



Perception of Violence towards Women, Children and LGBT persons in Mauritius

Date: 20th March 2020



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Objectives and Methodology

The major aim of the study is to understand the perception of violence towards women, children and LGBT in Mauritius. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches have been used to gather insights and relevant information. This report entails results obtained from both the qualitative and quantitative phase.

Sub objectives of this study are to understand the :

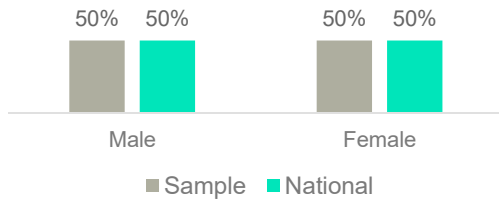
- 1) Perceived types of violence in Mauritius
- 2) Attitudes of Mauritians towards different forms of violence experienced by women, children and LGBT in Mauritius
- 3) Causes of violence towards women , children and LGBT in Rodrigues

Methodology for qualitative interviews

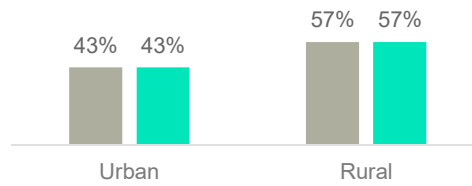
- **500 face to face interviews**, using the Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) technique.
- The Population Proportional Sampling methodology (PPS) was used to constitute the sample, based on different zones, as classified by the Central Statistics Office. This methodology allowed an “area representative” sample of respondents to be selected. For each zone, easily identifiable landmarks/points (churches, schools, tabagies, selling points, road junctions, bridges etc) were determined, which acted as starting points. The interviewer then followed a ‘random route walk’ methodology from that starting point to select the respondents.
- Margin of error : +/- 4% at the 95% *confidence interval. The sample has been reweighted to represent the national statistical distribution in terms of : gender (physical appearance, region, age group, socio economic group). Note: Respondents were also asked to identify their gender at the end of the exercise. Only 4 of them are noted to be LGBT : 1 gay, 1 Lesbian, 2 Trans- Male to Female. Unfortunately the sample is too small to carry out analysis by the ‘gender identity’ variable.
- Fieldwork: Mid January to 10th March 2020
- 20% of interviews call check were also carried out to ensure reliability of the collected information.

Profile of respondents

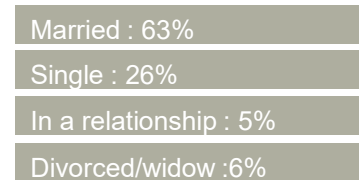
Gender- physical appearance



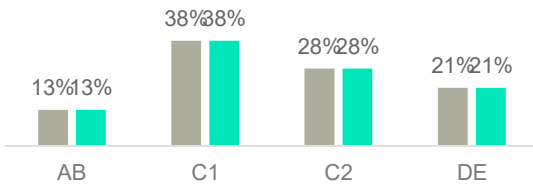
Region



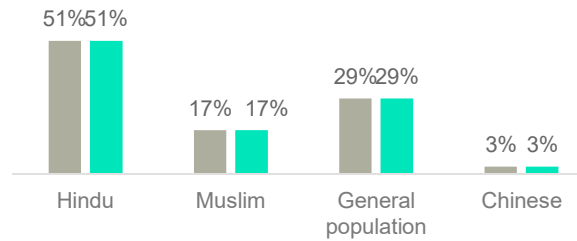
Status - sample



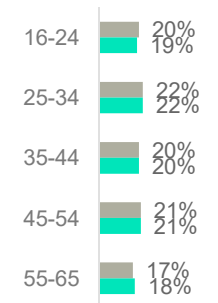
CSP



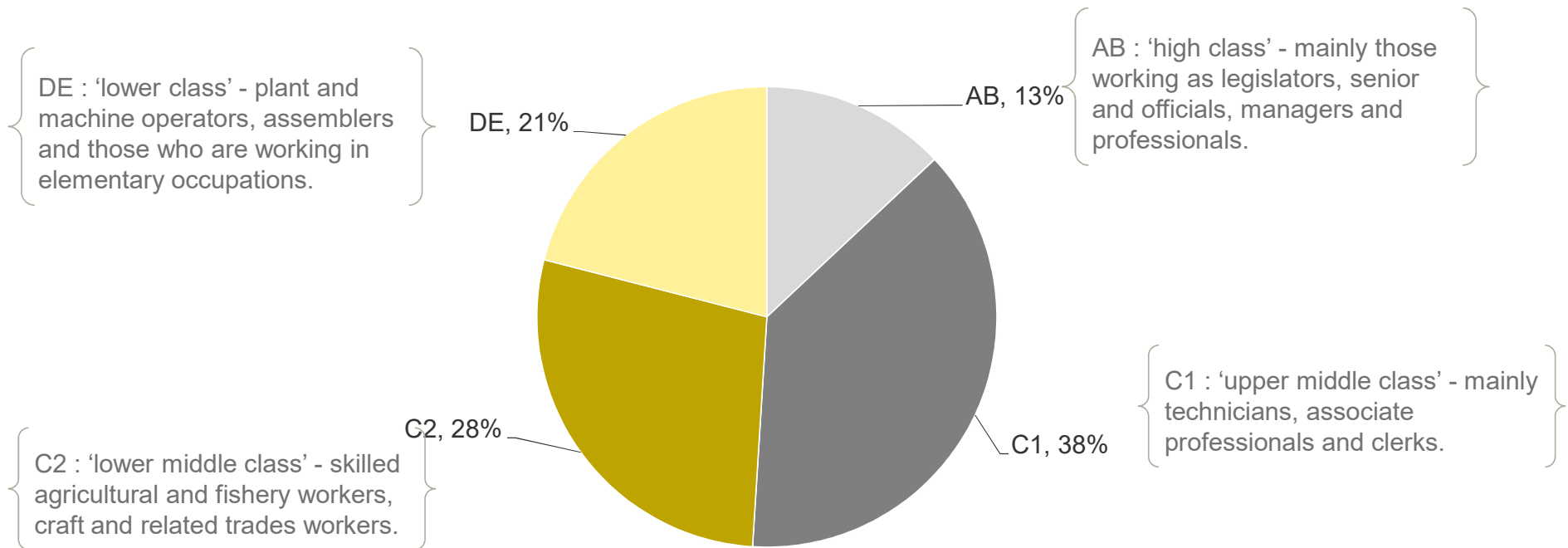
Ethnic group



Age group



Socio-economic breakdown of the Mauritian household




Methodology and Sample

Methodologies Applied

- **Triads with Adults** – Group Discussions. Three participants per group
- **IDI's with Children** – In-depth Interviews. One-to-One basis

Sample Surveyed

- A sample of 27 persons in total participated in the survey
- The sample comprised of Children and Adults
- Here is the sample breakdown 

	Gender	Age group	Marital Status	Methodology applied	Quantity carried out
Not Known Victims	Male	10-16 years	n/a	In-Depth Interview (One-to-One)	3 Males & 3 Females
	Female	10-16 years	n/a		
	Male	20+ years	Married	Triad (3 participants)	3 Males & 3 Females
	Female	20+ years			
	Male	20+ years	Non-married		
	Female	20+ years			
Known Victims	Female	20+ years	N/A	Triad (3 participants)	3 Females 3 GBT 3 LBT
	Gay/Bi/Trans	20+ years	N/A		
	Lesbian/Bi/Trans	20+ years	N/A		

Executive summary

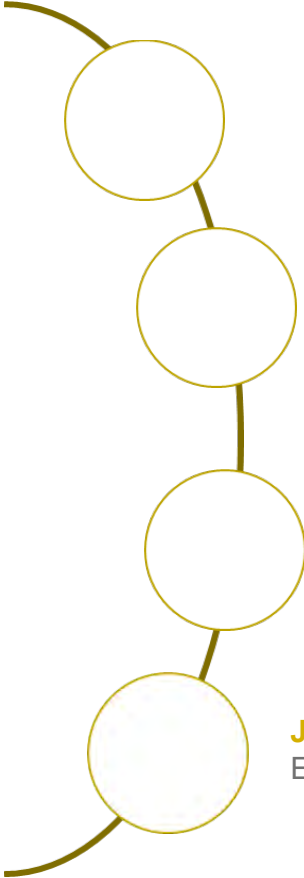


Key Insights – general



- Drug and crime are spontaneously cited as the main social issues in Mauritius. Half of the respondents mentioned domestic violence as a social issue.
- Violence spontaneously evokes fighting/hitting to nearly 4 out of 10 respondents and domestic violence to 1 out of 4 respondents. While child abuse is associated to violence by 7% of respondents, no one mentioned violence towards LGBT.
- Physical and emotional violence are the 2 forms of violence with the highest awareness : respectively 96% and 86% of respondents spontaneously have cited them.
- Women are considered as the primary victims of violence by nearly 90% of respondents followed by children (56%). As far as LGBT are concerned, they are perceived as victims of violence by 8% of respondents.

Violence towards Children




Violence towards children is condemned by most of the respondents (adults and children), who are of the opinion that these practices are outdated. Even though, modern parents are in favor of communication rather than any form of violence, most of them don't have the proper knowledge and tools while handling conflicting situations with their kids. Some parents still use violence to remedy to the situations where hitting the child to "make him understand" is perceived to be the best option. Most of them don't feel guilty for hitting their child as it is perceived as a corrective measure: "Korize".

Attitude towards violence: Both children and adults feel that bullying is becoming more common in Mauritius where victims are highly affected (both emotionally and physically). Mixed feelings are shared when it comes to physical correction of a child, the majority perceives it as an educative measure. Even children who participated in the study have no qualms in having a slap / or being hit by their parents; such act is seen to form part of the upbringing of the child.

Causes of violence: Main causes of violence are linked to children not abiding by his/her parents'/teachers' rules or not performing well at school. As most parents have undergone physical violence during their childhood, most of them believe that it is the best way to raise a child properly. Few think that communication is an alternative to violence. On another note, failure to conform to mainstream behaviour often leads to playground violence in schools.

Justification of violence: On the overall, violence against children is not perceived as acceptable by both children and adults. Except in few cases where it is used as corrective measures during the upbringing phase.

Violence towards children



53% of the respondents are of the opinion that Violence towards children is increasing. 80% of the interviewed sample spontaneously cited domestic violence (physical (corporal) punishment) as type of violence which is most commonly faced by children in Mauritius. 68% of respondents have heard/seen/witnessed cases of violence towards children during the past 12 months. 8% personally know the victim and only 6% had intervened to help the victims

When it comes to the evaluation of level violence towards children, watching pornographic videos in the presence of a child as well as sexually harassing a child are strongly perceived to be violent: respectively 77% and 75% considered these acts as 'extremely violent'. On the other hand, yelling/shouting at a child for his homework is seen to be acceptable by 37% of respondents.

