

# Men against Violence



Adarsh Goburdhun, from Men Against Violence, giving his presentation.

The battle against gender-based violence (GBV) can only be won if men come on board, Adarsh Goburdhun, representing the organisation "Men Against Violence" (MAV), told the Summit participants.

MAV's main objective is to persuade men to publicly say "No to GBV". The organisation wants "to positively influence men's attitude and behaviour towards women in order to reduce GBV in our society." The project is entirely funded by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare.

In his address, Goburdhun quoted the disturbing statistics from a Gender Links study on GBV which showed that at least 24% of women in Mauritius have experienced some form of GBV in their lifetime and 23% of men have admitted to have perpetrated violence against women in their lifetime. "The problem is that the victim is unaware of what they are enduring or perpetrators can be unaware of what they are doing. Their ignorance is the issue. The project aims to create awareness about all forms of GBV," he said.

Goburdhun said MAV's target group



# Women in politics: making a difference

By Loga Virahsawmy

Quotable quotes  
Living up to the challenges

Marie Alexandra Tania Diolle says she had always believed in grassroots democracy and changing people's lives, so when she was asked to stand as candidate for the Municipal Elections, she seized the opportunity.

Her best experience was when she was sworn in as Councillor for Quatre Bornes. "This has been a great moment of my life. I must live up to the challenge and do my job professionally."

As a councillor, she had the opportunity to participate in a domestic violence

is the youth. "If a young person knows and understands that inflicting GBV is an evil action then the generation to come will also know."

MAV has a comprehensive programme, which has included mounting a national awareness campaign using billboards, the media and the internet. MAV has used a team of high profile men who have publicly stood up and said "no to GBV". MAV has also trained boys and girls to adopt defensive strategies to avoid GBV and has offered counselling to perpetrators of GBV.

The project has succeeded in getting over 3,000 men to sign a pledge to never commit violence against women. Some 1,000 participants benefited from MAV's training sessions and learnt about the concept of "self-change". Goburdhun told the story of a woman who had suffered violence at the hands of her father as a child and later could not trust any man. A man who fell in love with her found out about her violent father and so invited her to attend the MAV sensitization sessions with him. She said that they are happily married now and she is expecting their first baby.



Dr Ameenah Sorefan handing over the certificate of excellence to Adarsh Goburdhun, winner in GBV and Conflict resolution category.

workshop run by Gender Links, which she said informed her about how prevalent gender-based violence is in Mauritius. "We must empower people and NGOs so that they can take control of their lives and other people's lives."

"I will be a councillor for the next six years and we all know that Local Government is close to the community. I know I have a role in the economic and social development of my local government area."

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Credits:  
Articles written by Sakinah Caunhye  
Photos by Girish Abdhosee and Loga Virahsawmy



# Mauritius SADC Gender Protocol Awards

par Caroline Duval

Des gagnants heureux

Ils représenteront Maurice en Afrique du Sud lors du Sommet régional sur le Genre, les Médias et les Collectivités locales, qui aura lieu entre les 22 et 24 avril. Quatre parmi les 18 primés racontent leurs expériences.



Nathalie Didier a été primée dans la catégorie Contenu médiatique. La voix de cette jeune animatrice est connue de tous les auditeurs de Music FM et ne laisse personne indifférent. «J'ai suivi plusieurs formations avec Gender Links qui nous ont permis de constater qu'il n'y avait pas assez de voix de femmes dans les médias. Sandra Mayotte qui était sur la même longueur d'ondes que moi sur le sujet et moi, avons décidé de proposer l'émission 100 % Fam».

