

Change can happen when complaints are dealt with properly.



We want a Council that is free of Gender Based Violence and where women and men can enjoy their full democratic rights

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=2809

Photo: Mary Jane Piang Nee

COUNTRY	Mauritius
COUNCIL	Curepipe
WHY SELECTED	Best case
Score when score card first administered	89%
Agreed score at verification	77%
Population	84200
Key characteristics	A small town and centrally situation in Mauritius with cool and rainy climatic condition. Curepipe attracts tourists and visitors due to all the places of interest such as Trou aux Cerfs (a dormant volcano) its Botanical Garden and other places of attraction
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What was the situation before the intervention?

The council had a new Mayor who was not aware of Gender Links



The Council already had a very good collaboration with GL. The previous Gender Champion, Bernard Sik Yuen, was very proactive and believed in gender issues. An MOU has already been signed and several stages of the COE done already. In September 2012, an action plan was already prepared.

Loga Virahsawmy and Brigitte Michel during the strategic communications and IT for advocacy held on 05th & 6th November 2012 at the municipal council of Curepipe.

Photo: Ghirish Abdhosee

But the new Mayor, Mr Mario Bienvenu, is gender sensitive and willing to take up the work where it was left. He agreed to give GL representative a meeting in his busy schedule. The GL folder was scrutinized and the Mayor was much impressed by the work done in the council so far.



During the meeting the Mayor was very attentive to journey of GL so far as an organisation as well as a partner to the Council.

Posters and drawings done by the children and Gender activists of Curepipe. Photo:Marylin Coopan

Curepipe is among the best council. The Mayor found the fact that the Council participated in GL Summit 2012 and won the in-country summit for the institutional category and Mr Ruben moonien who came as runner-up in the category climate change at the regional summit in joburg.

Also, since GL presence in the council, GBV and 16 days campaign became part of the agenda.

Gender Champion

The gender champion since Mr Bernard Sik Yuen left has been Ms Nisha Chetty. She first met Gender Links in 2009 and since then has been cascading the training of GL. She has been actively participating in the sensitizing the locality with GBV and HIV/AIDS.

How has life tangibly and demonstrably changed as a result of the intervention?

Centre of Excellence



No wonder that the Municipal Council of Curepipe became the best locality to work with Gender Links in the context of the Centre of Excellence. Now with the Gender neutral quota, the number of women councillors rose from 6.6% to 40%, making the Council an even better model for the region. When the Council has had a gender sensitization training with Gender links, the integration of women is done smoothly.

Ms Bernarde Bazerque the deputy Chief Executive of the Municipal Council of Curepipe and Police Inspector from the Central Division, Yoidhisteer Thecka during a stage 5 workshop.

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=31136

Women are in non-traditional areas. There are four women who are head of departments namely Finance, welfare, library and administration. The Council has also allocated a budget for the promotion of gender equality as well as a specific budget for GBV activities. A team has been set up to address the issue of GBV. The team is composed of the Mayor, the councillors, the Chief Executive, the Chief Welfare Officer and Heads of Departments. The Welfare Department is responsible for implementing projects and decisions



on GBV while the Health Depart

Enthusiastic children leading the way for the Gender violence march held in Curepipe.

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=2806

Photo:Marylin Coopan

ment makes sure that Curepipe is free of gender discrimination through environmental projects.

'Gender Links made me aware of the link between gender and the environment' said the Gender Champion, Ms Nisha Chetty.

How do we know this change has occurred?

Changes seen to be done

There is a special billboard in front of the Municipal compound on 365 days against GBV.

Different financial votes have been approved by Council for gender and GBV

There is a central information centre with a hotline on a 24 hour basis where complaints are registered. The complaints are dealt with the next day and appropriate actions taken.



A sketch on violence during the 16 days campaign in 2011 in Curepipe.

Photo:Mary-Jane Piang-Nee

Concrete Results

- Action are taken on the complaints
- There is a suggestion in the different departments and action are taken on the suggestions
- Anonymous complaints are also dealt with
- Participation in the 16 days campaign and in cyber dialogues
- There is a high rate of satisfaction from members of the public

- People are more responsive to GBV issues
- Surveillance camera in strategic areas to contain GBV
- Works in close collaboration with HIV/AIDS organisations to sensitize the community.
- Stands in markets for women
- Houses are being leased on housing estates so that vulnerable families can benefit
- Programmes for the elderly and the handicapped



Curepipe market place with fresh vegetables.
Photo:Ghirish Abdhoosee

- Free transport to women so that they can enjoy recreational activities
- Grants are given to women association
- Gymnasium is reserved for women
- Regular maintenance of streets and street lightings

What are the characteristics of this group that distinguish it from the others?

The Municipal Council of Curepipe is the only locality that has a 24 hour hot line for complaints. Further this is the only Council that has a billboard in front of its building on "365 Days Against Gender Violence" committing the Council to the following:

- Acknowledge that all people deserve to live in a safe and loving environment
- Acknowledges that violence and abuse in all forms are serious social problems
- Acknowledges that preventing violence and abuse should be the Council's responsibility
- Commits to educate its citizens about the root causes of violence and all forms of abuse
- Commits to end the silence about violence and its effect on children women and men
- Commits to support community organisations working to end all forms of violence and abuse
- Commits to treat all people with dignity and respect



Why or why not?

This locality is at the avant-garde as far as gender is concerned. It is a role model for other localities of Mauritius.

The Curepipe Starlight Football Club, a strong contender in the 1st Division League.
Photo:Ghirish Abdhoosee

Gender Champions of this locality come from the top and over and above various projects and programmes have been launched and the most recent one is the strategic campaign on Gender and Climate Change. The fact that the top management believe in Gender Links work will make the council evolve in a better way.

How can performance be strengthened even further?

Now with the presence of strong-willed women councillors, the council will undertake more gender sensitive projects. The mayor is determined to open the door for more women participation in the council and more gender aware projects.

The Council is prepared

1. to organise workshops so that Gender Links can talk on gender issues and GBV
2. share its best practices with other localities in Mauritius



St Therese Church, a historical stone building in the centre of Curepipe.
Photo: Ghirish Abdhoosee

