

# RE ZONE

#METENNSERYE

A campaign by  
**Gender Links Mauritius**

## Findings of Gender and Youth Audit

September 2021

Compiled by Gender Links Mauritius

# Groundbreaking study on women and youth in politics

- 13 political parties attended the forum ; 11 political parties filled the Gender and Youth Audit Questionnaire.
- 4 women ambassadors attended the forum.
- A representative from the Ministry of Youth Empowerment and a representative from the office of the DPP also attended the forum.
- 5 representatives from NGOs attended the forum ; 3 media houses made a coverage of the campaign launch.
- 6 people from the academic arena were also present.
- Positive feedback has been received during the campaign launch. All representatives from the political parties which were present, agreed that there should be parity with regards to the representation and participation of women and youth in politics.
- In line with PMO's launch of the gender mainstreaming awareness training aimed at providing an overview of key international and regional Human Rights instruments on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Gender Equality Bill

# Key Statistics

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Main Political Parties fielded only  
20% women in total for the National  
Elections (2019)

20% of women in Parliament(2019)

23.99% of women in  
local government(2020)

13% of women in Cabinet(2019)

Only 3 Female Ministers(2019)

A campaign poster with a black background and white text. The word 'REZONE' is written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters, stacked vertically. Below it, the hashtag '#METENNSEYE' is written in smaller, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, the text 'A campaign by Gender Links Mauritius' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font, with 'Gender Links Mauritius' in bold.

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# Overview of the Findings

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Number of political parties to whom the questionnaire was emailed <input type="checkbox"/> One party's email address was not obtained. Another political party explained that it was relatively inactive and suggested the name and contact details of a more active political party.	19
Total number of calls and follow-up emails done over a period of 21 days	54 calls and 33 emails
Total number of responses received for the questionnaire <input type="checkbox"/> Two political parties have had various members filling in the questionnaire	14
Total number of political parties who responded to the questionnaire	11

# Respondents of survey

- 100% CITOYENS
- En Avant Moris
- Ideal Democate
- Lalit
- Le Parti Mauricien Sociale Democate (PMSD)
- Mauritius Labour Party
- Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM)
- Mouvement Patriotique (MP)
- Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM)
- Rassemblement Mauricien (RM)
- Reform Party

# Objectives of the survey

To provide an overview of the participation and representation of women and youth in politics in the Republic of Mauritius

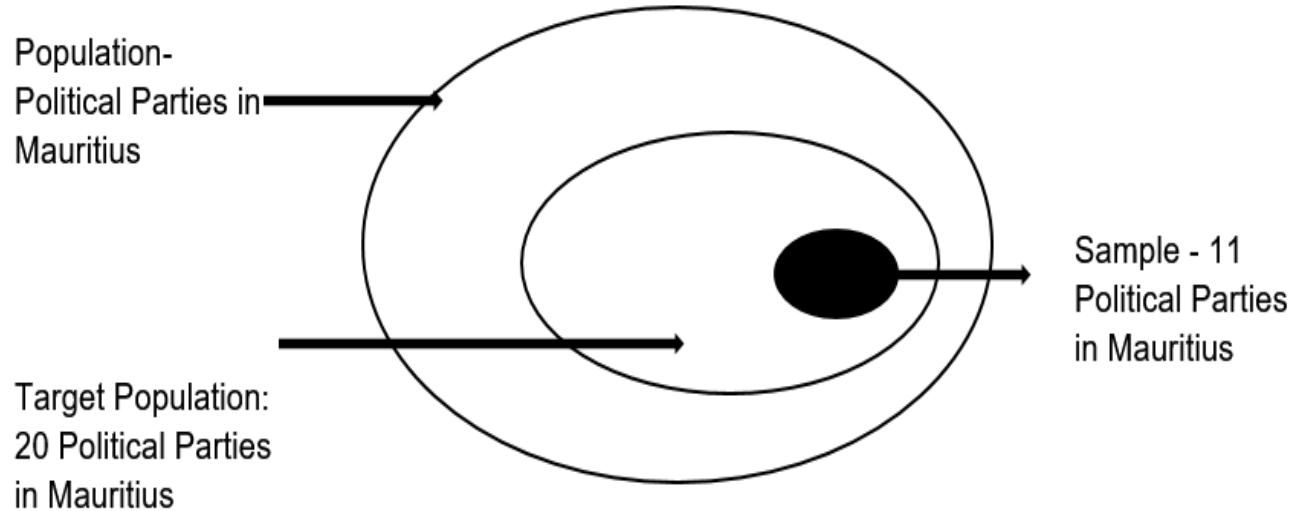
To determine the link between advocacy actions and the active participation and representation of women and youth at decision making level in the private and public spheres in the Republic of Mauritius

To provide recommendations in view of improving youth inclusion and gender equality in politics in the Republic of Mauritius



# Methodological Approach

*The survey aimed to answer the following Research Question:  
What is the **participatory approach** adopted by political parties in Mauritius to ensure youth inclusion and gender equality in politics?*