«L'idée était surtout de mettre en avant le côté positif des femmes et de mettre en lumière des femmes exceptionnelles et extraordinaires qui restent trop souvent dans l'ombre. Cette émission nous a rapprochées davantage de la réalité». Au fil des émissions qui ont duré une semaine, elle a compris que de nombreuses femmes victimes de violence domestique se taisent car elles craignent d'être stigmatisées. « Nous avons également été agréablement surprises d'avoir des appels d'hommes qui ont accepté de témoigner. Pour nous, c'est la preuve que nous avons réussi à remplir un des objectifs du Protocole de la SADC qui est d'atteindre la parité et à prendre la pleine mesure des capacités de la Mauricienne». Elle a aussi présenté une émission sur le changement climatique afin d'expliquer aux femmes comment se protéger des aléas de la nature. «J'ai aussi compris que la Mauricienne a les capacités de progresser mais qu'on lui donne rarement la chance d'atteindre le top management». Nathalie Didier réalise qu'il y a encore beaucoup à faire pour



changer les mentalités et les mœurs.

Ashwini Rughoodass Boobhun qui travaille comme Welfare Officer au conseil de district de Rivière-Noire a été primée dans la catégorie Education et développement économique au sein des collectivités locales.

Elle a présenté un plan d'action pour contrer la violence basée sur le genre dont l'application a déjà commencé il y a trois ans et demi. « C'est surtout dans la région de La Valette qu'il y avait un gros travail à faire». Un programme

spécifique connu comme Project and strategic sustainable campaign a été mis sur pied en 2011 dans l'optique d'encourager la créativité chez les enfants de l'endroit. « Nous avons fait des causeries avec les enfants sur plusieurs sujets importants. Des ateliers de sculpture ont été mis en place pour les adolescents. Au niveau des adultes, l'idée était surtout de leur apprendre à devenir autonomes».



Ashwini a travaillé longuement avec les adultes, notamment les hommes au chômage et les femmes au foyer. Ainsi, 25 habitants ont été ciblés pour suivre des cours sur la culture des champignons auprès de l'Agricultural Research and Extension Unit tombant sous le ministère de l'Agriculture. « Ce cours a permis à beaucoup de femmes et d'hommes de cultiver des champignons chez eux. Certains ont même appris à leurs amis et voisins à le faire et à les vendre par la suite». Une façon pour Ashwini de promouvoir l'autonomisation chez les habitants de La Valette et d'encourager les rapports de bons voisinages. « Une vingtaine d'habitants sont par la suite partis suivre des cours plus poussés sur le sujet. C'était un exploit et un motif d'espoir pour les femmes concernées».

Marie Michelle Lepredour est conseillère municipale à la mairie de Curepipe, elle a été primée au niveau de la catégorie Droits constitutionnels et légaux et gouvernance. «Dans le projet que j'ai présenté, je me suis surtout concentrée sur le droit des femmes. Et j'y ai aussi inclus les enfants. J'ai rencontré Gender Links en 2008 ». Marie-Michèle travaille avec les habitants de Cité Mangalkhan depuis longtemps. « Les membres de l'association Société Femmes Arc en Ciel et moi avons rencontré les femmes du quartier pour sonder leurs inquiétudes. Notre message était clair : leur faire comprendre qu'elles ont aussi leur place dans la société et qu'elles ont droit à une vie normale». Les femmes du village ont été formées. « Nous voulions faire quelque chose pour autonomiser ces femmes de plus de 25 ans. Grâce au programme de repas chauds offert aux enfants, plusieurs femmes y ont trouvé du travail. D'autres femmes ont obtenu un emploi auprès de 'Lakaz des enfants' qui regroupe une centaine d'enfants de la localité. « J'ai été doublement récompensée en étant élue conseillère et en recevant ce trophée. Cela me donne le courage de continuer sur cette voie ».



