

#WhoseNewsWhoseViews

Whose News? Whose Views?

2026 Gender and Media Progress Study (GMPS)

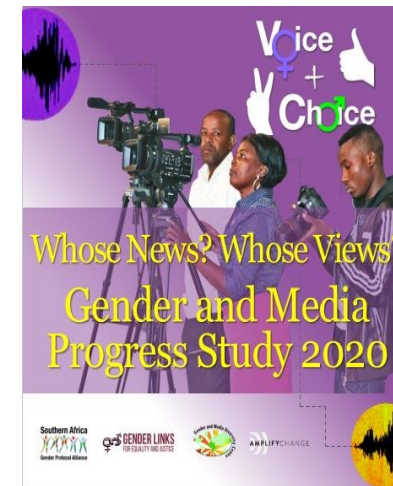
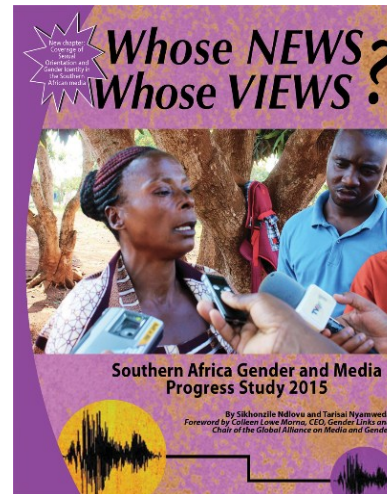
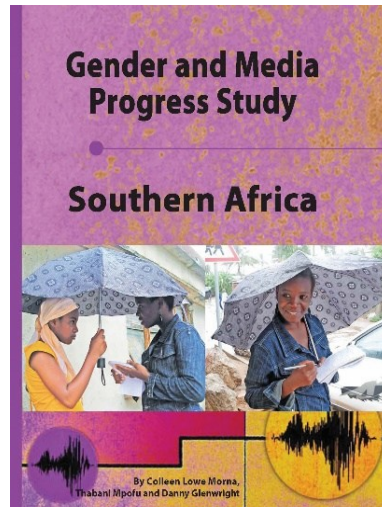
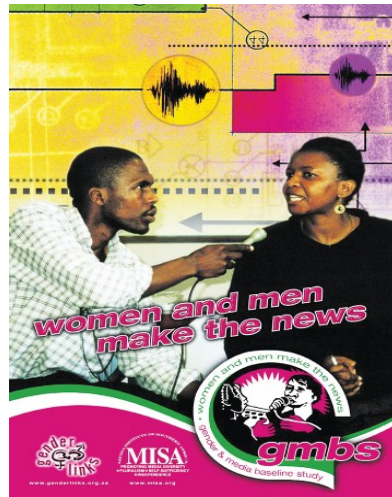
[Click here for the regional and country reports](#)



Gender and Media Progress Study

Media monitoring tracking progress on women's representation and portrayal in the Southern Africa media

Over **20 years of media monitoring**, at five-year intervals.



Background information

- GMPS adaptation of the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) methodology
- Borrowed heavily from GL's media monitoring studies in Southern Africa since 2003
- Part of developing indicators for the 2026 Voice and Choice Barometer
- Not as extensive as previous GL studies covering a whole month.
- Provides far more up to date data on Southern Africa than the global study.
- Regional study and country reports can be found on the GL website.



GMPS 2026 Media Monitored

One day monitoring on 28 May



2000+
news stories



200
outlets



All **16**
SADC countries



Print, online,
television and **radio**.

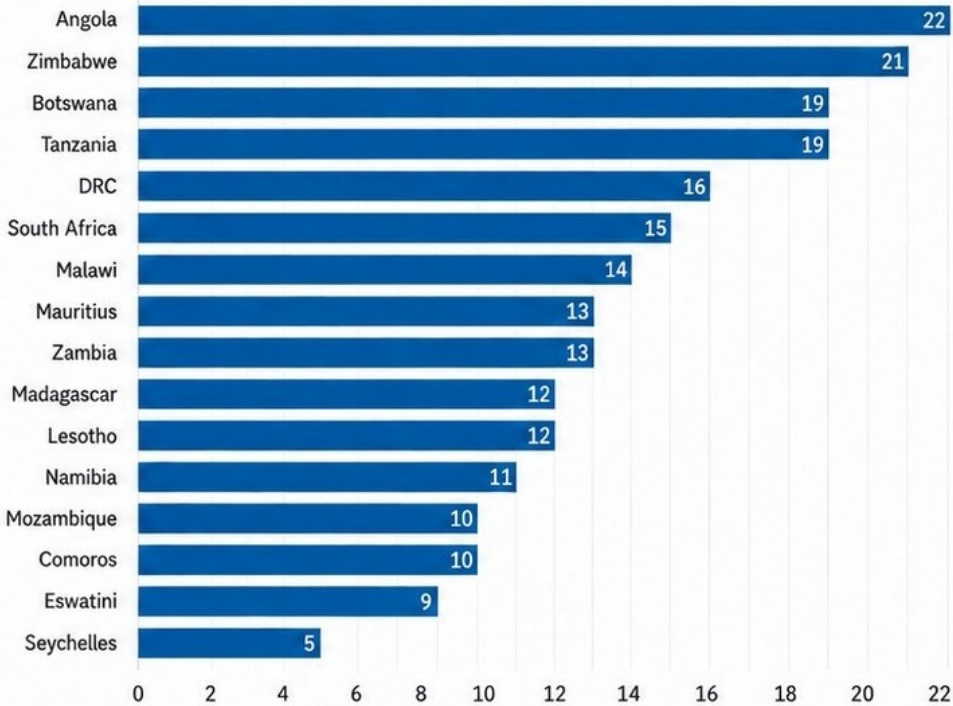
GENDER AND MEDIA SOUTHERN AFRICA PROGRESS STUDY 2026

WHAT WE MONITORED

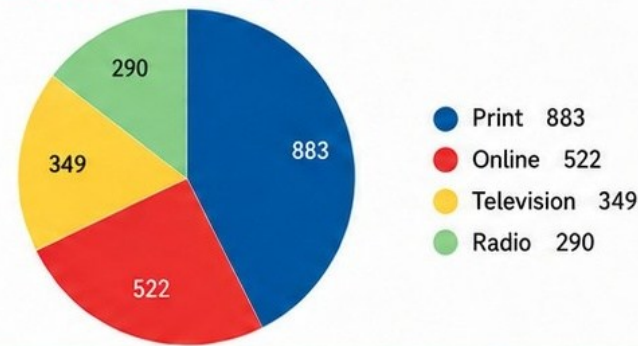
2,044
STORIES

MEDIA OUTLETS BY COUNTRY

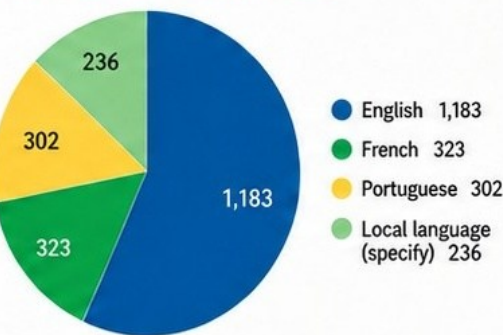
206
MEDIA OUTLETS



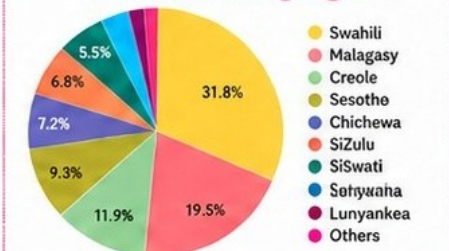
STORIES BY MEDIUM



STORIES BY LANGUAGE



Which local languages



Women gain ground in newsrooms - but not in the news

GMPS 2026 findings reveal a striking disconnect:

- Women accounted for **42% of reporters**, up from 31% in 2003
- **Slightly outnumber** men as broadcast presenters and anchors.

👉 **More women** are reporting the news than ever before.

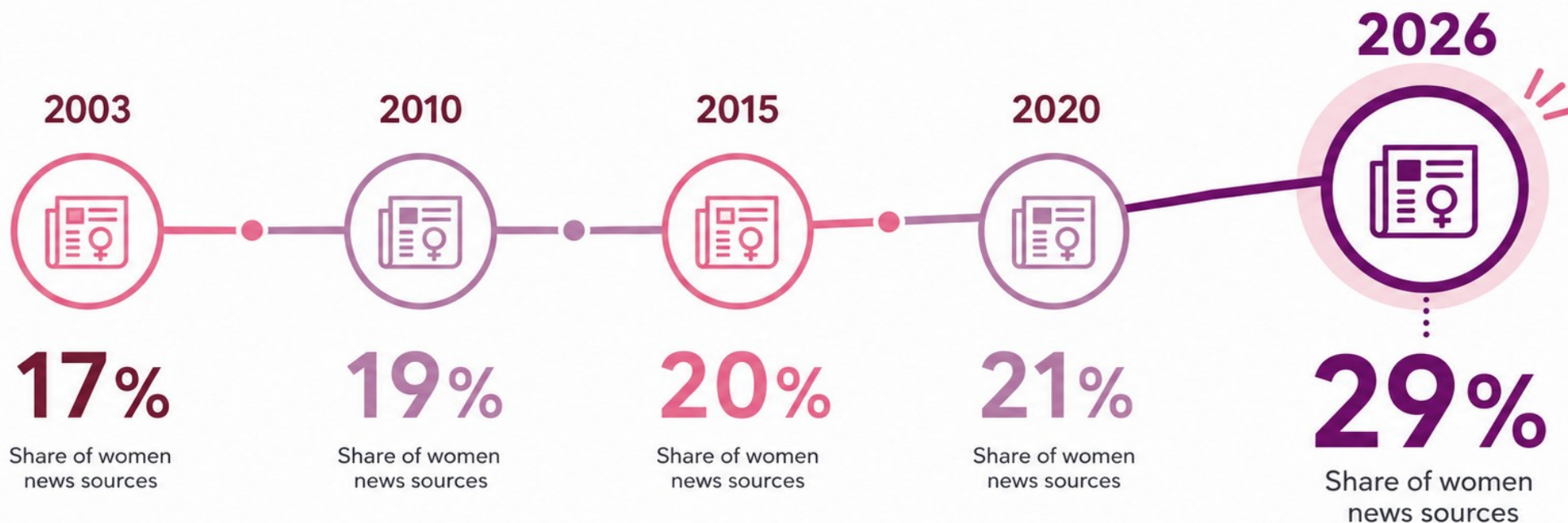
Yet gains have not translated into significantly more balanced sourcing.