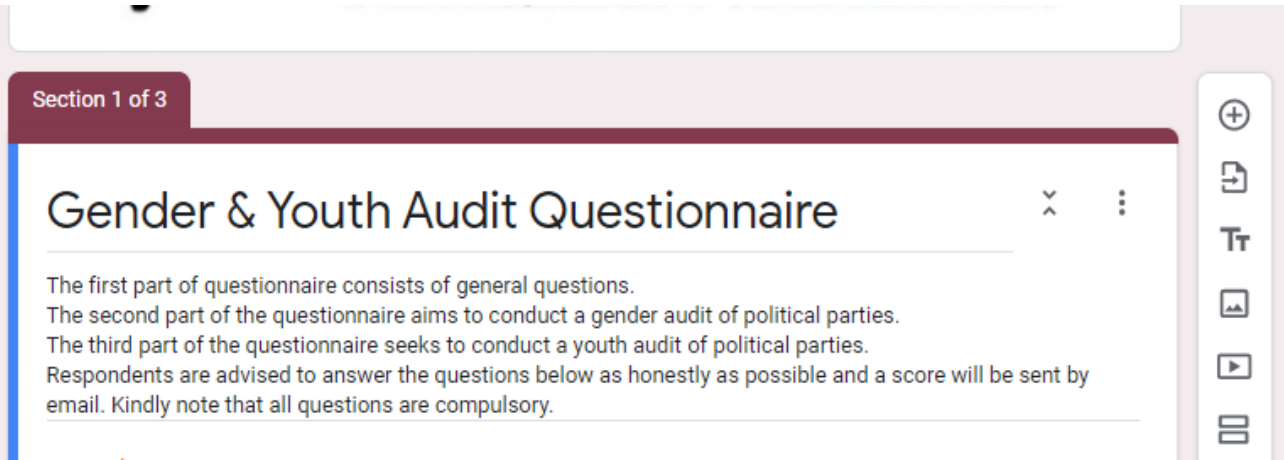


\* Two new political parties were launched when the questionnaire was being disseminated but contact could not be established with them.

# Methodology

A mono quantitative approach was used and as a result surveys were designed using Google Forms. The advantages of this approach were as follows:

- It was convenient and quick since Google Forms were used to design the surveys
- Google Forms is free.
- Since surveys were filled online, no face to face meetings were required
- It is easier to draw generalised data from the findings
- Avoid interviewer bias since respondents answered at their own convenience



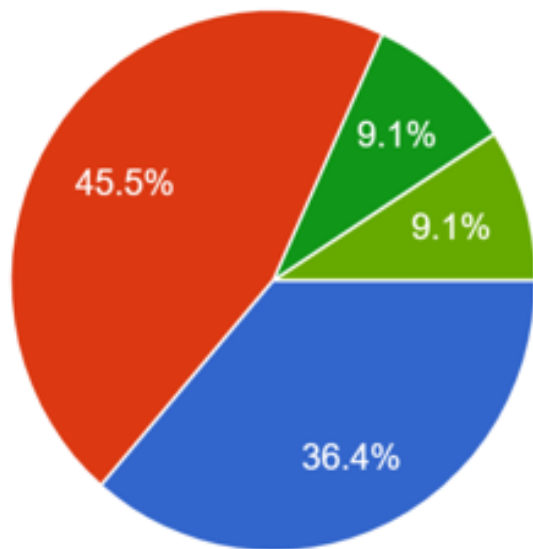
The screenshot shows a Google Form titled "Gender & Youth Audit Questionnaire". The form is part of "Section 1 of 3". The introductory text reads: "The first part of questionnaire consists of general questions. The second part of the questionnaire aims to conduct a gender audit of political parties. The third part of the questionnaire seeks to conduct a youth audit of political parties. Respondents are advised to answer the questions below as honestly as possible and a score will be sent by email. Kindly note that all questions are compulsory." The form interface includes a close button (X) and a menu button (three dots) in the top right corner of the form area. On the right side of the form, there is a vertical toolbar with icons for adding new questions, saving, text formatting, image insertion, video embedding, and a list of questions.



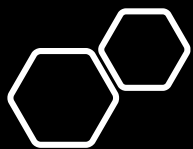
## 11 Respondents : Year Party was founded

<b>Name of Political Party</b>	<b>Year the party was founded</b>	<b>No of years of existence</b>
<b>100% Citoyens</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>En Avant Moris</b>	<b>2021</b>	
<b>Ideal Democrate</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Lalit</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Le Parti Mauricien Sociale Democrate</b>	<b>1955</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Mauritius Labour Party</b>	<b>1936</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Mouvement Militant Mauricien</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Mouvement Patriotique</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Mouvement Socialiste Militant</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Rassemblement Mauricien</b>	<b>2021</b>	
<b>Reform Party</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>4</b>