Leadership Centre of excellence: Mamta

Mamta Jugroop du conseil de district de Grand Port a été primée dans la catégorie Leadership. « Nous avons toujours une certaine proximité avec les habitants du quartier. Nous éduquons depuis plusieurs années déjà les gens pour qu'ils recyclent leurs déchets en compost. Nous distribuons aussi 1000 poubelles de compost à travers le village». C'est ainsi qu'elle décide d'aller vers les femmes qui ont du potentiel. « Nous voulions former les femmes qui étaient les plus présentes et les plus actives lors de manifestations organisées par le conseil de district. « C'est une façon pour nous d'assurer l'avenir et d'aider les femmes qui sont arfois très timides à surmonter leurs blocages et à les former afin qu'elles représentent un jour le village dans des manifestations nationales». Ainsi plusieurs formations sur l'entreprenariat dispensées par le ministère de l'Égalité du Genre et le National Women Council ont été organisées pour les femmes de l'endroit. «Nous avons animé des sessions de travail sur la question Maurice le Durable et au fil du temps, nous avons vu un changement chez les habitants. Nous essayons toujours d'être proactives en établissant un plan d'action et en faisant un suivi strict,» explique Mamta.

Les lauréates:

Gender Based Violence and conflict resolution: Adash Goburdhun

Climate Change and sustainable development: Girish Munhurrin

Climate Change and sustainable development for local government: Ruben Pillay Munien

Sexual and reproductive rights and HIV AIDS: Dr Davi Mungala Soyjaudah

Constitutional and Legal Rights and Governance: Meghanalyegee Venketasamy

Constitutional and Legal Rights and Governance for local government: Marie Michelle Lepredour

Education and Economic Development: Anooradah Pooran

Education and Economic Development for Local government: Ashwini Bhoobun

Education and Economic Development for Media print: Jenilaine Moonean

Education and Economic Development for Group Media radio: Nathalie Didier

Education and Economic Development for Media television: Rishi Kumar Gopaul

Best Overall performance Centre of excellence for Local government: Mamta Jugroop Coonjan



Best improved performance Centre of excellence: Shamanta Domun Fagoone

Best overall Performance Centre of excellence for Media: MBC

Education and Economic Development for Leadership media: Dhanjay Callikan

Leadership Centre of excellence: Mamta

# SADC GENDER PROTOCOL WORK

Produced during the first SADC Gender Protocol Summits and Awards 2013



# MAURITIUS

April 2013



# Mauritius renews its commitment to the SADC Gender Protocol Summit 2015

By Loga Virahsawmy

The first ever Mauritius SADC Gender Protocol Summit closed at Gold Crest Hotel in Quatre Bornes on March 26 2013, with resounding shouts of - "2015, Yes we Must! The SADC Gender Protocol at Work. The best ever National Summit we have attended".

Ten women and six men received awards in a variety of themes, local government and media categories. The summit featured 63 entries in categories including Gender, Gender-Based Violence and Conflict Resolution; Education and Economic Development; Climate Change; Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV/Aids and Constitutional, legal rights and governance; other presentations covered institutional Centres of Excellence (COEs) and Leadership.

The Summit brought together local government ministries, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), media practitioners, gender activists, representatives of the Ministry of Gender Child Development and Family Welfare through its National Women's Council, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. A high level panel of judges along with the Chairs of sessions adjudicated the awards. The judges unanimously agreed that the Chair of the Equality Opportunity Commission, Brian Glover, should represent them at the regional awards in Johannesburg from 22- 25 April. High profile dignitaries at the final award ceremony included the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands, Herve Aimee, the Mayor of the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes, Rouma Meetoo, Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of District Councils and Presidents of Village Councils as well as representatives of network organisations.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands, Herve Aimee, indicated that Mauritius may sign the SADC Gender Protocol following the amendment of its Constitution so that parliament could pass the 2011 Local Government Act which allows a gender-neutral quota in local elections. "This has opened the door for the country to change its mind about signing," said the Minister. Mauritius has not signed because of reservations about the clause on affirmative action. The new Local Government Act states that at least one-third of all candidates standing for a political party in an electoral ward must be of a different sex. The Minister pointed out that the local government elections saw the total number of women candidates increase from under 500 to nearly 2,000. "The local



Herve Aimee, Minister of Local Government in Mauritius delivers his speech at the opening ceremony of the SADC Protocol@Work Summit.

government elections, held in December last year, can be considered a culmination of all the efforts put over many years by Gender Links and the other women organisations in Mauritius. I am happy to have been the facilitator in my function as Minister of Local Government."