Women's visibility has increased - slowly

Women sources in the news over time

Share of women news sources (%)



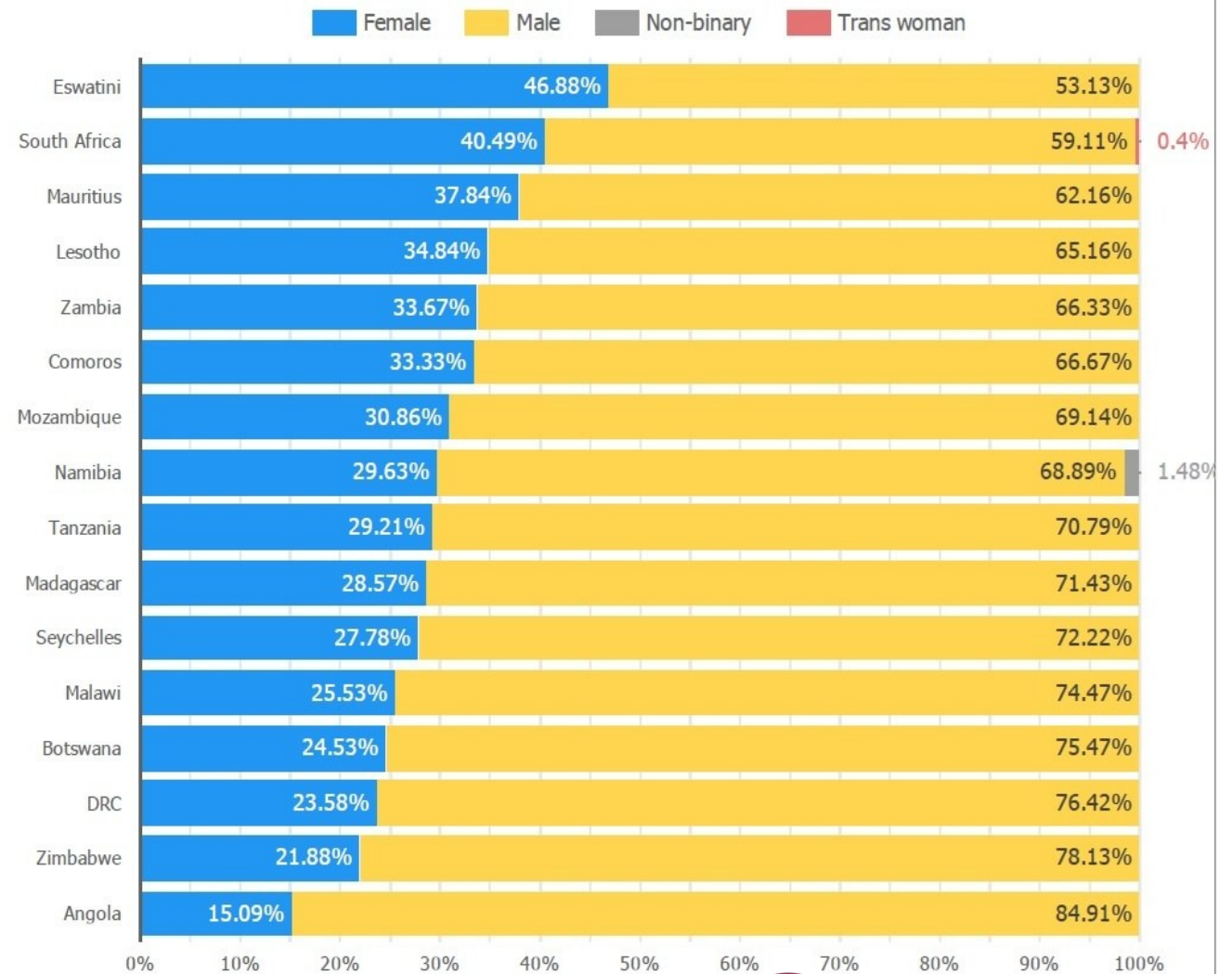
Country Variations

Eswatini highest proportion of female sources (47%)

Angola lowest at (15%)

South Africa and Mauritius relatively high levels of female sourcing.

Angola, Zimbabwe, the DRC and Botswana substantially lower levels.



How countries rank

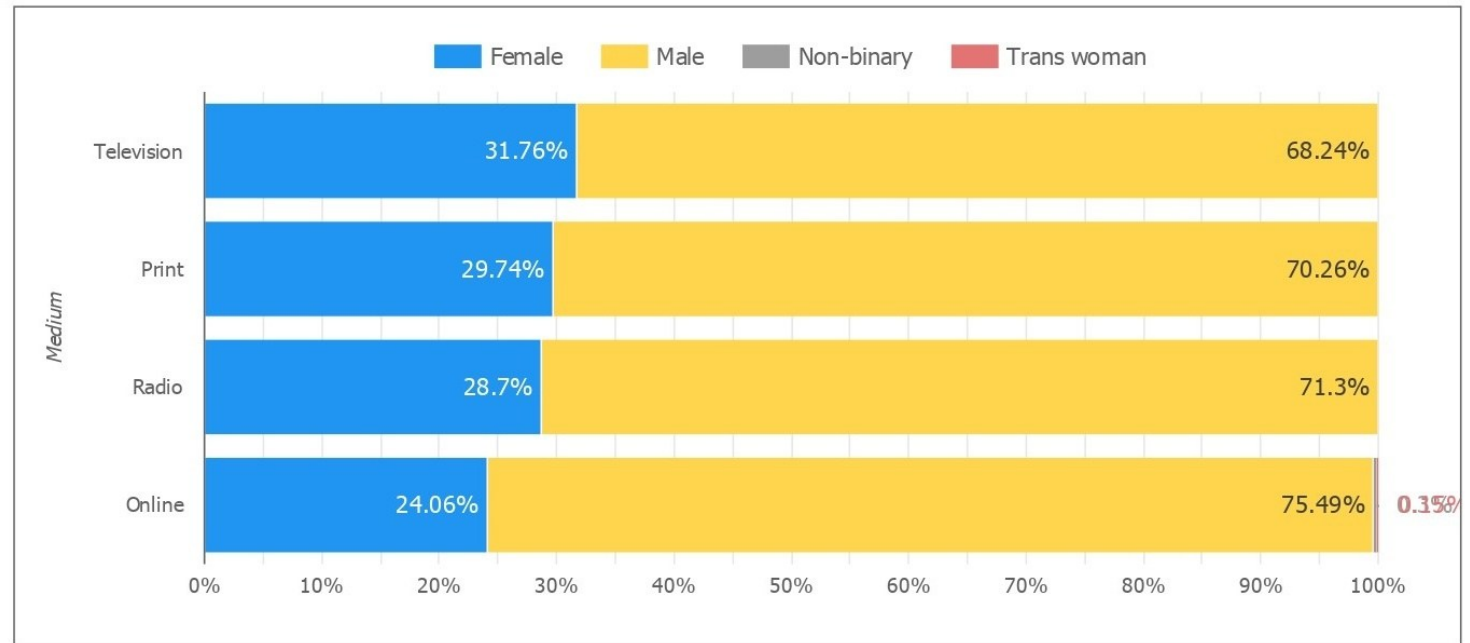
Highest	30% and over	Under 30%	Lowest
Eswatini – 47%	Mauritius – 38%	Tanzania – 29%	Zimbabwe – 22%
South Africa – 40%	Lesotho – 35%	Madagascar – 29%	Angola – 15%
	Zambia – 34%	Seychelles – 28%	
	Comoros – 33%	Malawi – 26%	
	Mozambique – 31%	Botswana – 25%	
	Namibia – 30%	DRC – 24%	
2	6	6	2

Sources by medium

Television continues where women's voices appear most.

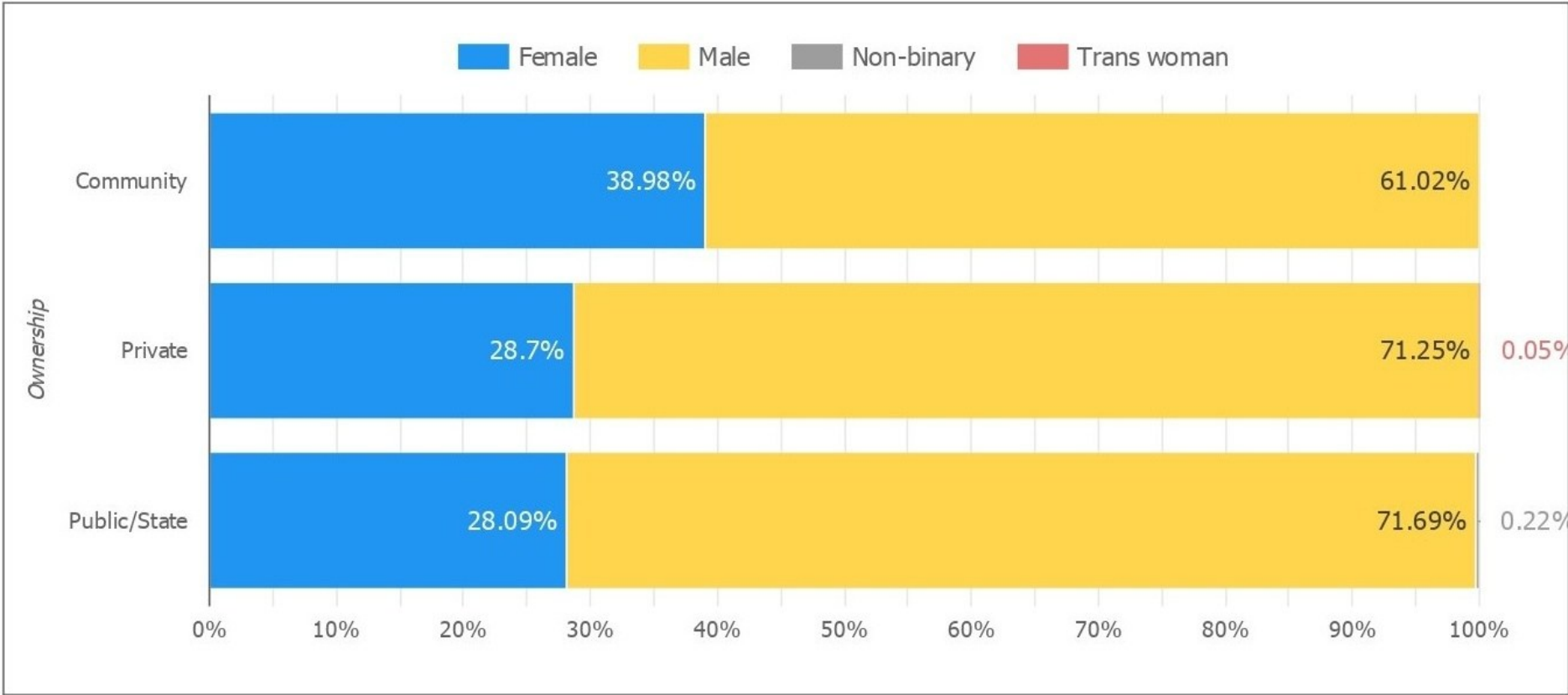
Online media recorded lowest women sources, but an increase from first time monitored in 2020 (19%).