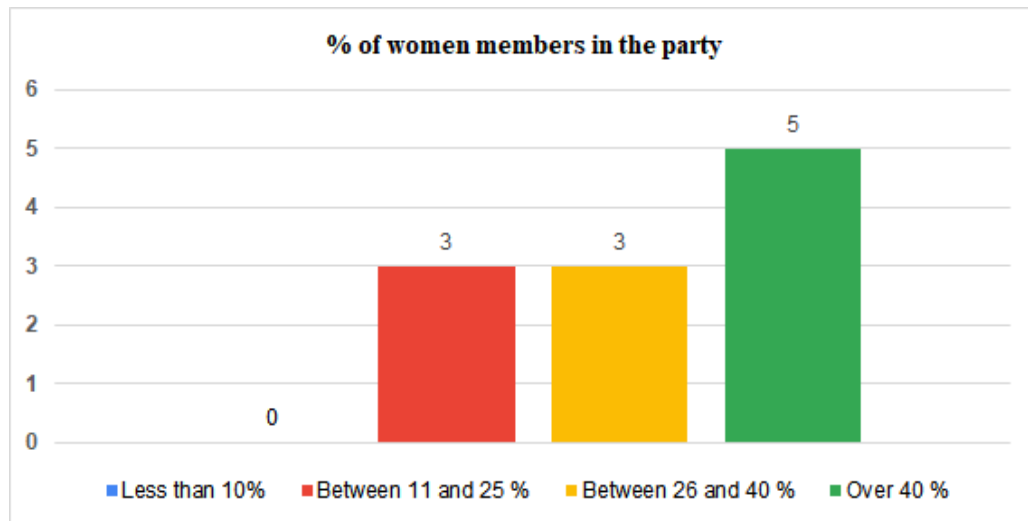
# Respondents' affiliation with the party

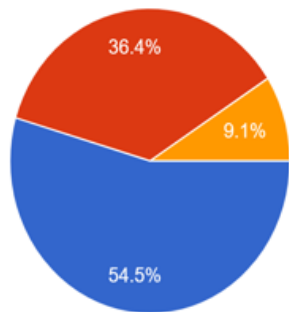


- I am a party leader or other senior official of the party
- I am an elected official representing the party
- I am a party employee
- I am a party activist/member
- None, I am an academic/researcher
- None, I am a journalist
- None, I am a civil society activist
- Other

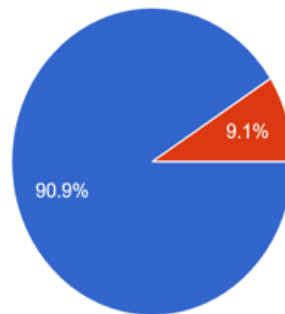


5 parties out of 11  
have over 40% of  
women members





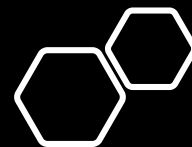
- Yes
- No
- I do not know
- Not applicable



- Yes
- No
- I do not know

Are Parties keeping a database of members?

90.9% of the parties have a database of members; out of which 54.5% is sex disaggregated



# Party procedures & Youth Wings

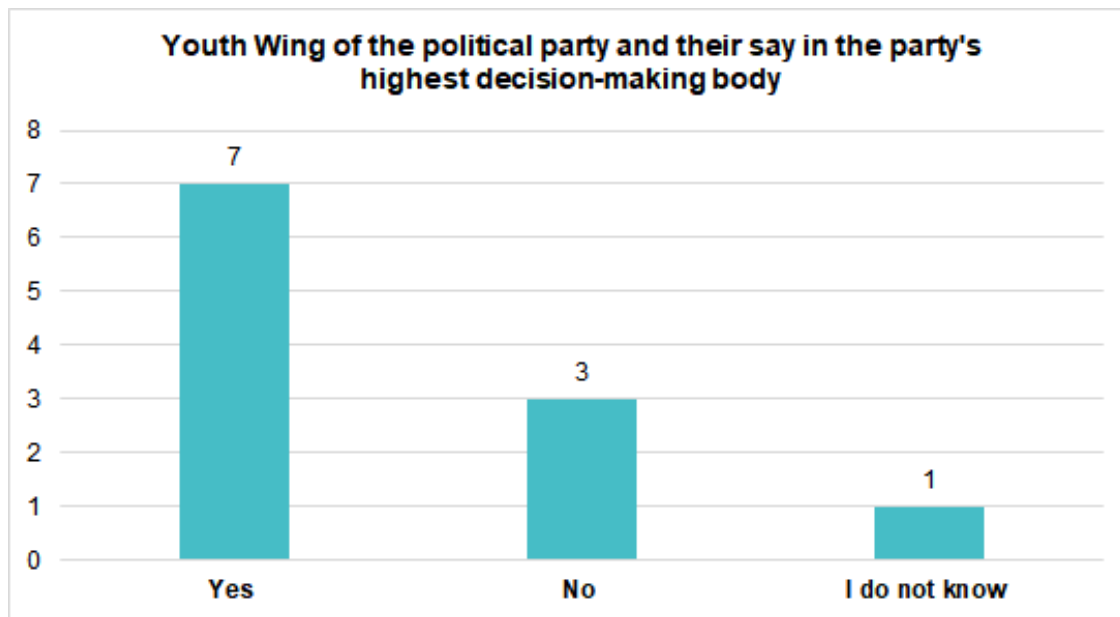
**All the 11 parties have clear procedures for obtaining membership and these are publicly available**