He added, it was a "landmark year with regard to the advancement of women in politics in this country."



Herve Aimee, Minister of Local Government in Mauritius delivers his speech at the opening ceremony of the SADC.



Loga Virahsawmy, Gender Links Francophone Director, speaking at the opening ceremony of the Mauritius SADC Protocol@Work Summit

# Empowering the society

Quotable quotes  
"The challenge is to create awareness and to change mentality."

I have been a journalist for nine years and for two years have been part of the Defi Media Group, one of the largest local press organisations which owns magazines and a private radio station. My areas of specialism are gender-based violence, empowerment of women and women in politics.

Since I started working with Gender Links, I have had the opportunity to help many women speak out about their problems. The pre-summit itself was an enriching experience. As a journalist I was able to share my work and experiences as well as learn from the other contestants.



Ancily Jemilaine Moonean



Loga Virahsawmy, Gender Links Francophone Director, praised the efforts of the national broadcaster Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) for working towards gender equity. The MBC has given management opportunities to women and allowed them to cover mainstream news stories.

Virahsawmy added that Gender Links has supported all municipal and district councils to mainstream gender in their work and they are now cascading into villages in order to achieve gender equality by 2015.

Rekha Sooboron, the Deputy Director of the MBC, told the Summit participants that Gender Links helped MBC to develop a Gender Action Plan. She also highlighted the Gender Links media monitoring research which showed that women's voices only made up 14% in news coverage in 2010 and increased to 40% in 2012.

Ameenah Sorefan, the representative of Media Watch Organisation (MWO), focal organisation for the SADC Protocol Alliance, highlighted the roadmap put in place to make sure that the targets of the Protocol are reached.



Rekha Sooboron, MBC Deputy Director

## Breaking the cycle of gender-based violence

Sangeetah Seetulparsad from the Mauritius Council of Social Services (MACOSS) stressed that the government alone cannot fight gender-based violence (GBV) as it needs the collaboration of everyone, including the survivors of GBV.

Seetulparsad pointed out that survivors of GBV participate in MACOSS' sensitization sessions.

MACOSS has also held a two-day training on GBV for NGOs who are working in communities. Also last year

they set up a multi-sectorial committee to develop strategies to curb violence, including gender violence at schools.

"GBV comes in many ways and forms and its consequences can include physical injury, loss of productivity and stigmatization. We are indeed addressing a sensitive and serious issue," said Seetulparsad.

Seetulparsad stressed that if the youth, who are the future, can be educated about the gravity of GBV, the cycle of GBV can be broken.

"One of the successes of the project is that social workers and trainers along with a psychologist have been able to rebuild relationships between couples. She cited the case of four couples who had separated "due to intimate partner violence and who following counselling sessions are living happily with their children."



Sangeetah Seetulparsad, presenter in the GBV and conflict resolution category

Seetulparsad acknowledged the challenges in her work, but she said the lives they have changed through their project activities give her hope. With constant follow ups, continuous training and appropriate tools, the target goal of halving GBV by 2105 can be achieved, she said.

## Community-based adaptation to climate change alters women's lives

By Sakinah Caunhye

Girish Munhurrin, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, challenged participants at the Summit to realize how climate change is already impacting their lives and shared a best practice that combats climate change.

maybe the day when you had to rush to get your kids safely home because of the "la pluie torrentielle"? We are living the impacts of climate change. How will our children manage tomorrow? Or will they even have a place to call home?"

The Ministry supports a climate change programme that involves community-based adaptation projects, capacity building and sensitization on climate change. The community sensitization

programmes have targetted women, majority of whom are "housewives", NGOs working with women, and local authorities.

The ministry has also trained 80 officers and held four national awareness workshops on climate change. During the sensitization campaigns, women have said that their lives have changed. They now have their own small gardens where they re-use harvested rain water and fertilize through composting.