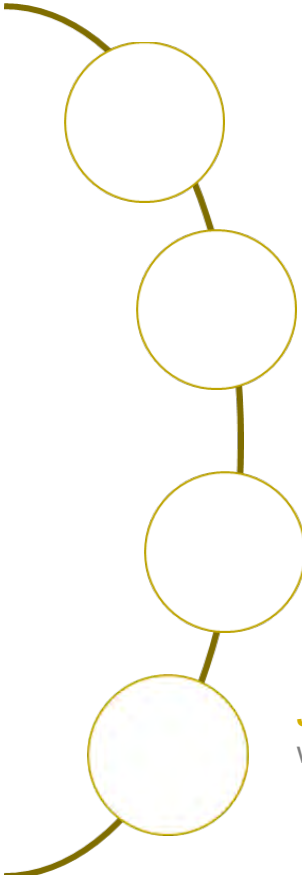
Attitudes towards violence : There is low consensus regarding attitudes towards different situations that a child may face. While the majority of respondents are agreeable that violence is not the best solution to deal with children, corporal punishment is still viewed as being necessary to discipline a child. Moreover, one out two respondents tend to agree that slapping a child is a violence but at the same time slapping a child is perceived to be acceptable.

Justification of violence : Both insulting or hitting a child, whatever might be the reason, are not acceptable by the majority of respondents. However, 3 out of 10 respondents are of the opinion that slapping a child for corrective measures is an acceptable form of violence towards children.

Causes of violence : Drug (69%), alcohol abuse (63%) and unstable family (60%) are the main perceived reasons which trigger violence towards children. 'Tired parents' has also been mentioned as a factor contributing to violence towards children (49%)

Base: 500 respondents

Violence towards Women




Generally, it is perceived that domestic violence is the main form of violence women mostly suffers from. There is a strong feeling that domestic violence towards woman is happening in several households but most women fail to lodge formal complaints as they are afraid of their spouses' retaliation. Moreover the fear of the perceptions of others and the separation from their husband also impeded most women to voice out.

Attitude towards violence: Both men and women feel that violence against women shall be a reprehensible/felonious act. In contrast to the case of children, where hitting was acceptable to some extent, it is not the same for a woman. Among those who are victims, having a slap shall be alarming enough for the woman to seek help and take actions. Some young girls/ women are seen to refuse acknowledging being victims of violence as they perceived these acts as a demonstration of love.

Causes of violence: In most cases, violence towards women are perceived to be related to the 'alcohol' and 'drug' consumption of their spouse. In some cases, the poor character of the husband and jealousy also lead to violence towards his spouse. Violence against women is also deemed to be on the rise, due to poor enforcement of protective orders for women victims

Justification of violence: All respondents agreed that violence towards women is not acceptable and cannot be justified for whatever reason.

Violence towards women



86% of the respondents are of the opinion that Violence towards women is increasing. 3 main types of perceived violence faced by women are : Domestic violence- physical abuse (89%), Domestic violence – emotional abuse (63%) and Rape (45%).85% of respondents have heard/seen/witnessed cases of violence towards women during the past 12 months. 12% personally know the victim and only 8% had intervened to help the victims

When it comes to the evaluation of level violence towards women, 57% of the respondents believe that ‘ Hitting a woman with a stick or belt’ is ‘extremely violent’. Similarly 50% are of the opinion that the following cases are ‘extremely violent’ :‘a husband having sexual relationship with his wife without her approval’ , ‘Harassing women: wooing, sexual harassment/unwanted fondling’. However, ‘a husband preventing his wife to go out’ is perceived to be relatively less violent.


Attitudes towards violence : Respondents could not reach any consensus regarding attitudes towards women. While they believe in gender equality, they also tend to agree that women need to seek permission from their partner when going out and that she needs to obey to her partner.

Justification of violence : In general, the majority are against all reasons /situations that can lead to violence towards women.

Causes of violence : Drug (65%), infidelity of the husband (61%), infidelity of the wife (58%) and alcohol (58%) are the main perceived reasons which trigger violence towards women. ‘

Base: 500 respondents

Violence towards LGBT people



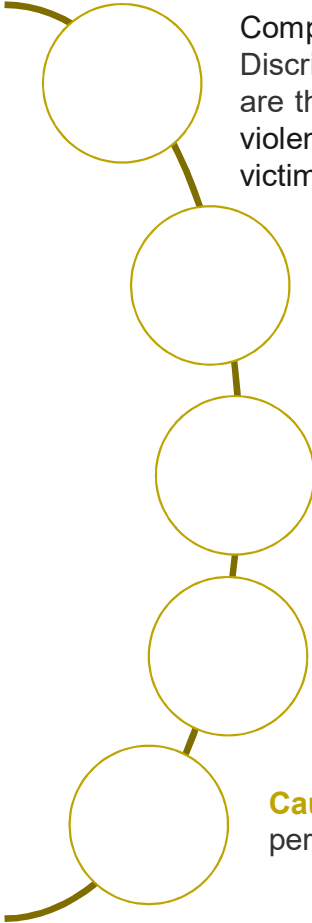
The LGBT community is still a taboo in Mauritius, especially among elder adults. Young adults seem to be more tolerant and have no qualms in befriending LGBT people. However, this doesn't imply that they adhere to the opinion of LGBT. Few are aware of different types of violence faced by the LGBT community in Mauritius; verbal abuse is seen to be most common. Physical abuse has also been cited as a form of violence that LGBT people may undergo, however it is believed to be rare cases. On the other hand, rejection by their kin and the society have also been mentioned by LGBT people as a form of violence that they currently undergo.

Attitude towards violence: All participants, irrespective of age, gender, CSP or ethnic group strongly believe that physically or verbally abusing an LGBT is not acceptable. Some non-LGBT participants also acknowledged that LGBT people are often victims of verbal abuse. According to LGBT people, some members of the community prefer to ignore these insults while others defend themselves by fighting back or insulting the abuser.

Causes of violence: It is believed that violence directed towards LGBT members is due to what is perceived as overtly displaying their sexual tendencies and preferences. Religious beliefs, fear of the society and personal convictions are also factors leading to violence towards LGBT.

Justification of violence: Likewise to women, people do not think there are legitimate reasons to be violent towards LGBT people.

Violence towards LGBT



Compared to children and women, relatively less respondents think that violence towards LGBT is increasing (17%). Discriminations (48%), public insults (44%), rejected by families/friends (41%) and failed to be accepted by the society (38%) are the most common perceived forms of violence towards LGBT. 21% of respondents have heard/seen/witnessed cases of violence towards LGBT during the past 12 months. 3% personally know the victim and only 2% had intervened to help the victims

When it comes to the evaluation of level violence towards LGBT, respectively 51% evaluated 'raping an LGBT' and 'unwanted fondling/sexual harassment' as being 'extremely violent'. However only 1 out of 4 is of the opinion that 'not employing an LGBT' as 'extremely violent'.

Attitudes towards violence : Nearly 50% reject the idea of an individual liking someone of the same sex but this does not mean that they will ignore that person. One third of respondents are not aware that LGBT are victims of sexual assault/harassment or physical violence. It is noteworthy that half of the respondents would have no inconvenience to employ an LGBT if they were employers.

Justification of violence : According to the majority of respondents, no reason justify any form of violence towards LGBT

Causes of violence : Fear of people's perceptions/ judgements (43%), against religious convictions (38%) and against personal convictions are the main perceived reasons which trigger violence towards LGBT

Proposed Solutions



Awareness and Sensitisation Campaigns

Increased Efforts to Encourage Reporting of Violence Cases

- Use of traditional media – TV, Radio, Press, Billboards
 1. Sensitise on the spread of violence
 2. Communicate more intensively on contact numbers and other available resources in case of emergency:
 - *“Dan televizion mem bizin met plis lanons ki ena shelter tousala”*
 - *“Mo panse dan reklam mem zot kav fer ha.”*
 - *“Ti kav fer bann Tikomik, bann ti piblisite.”*

For Children specifically, Dedicated Awareness and Education Classes in School

- **Rights** – *“Bann otorite ti bizin vini [...] explik zanfan ki sa plas-la, personn pa gagn drwa tous twa laba. Bann la bizin fer bann zanfan-la osi konn zot drwa.”*
- **Psychological Assistance** – *“Bann sikolog bizin vinn fer kozri a lekol.”*
- **Interactive Discussions** – *“Ti bizin ena sansibilizasyon pou fer zot koze.”*

Support and Follow-up

Law Enforcement

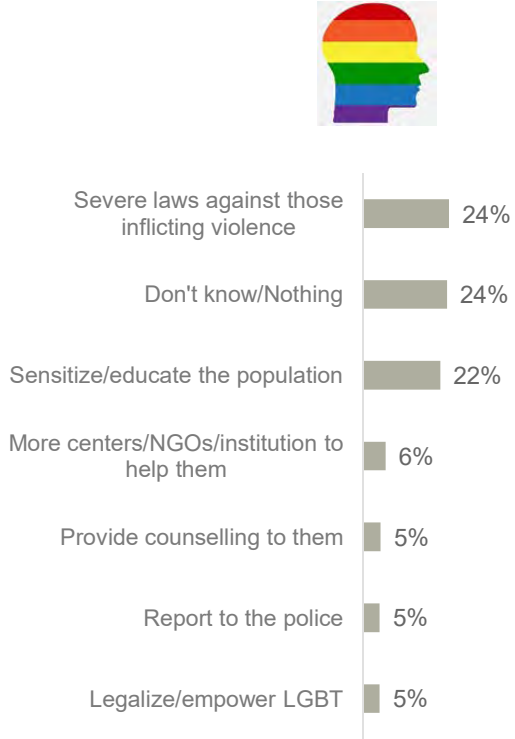
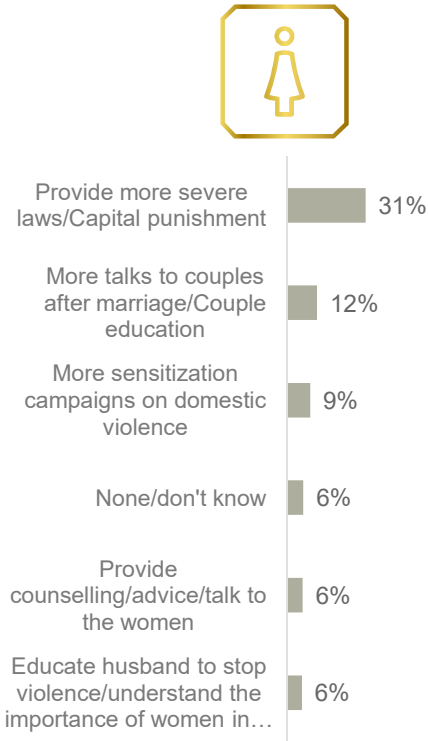
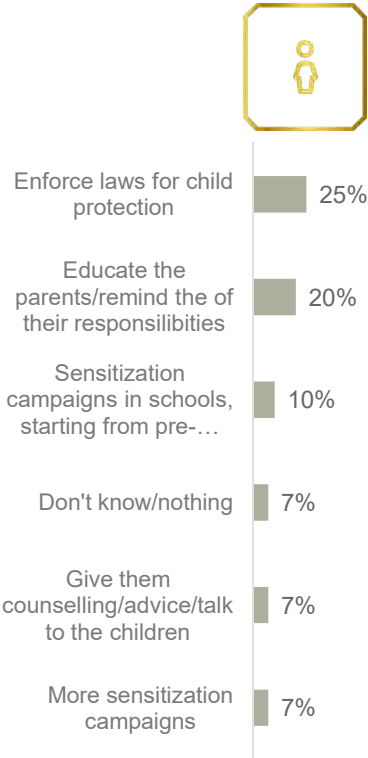
- Despite the presence of Protection Orders, women are not reassured; they feel that it does not always drive the threat away.
- Consequently, victims claim that the Police should show more efforts in making sure that laws are respected:
 - *“Letan bann-la aret li, so lindi li pey enn lamann li sorti. Li tro fasil; bizin pli sever ki sa.”* [Women]
- *“Kan nou al dan stasion, omwin zot pran nou statement an kont.”* [LGBT]
- **Use of Digital Technology** – *“Si enn fam inn gagn bate, bannla bizin sanz landrwa sa lom-la. Met 1 brasle ar li e li pa gagn drwa kit sa landrwa la. Kouma li kit landrwa la lera lapolis intervenir.”* [Men]

Psychological Assistance

- All are of the opinion that victims of violence should benefit from psychological support from appropriate institutions
 - *“Donn nou boukou soutien moral. Bizin konsey nou ki bizin fer.”* [Women]
 - *“Fer zot gagn enn swivi par enn sikolog.”* [Adult speaking in favour of Children]
- Furthermore, counselling on the way forward is deemed important, as victims are sometimes unaware of their rights, and do not know what actions are available for them to take

Main proposals to support victims of violence

Irrespective of segments, the reinforcement of the laws have been suggested.