**9 parties out of 11 have established youth wings while 2 do not have youth wings**



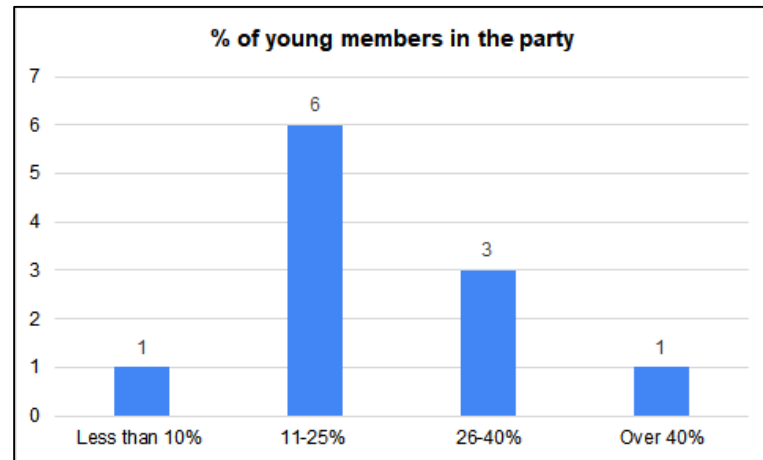
# Youth wings and decision making

7 Political Parties said that their Youth Wing has a say in the Party's highest decision-making body



# % of young members in the party

Name of Political Party	Less than 10%	11-25%	26-40%	Over 40%
<b>100% Citoyens</b>		1		
<b>En Avant Moris</b>		1		
<b>Ideal Democrate</b>		1		
<b>Lalit</b>		1		
<b>Le Parti Mauricien Sociale Democrate</b>			1	
<b>Mauritius Labour Party</b>			1	
<b>Mouvement Militant Mauricien</b>			1	
<b>Mouvement Patriotique</b>		1		
<b>Mouvement Socialiste Militant</b>		1		
<b>Rassemblement Mauricien</b>	1			
<b>Reform Party</b>				1



6 parties have 11-25% of young members in their party, 1 has less than 10%, 3 have between 26-40% and only 1 party has over 40%

# Number of women who led the party over the last 10 years

<b>Name of Political Party</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>More than 3</b>
<b>100% Citoyens</b>		<b>1</b>	
<b>En Avant Moris</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Ideal Democrate</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Lalit</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>Le Parti Mauricien Sociale Democrate</b>		<b>1</b>	
<b>Mauritius Labour Party</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Mouvement Militant Mauricien</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Mouvement Patriotique</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Mouvement Socialiste Militant</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Rassemblement Mauricien</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>Reform Party</b>	<b>1</b>		

\*One response is deemed to be misguided given the launch of the political party in the year 2021 and the current leader.



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**Out of the 11 political  
parties:**

1 has a female party leader

AND

1 has more than one leader, at  
least 50% of whom are women

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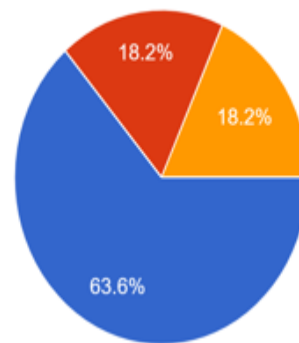
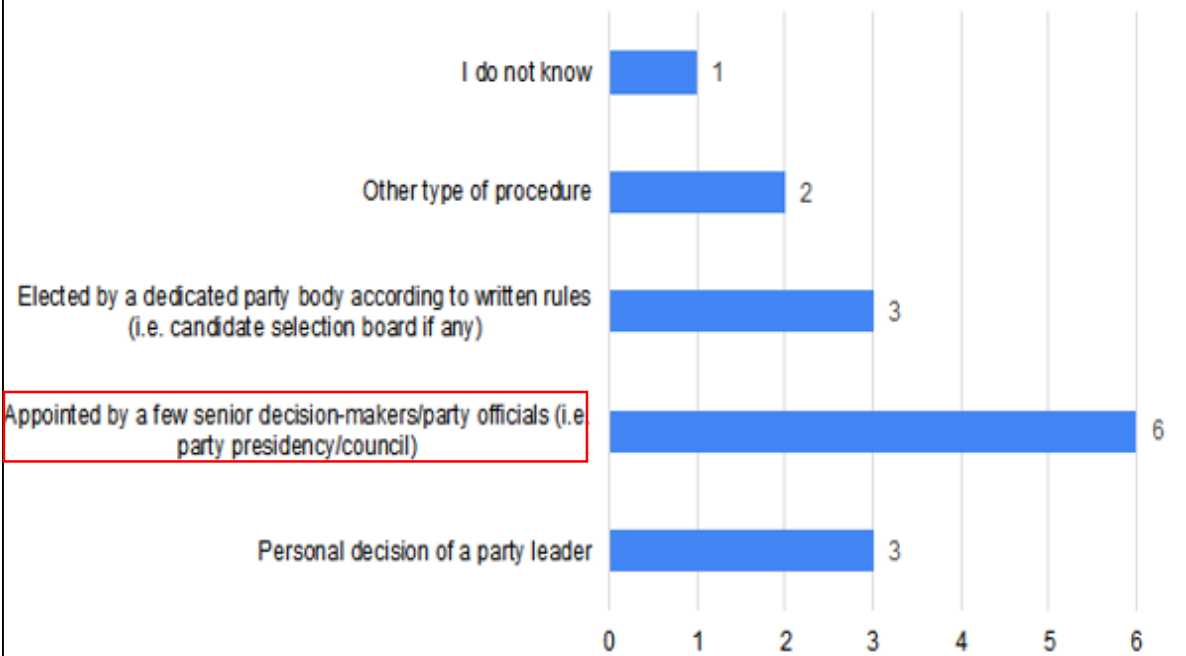
# % of Women Candidates in the last National and Local Elections

