

The South Africa programme has run by GL headquarters in Johannesburg since the founding of the organisation in 2001. In 2019 GLSA:

- Conducted a gender audit of the South African National elections in May 2019 launched at the #Voice and Choice SADC Protocol@Work Summit in SA. President Cyril Ramaphosa broke new ground by appointing 50% women to his cabinet. At 46% women in parliament SA is just shy of achieving gender parity. There is need for ongoing lobbying and advocacy to ensure that South Africa reaches this goal in the local government elections in 2021.
- Held the South Africa #Voice and Choice SADC Protocol@Work Summit ran from the 27-28 June 2019 with 60 participants, eight winners and ten runners up. Pravienna Naidoo, judge at the Summit said, "You do your work with little or no resources with passion and commitment. Learn from each other, network and work together to strengthen the great work that you do."
- Held a meeting of the COE councils and South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) gender focal points from all provinces to strategise about taking the COE process forward.

- Participated in the national Interim GBV Steering Committee responsible for the development of a National Strategic Plan to end GBV and Femicide and for putting in place a GBV council. The South African Cabinet adopted the plan in December 2019. One of the four pillars of the plan is economic power to end GBV, an outcome that GL lobbied hard for. The new Council will be in place by June 2020.

GL's Monitoring and Evaluation through the Gender and Local Government Scorecard based on the data for four councils show that:

- **Representation of women** in COE councils in South Africa is 46% and 33% in political leadership positions.
- **Employment of women** in councils is 41%.
- **Women constitute** 36% of council management.
- **Housing:** 55% of housing is allocated to women.
- **Sexual harassment policies:** 100% of the councils have sexual harassment policies in place.
- **Disability facilities:** 100% of the councils have facilities that cater for people with disability. This shows that councils are sensitive to the needs of different groups in their communities.

"The most difficult experience of my life was being raped but I used this experience to help people who have experienced similar things to embrace life. Living the life of a HIV positive person gave me a platform to empower and motivate young women to live positive lives. As a gender activist my aim is to provide empowerment and also help other women in the community live a healthy lifestyle. My work gives me inner peace." *Rose Thamae, Executive Director, Let us Grow*



Rose Thame, Executive Director, Let us Grow, Orange Farm, South Africa.
Photo by Lori Waselchuck

SOUTH AFRICA



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