Sources by sex and medium



*Excludes "Not sure" - # of stories included = 1,548

Sources by ownership



*Excludes "Not sure" - # of stories included = 1,548

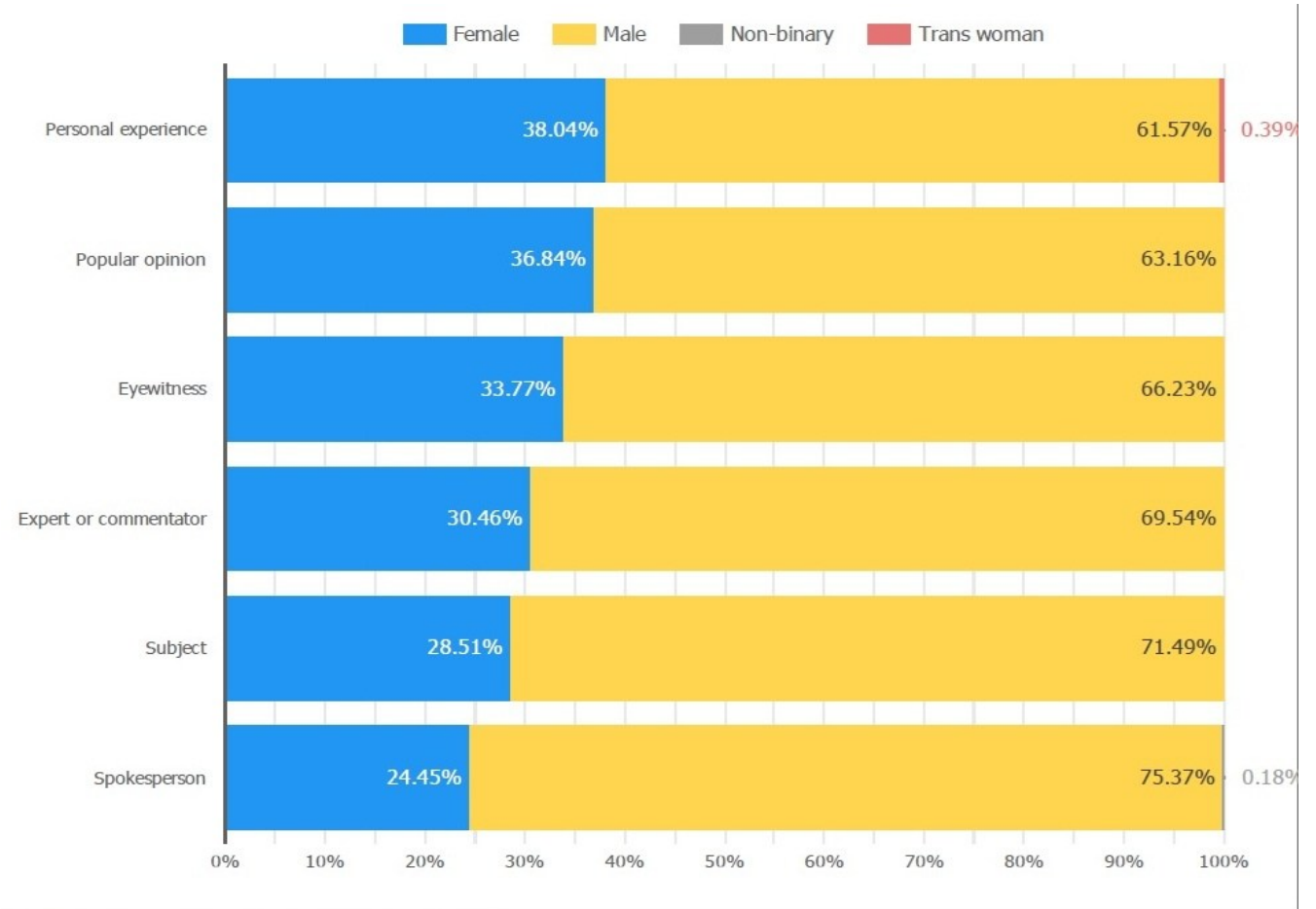


Women heard less often as experts.

Women most visible in personal experience, popular opinion and eyewitness roles

Only 30% of expert and 24% spokesperson sources.

Men most sources in roles associated with authority and expertise.



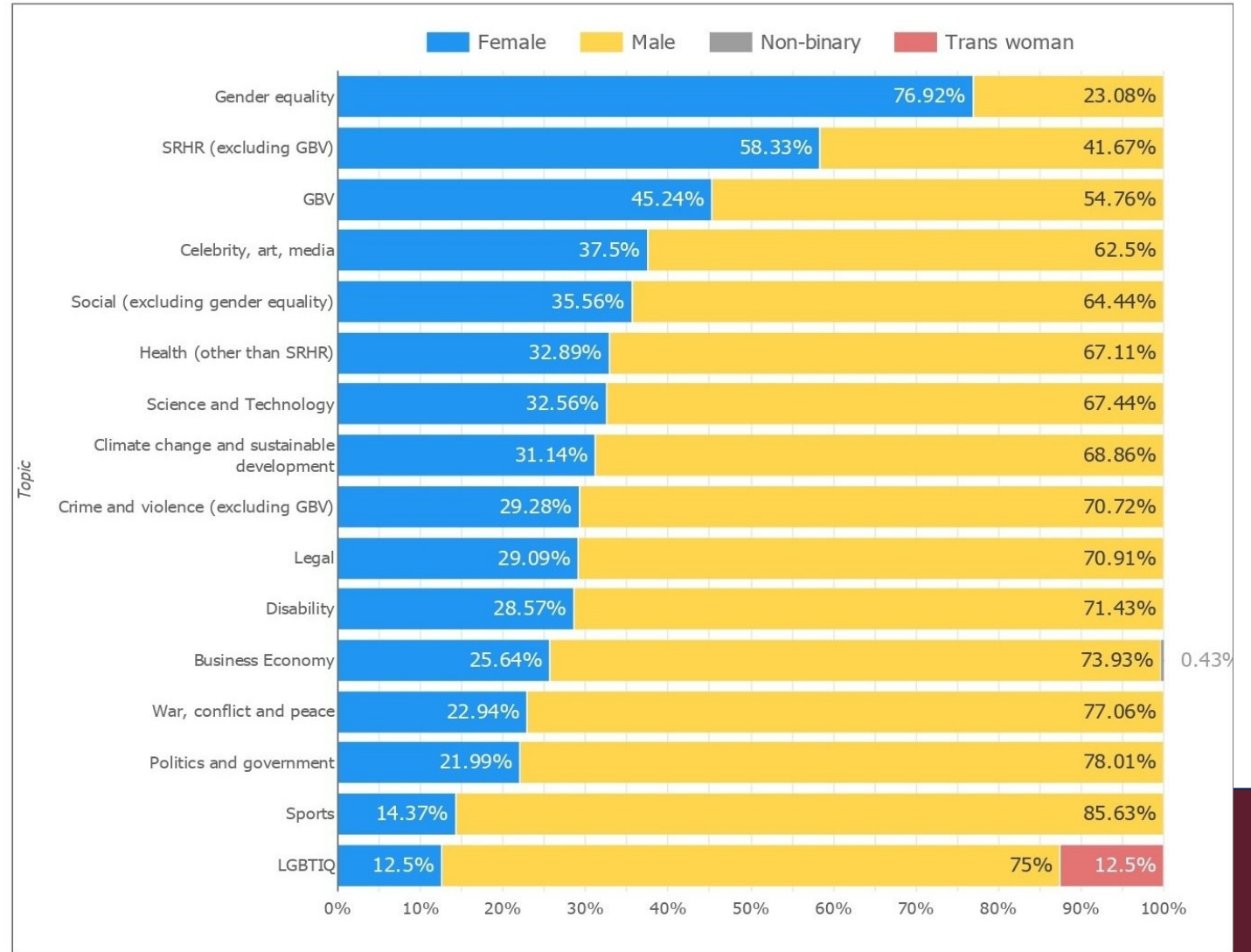
*Excludes "Not sure" - # of stories included = 1,535

Representation differs by topic

Only topics that women surpass men sources is on **gender equality & SRHR**

Least visible in **sports, politics, peace and conflict, business.**

(and LGBTIQ based on 7 stories)



Female sourcing increased substantially in several topics monitored since 2003.

Greatest increases: gender equality, SRHR, business/ economy and climate change and sustainable development.

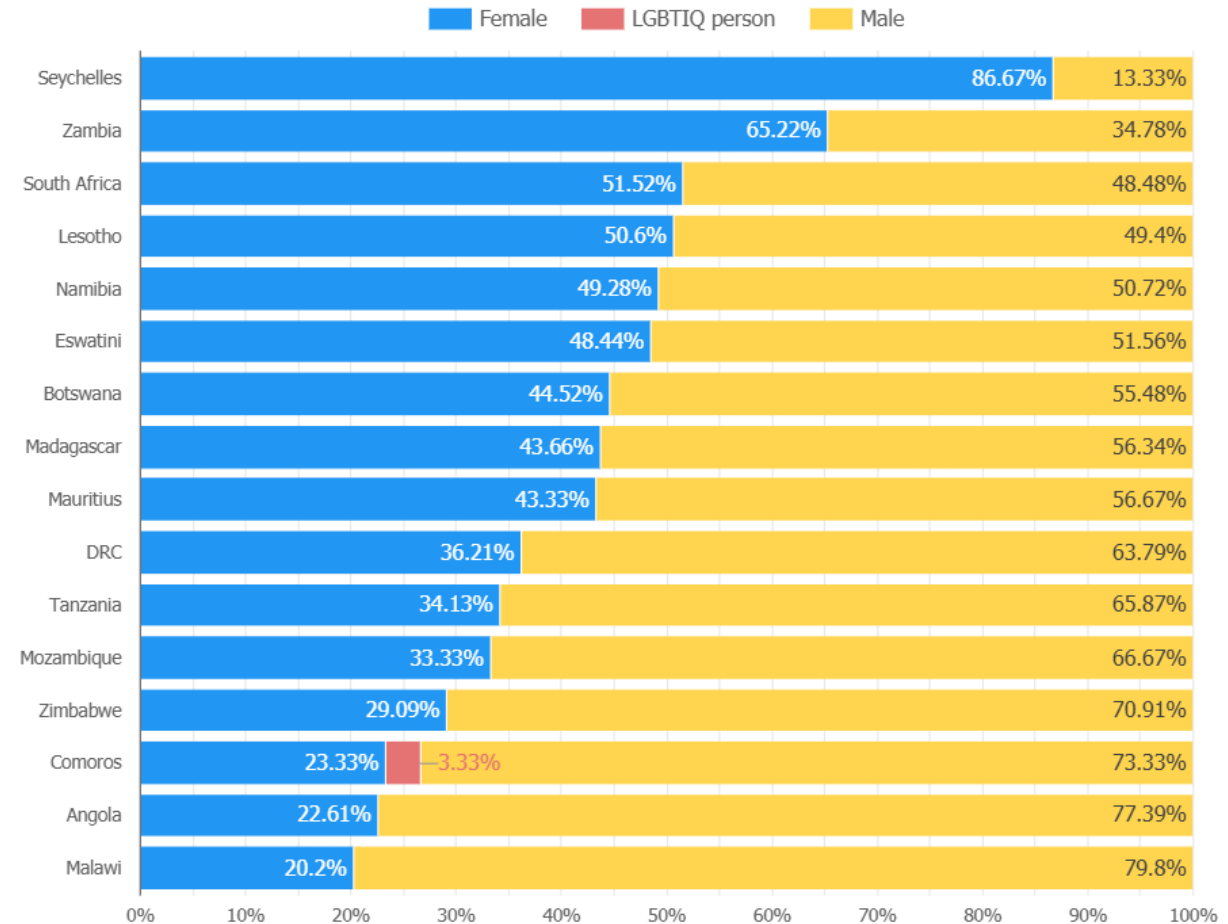
% Female sources by topic	2003 GMPS	2025 Global	2026 GMPS	Variance 2003-2026
Gender equality	40%	–	77%	37%
SRHR (excluding GBV)	28%	–	58%	30%
Business Economy	12%	–	26%	14%
Climate change & sustainable development	18%	–	31%	13%
Politics and government	11%	22%	22%	11%
Crime and violence (excluding GBV)	18%	21%	29%	11%
Legal	19%	27%	29%	10%
Social (excluding gender equality)	27%	27%	36%	9%
Celebrity, art, media	31%	43%	38%	7%
War, conflict and peace	16%	–	23%	7%
Health (other than SRHR)	28%	36%	33%	5%
Sports	10%	15%	14%	4%
GBV	44%	50%	45%	1%

Table includes only topic monitored since 2003

Proportion of reporters

Women make up
42% of reporters
across the region, up
from 31% in 2003.