% of women candidates										
Name of Political Party	National Elections					Village or Municipal Elections				
	Less than 10%	11-25%	26-40%	Over 40%	Don't know	Less than 10%	11-25%	26-40%	Over 40%	Don't know
100% Citoyens		1							1	
En Avant Moris					1					1
Ideal Democrate										
Lalit				1						
Le Parti Mauricien Sociale Democrate		1						1		
Mauritius Labour Party		1						1		
Mouvement Militant Mauricien			1						1	
Mouvement Patriotique	1					1				
Mouvement Socialiste Militant		1						1		
Rassemblement Mauricien					1					1
Reform Party			1					1		

For National Elections only 1 party had over 40% of women candidates and for Local Govt. 2 parties had over 40% women candidates

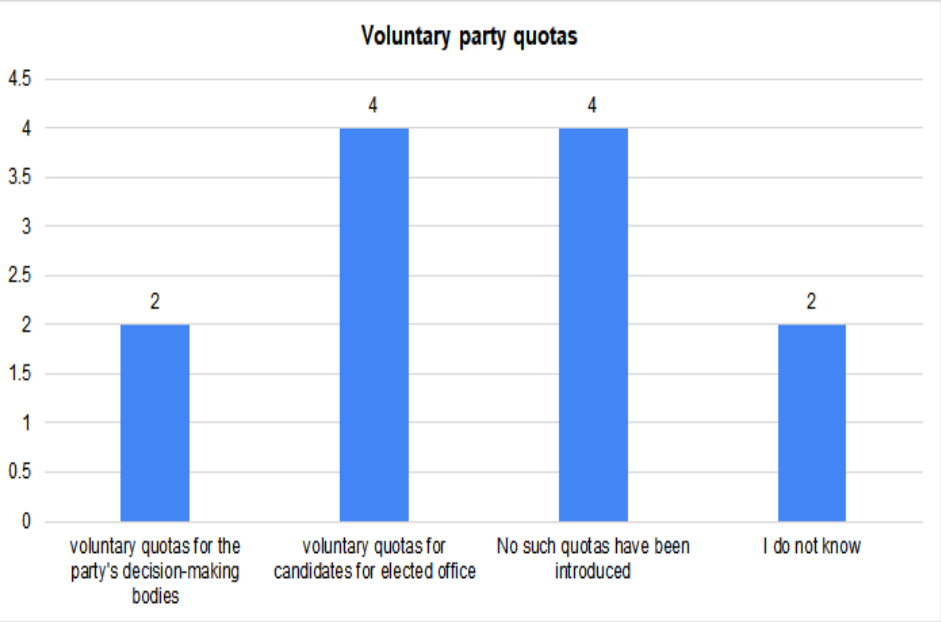
**63.6% of the nomination procedures are written down while 18.2% are not**

**How are members nominated or appointed to the leadership structures of the party**



● Yes  
● No  
● I do not know

# Quota for the party's leadership structures



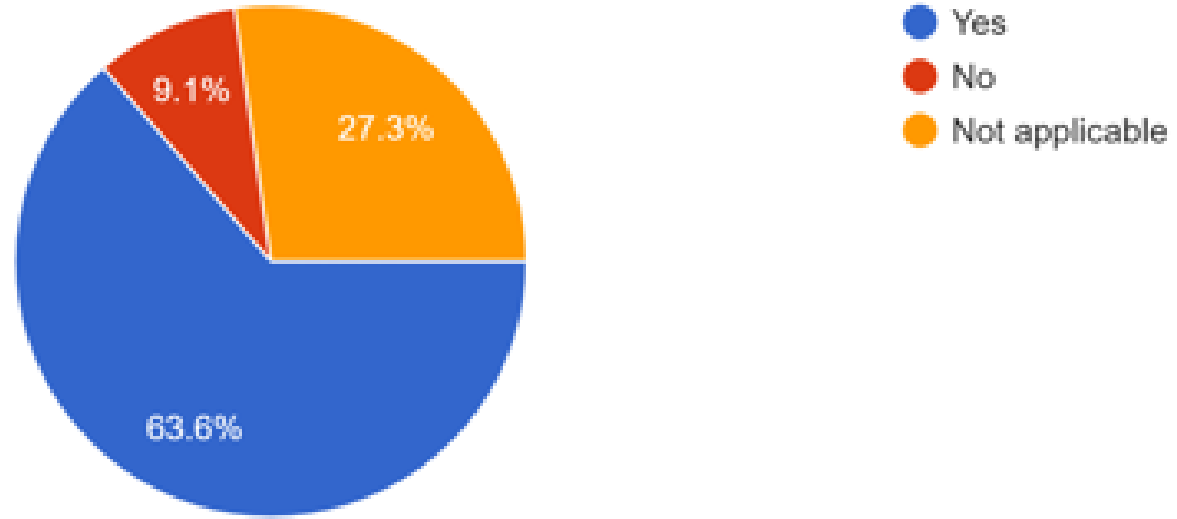
6 parties have a quota and 5 parties do not have quota for the party's leadership structures.