Full list are available in appendix

Base: 500 respondents

Perception of Violence




Record-keeping of Acts of Violence in Mauritius

Records and tracing of violence in Mauritius can be available once a case has been reported to the authority. Like in many other countries, cases of violence, for example domestic violence, sexual violence and child abuse, go unnoticed unless there has been physical evidence, death or recorded cases of violence. Statistical data registers offences in accordance to the United Nations International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), and is solely based on filed cases.

In 2018, 12,230 cases of violence were recorded in Mauritius, out of which there were;

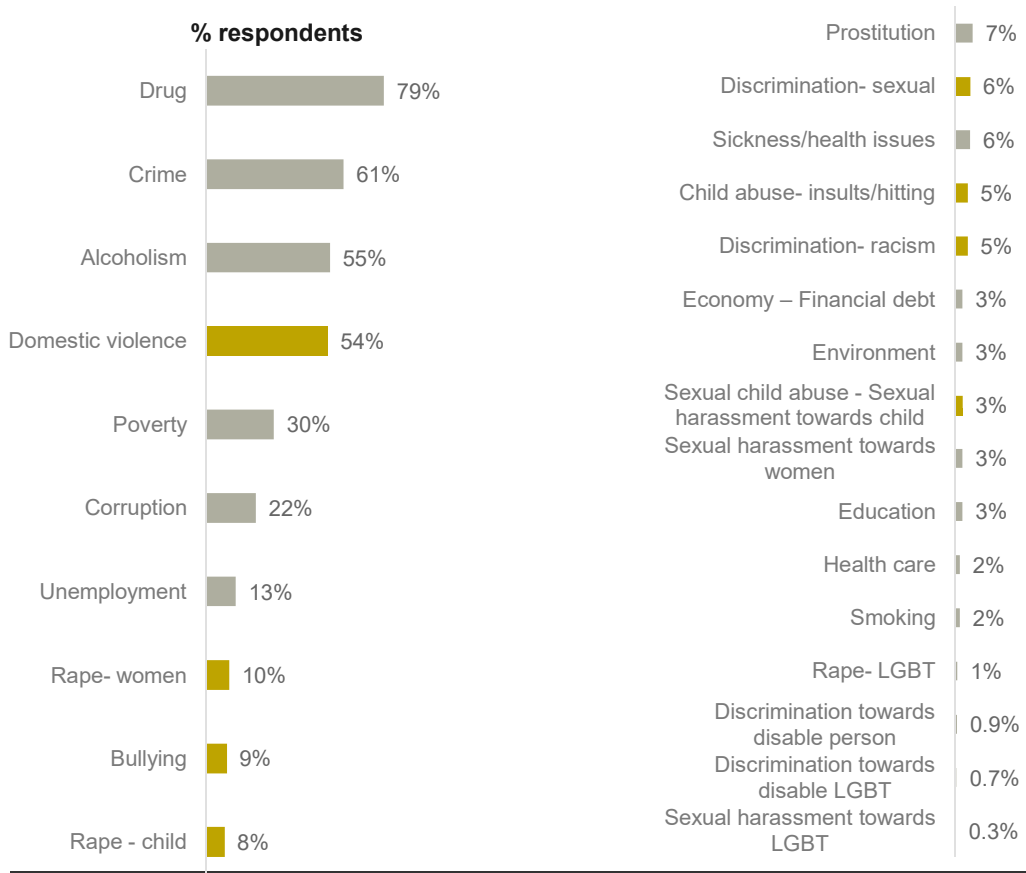
1. 10,793 Assault
2. 629 Larceny with violence
3. 617 Sexual violence cases, with 221 sexual abuse and 150 sexual harassment of minors aged below 16
4. 104 Homicide & attempted homicide
5. 79 Child ill-treatment
6. 8 Abandonment of child

Cases of Violence Reported 2015 - 2018



	2015	2016	2017	2018
Assault	12172	11741	11602	10793
Larceny with violence	593	566	706	629
Sexual violence	669	630	538	617
Homicide & attempted homicide	75	66	98	104
Child ill-treatment	49	52	22	79
Abandonment of Child	8	11	12	8

Social issues in Mauritius

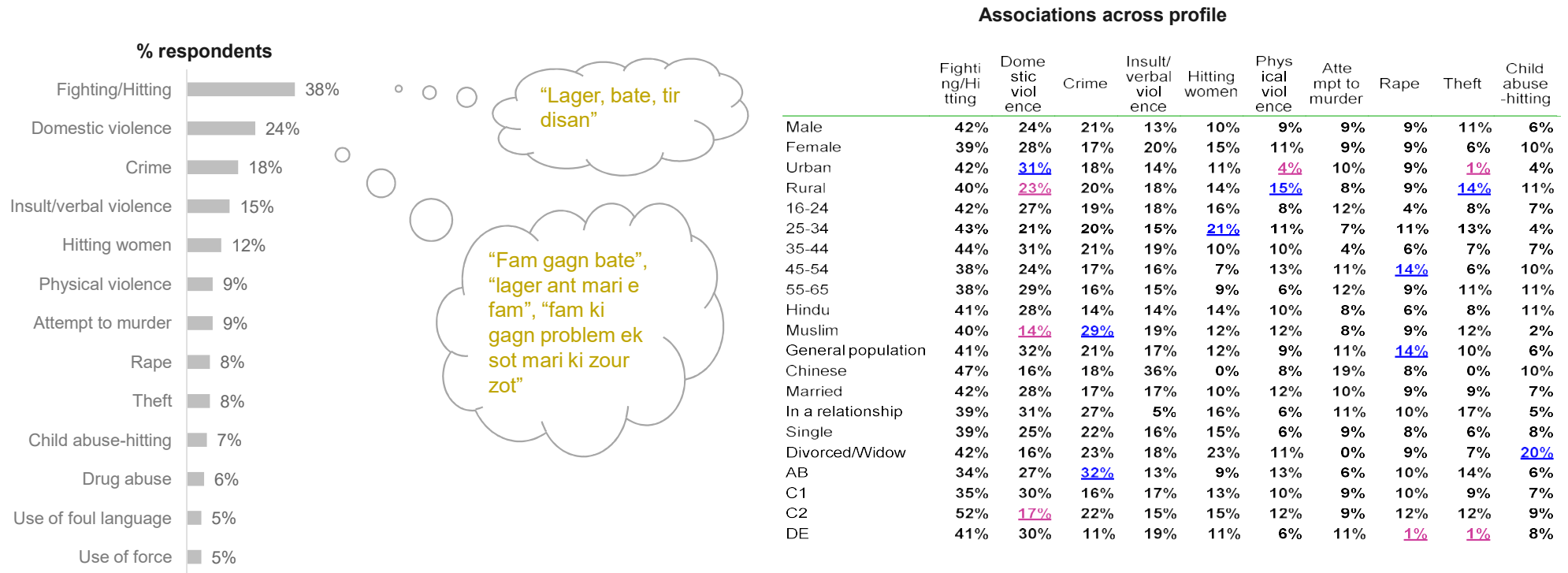


The scourge of drug is perceived as a social issue by 3 out of 4 respondents. Domestic violence has been highlighted by 1 out of 2 respondent as a social issue.

Base: 500 respondents

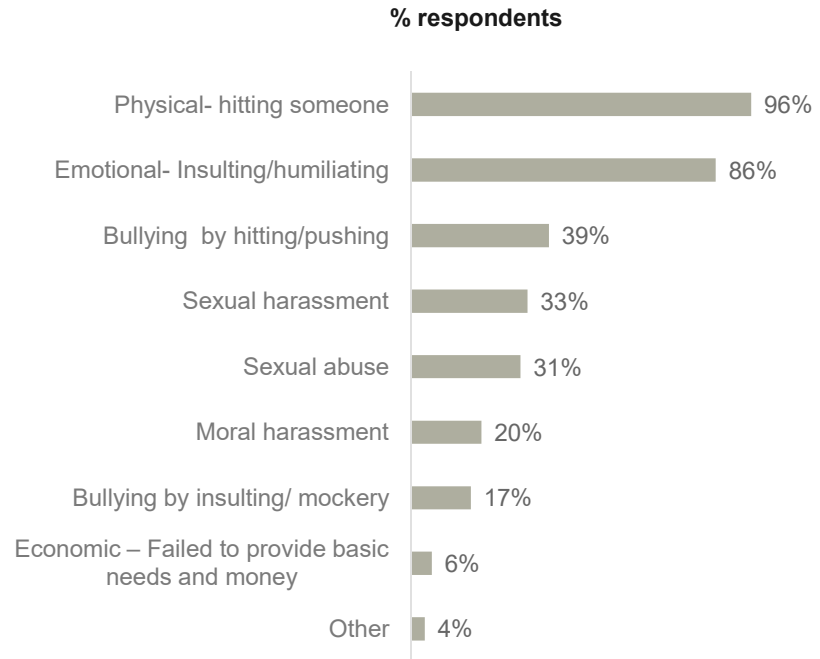
Spontaneous associations to violence

Violence is perceived as physical altercation which often results to heavy bruises. One out of 4 respondents spontaneously associated violence to 'domestic violence'. Across profile, we may note that there is a significant relationship among those who live in urban regions and those who quoted domestic violence.



Spontaneous awareness of forms/types of violence

Awareness of physical and emotional violence have been the most quoted. A significant correlation has been observed between the spontaneous awareness of 'Bullying by insulting/mockery' and the upper class. Similarly the citation of 'sexual harassment' is noted to be more pronounced among the lower middle class.