Girish Munhurrin, delivering his presentation



## Etre Femme - Be a woman!

The media in Mauritius have given a voice to women to discuss all thematic areas spelt out in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

Nathalie Didier and Sandra Mayotte are radio presenters for the programme "etre femme" (Be a woman) on national radio. The two presenters explained to the Summit participants how they tackled issues concerning the Protocol: Education & Economic Development, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Gender-based violence and Conflict Resolution.

change and how to find solutions. The programme has also highlighted the importance of education. Presenters have explained the different forms of gender-based violence and have encouraged listeners to find solutions to stop the violence.

The journalists said that the response to the programme has been tremendous which is evidenced by testimonials from both men and women. Didier said, "sometimes listeners phone in to say that they had been following the tips given on the radio programmes and have been applying them successfully in their homes." She added that women callers have said they feel more confident talking on air. They even talk about topics that are considered taboo. "Above all women are given a voice and platform to share their concerns."



## Mauritius stands high in the region for achievements towards gender equality- Key findings of the Barometer

Mauritius has not yet signed the SADC Gender Protocol, but is making more progress than most other SADC countries in its efforts towards gender equality.

Loga Virahsawmy, Gender Links Francophone Director, presented keys findings to the Summit participants, pointing out that Mauritius performs well on all fronts except in women's representation in decision-making. She congratulated the Minister of Local Government, Herve Aimee, for the 2011 Local Government Act which increased women councillors from 6.4% to 31% of total councillors. The new Local Government Act states that at least one-third of all candidates standing for a political party in an electoral ward must be of a different sex. As a result, the local government elections saw the total number of women candidates increase from less than 500 to nearly 2,000.

Gender activists say the Act may pave the way for the country to reconsider signing the 2008 SADC Protocol. The Protocol sets out 28 targets to be achieved by 2015. Mauritius has not signed as it has reservations about the clause on affirmative action.

Despite not signing, the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance still tracks Mauritius progress towards the targets using the SADC Gender and Development Index (SGDI), an empirical measure, and the complementary Citizen Score Card (CSC) which captures the qualitative aspect seen through the eyes of the citizens.

The SGDI puts Mauritius at 74%, up 3% from last year of where it needs to be by 2015, ranking the country fifth in the region and well above the regional average of 66%. Citizens were slightly more critical and gave a score of 61% which is still higher than the 57% CSC regional average, but is a 9% decrease from the country's CSC in 2011 and puts Mauritius in seventh place.

Mauritius is in many ways a role model for the region. The country has no discriminatory laws and the government,

with support of civil society, has made remarkable progress towards gender equality in all areas.

There are tough laws in place to address gender-based violence (GBV). Violence in schools is taken seriously; if a teacher abuses a pupil, it results in dismissal. Pregnant girls are allowed to continue their education and return after they have given birth. Mauritius has achieved gender parity in education.

The economy is thriving and diverse initiatives exist to empower women in trade and small businesses, including



Top left Colleen Lowe Morna, CEO of Gender Links, Dr Aminah Sorefan the Vice President of Media Watch, Loga Virahsawmy the Director of Gender Links Mauritius, Mena Gopaul the Programme officer at Gender Links Mauritius and Brian Glover Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission

financing and trading schemes.

The country's health system is of high quality. Mauritius has the lowest maternal mortality rate in the world with only 28 deaths per 100,000 which is significantly lower than the regional average of 820 per 100,000. HIV prevalence rates have remained low.



Woman making garments.

## Etre juge m'a permis de voir le genre sous un nouveau jour

Par Jimmy Harmon  
Responsable du département de Pédagogie appliquée - Institut Cardinal Jean Margéot

Le débat sur le genre n'est pas nouveau pour moi mais le Sommet mauricien sur le Protocole de la SADC sur le Genre et sa remise des prix ont modifié ma compréhension du genre. Alors que j'étais encore au collège secondaire dans les années 80, j'ai été étroitement associé aux mouvements féministes locaux et je m'intéressais à la littérature féminine telle que l'étude pionnière d'Ann Oakley intitulée « Sexe, genre et société » (1972) et le provocant « La Dialectique du sexe » de Firestone (1970). Cependant, le travail de Gender Links avec les organisations de la société civile, les collectivités locales et les médias a été plus significatif que la simple définition du genre et les débats académiques habituels.