Is there a quota for the party's leadership structures to ensure equal participation of women and men?		
Name of Political Party	YES	NO
100% Citoyens		1
En Avant Moris	1	
Ideal Democrate	1	
Lalit		1
Le Parti Mauricien Sociale Democrate		1
Mauritius Labour Party		1
Mouvement Militant Mauricien	1	
Mouvement Patriotique		1
Mouvement Socialiste Militant	1	
Rassemblement Mauricien	1	
Reform Party	1	

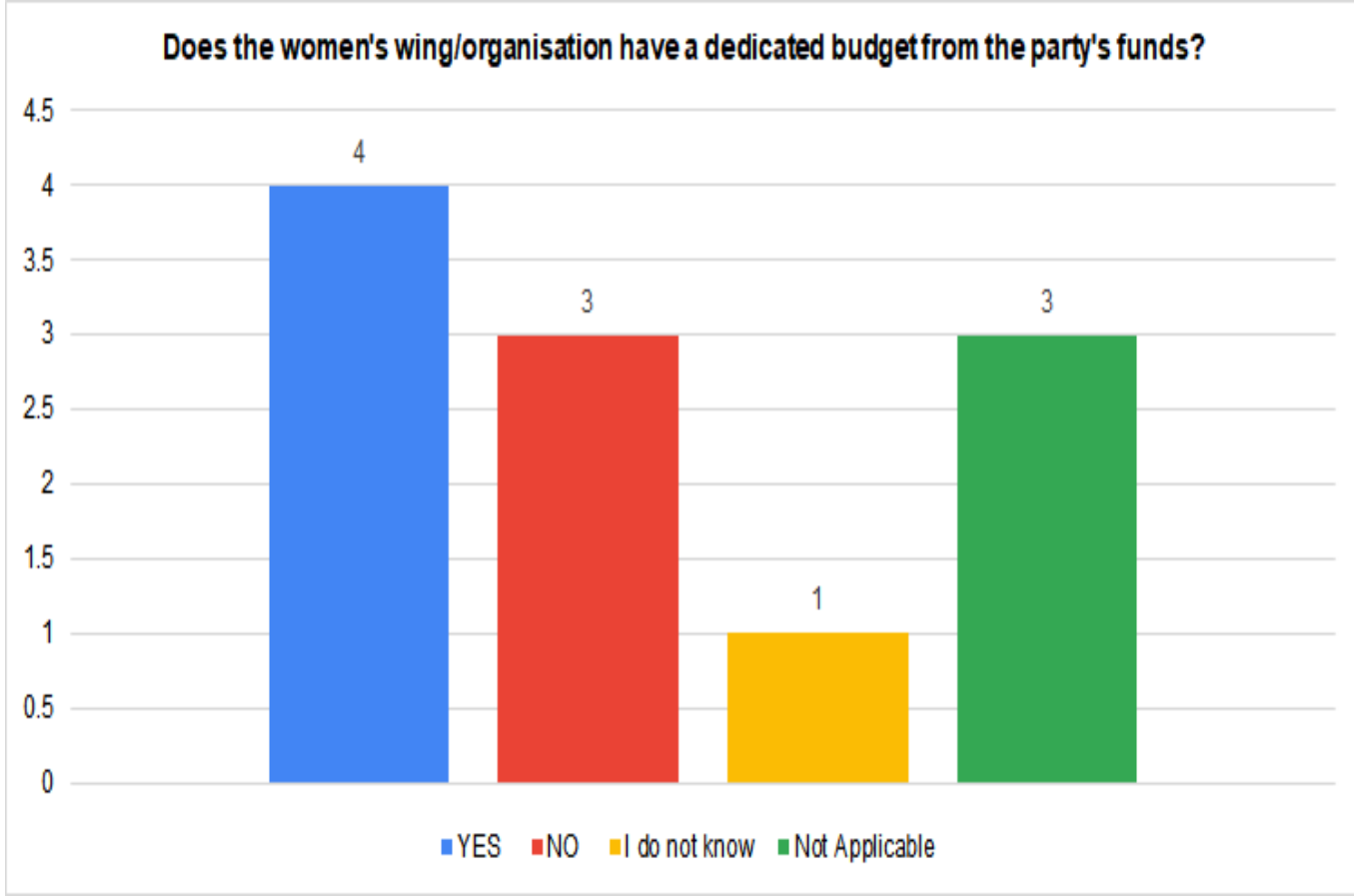
8 political parties  
have woman's  
wing