This varies widely
among countries.

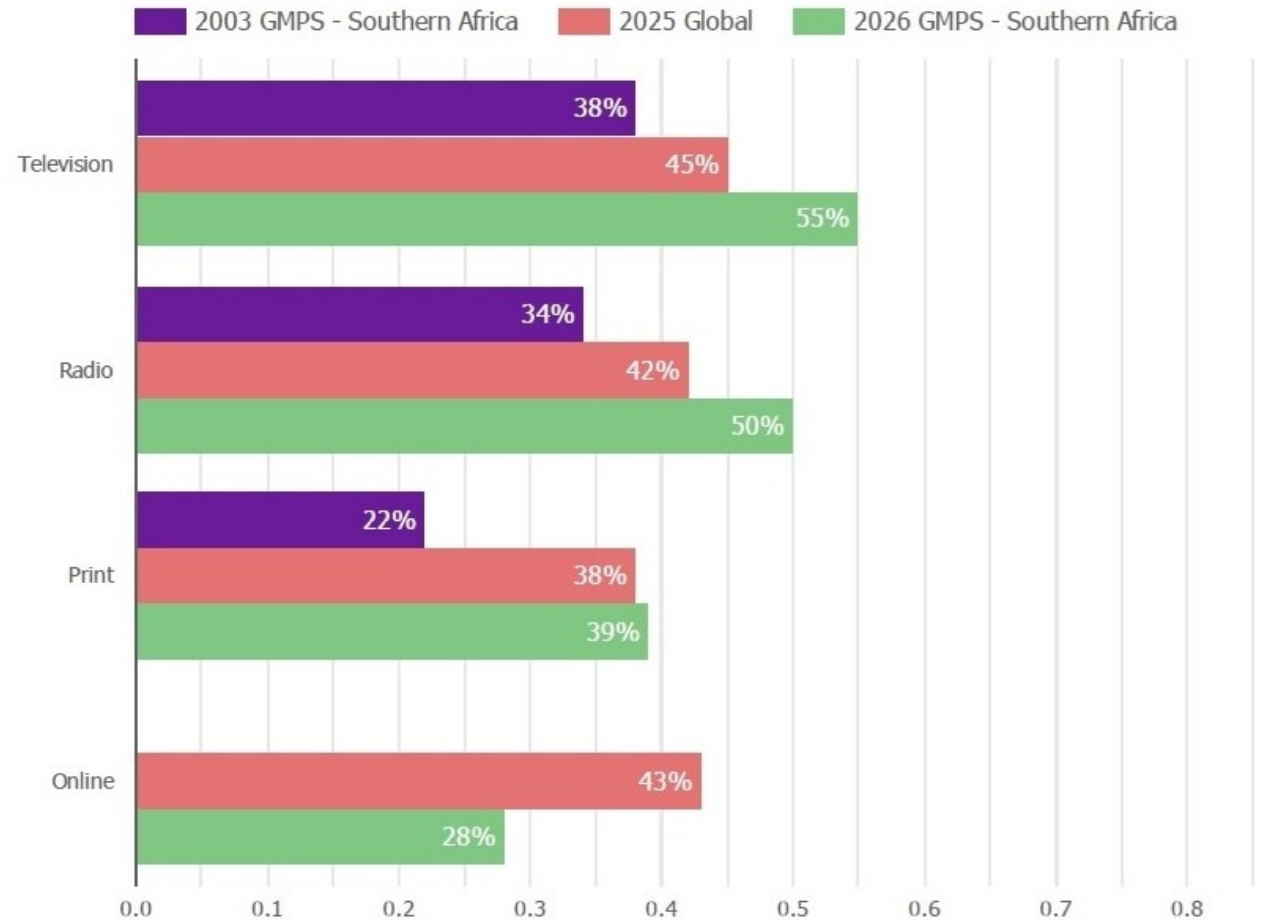


% women reporters over time

Women reporters increased across **television, radio, and print media** between 2003 and 2026.

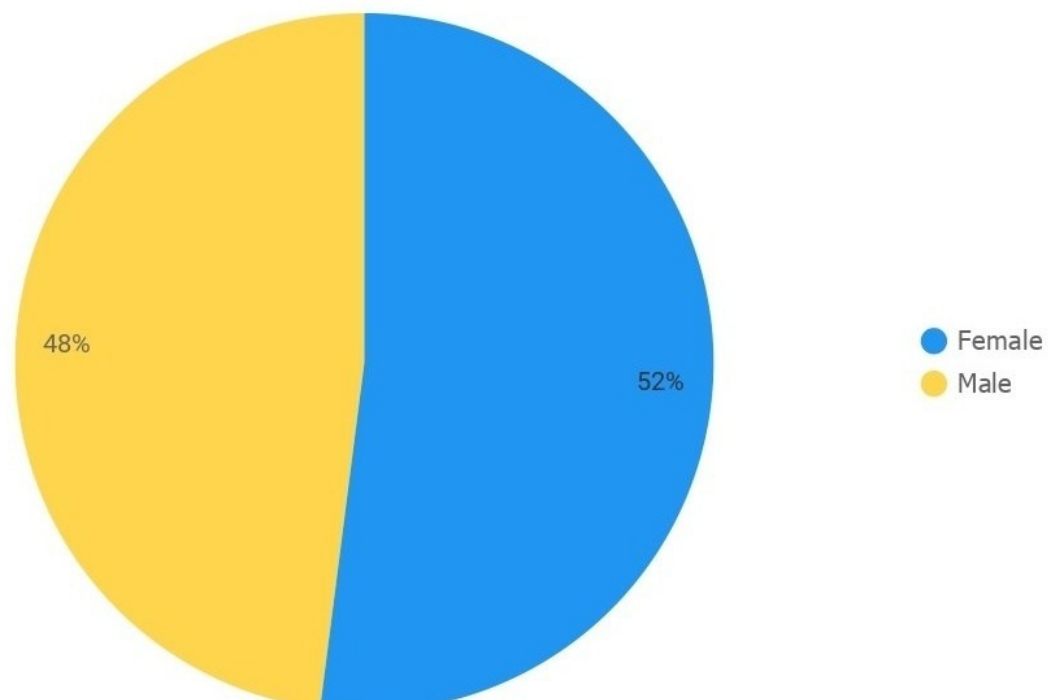
Television continues as **highest proportion (55%)** followed by **radio (50%)**

Online media **lowest (28%)**, well below 2025 global average of 43%.



Presenters and Anchors (TV and Radio)

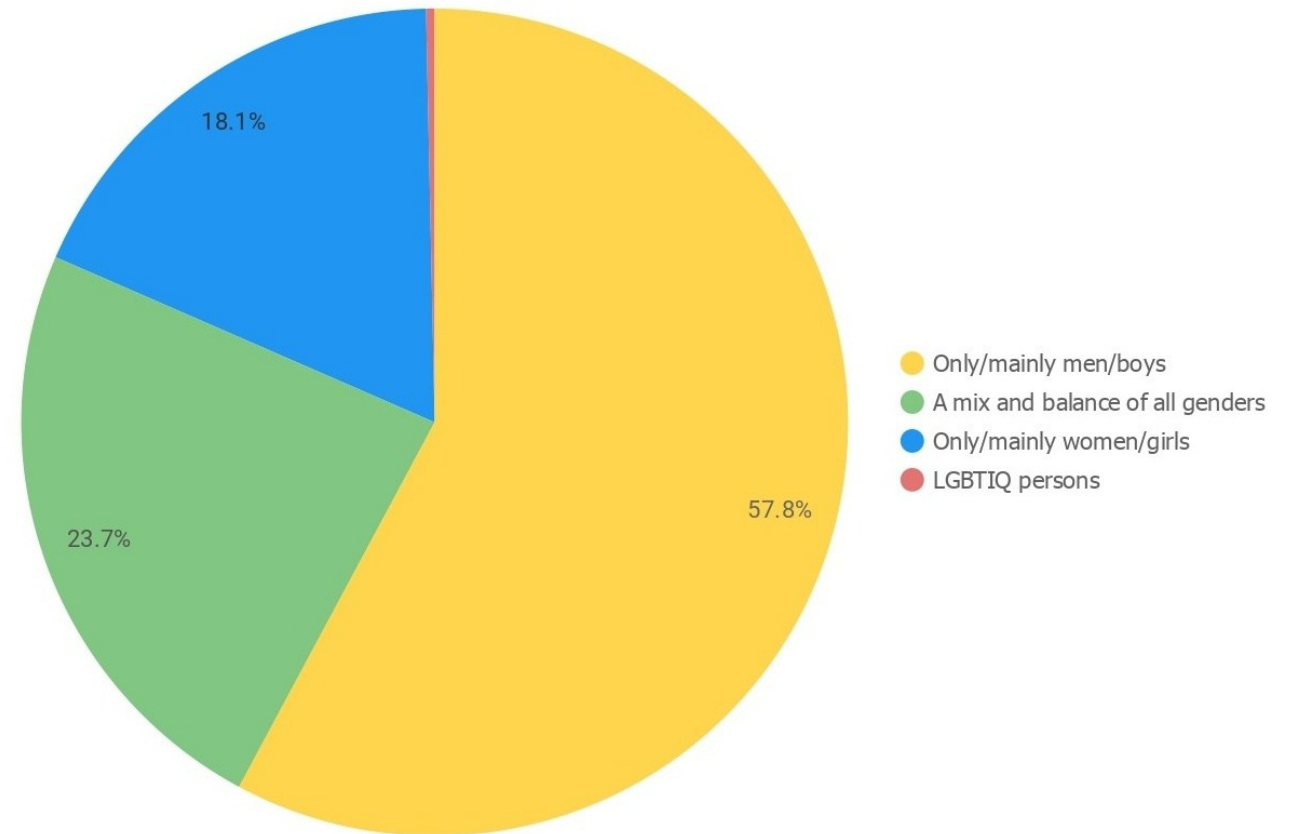
Women slightly outnumbered men in television and radio presentation roles – **accounting for 52%** of presenters and anchors.