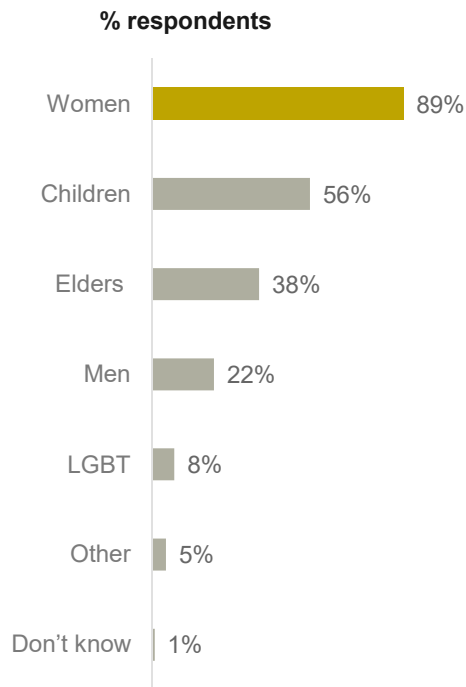
Awareness across profile

	Corporal- hitting someone	Emotional- Insulting/humiliating	Bullying by hitting/ pushing	Bullying by insulting/ mockery	Sexua harassment	Moral harassment	Sexua abuse
Male	94%	85%	40%	16%	31%	22%	31%
Female	97%	86%	39%	17%	36%	18%	31%
Urban	96%	94%	37%	20%	32%	19%	24%
Rural	95%	79%	41%	14%	34%	21%	36%
16-24	100%	81%	39%	22%	40%	21%	26%
25-34	92%	89%	49%	17%	29%	24%	36%
35-44	96%	85%	40%	14%	28%	20%	27%
45-54	94%	88%	30%	10%	39%	11%	37%
55-65	96%	86%	38%	22%	31%	26%	28%
Hindu	95%	85%	40%	13%	34%	21%	31%
Muslim	94%	79%	47%	16%	24%	17%	30%
General population	97%	91%	34%	22%	36%	19%	33%
Chinese	94%	91%	34%	27%	46%	25%	15%
Married	94%	86%	37%	13%	33%	22%	32%
In a relationship	100%	88%	48%	16%	26%	0%	35%
Single	98%	84%	43%	23%	36%	21%	28%
Divorced/Widow	100%	85%	49%	27%	27%	10%	33%
AB	96%	79%	44%	28%	31%	32%	41%
C1	98%	85%	39%	18%	29%	17%	29%
C2	92%	86%	39%	9%	43%	18%	28%
DE	96%	90%	37%	16%	30%	21%	32%

Base: 500 respondents

Perceived victims of violence

Nearly 9 out of 10 are of the opinion that women are victims of violence. Children are seen to be the second most vulnerable targets followed by elders. LGBT are perceived to be victims of violence by 1 out of 10 respondents. Profile of those who quoted women as victims are seen to be more pronounced among female respondents.



Perception across profile

	Elders	Children	LGBT	Men	Women
Male	43%	54%	9%	28%	<u>83%</u>
Female	33%	59%	7%	17%	<u>95%</u>
Urban	32%	56%	<u>12%</u>	21%	89%
Rural	43%	56%	<u>5%</u>	23%	89%
16-24	<u>22%</u>	59%	12%	19%	88%
25-34	42%	57%	5%	16%	87%
35-44	41%	54%	5%	21%	88%
45-54	44%	61%	10%	28%	89%
55-65	40%	49%	7%	29%	92%
Hindu	38%	53%	6%	23%	85%
Muslim	40%	59%	4%	17%	92%
General population	37%	62%	<u>13%</u>	24%	93%
Chinese	37%	45%	9%	18%	100%
Married	44%	52%	7%	27%	88%
In a relationship	24%	61%	10%	16%	100%
Single	<u>26%</u>	60%	10%	15%	86%
Divorced/Widow	42%	75%	5%	12%	96%
AB	43%	68%	14%	31%	88%
C1	34%	51%	6%	18%	89%
C2	41%	57%	6%	24%	87%
DE	38%	58%	11%	22%	91%

Base: 500 respondents

X Most significant
X Least significant

Perception
of Violence
towards
children

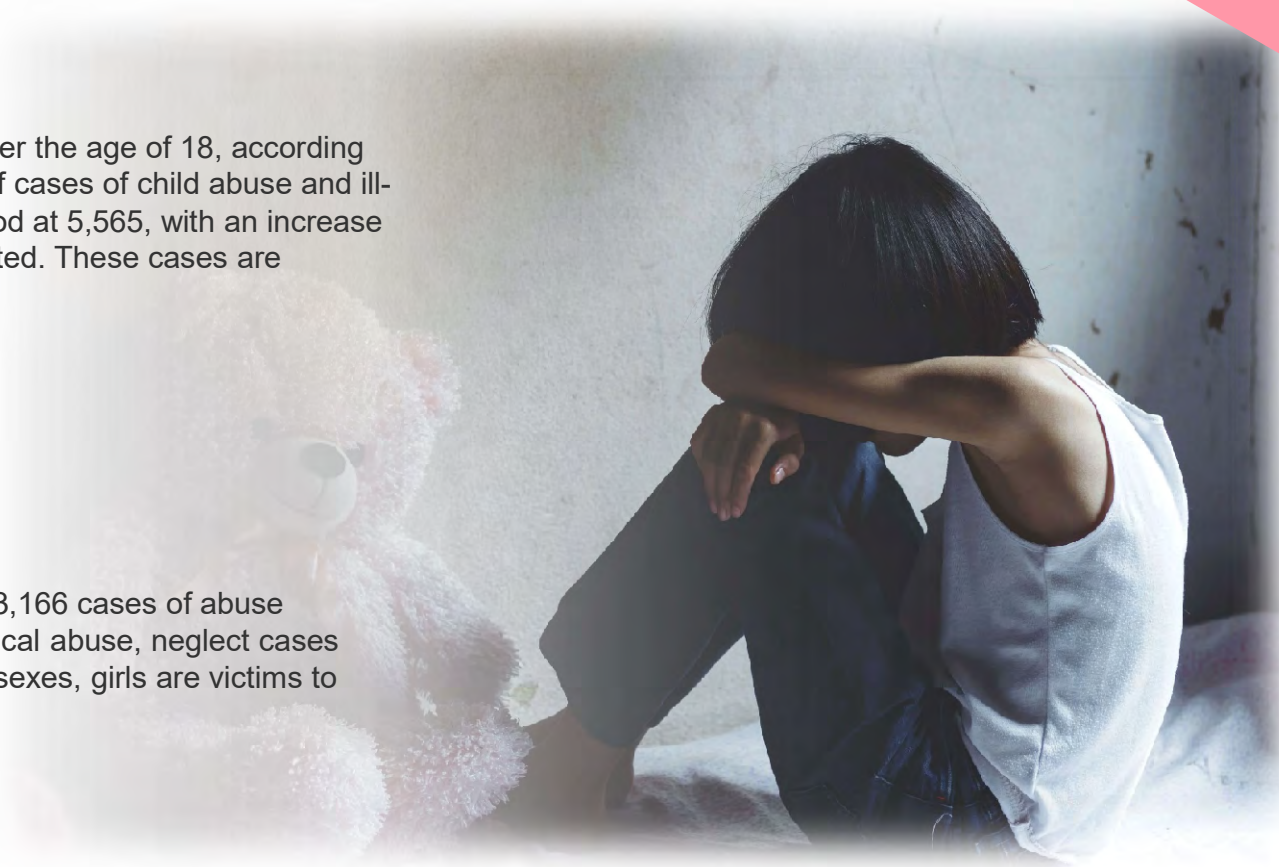


Violence against Children

By law, a child is defined as an unmarried person under the age of 18, according to the constitution of Mauritius. In 2018, the number of cases of child abuse and ill-treatment reported to the Child Development Unit stood at 5,565, with an increase of 461 cases from 2017 and a year on year rise reported. These cases are classified as follows:

1. 1,423 Psychological & Emotional abuse
2. 827 Neglect cases
3. 459 Physical abuse
4. 361 Sexual abuse
5. 75 Abandonment
6. 10 Worst forms of Labour
7. 2,410 Other problems

In general, girls were more prone to child abuse with 3,166 cases of abuse compared to 2,399 for boys in 2018. While psychological abuse, neglect cases and physical abuse are the most concerning for both sexes, girls are victims to 92% of sexual abuse



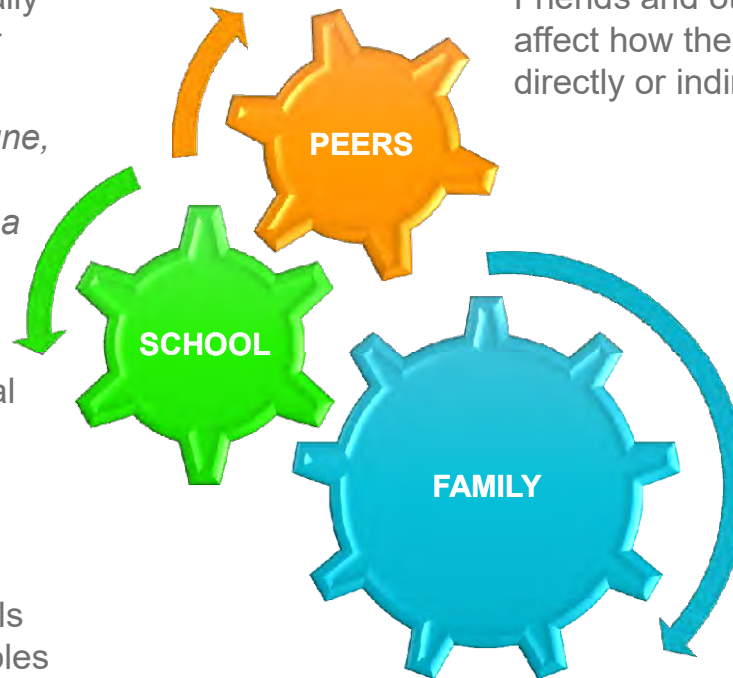
Exposure is Limited by Routine Life

In general, most children have an essentially dual-pole routine that involves mainly their Home and their School.

“Toule gramatin mo levé sept heure fini bgne, mo pran mo sak mo al lekol [...] apre kan lekol fini mo pran bis mo rant lamezon. Ena fwa mo al leson, saem tou.”

The Family is the place where fundamental values and principles are acquired by children

While the School Teacher is meant to educate them academically, he is also expected to pass on to them some life skills that will serve them later in their various roles in society.



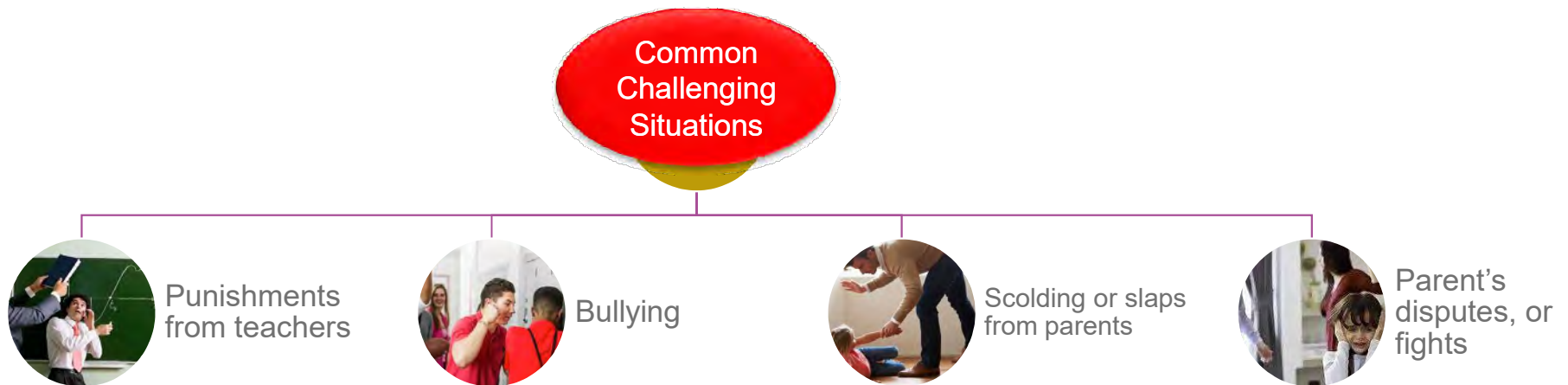
Friends and other relatives (cousins etc) also affect how they think, reason and behave, be it directly or indirectly.