3 do not have  
woman's wing

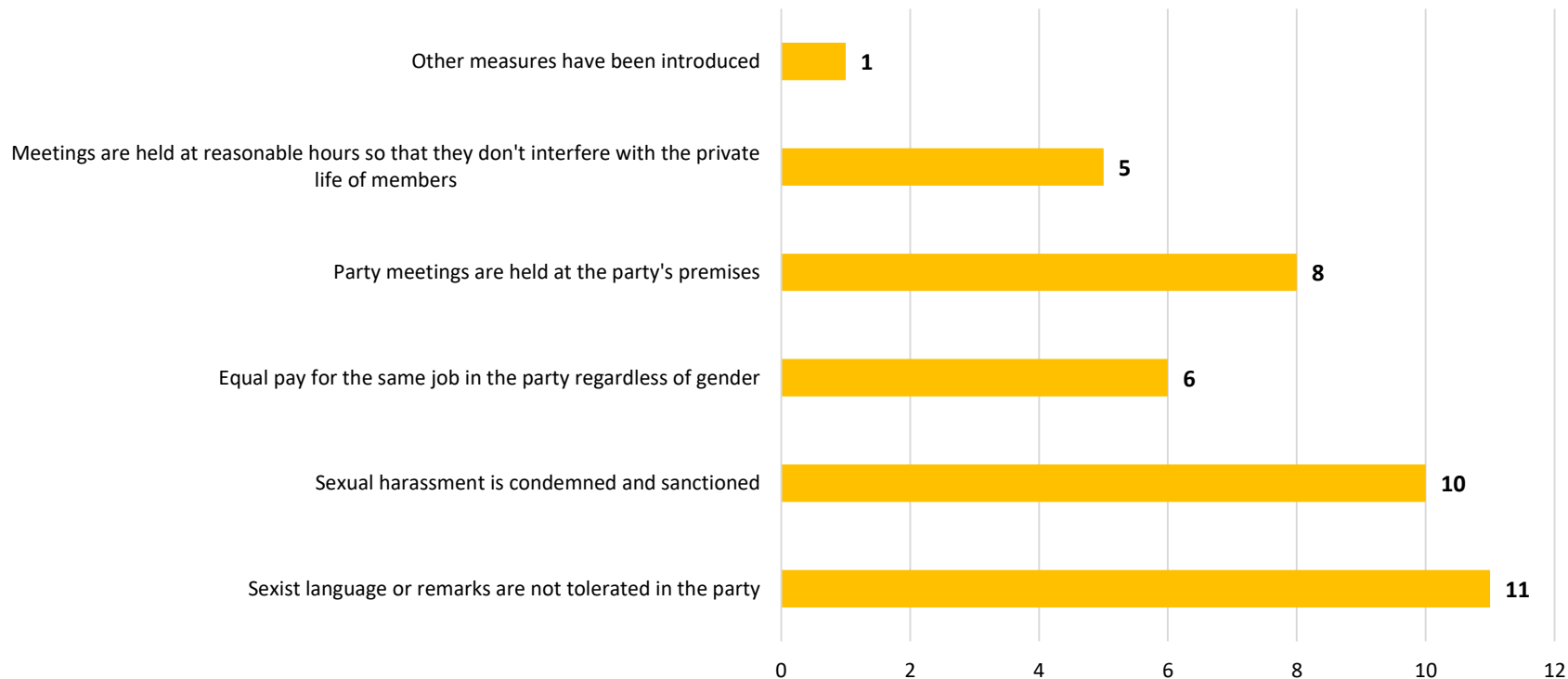
Does the women's wing have a vote in the party's  
highest decision-making body?



**ALL 11 parties stated that they provide both women and men candidates with the same financial support, in terms of funds and/or in-kind support, during election campaigns.**