Who is in the picture?

Nearly **three in five (58%)** news images mainly feature men and boys, compared with **just 18%** mainly women and girls.

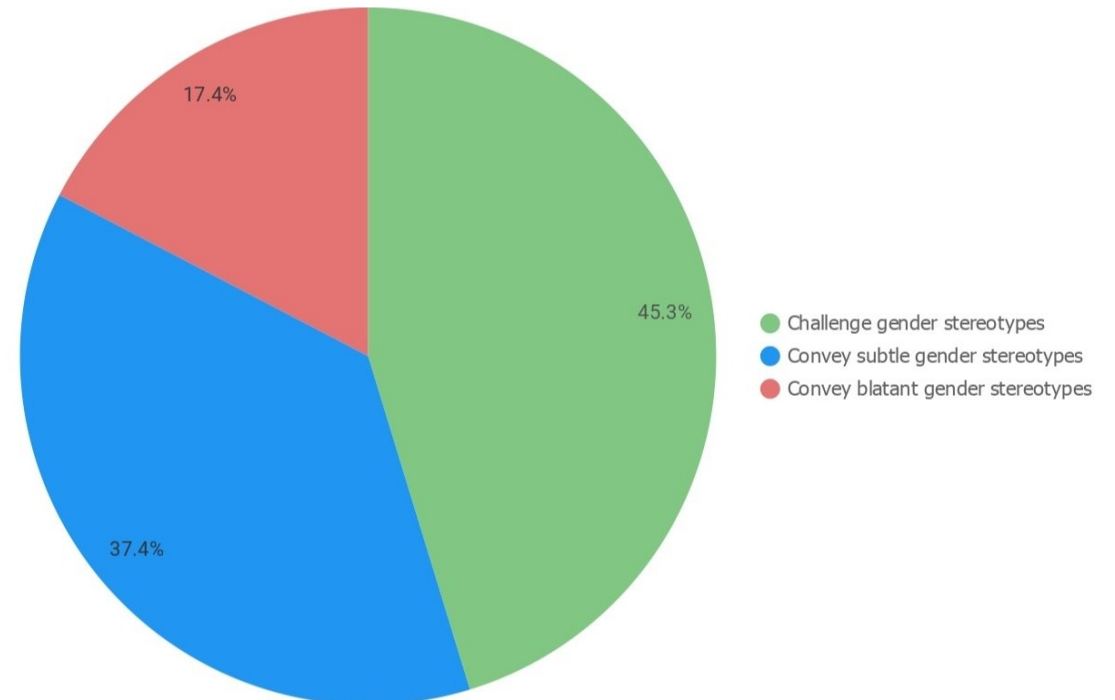
Only **one in four (24%)** images show balanced representation.



Gender stereotypes in images

Gender stereotypes remain common in news images.

More than half of images conveyed either **subtle (37%)** or **blatant (17%)** stereotypes.

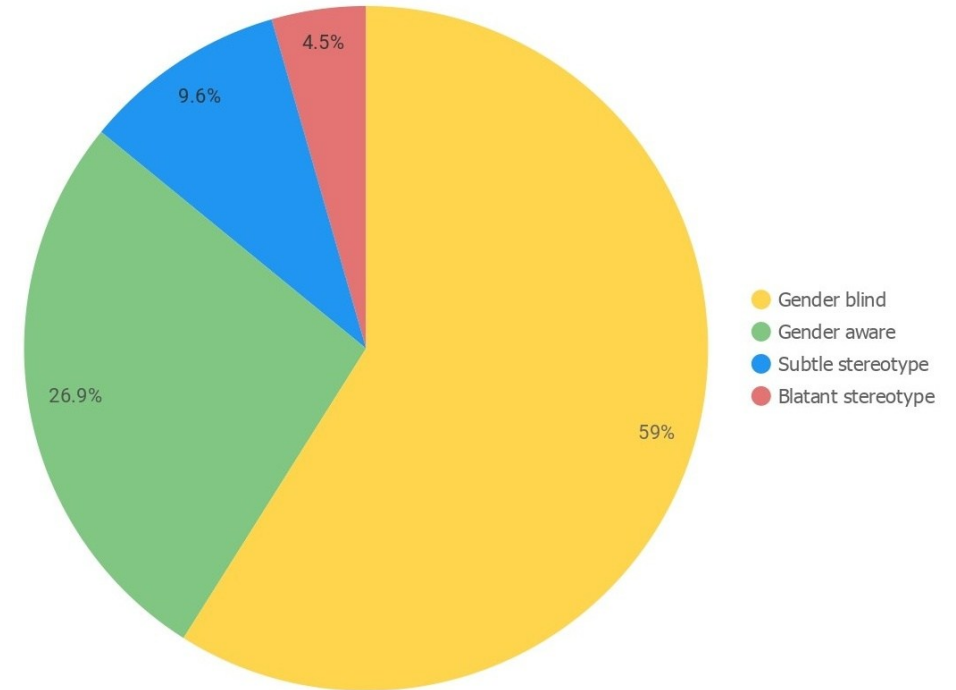


GEM Classification

Monitors classified **59% of stories as gender blind**, while 27% were gender aware.

A further 10% contained subtle stereotypes and 5% contained blatant stereotypes.

Overall, the findings show **limited gender lens** in reporting.



Unathi fury over drink-driving arrest

By MDUDUZI NONYANE

Media personality Unathi Nkayi was involved in an altercation with Johannesburg metropolitan police officers after she was stopped for alleged drunk driving.

Police records show Nkayi alleges she was sworn at when she refused to allow officers to search her vehicle.

She subsequently opened a case of crimen injuria against a female officer.

Police spokesperson Capt Tintswalo Sibeko confirmed a case of drunk driving had been opened against Nkayi.

"The suspect was arrested during a JMPD operation and was later released on bail and ordered to appear before the Randburg magistrate's court on May 18.

"However, the docket has not yet been filed on the court roll pending the blood test results.

Investigations ongoing."

Media diva lays charges after late-night search and 'f-bomb' exchange with female metro cop

The incident occurred around 11pm on May 16 on Boundary Road in Robindale, Johannesburg.

According to a police summary statement linked to a crimen injuria case registered at the Linden police station, Nkayi objected to the search and asked why officers wanted to inspect her vehicle without her permission.

The statement further alleges that tensions escalated during the interaction between Nkayi and a female metro police officer.

Nkayi claimed that the officer directed derogatory and explicit language at her during



Unathi Nkayi was arrested in a police operation and later granted bail. Picture: byxavier

the confrontation.

Sibeko confirmed that police were investigating.

"A case of crimen injuria was opened at Linden police station on 17 May. No arrest has been made, and the investigation is ongoing," she said.

Police records indicated that the incident was witnessed by other police officers at the scene.

The police statement says: "Complainant [Nkayi] alleged that on May 16 at 11pm she was in the process of being arrested for drink driving when a JMPD officer asked to search her vehicle. She denied that they search her vehicle without her permission.

"While she was arguing with an officer, a black skinny short JMPD lady with light brown braids swore at her, saying 'f*** you Unathi' without provocation.

"She asked the other police officers for help, but they kept quiet. Then she swore back

at the lady officer by saying 'f*** you, bitch'."

Nkayi is one of South Africa's most recognisable media personalities, having built a career spanning radio, television and music over more than two decades.

The Sunday Times made multiple unsuccessful attempts to get Nkayi's comment on the issue, including WhatsApp messages, calls to her office and visits to her home and office on Friday, to which she did not respond.

The latest crime statistics reveal that nationally police arrested 12,668 drivers on drunk-driving charges between January and April 2026, making it one of the top five most common arrest categories.

Some drivers were caught with breath alcohol levels up to 14 times the legal limit.

As a result, parliament's portfolio committee for transport is reviewing legislation aimed at imposing a total ban on driving when there is any alcohol at all present in the driver's blood.



Discovery
Health Medical Scheme

Southern Africa
Gender
Protocol Alliance

GENDER LINKS
FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

Zimbabwe marks International Day of Families in Lupane

Online Reporter • Herald • May 28, 2026 • 0 Comments



THE GUARDIAN | NEWS | LOCAL NEWS

Study shows low calcium dose for pregnant women 'just as effective'

By [Guardian Correspondent](#), The Guardian
Published at 11:15 AM May 28 2026

Pregnant woman

A major international clinical trial conducted in Tanzania and India has found that low-dose calcium supplements taken during pregnancy are just as safe as the higher standard dose in maintaining healthy iron levels and preventing anaemia, offering fresh evidence that could help simplify maternal health programmes in low-resource settings.

The findings, recently published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, come from one of the largest studies of its kind, involving more than 22,000 pregnant women. It demonstrated that lower-dose calcium supplementation could provide a practical and equally effective alternative to the currently recommended higher-dose regimen used to prevent preeclampsia.

The study 'Effect of calcium supplementation in pregnancy on maternal anemia and iron status: secondary analyses of two randomized trials in India and Tanzania,' was led by an international team of scientists from the United States, India and Tanzania, including Dr Honorati Masanja of the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI).

Researchers compared a daily dose of 500 milligrams of calcium with the standard 1,500 milligrams commonly prescribed during pregnancy to reduce the risk of preeclampsia, a potentially life-threatening condition characterised by high blood pressure that can lead to severe complications for mothers and babies.

Preeclampsia remains one of the leading causes of maternal and newborn illness and death globally, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where access to quality antenatal care can be limited.

Calcium supplementation is widely recommended as a preventive measure, especially in populations where dietary calcium intake is low, but concerns have persisted among scientists and health practitioners that high calcium doses could interfere with iron absorption, increasing the risk of anaemia during pregnancy.

To examine this concern, researchers conducted two large randomised non-inferiority clinical trials, one in Tanzania and the other in India, enrolling approximately 11,000 women in each country.