Being mostly confined to those two ‘closed’ environments [Home & School], a child will draw most of his/her childhood life experiences and start building up his/her learning curve from those two main sources.

Hence, those two environments are critical to the nurturing of the child, and will highly influence what and how he/she turns out to be later in life.

Challenging Situations and Moments experienced by Children

- Interviewed children hardly used the term '*Violence*' when talking about their experiences. Children seem to have a different perception compared to adults regarding situations that involve violence. This can be explained by how their two main environments nurture them. This is developed further into this Report.
- On the other hand, they are confronted to situations that they find difficult to cope with
- The most common examples of such situations are the following:



Challenging Situations Experienced In the Teaching Environment [1/2]

Corporal Punishment

- Despite being officially illegal, beating by teachers is still practiced.
 - *“Mis bat mwa ar lareg, avek li kriye.”*
- **Many parents seem to accept or even second this type of practice; their perception is that beating may force their child to work hard, and that it is hence beneficial in the process**
- Consequently, this ‘blessing’ from parents acts as a subtle green light in the minds of some teachers
- In the child’s eyes, it is sometimes perceived as unfair, and the child has much difficulty in accepting the teacher’s aggressive behaviour:
 - *“Parfois si elle est énervée, c’est des claques, parfois sur le dos. Je pense qu’elle a un problème, c’est comme-ci elle retirait toute sa frustration sur les élèves.”*



Challenging Situations Experienced In the Teaching Environment [2/2]

Physical Pain, doubled by Psychological Impacts

- When corporal punishment is received in front of the other students, the ill feeling is amplified:
 - *“J’étais gênée par rapport à mes amies tout ça. Qu’on m’a criée dessus **devant tout le monde, j’avais honte.**”*
 - *“Mo ti anvi plore tou anmemtan me **pas ti kav plore devan bann kamarad.**”*
 - *“...mo gagn laraz kont profeser-la.”*
- This point of view is shared by adults, who also perceive these situations as a double punishment:
 - *“Enn zanfan inn gagn bate, enn dimounn pe riy li. Se enn form violans. Kelkepar, zanfan-la kan li’nn gagn bate, linn santi li diminie. La senn kout-la to riye lor la.”*



Damaging Effects in Some Cases

Extract of discussion

Teachers' violence affects the child in a seriously negative manner, and even impacts the 'normal' course of his development.

A 16 year-old child testifies:

- **Child:** *“Dan mo lekol primer, ti ena enn garson, ti gagn kriye touletan, profeser-la ti pe kriy ar li pou tou ti zafer, li ti pe menase, li ti pe kriy avek li, li ti pe met li devan klas. Li ti pe imilie li devan zot tou. Li'nn rant dan kolez ansam ek mwa. **Li pa koz ditou!**”*
- **Moderator:** *Ar bann zelev osi li pa koze ?*
- **Child:** *Non bien rar, ou bizin vinn koz ar li met enn dialog, la li pou riye enn tigit apre li res trankil, li res dan so kwin. Enn fwa enn profeser inn nek kriy avek li, akoz li ti blie so kaye, li ti koumans plorer tou. Dan form 5 li ete, li coumence plorer.*

Depi trwaziem mo konn li, depi trwaziem li'nn rant dan sa lekol-la. Li ti korek, li ti pe zwe, bien aktif, mo pa rapel kifer profeser-la ti pe tabas li. Li ti pe gagne kriye, depi sa, li'nn vin koumsa. Li res trankil, li pa koz ditou.”

Challenging Situations encountered Outside the Classroom

- Bullying may appear in soft, non physical, forms :
 - *“On m’a déjà dit certaines choses en rigolant, par rapport à mon nez. J’étais resté tranquille parce que je ne pouvais pas dire grand-chose.”*
- The playing ground is also a usual scene of bullying, in less soft ways:
 - *“Si nou pe zwe, bann gran vini, zot dir nou ale. Tou kou zot fer koumsa me nou pa rod sorti. Lerla **zot avoy boul lor nou, nou gagn dimal, nou oblize sorti.**”*



- Cases where bullying involves the use of potentially harmful objects, are also noted:
 - *“Li’nn demann li kas, garson-la pann done, li’nn tir enn cutter li’nn koup garson-la so figir.”*
- With ease of access to technology, acts of bullying are nowadays easily shared on the Internet
- For victims, viewing the scenes or knowing that they can be viewed by all, constitutes an aggravation of the negative experience

Challenging Situations Experienced at Home [1/2]

Beating by Parents

- Corporal punishment still seems to be a common form of punishment at home.
- Even though this practice is categorized as an offence by authorities, many Mauritian parents still seem to think that it is a normal, unquestionable component of child up-bringing.
- But in the eyes of the child, the act is not always justified :
 - *“Au lieu de parler un coup, elle frappe, et après elle parle.”*
 - *“Koler dan zot, lerla zot bate for.”*
- Violent behaviors from parents create an emotional impact on their children. Frustration is noted, in some cases, potentially detrimental effects on the child’s development begin to appear:
 - *“Moi je vais mal, parfois ça m’énerve, parfois ça me rend triste, parfois je n’ose pas parler.”*



Challenging Situations Experienced at Home [2/2]

Witness of Domestic Violence

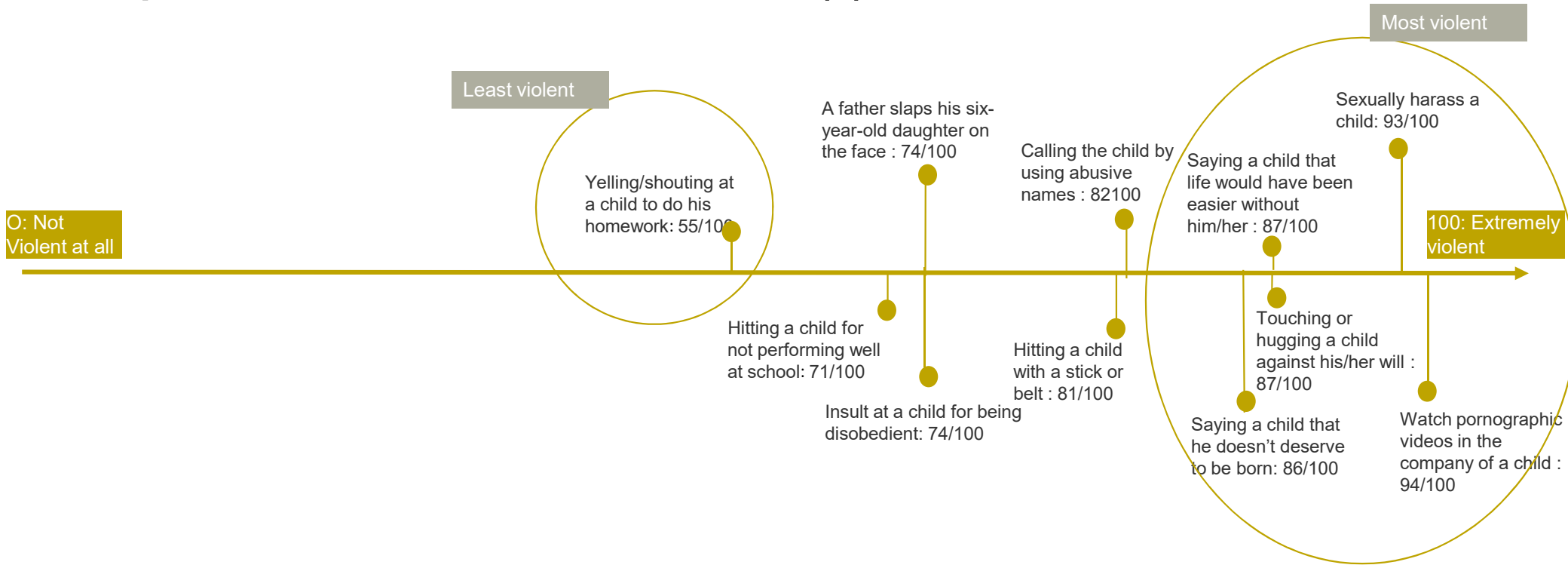
- Conflicts between parents affect their children in various ways. In extreme cases where situations degenerate, children often become involuntary witnesses of violence
- In cases where the child is a powerless witness to domestic violence, panic and distress set in. A neighbour of a household with a violent man, told us that *“letan li pe bat mama-la, zanfan-la pe kriye, kriye, kriye...”*
- Some children are also affected by past bad experiences, which seemed to mark them for life:
 - *“Tous les jours ils se disputaient, ça me faisait aller mal. Je n’aillais pas bien, je leur disais de s’arrêter mais ils continuaient de se disputer...”*
 - *“Sak kou zot ti pe lager kan mo ti tipti, mo ti ena 4-5 an, mo ti pe plore.”* (Boy, 16 years old)
- In a few cases, the child hears his/her name in disputes or fights, and begins to feel responsible. Questions that he/she should not normally be asking him/herself, start to torment his/her mind:
 - *“Mo santi mwa tris, pa kone ki pou fer, kifer mo la? Kifer problem-la inn arive? Mo’nn poz moem kestion. Pa mo fot sa! Li fatig ou, aswar ou pa dormi, kifer zot in lager?”*



Children's Acceptance of Aggressive Behaviours [1/3]

- In spite of all those feelings, children give the impression that they have been conditioned to accept some teacher/parent behaviours that they do not acknowledge as being fair or justified
- This conditioning comes precisely from parents as well as teachers. Those adults deem that the beating of a child is always done for a valid reason.
- They themselves have been raised that way, and to them, those practices are meant to “*koriz*” their children. The word “*korize*” came up in most of the discussions with children.
- **Mauritians make a clear distinction between beating and “*korize*”, as “*korize*” is perceived as being “*un mal nécessaire*” in the development path of the child.**
- This mode of punishment seems stubbornly anchored in Mauritian culture, being perceived as being very effective, as shown in the comments below made by parents:
 - “*Pou mwa personelman li pa enn violans, mo pe fer sa pou li konpran.*”
 - “*Mo fer sa pou to konpran, pou to pa fer betiz.*”
 - “*Avan kan ti gagn drwa bate dan lekol bann zanfan ti pe pli respekte bann profeser.*”

Perceptions of violence towards children (1)