Ce Sommet a été l'occasion pour moi de travailler pour la première fois avec cette organisation non-gouvernementale de l'Afrique australe. J'étais juge sur le panel des Centres d'Excellence au sein des collectivités locales et des médias. Je dois dire que cela a été un apprentissage aussi bien pour les participants que les juges. Tous les juges ont assisté au briefing le 21 mars et comme tous les autres juges, j'ai parcouru les différentes entrées (vidéos, articles, DVD et CD) avant l'ouverture du Sommet. C'est là que j'ai réalisé le travail remarquable de sensibilisation au genre, de plaidoyers et de pratiques en cours dans les différentes régions effectués par les collectivités locales.

Le premier jour du Sommet, j'ai apprécié la façon dont les participants ont présenté le travail effectué sur le terrain à la base. J'ai fait un commentaire critique aux finalistes en leur disant qu'il faudrait plus de récits dans leurs présentations afin de faire entendre la voix des sans voix. Selon moi, le genre a aussi une dimension de classe sociale. Les mouvements du genre devraient faire entendre la voix des femmes défavorisées et marginalisées.

Au cours du Sommet, nous avons beaucoup entendu parler des plans d'action du genre, de mécanismes de monitoring et d'autres indicateurs que les organisations ont intégrés à la base. Ils remettent en question le système patriarcal de pouvoir au sein de la société mauricienne. L'autre fait intéressant est que j'ai réalisé comment les mouvements du genre ont influencé la réforme électorale pour les élections municipales, ce qui a amené une hausse significative dans la représentation des femmes aux conseils de districts et dans les municipalités.

Cependant, la plus grande révélation pour moi a été les résultats de l'étude sur les indicateurs de violence à Maurice intitulée *War@home*. C'est là que j'ai réalisé que près d'un quart des Mauriciennes (24%) ont vécu une forme de violence basée sur le genre durant leur vie, y compris de leur partenaire.

En tant qu'éducateur de transformation sociale, j'entends disséminer les résultats de cette étude et amener une plus grande sensibilisation sur les questions du genre.



## My learning journey as a student attending the Summit

By Sakinah Caunhye

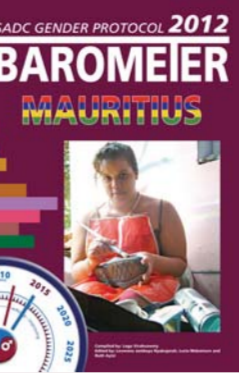
This has to be the hardest thing to do; write about myself. I was born in a not-so-conventional Muslim family. My father valued education and now at 22, I wish to carry on learning all my life.

I have never experienced gender-based violence (GBV) or gender discrimination at home. Given that my parents both work full time, it was normal for me to see my father cook or my mother change a light bulb. My father would give my sister and me the same task as my brother; nothing more; nothing less. I never occurred to me that this might be unusual in other households.

My course study in Journalism paved the way to what I always wanted to do: meet people; be a messenger and serve society. I know it sounds cliché but I understand the responsibilities journalism entails.

My university life gave me the opportunity to attend workshops and conferences. It is my first time attending the Gender Summit which features in my list of once-in-a-lifetime-opportunities. I learnt so many things that you can't learn in the university classroom. It was an amazing experience for me. I heard presentations form inspirational women of my island. They have inspired me to pursue my dreams to become a journalist. While covering the presentations, I also took on board the remarks of the judges. I shall remember their advice.

I would like to thank Loga Virahsawmy, Gender Links Francophone Director, for giving me the opportunity to be part of this summit. I came as a student in journalism and emerged as an empowered 'journaliste en herbe'.



financing and trading schemes.