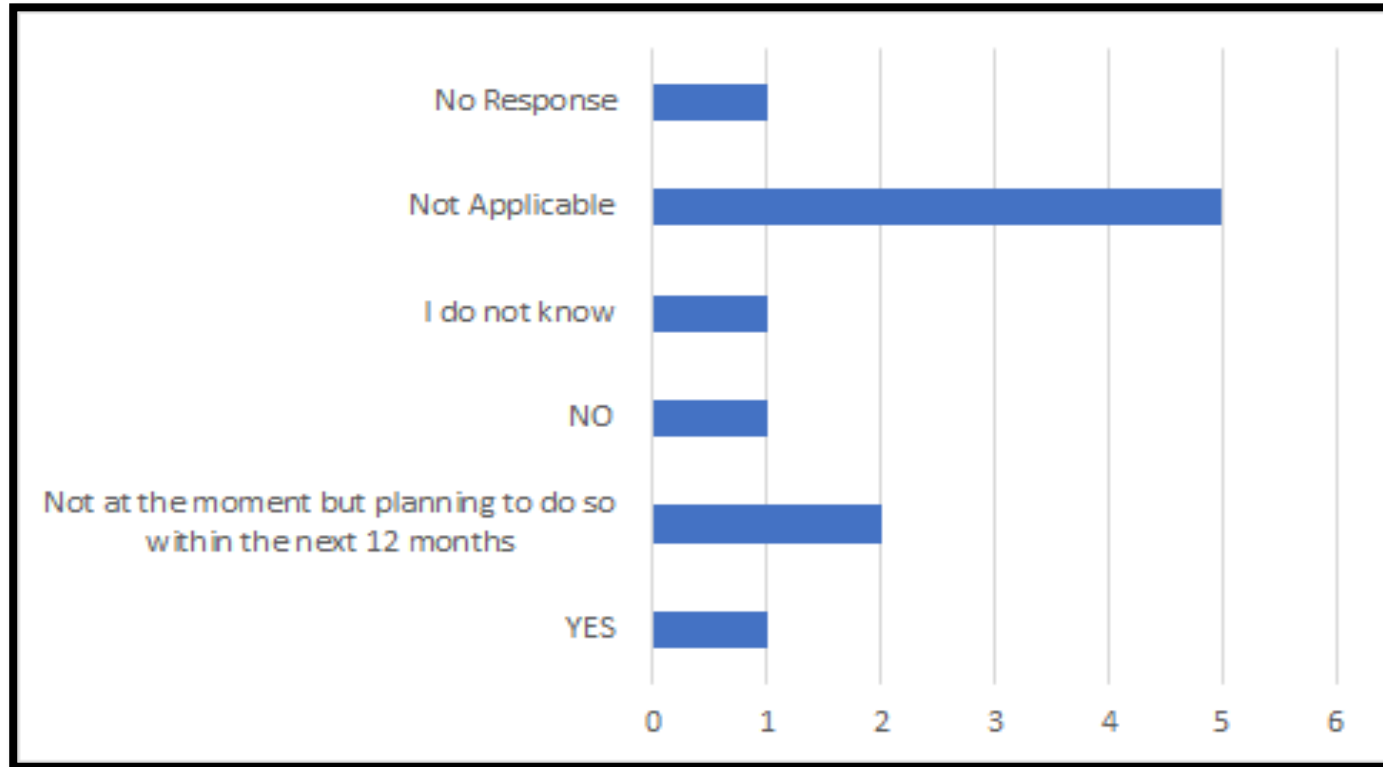


## Measures to ensure that the working environment in the party is friendly to both women and men



*\*more than one response was accepted for this question*

Does the party prepare a report or findings about the implementation of its strategic document(s) on gender equality?





# Publicly reacted to sexist remarks etc.

**Has the party publicly reacted to sexist remarks, gender-based threats directed online or offline at women party members in the past two years?**

<b>Name of Political Party</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Such incidents did not happen</b>	<b>I do not know</b>	<b>No response</b>
<b>100% Citoyens</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>En Avant Moris</b>				<b>1</b>	
<b>Ideal Democrate</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>Lalit</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>Le Parti Mauricien Sociale Democrate</b>			<b>1</b>		
<b>Mauritius Labour Party</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>Mouvement Militant Mauricien</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>Mouvement Patriotique</b>		<b>1</b>			
<b>Mouvement Socialiste Militant</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>Rassemblement Mauricien</b>				<b>1</b>	
<b>Reform Party</b>			<b>1</b>		



# Gender Sensitive Language

7 political parties out of 11 use gender-sensitive language in the party, including in internal documents.



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## Recommendations

- Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan in all political parties
- Collection of sex-disaggregated data
- CSOs together with political parties should lobby for affirmative action.
- Possible Electoral Reform at national level. Number of candidates fielded ; re-thinking gender, ethnicity and the First Past The Post(FPTP) electoral system
- The Local Government Act model can be used at national level.
- Political parties should work in coordination/collaboration other stakeholders.
- Media should be gender sensitive when producing and publishing political content
- Address structural violence based on class and ethnicity

\*The recommendations were jointly proposed, discussed and compiled by Gender Links and other attendees during the campaign launch.



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## Recommendations

- More women candidates at local and national elections.
- Empower more female members of political parties.
- Capacity-building on gender mainstreaming, gender responsive budgeting and other gender issues
- A gendered approach toward voters' education
- Using fundamental human rights for the voices of women to be heard
- Organise a platform with male political party leaders

\*The recommendations were jointly proposed, discussed and compiled by Gender Links and other attendees during the campaign launch.

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## Contact Details

Anushka Virahsawmy

Director, Gender Links Mauritius  
and Safe Haven Halfway Home

Phone: 52591471/ 5934 5787 /434 0720

Email: [maumanager@genderlinks.org.za](mailto:maumanager@genderlinks.org.za)/  
[progmauritius@genderlinks.org.za](mailto:progmauritius@genderlinks.org.za)