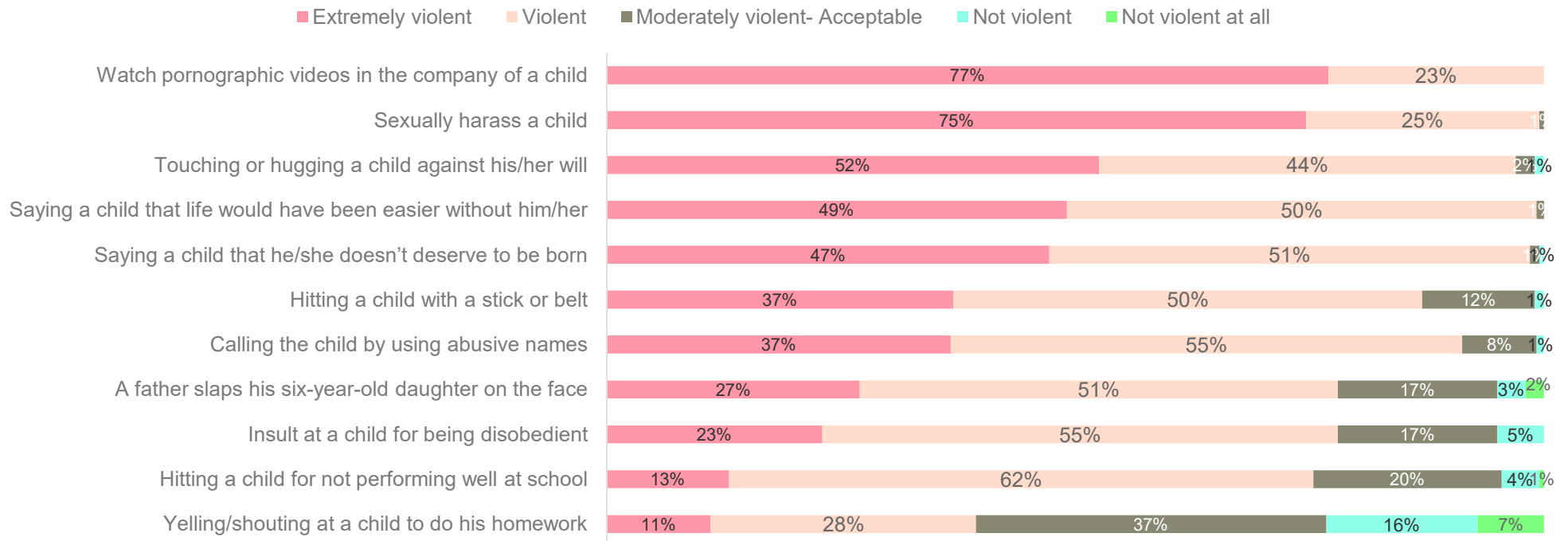


The scale of violence has been reweighted as follows:
 Not violent at all=0 ; not violent= 25; Moderate/acceptable = 50; Violent =75; Extremely violent =100

Base: 500 respondents

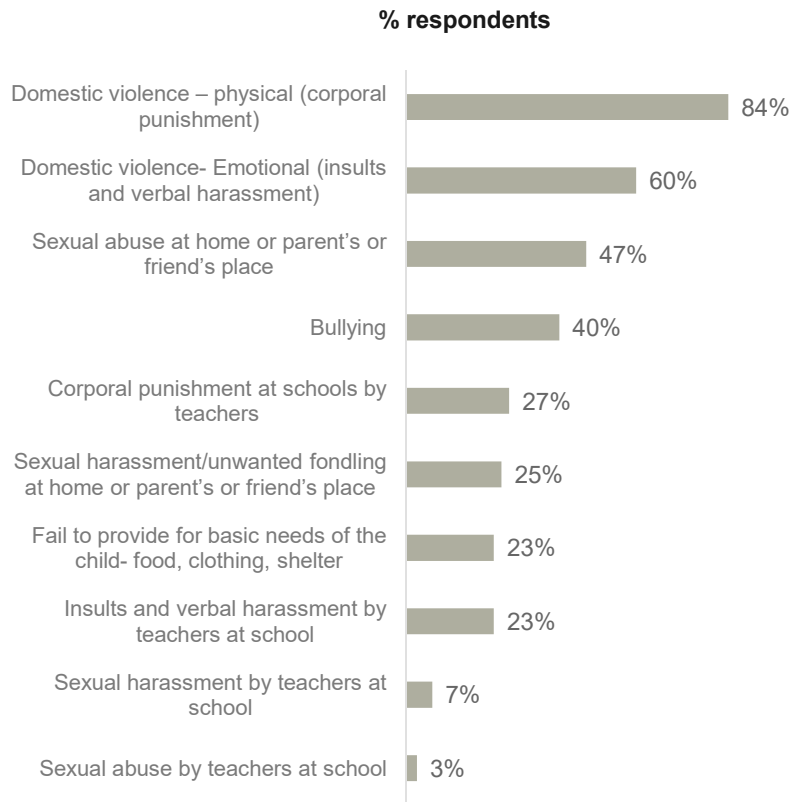
Perceptions of violence towards children (2)

Watching pornographic videos in the presence of a child as well as sexually harassing a child are strongly perceived to be violent. On the other hand, yelling/shouting at a child for his homework is seen to be acceptable.



Base: 500 respondents

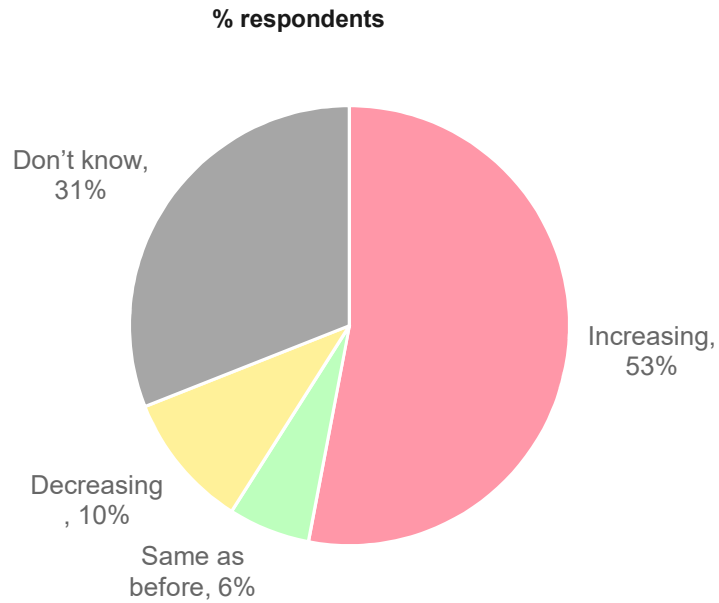
Spontaneous awareness of forms/types of violence towards children



Spontaneously, domestic violence has been most quoted as forms/types of violence that children may face.

Perception of rate of violence towards children

Compared to two years ago, one out of two respondents feel that violence towards children is increasing. This perception is seen to be more pronounced among female, those aged 45-54 years old and those who are divorced/widow.



Perception across profile

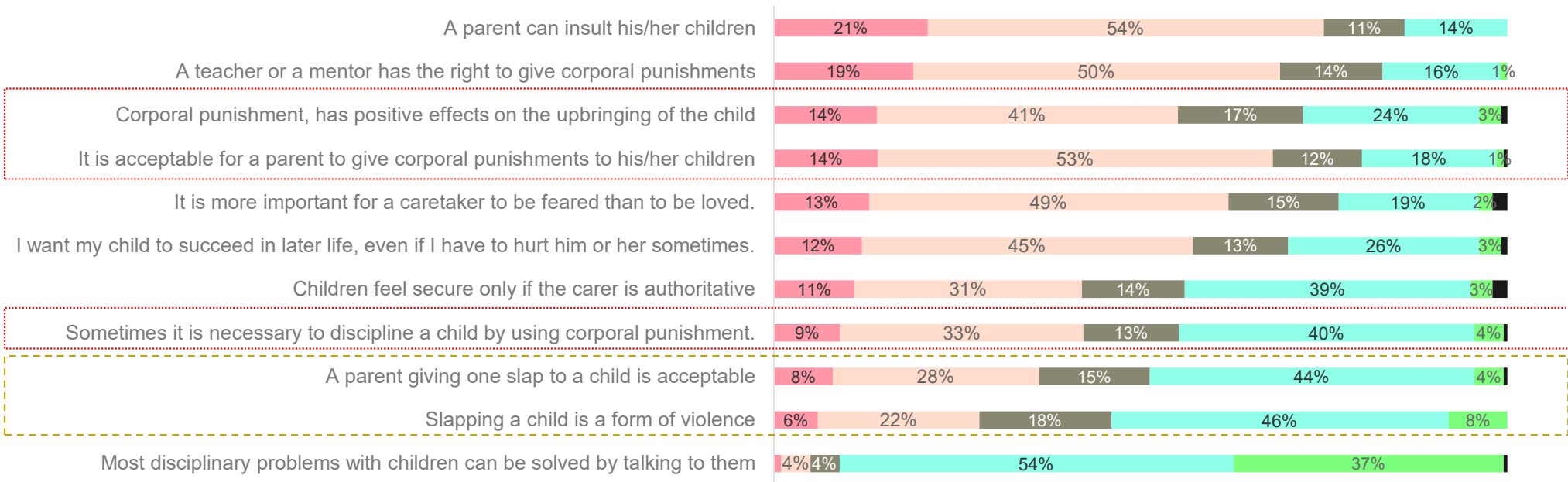
	Increasing	Same as before	Decreasing	Don't know
Male	47%	4%	13%	36%
Female	59%	7%	7%	27%
Urban	55%	4%	5%	36%
Rural	52%	7%	13%	28%
16-24	49%	6%	4%	41%
25-34	52%	10%	12%	27%
35-44	54%	6%	9%	31%
45-54	64%	2%	10%	24%
55-65	46%	4%	14%	36%
Hindu	51%	7%	11%	32%
Muslim	56%	5%	9%	30%
General population	54%	5%	8%	33%
Chinese	65%	0%	10%	25%
Married	52%	5%	11%	31%
In a relationship	54%	20%	5%	21%
Single	51%	4%	7%	37%
Divorced/Widow	71%	4%	7%	17%
AB	64%	5%	6%	25%
C1	54%	4%	12%	30%
C2	50%	7%	9%	34%
DE	50%	6%	9%	35%

Base: 500 respondents

Attitudes towards children

Mix feelings are perceived when it comes to different situations that a child may face. Some ambiguities are noted where most respondents are well aware that violence is not the best way to deal with a child but at the same times it seems that they still believe that corporal punishments are necessary to discipline a child. Moreover, one out two respondents tend to agree that slapping is a violence but at the same time slapping a child is perceived to be acceptable.