The country's health system is of high quality. Mauritius has the lowest maternal mortality rate in the world with only 28 deaths per 100,000 which is significantly lower than the regional average of 820 per 100,000. HIV prevalence rates have remained low.

## Radio Journalists promote women musicians

By Sakinah Caunhye

Anooshka Massoudy a Radio Jockey on Music FM told summit participants how she has encouraged Mauritian women to embrace a career in music. She cited the Mauritian artist, Rajini Lallah, as the "perfect example of a woman's will to realize her dreams".

She said, as Mauritian society does not embrace music as a career option

the artist had to go abroad where she had to overcome many challenges before fulfilling her dreams.

Massoudy has a radio show which aims to encourage people, particularly women, to follow a music career in Mauritius. She had a phone-in programme and noted the impact of an interview on air that she had with the famous band, Rajini Lallah, and the lead singer A4, Joelle Husseiny.

She said, "there was a magnificent

response to this radio programme. The questions and answers segment was popular. Many women said they were enlightened and became confident about their abilities to be artists."

Massoudy said she wanted to make the audience appreciate the evolution of Mauritian woman in music; to make listeners discover and appreciate their music style and also to let listeners know that woman are creative, gifted and that they can succeed in their art.



## The Gala night and awards - a high note!

The first ever Mauritius Gender Protocol Summit ended on a high note on March 26 2013 with a vibrant gala dinner and awards ceremony held at the Gold Crest Hotel in Quatre Bornes. The Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands Herve Aimee, the Mayor of the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes Rouma Meetoo, the president of the Equal Opportunity Commission

Brian Glover; and Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of District and Village Councils attended the event.

Ten women and six men received awards in a variety of themes, local government and media categories. The summit featured 63 entries in different categories: Gender, Gender Based Violence and Conflict Resolution; Education and Economic Development; Climate Change; Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV/Aids and Constitutional, legal

rights and governance. There were also awards for Institutional Centres of Excellence (COEs) and Leadership.

Speaking at the event Glover noted that the key objective of this summit is "enough of pessimism and scepticism" the targets of the SADC Gender Protocol must be achieved!

Fittingly a string Chamber Orchestra gave the event the "grandiose" feel that it deserved and left some people with tears in their eyes.



Jimmy Harmon handing over certificate to Coonjan Mamta Juroop during the award ceremony at the Gold crest Hotel.



Meghanaiyegee Venketasamy receiving her award from Brian Glover in the category Constitutional, legal rights and Governance

WINNER	CATEGORY	
Adarsh Goburdhun	GBV and conflict - Alliance	Women in Networking/Men Against Violence
Girish Munhurrin	Climate Change - Alliance	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Ruben Moonien	Climate Change - Local Gvt	Municipal Council of Curepipe
Dr. Davi Mangala Soyjaudah	Sexual and reproductive Rights and HIV and AIDS - Alliance	Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
Meghanaiyegee Venketasamy	Constitutional and Legal Rights - Alliance	Women in Networking/Women in Politics
Marie Michelle Lepredour	Constitutional and Legal Rights - Local Gvt	Councilor of the Municipal Council of Curepipe
Anooradah Pooran	Education and Economic Development - Alliance	Association for vulnerable women and children (APEDED)
Ashwini Bhoobun	Education and Economic Development - Local Gvt	District Council of Black River
Jenilaine Moonean	Media - print	Le Defi Media Group
Nathalie Didier	Media - radio	Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation
Rishikumar Gopaul	Media - television	Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation
Soondaree-Devi Roboron	Media - Best Overall Performance	Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation
Dhanjay Callikan	Media - Leadership	Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation
Shyam Teeluck	Local Government - Best Overall Performance	Chief Executive Officer, District Council of Grand Port
Sharmanta Doornan Fagoonee	Local gvt - improved	Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix
Subhawantee Koonjan Jhugroop	Local government - Leadership	District Council of Grand Port