GMFA. "This grant opens up a new post at GMFA which will not only increase the services we can make available for Black gay men, but ensures that the work is tailored and targeted to the communities' needs."

GMFA are currently recruiting a new project manager to kick-off phase one of the project. The role will support new and existing volunteers in articulating the specific health needs of Black gay and bisexual men around HIV. The aim of this is

to produce a report which will influence, change and improve HIV information and sexual health services for Black gay men. The new role will also involve managing the development and delivery of projects and interventions aimed at Black gay and bisexual men with a focus on migrant men. Details of this post and how to apply can be found at www.gmfa.org.uk/jobs or by calling 020 7738 6872. The closing date is 5th November.

When compared to other ethnic groups in the UK, Black gay men are more likely to be diagnosed with HIV (11.1% compared to 6.4% White British gay men) or have a partner with HIV.¹ When looking at levels of risk, Black men who have sex with men are more likely to have sex which could result in HIV transmission.²

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For more information about this or any other of GMFA's campaigns and actions, contact:

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References

1. *Risk and Reflection*, Sigma Research, December 2005
2. *On the Move*, Sigma Research, December 2004.

Notes to editor:

About GMFA:

GMFA was established in 1992 and is the UK's leading charity dedicated to gay men's health. GMFA's mission is to improve gay men's health by increasing the control they have over their own lives. We believe that the best health promotion for gay men comes from gay men themselves, and so we use the knowledge and ideas of our 170 volunteers (most of them gay men) to design and plan our thought provoking sexual health interventions. Yearly we deliver three new mass media

campaigns in the gay press to disseminate up to date information regarding HIV and STIs to the gay male community. Independent surveys have concluded that our campaigns reach up to 55% of the London gay population and we are the most reliable agency at reaching gay men. In addition to this we distribute our own health magazine, FS, free to London's gay bars and clubs to further educate gay men about relationships, their bodies, general health and STIs. Annually, we deliver 1000 hours of group work to educate gay men in safer sex, and over the last fourteen years have provided courses for over 10,000 gay men. We have recently launched three new websites containing information for gay men on sex and sexual health (www.gmfa.org.uk/sex), details of sexual health services available for gay men in London (www.gmfa.org.uk/londonservices) and our guide to gay sports and social groups (www.gmfa.org.uk/theguide). Over the next couple of months we will launch a website for HIV positive gay men. All of our sites can be accessed at www.gmfa.org.uk.