■ Don't agree at all ■ Don't agree ■ Indifferent ■ Agree ■ Extremely agree ■ Don't know



Base: 500 respondents

Children's Acceptance of Aggressive Behaviours [2/3]

As a result, children have learnt to accept the idea or concept that those punishments are meant for their good up-bringing and their personal development. Their viewing angle is described below:

At Home

- *"Parfois ça se comprend quand je fais des bêtises. Parce que je mérite. Il y a des choses que je ne suis pas supposée faire mais que je fais."*
- *"Akoz mo merite! Kan mo gagn bate, savedir mo'nn fer enn move zafer."*

At School

- *"Li rod koriz ou, met ou dan bon sime."*
- *"Li bon, parski si li pa ti fer sa, boukou ti pou fel."*
- *"Mo dire li bon, lerala bann-la pa pou re koze lot kou."*
- *"Mo pou sagrin pou sa zanfan-la, me enn kote li bon pou limem, pou ki li gagn enn koreksion."*

Children's Acceptance of Aggressive Behaviours [3/3]



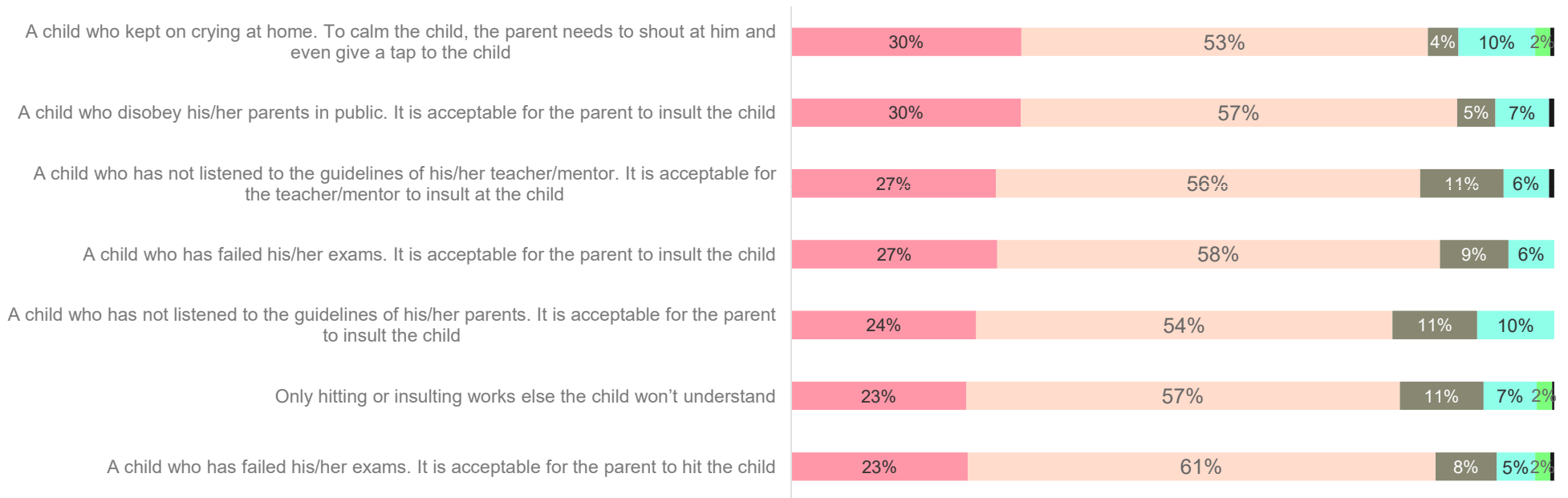
As they grow up, they become More Critical

- Compared to younger children who accept sanctions more easily, Teenagers encounter more difficulty in accepting punishments involving beating or scolding, and see it as a form of injustice, in some cases.
- They do not understand the need to use aggressive behaviour to solve situations that could be handled with diplomacy.
 - *“Oui, ils auraient pu simplement parler, m’expliquer pourquoi telle chose est mauvaise. Je comprends, je suis assez grande pour comprendre certaines choses.”*
 - *“Si mo’nn fer enn betiz, li ankoler, li pou bat ou, kriy avek ou, be mo ase gran pou konpran, li ti kav explik mwa kifer sa pa bon.”*

Reasons justifying violence towards children (1)

Overall, the majority of respondents believe that both insulting or hitting a child for any reasons are not acceptable. But once more, giving a tap 'une claque' from time to time as corrective measures is perceived to be acceptable by 1 out of 3 respondents.

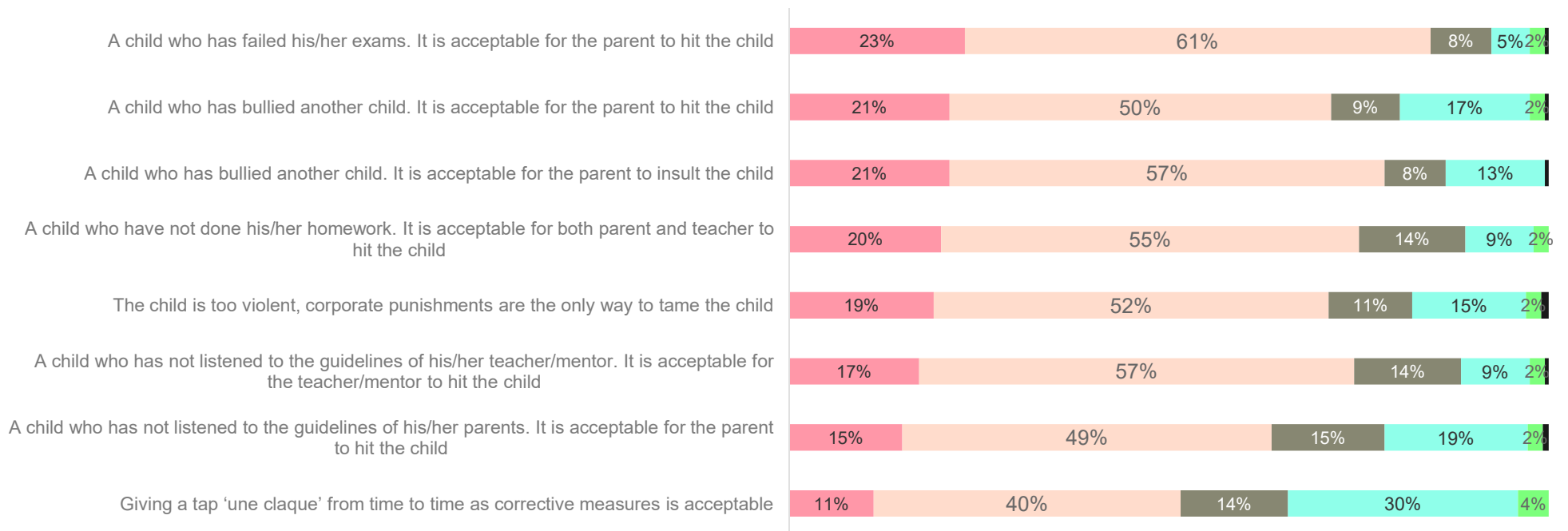
■ Don't agree at all
 ■ Don't agree
 ■ Indifferent
 ■ Agree
 ■ Extremely agree
 ■ Don't know



Base: 500 respondents

Reasons justifying violence towards children (2)

■ Don't agree at all
 ■ Don't agree
 ■ Indifferent
 ■ Agree
 ■ Extremely agree
 ■ Don't know



Base: 500 respondents

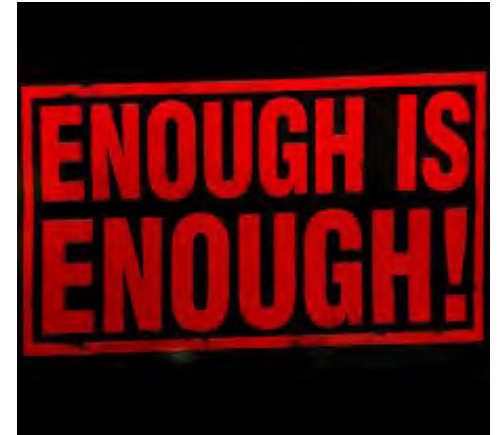
Are Parents to be blamed for not just Talking?

- While children sometimes have difficulty in understanding or explaining the behaviour of aggressive parents, adults are of the opinion that lack of pedagogy for parents is among the main causes:
 - *“Pena okenn mod dampɔwa. Get ena boukou bann paran, zot pa kapav explik seki zot resanti. Kan ena enn sitiasion, zot en ankoler.”*
 - *“Lontan kan mo ti pe plore, mo papa ti dir mwa ‘Res trankil ouswa mo bez twa enn deziem!’ Me kifer? Parski li pa ti kone kouma pou fer pou fer sa zanfan-la aret plore.”*
 - *“Bann-la pa ti al l’école des parents, zot pa ti konn okenn lapros kouma pou apros enn zanfan.”*
- In other words, parents, who have the role and responsibility to educate their children, were themselves not taught the right approach to this task
- In some cases, their wrong approach backfired .



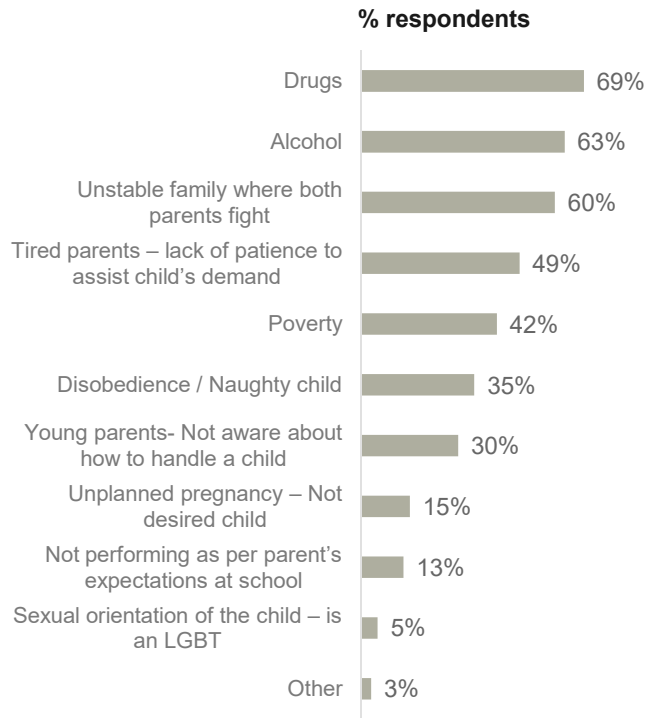
Backfiring

- While some victims of violence may end-up with traumas and disturbed personalities, others may develop hatred for their tormentors, which in turn leads to a strong desire for revenge.
- This desire may grow along with the child's own growth. When reaching an age where the child feels physically strong enough to stand up and confront a violent parent, tragic situations may occur:
 - *“Sa garson ki'nn touy so papa-la, mama-la dir misie-la touletan ti violan. Kan bann zanfana-la ti tipti, touletan li ti bat zot [...] li dir ou so zanfana ti gagn laenn ar papa-la komsa enn vanzans.”*
- Violence begets violence, and in such cases, it leads to failure



Perceived causes of violence towards children

3 main causes of violence are perceived to be : drugs, alcohol and household where both parents keep on fighting.



