NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF MAURITIUS

REPORT

of the

Parliamentary Gender Caucus

Eighth National Assembly – First Session

07 October 2025

1. Establishment of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus

1.1 The Parliamentary Gender Caucus is set up under Standing Order 69(6) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly (1995) with the mandate of working for the promotion and attainment of gender equality. The Caucus is chaired by the undersigned with Honourable Vedasingam Vasudevachariar Baloomoody, MP, Deputy Speaker as Deputy Chairperson. It functions as a cross-party forum of Members of the National Assembly deliberating on gender-related issues, propose strategies and make recommendations.

1.2 On 24 March 2025, the Committee of Selection chaired by the undersigned appointed the following additional Members of Parliament to serve on the Caucus –

- Honourable (Ms) Joanna Marie Bérenger, MP, Junior Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
- Honourable (Ms) Eileen Karen Lee Chin Foo Kune-Bacha, MP, Junior Minister of Youth and Sports
- Honourable (Ms) Anishta Babooram, MP, Junior Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare (now Junior Minister of Health and Wellness)
- Honourable (Ms) Marie Veronique Leu-Govind, MP, Junior Minister of Arts and Culture
- Honourable (Ms) Marie Genevieve Stephanie Anquetil, MP, Government Chief Whip
- Honourable Adrien Charles Duval, MP, Opposition Whip
- Honourable Chetan Anand Baboolall, MP
- Honourable Louis Ludovic Michel Caserne, MP
- Honourable (Ms) Marie Roxana Collet, MP
- Dr the Honourable (Ms) Rubna Begum Daureeawo, MP
- Honourable (Ms) Dianette Henriette-Manan, MP
- Honourable Roshan Jhummun, MP
- Honourable Chandraprakash Ramkalawon, MP
- Honourable (Ms) Marie Anabelle Andelana Savabaddy, MP
- Dr the Honourable (Ms) Babita Thannoo, MP

2. Meetings

2.1 The Caucus held four meetings on the following dates –

- 15 May 2025
- 12 August 2025
- 16 September 2025
- 30 September 2025

3. Secretarial Assistance

3.1 The Caucus was served by Mrs Bibi Safeena Lotun, C.S.K., Clerk of the National Assembly and Mr Navin Gopall, Deputy Clerk, National Assembly. The proceedings were taken down *verbatim* by officers of the Official Report *(Hansard)* Office.

4. Methodology

4.1 The Caucus invited external stakeholders and experts to contribute to its deliberations, including –

- Gender Links Mauritius, represented by its director, who facilitated a capacity-building session on Gender-Based Violence (GBV); and
- The Mauritius Police Force, represented by the Commissioner of Police and twelve senior Police Officers, who provided an overview of policing practices and training regarding GBV.

4.2 Statistics Mauritius provided gender-disaggregated data to support evidence-based policymaking.

4.3 The Caucus engaged in structured discussions, approved minutes of proceedings and raised proposals for follow-up action.

5. Matters Discussed

Mandate of the Caucus

5.1 The Caucus reaffirmed that it serves as a lobbying and advocacy platform within Parliament, aiming at promoting gender-sensitive legislation, policies and programmes.

Domestic Violence and Legal Frameworks

5.2 The Caucus reviewed the Protection from Domestic Violence Act 1997 and subsequent amendments, highlighting gaps in enforcement and noting judicial reluctance to issue certain orders. Members underscored the importance of actively contributing to the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill to ensure that the Bill is inclusive, survivor-centered and responsive to the needs of victims of domestic abuse.

Capacity Building and Awareness

5.3 The Caucus emphasized the need for training and sensitisation of Members of Parliament on key gender concepts, including the distinction between sex and gender as well as the importance of shifting societal mentalities at grassroots level.

Policing of Gender-Based Violence –

5.4 The Commissioner of Police outlined the Four Ps framework: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership. The Caucus raised concerns regarding enforcement challenges, protection orders and collaboration with family support services of the Ministry of Gender and Family Welfare. The Caucus highlighted the importance of adopting a trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach to policing in to GBV related matters.

16 Days of Activism Project –

5.5 The Caucus resolved to implement a 16 Days of Activism Project through the holding of an art exhibition and the production of a coffee table/digital art book and a music/video clip in collaboration with the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), as part of the United Nations campaign. It was agreed that an in-house committee

would oversee the project, with the financial and technical support of the UNDP, including support in procurement and communications. The matter was formally included on the agenda of the meeting held on 30 September 2025 and subsequently approved. Mrs Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha, Manager, Parliamentary Digital Services & Ag. Manager, Broadcasts, at the Mauritius National Assembly assisted the Caucus on this item.

6. Recommendations of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus

Policy & Law Reform –

6.1 The Caucus recommends that it engages proactively with the Ministry of Gender and Family Welfare and the Attorney General's Office to contribute in the formulation of the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill and related legislation, ensuring they are comprehensive and gender-sensitive.

Parliamentary Action –

6.2 The Caucus recommends that it works towards the strengthening of Parliament's role in oversight and advocacy on Gender-Based Violence, ensuring debates, Parliamentary Questions, and Parliamentary Committees' work focus on gender-sensitive issues.

Awareness Campaigns –

6.3 The Caucus recommends the implementation of a 16 Days of Activism Project as a flagship initiative thereof the, combining art, multimedia and youth engagement aiming at amplifying awareness and public participation.

Stakeholder Collaboration –

6.4 The Caucus recommends the fostering thereof of sustained partnerships with key stakeholders, including Line Ministries, Statistics Mauritius, Civil Society Organisations,

the Mauritius Police Force and international partners such as the UNDP with a view to ensuring coordinated responses to Gender-Based Violence.

Institutionalisation of the Work of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus –

6.5 The Caucus recommends that it develops an Annual Work Plan of the Caucus that extends beyond the 16 Days of Activism Project into 2026, incorporating continuous activities aiming at addressing GBV and promoting gender equality

7. Conclusion

7.1 The Caucus reaffirms its commitment to making Parliament a champion of gender equality, dignity, and justice. Through constructive cross-party engagement and strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, the Caucus remains committed to supporting the development of effective legislation, inclusive policies, and public awareness initiatives aiming at addressing and ultimately preventing gender-based violence in Mauritius.

7.2 Through cross-party collaboration and strategic partnerships, the Caucus will continue advocating for stronger pieces of legislation, better policies, and enhanced public awareness to eradicate gender-based violence in Mauritius.

Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra (Ms)

Speaker of the National Assembly and

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus

Mauritius National Assembly

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