TOP HEADLINES

Samia: Take ownership of public infrastructure

Researchers seeking drought resistant grass for pastoralists

Over 50m people in Tanzania can't afford healthy diet, UN data indicates

'Tabora, Coast poor in measles, rubella vaccination coverage'

Practical skills open employment opportunities for youth in Chemba

RC hails private investment in Iringa hospitality industry

Hainan steps up efforts to build world-class tourism, consumption destination

Traditional Shoton Festival celebrated in Lhasa, China's Xizang

Nagqu Horse Racing Festival 2026 kicks off in China's Xizang

China-ASEAN trade ties deepen as supply chains, connectivity strengthen

TRENDING STORIES

CATEGORIES

ENTIRE WEBSITE



How Xi promotes joint efforts in heritage protection

16 Jun 2026



US visa services cut off: Dar, Nairobi untouched

31 Jul 2026



Bayport backs Kibamba digital education drive with TZS100m donation

31 Jul 2026



US\$1.6 million patrol boats step up Tanzania's maritime security

31 Jul 2026



Tanzania targets 25 percent female peacekeeping deployment by 2028

26 May 2026

#WhoseNewsWhoseViews

Media Parity Capacity Building Programme

Botswana | Lesotho | Malawi | Mozambique | Zambia

[Media Parity programme webpage](#)



Media Parity Programme

Gender Links + CFI Media
Development partnership

Gender-aware reporting capacity
building led by Gender Links

- **Integrate** a gender lens across news beats
- **Diversify** voices, sources & expertise
- **Apply** learning to produce content

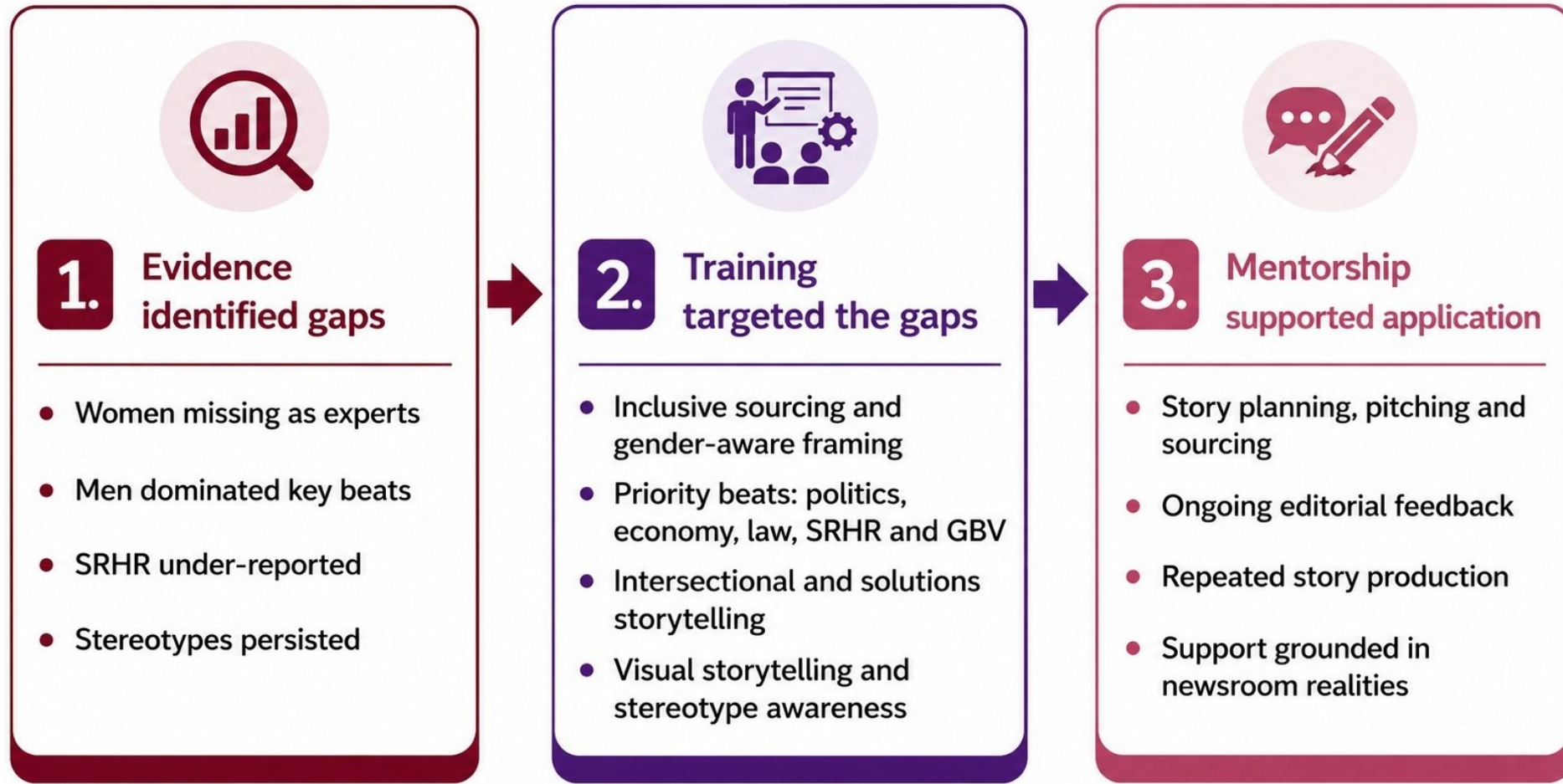
22
media outlets

40
journalists

303
stories produced

Print • Online • Radio • Television

Evidence to action approach



Women majority of sources

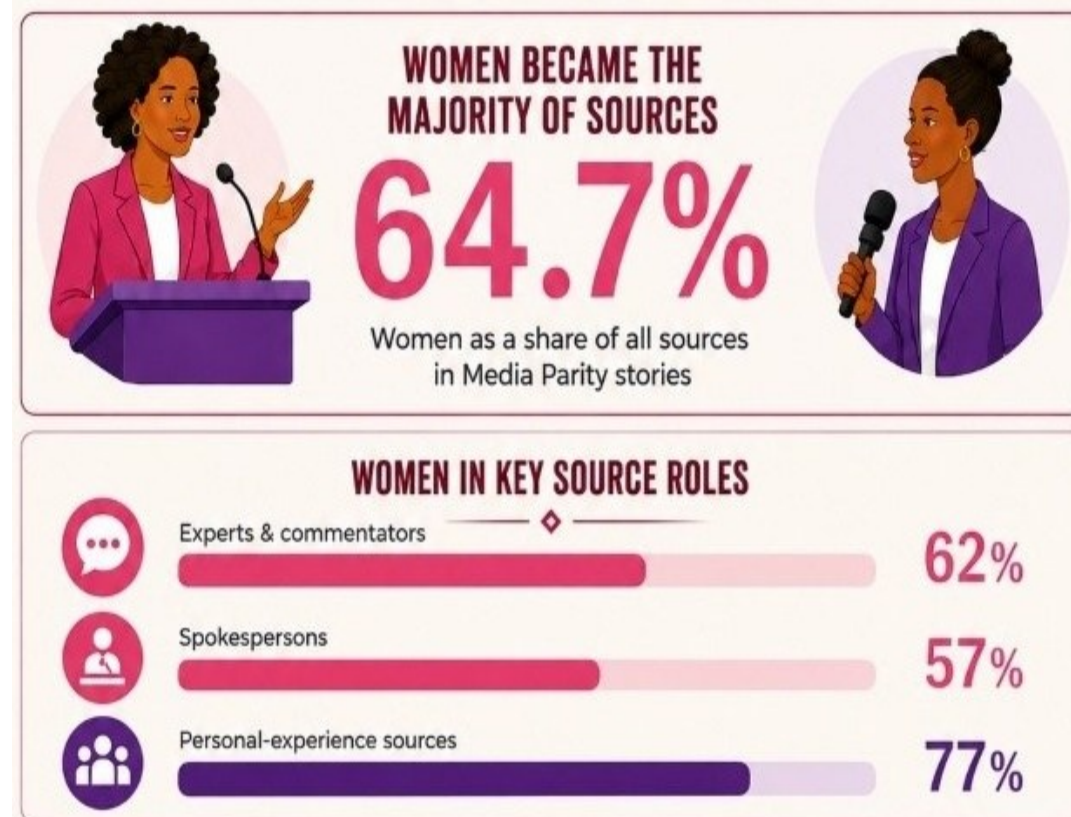
Featured prominently as

- Experts & commentators **62%**
- Spokespersons **57%**
- Personal-experience **77%**

Women's expertise, knowledge and lived experience shaped the stories.

"The sources, women used as experts, were of very high quality in what they said. So, it's not just about the numbers. We celebrate numbers, we celebrate quality."

Paulino Nhuse, Rádio Moçambique



Prominent in traditionally male-dominated reporting



BUSINESS & ECONOMY

MEDIA PARITY

82%

Women sources



LEGAL REPORTING

MEDIA PARITY

72%

Women sources



POLITICS & GOVERNANCE

MEDIA PARITY

66%

Women sources

The sisterhood changing Malawi's financial future



Rebecca Chimjeka | Save it
Last updated: 2025/12/02 at 1:09 PM



Feature | Oct 15, 2025 09:08 PM | Tamandani Hau

Beyond the ballot



descontos de IRPS

SAYANA | Fevereiro 11, 2026 | 7 min tempo de leitura

Últimos Updates 2026/02/11 at 7:33 PM

7 min tempo de leitura



Under-reported issues, reported

SRHR and GBV featured prominently, at least:

- 62 stories SRHR angle
- 66 stories GBV angle

Often integrated into political, economic, legal and social reporting - rather than treated as isolated "women's issues."

Against all odds: Women with disabilities dare to redefine political participation



Eric Mwikiti

Save it

Last updated: 2025/09/29 at 3:08 PM



LESOTHO BOYS NAVIGATE SEXUAL HEALTH WITH FEW GUIDES

by LENA · November 28, 2025 · 0 · 4500

SHARE

0



Break the silence, defeat cyber bullying



by Kitso Ramono Majaha · January 6, 2026 · in News, Premium

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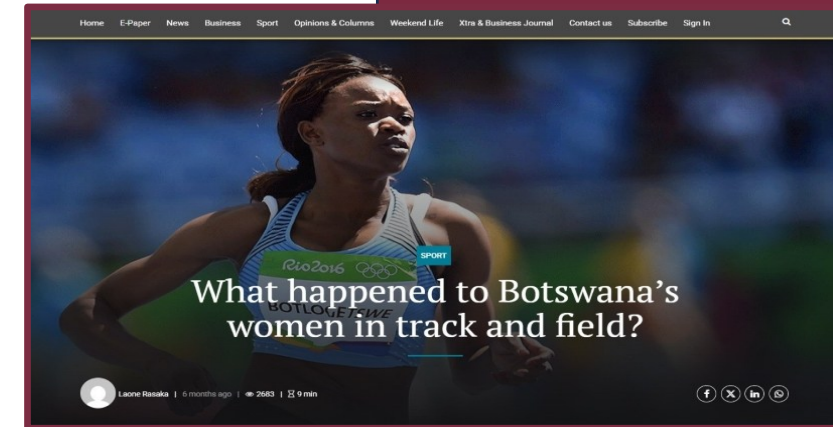


When the lens shifts, the story changes

83.1% of Media Parity stories were classified as gender-aware,

Journalists consistently applied a gender lens.

