

“Change must be facilitated; and this facilitation must happen from the highest political level. In realising the change, we aspire to leave no-one behind.” Mohini Bali, Chairperson of the National Women's Council.

Gender Links (GL) Mauritius began operations in 2008. In 2019, the GL Mauritius office:

- Supported 23 new beneficiaries in the Safe Haven Halfway Home (SHHH) for young women in distress.
- Conducted entrepreneurship and literacy training for young women and men at the Correctional Youth Centre (CYC) and the Rehabilitation Youth Centre (RYC) of Mauritius.
- Conducted media training on SRHR with 17 journalists from eight media houses.
- Strengthened local and community action on SRHR through updating gender action plans in Port Louis, Quatre Bornes and Moka with support from the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFI).
- Held a SADC Protocol@Work summit in May 2019 with 52 entries and 60 participants (45 women and 15 men). Eleven participants from the Sunrise Campaign showcased their work at the Summit.
- Partnered with the Kaleidoscope Trust under the Equality and Justice Alliance to roll out an advocacy project on Gender Based Violence; LGBTI and SRHR. The Kolektif Drwa Imin (KDI) coalition is completing a Legal Environment Assessment on violence, and research on the

perception of violence against the three target groups.

- Scored a major goal for gender equality when in November 2019 Mauritius bowed to local and international advocacy pressure to align its legal age of civil marriage to 18. GL presented a paper on the Age of Marriage at the review of Mauritius' commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Geneva in 2018. In 2019 GL met with the Attorney General's office and the Ministry of Gender to advocate that the CEDAW recommendation to review the legal age of marriage (previously 16 for women and 18 for men). The Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare's announcement that the legal age for marriage will be raised to 18 paves the way for Mauritius to accede to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. Presently Mauritius is the only SADC country that has not done so.



SADC Protocol Gender workshop in the Curepipe Municipality.
Photo by GL Mauritius

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