- Diverse sources, expertise and lived experience
- Connecting lived realities and wider systems
- Challenging stereotypes and gender norms
- Fresh gender perspectives on topical news
- Agency, solutions and accountability alongside barriers



Women on the frontlines of climate change

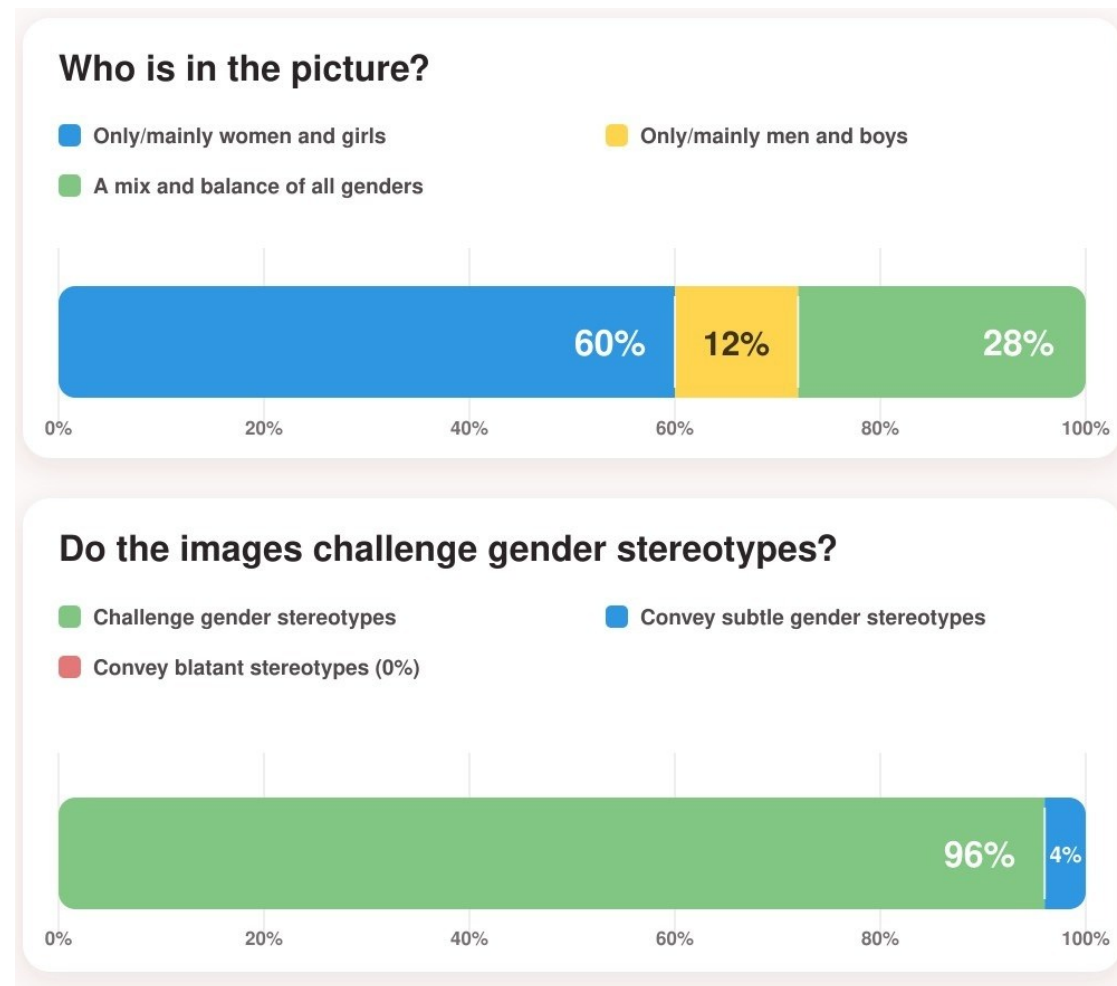
 [Rebecca Chimjeka](#) | [Save it](#)
Last updated: 2025/12/04 at 2:51 PM



More inclusive visual storytelling

Women and girls more prominently represented

- 60% of images featured only or mainly **women and girls**
- 28% featured a mixed or **gender-balanced representation**
- 96% of images **challenged gender stereotypes**
- Only 4% contained **subtle stereotypes**



Capacity building that delivers results

Many factors mattered: but the defining feature?

Personalised mentorship

Tailored guidance to produce stories.

- Real-time editorial support: pitch to publication
- Skilled country facilitators with local expertise, strong newsroom relationships
- Practical, applied learning designed around everyday reporting
- Peer collaboration and knowledge sharing.

'Personalised, one on one mentorship proved highly effective. Journalists came from different media houses with varying editorial styles and levels of experience, individualised guidance ensured each received tailored support.'

Albert Ngosa, Zambia Country



Marang Fund Media

**Expanding Inclusive Journalism:
From Visibility to Voice**

[Marang Fund webpage](#)

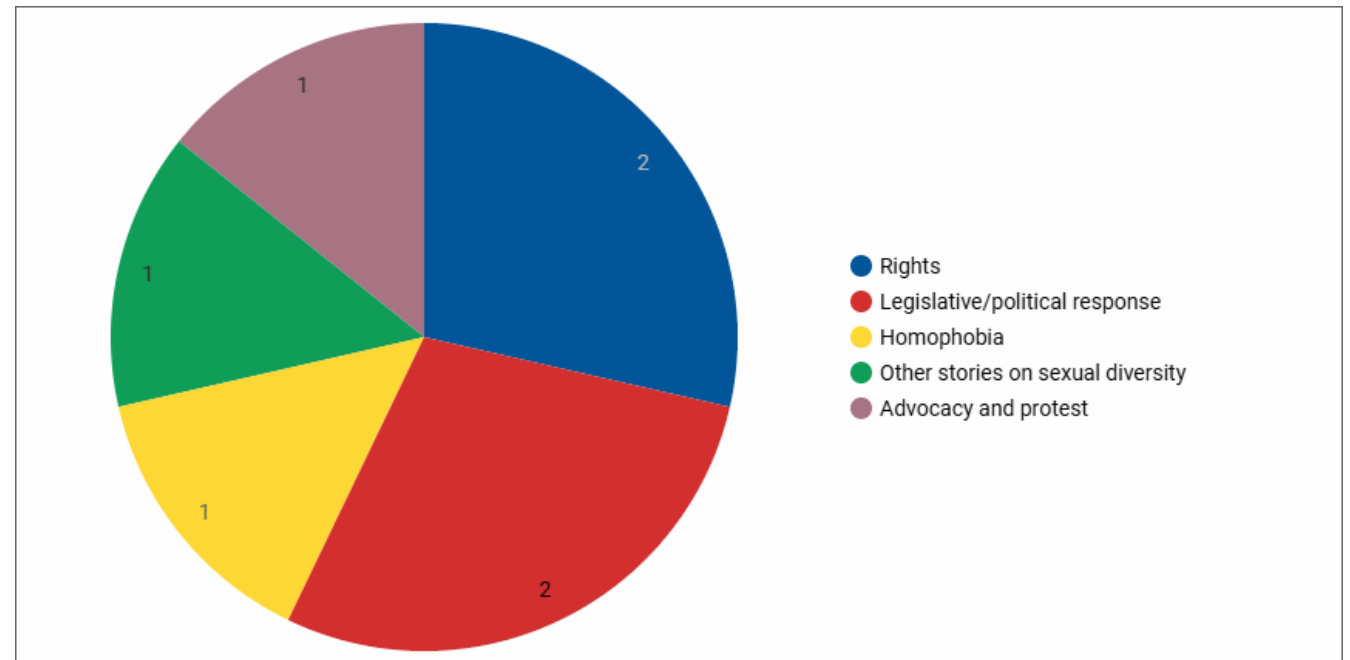


LGBTIQ voices remain largely invisible in mainstream news

Only 7 stories identified focused on LGBTIQ topic of 2060 stories monitored on 28 May.

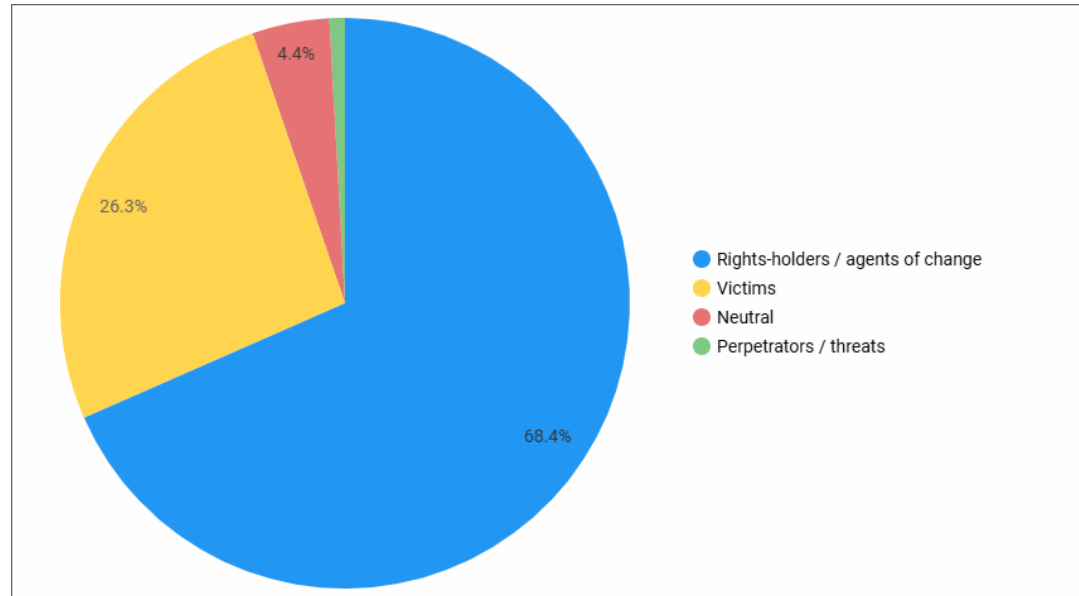
LGBTIQ stories made up **0.34%**

stories monitored in one day GMPS on LGBTIQ
7 stories

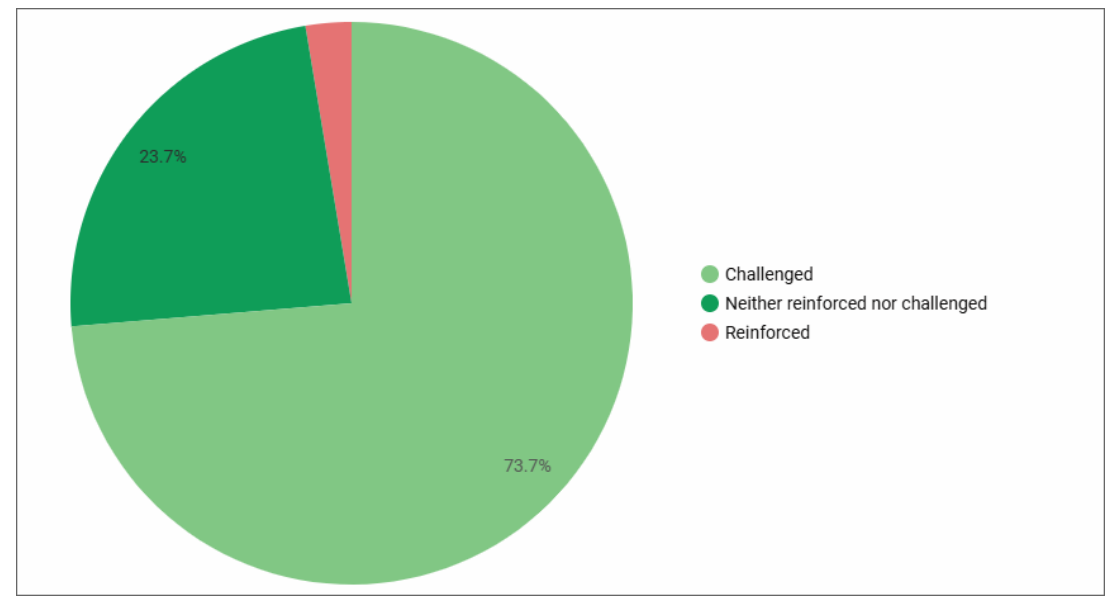


Beyond Visibility: How are LGBTIQ people represented?

LGBTIQ people portrayed mainly as



LGBTIQ stereotype portrayal



GMPS snapshot: Findings based on the 7 LGBTIQ-focused stories identified during the monitoring day.

Marang's Response

Media Training Sessions

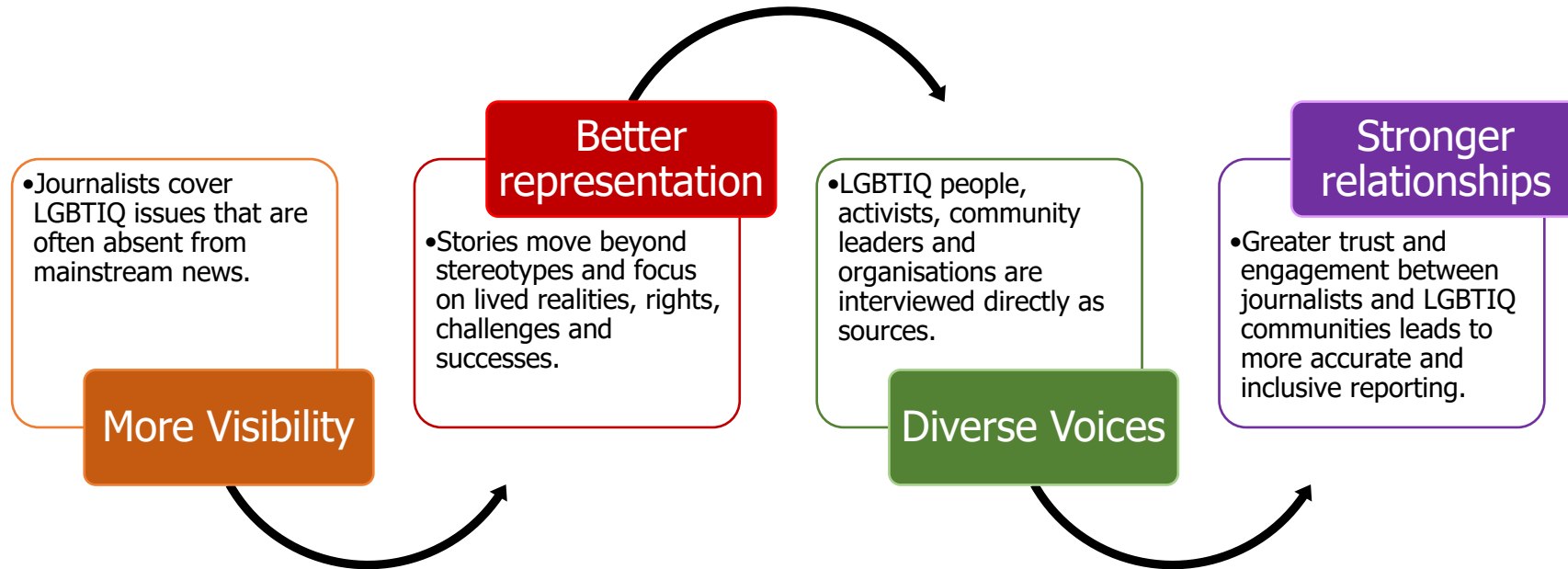
Marang-trained journalists are covering a wider range of LGBTIQ issues, from political participation and economic justice to everyday lived experiences, while engaging LGBTIQ people and organisations directly as sources rather than simply reporting about them.

Goal:

Visibility → Representation → Voice → Inclusion

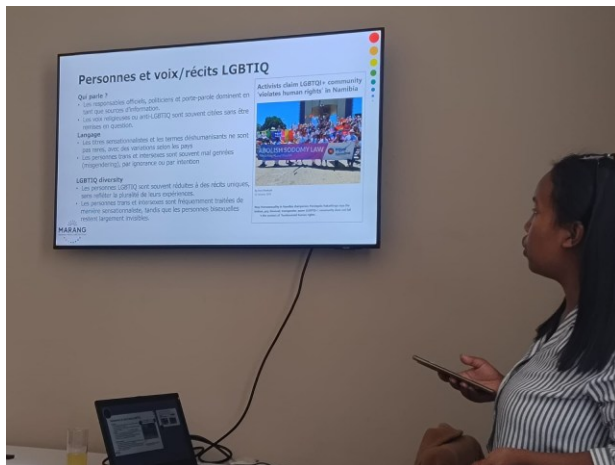


Building Inclusive Journalism



From Visibility to Voice

Marang's goal is not only to increase LGBTIQ coverage, but to ensure that LGBTIQ people are seen, heard and represented as active participants in the stories that affect their lives.



Madagascar



Namibia



Mauritius

Media training sessions



Botswana

Marang Fund Media Monitoring

29 STORIES MONITORED
3 COUNTRIES

Botswana - 15

Lesotho - 6

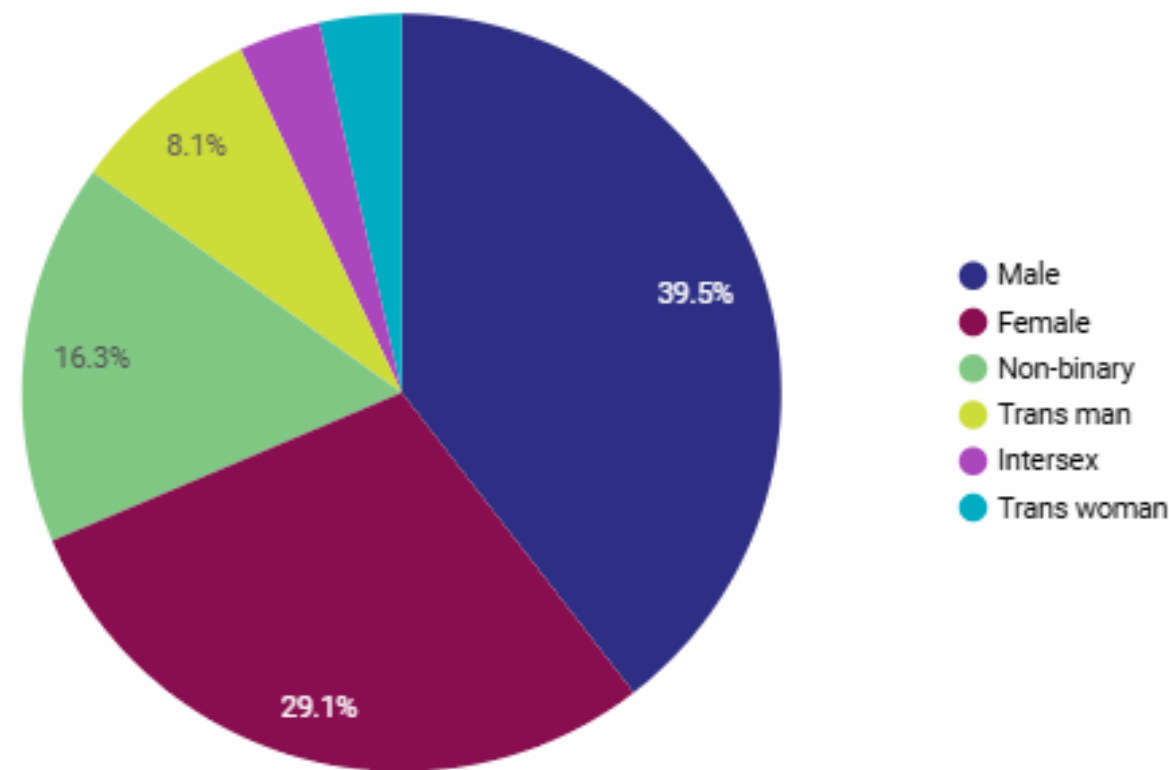
Mauritius - 8



From Visibility to Voice: Who gets to speak?

Diverse gender identities accounted for nearly **one-third of sources**, including non-binary (16.3%) trans men (8.1%)

Men were the largest group of sources (**39.5%**), followed by women (**29.1%**).



From Training to Practice: Stories Bringing LGBTIQ Voices into the News



Lame Lucas, Ytv, Botswana

The everyday lives of transgender people in Botswana

Why it matters:

Centres the lived experiences of transgender people and gives visibility to voices often excluded from mainstream media coverage.

Lesotho's First Transgender Political Candidate Sparks Hope for Inclusive Leadership



Rethabile Mohono, Public Eye, Lesotho

Lesotho's First Transgender Political Candidate Sparks Hope for Inclusive Leadership

Why it matters:

Highlights political participation and leadership while engaging directly with transgender representation in public life.

YOUNG QUEER ALLIANCE

Trans et genres divers : une formation pour des médias sans clichés



(Photo d'illustration)

La Young Queer Alliance (YQA) a organisé, le 5 décembre, au Media Trust à Port Louis, une formation sur la reporting inclusif en français.

Nicolas Frichot, L'express, Mauritius

Young Queer Alliance: Training for Media Without Stereotypes

Why it matters:

Highlights collaboration between media and LGBTIQ organisations to improve reporting on transgender and gender-diverse communities, directly engaging community representatives and advocates.



From training to practice: A journalist's experience



Rethabile Mohono *(he/him)*

Journalist | PublicEye Newspaper, Lesotho

Rethabile Mohono is a Lesotho-based journalist with PublicEye Newspaper who participated in the Marang media training programme. Through his reporting, he has contributed to more inclusive coverage of LGBTIQ issues by highlighting stories of visibility, leadership and social inclusion within Lesotho. His work demonstrates the importance of engaging directly with diverse communities and bringing underrepresented voices into mainstream media coverage.

Articles produced:

1. Lesotho's First Transgender Political Candidate Sparks Hope for Inclusive Leadership
2. Miss Spring Lesotho Opens Doors for Inclusion in the Pageant Industry



From visibility to voice

Visibility is only the beginning.

Marang-trained journalists are helping to ensure that LGBTIQ communities are not only seen but also heard. Through more inclusive reporting, direct engagement with communities, and the use of diverse sources, journalism can move beyond representation to meaningful participation.

The aim now is to sustain LGBTIQ coverage and continue supporting journalists to tell stories that amplify diverse voices, strengthen understanding, and advance inclusive journalism across Southern Africa.