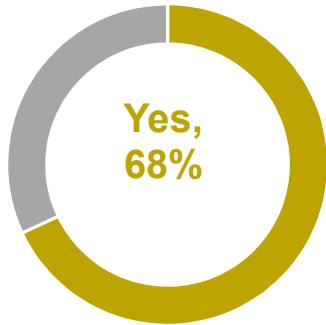
Perception across profile

	Drugs	Alcohol	Unstable family where both parents fight	Tired parents – lack of patience to assist child's demand	Poverty	Disobedience / Naughty child	Young parents- Not aware about how to handle a child	Unplanned pregnancy – Not desired child	Not performing as per parent's expectations at school	Sexual orientation of the child – is an LGBT
Male	73%	63%	66%	44%	41%	37%	29%	16%	18%	3%
Female	68%	67%	57%	57%	45%	35%	33%	14%	9%	6%
Urban	76%	60%	63%	51%	44%	25%	34%	20%	5%	8%
Rural	67%	68%	60%	50%	42%	45%	28%	12%	20%	2%
16-24	67%	62%	61%	52%	39%	34%	21%	9%	18%	4%
25-34	67%	62%	58%	42%	41%	34%	38%	25%	5%	8%
35-44	79%	74%	64%	54%	41%	42%	30%	9%	16%	4%
45-54	70%	68%	59%	49%	45%	34%	33%	16%	8%	4%
55-65	72%	56%	65%	57%	47%	36%	31%	17%	22%	5%
Hindu	68%	66%	63%	53%	45%	39%	30%	14%	17%	0.9%
Muslim	69%	57%	59%	40%	36%	30%	35%	15%	13%	5%
General population	76%	68%	58%	53%	41%	36%	28%	14%	10%	10%
Chinese	73%	63%	71%	46%	65%	25%	43%	48%	0%	19%
Married	71%	66%	60%	49%	42%	34%	34%	15%	14%	4%
In a relationship	75%	66%	44%	45%	33%	42%	14%	22%	0%	5%
Single	67%	60%	66%	50%	43%	35%	24%	14%	16%	4%
Divorced/Widow	77%	71%	67%	70%	58%	53%	31%	17%	8%	14%
AB	76%	65%	62%	50%	40%	33%	33%	24%	17%	6%
C1	65%	63%	63%	48%	44%	36%	31%	14%	12%	3%
C2	73%	62%	61%	49%	40%	36%	31%	14%	18%	5%
DE	74%	71%	60%	57%	46%	37%	27%	15%	9%	8%

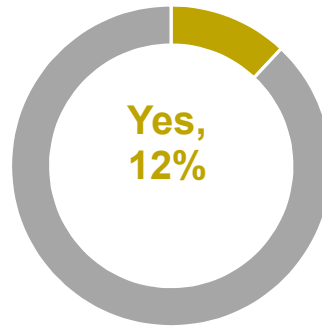
Awareness of children victim of violence

It is interesting to note that 27% of those who are personally aware of a child who is victim of violence, have done nothing to help the child.

During the last 12 months, have you heard/read or witnessed any situations where children are victims of violence in Mauritius?



Do you personally know a child who is victim of any forms of violence or witnessed any such situations?



Base: 340 respondents

What have been done to help victims?

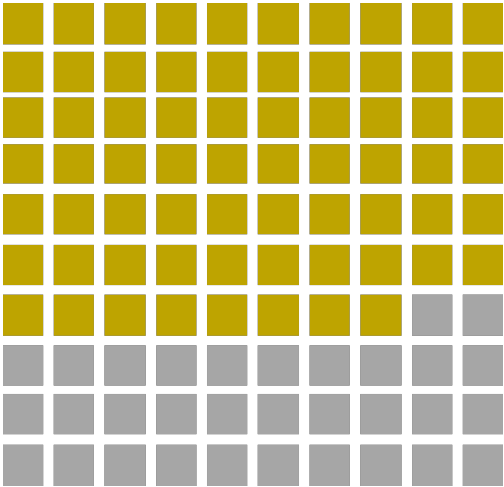
	% responses
Nothing	27%
Talked to the parents	24%
Talked to the child	12%
Counselling	9%
Called the police	6%
I personally intervened	6%
I am a victim myself	3%
I discussed the issue in PTA meeting	3%
Referred the person to an NGO	3%
Separated from the violent spouse	3%
The child committed suicide	3%

Base: 41 respondents

Awareness of children victim of violence (2)

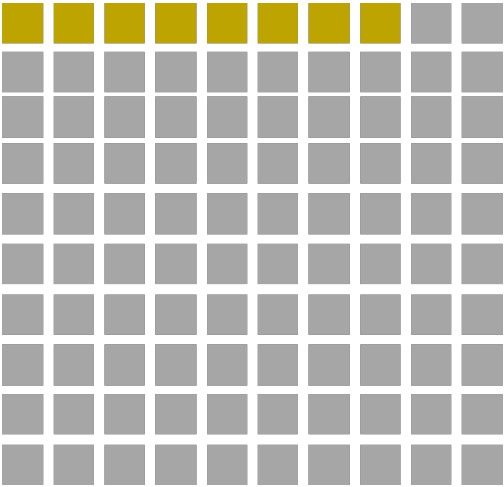
% of respondents who have you heard/read or witnessed any situations where children are victims of violence in Mauritius during last 12 months:

68%



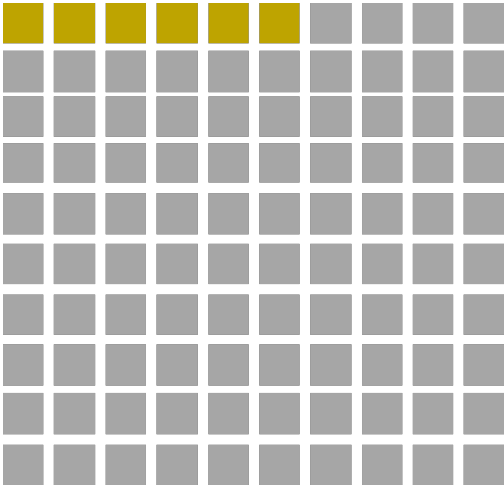
% of respondents who personally know a child who is victim of any forms of violence or witnessed any such situations:

8%



% of respondents who have helped the victims:

6%



Base: 500 respondents

Perception of Violence towards Women



Violence against Women



In general, women are more prone to sexual violence (93% of reported sexual violence cases in 2018) and assaults (44% of assault cases reported in 2018).

66% and 20% of female victims of sexual assault were aged below 16 and between 16 and 24, respectively.

53% of female assault victims are aged between 25 and 44.

Domestic Violence

In 2018, out of 1,527 cases of domestic violence reported to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, 1,292 cases were of women victims, i.e. 84.6% of domestic violence victims

The number of reported cases of domestic violence concerning women have decreased since 2015. However, given that it remains one of the most unreported crimes worldwide, the actual number of victims is difficult to estimate.

Out of the 1,292 women:

1. 32.1% reported physical assault by spouse or partner,
2. 28.1% were verbally assaulted by spouse or partner (ill treatment, harassment, abuse, and humiliation),
3. 8.1% were threatened of assault by spouse and
4. 6.6% has been subjected to physical assault by others living under the same roof.

Domestic Violence against Women

The **Protection from Domestic Violence Act (1997)** provides for victims by sanctioning protection orders, occupancy orders and tenancy orders. However, the act does little to criminalise domestic violence as a whole.

Further to this, over the years the government has put in place several measures to combat domestic violence. To name a few:

- The National Plan to Combat Domestic Violence,
- The National Coalition against Domestic Violence Committee,
- Gender sensitization trainings for police officers,
- Awareness raising initiatives for victims' rights,
- A toll free hotline to report domestic violence cases, and
- A Trust Fund for Shelter for Women and Children in Distress

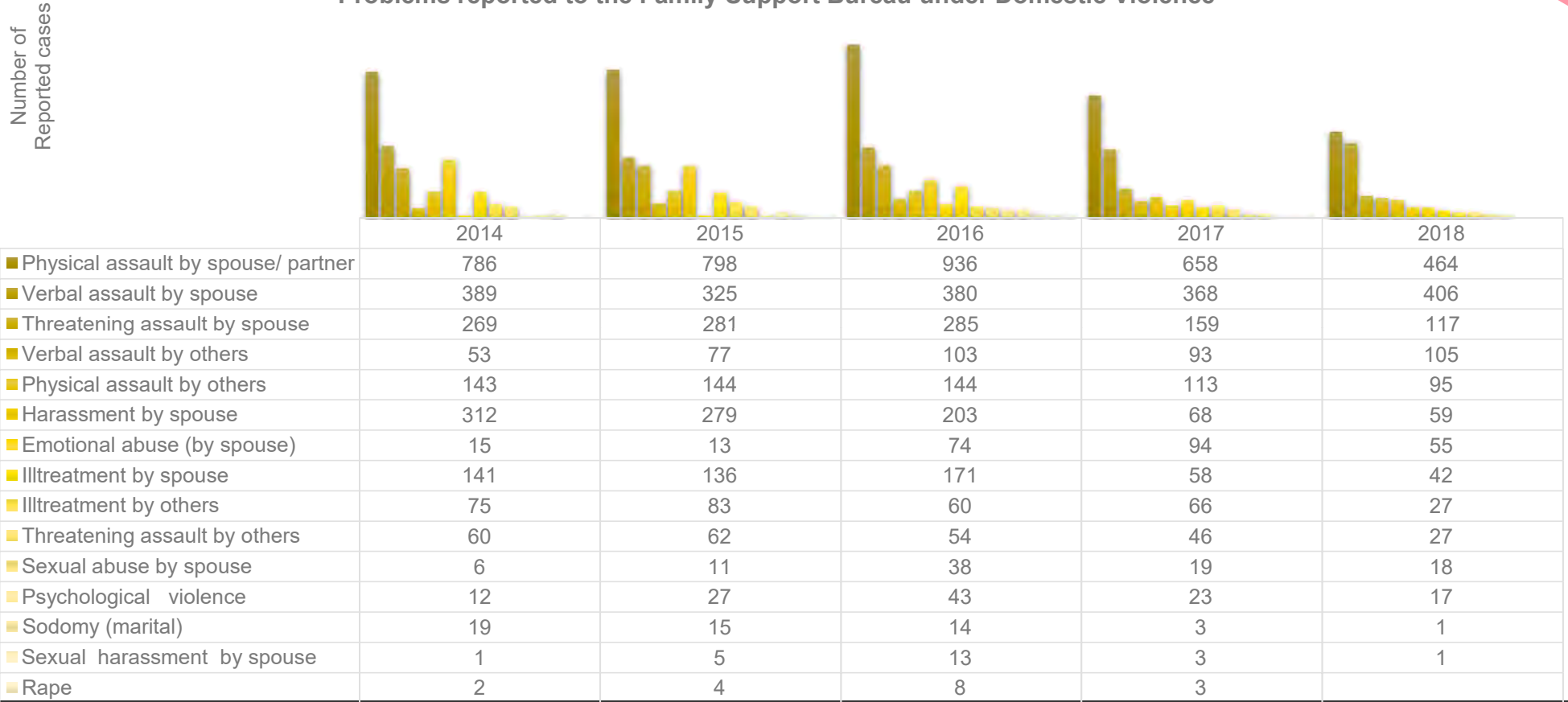
Despite of these measures, domestic violence continues to plague the Mauritian society, in large numbers every year. In 2019, the deaths of 4 women, Shabneez, Joyce, Stephanie and Chansela, in domestic violence cases sent the media in a spiralling debate on the matter. 2 of the victims were under protection orders when they were murdered.

Poor enforcement of the law has been pinpointed as a driving factor for victims not coming forth. Some women stay in abusive relationships due to fear of retaliation led by a distrust in the capacity of authorities to enforce the law. (Koodoruth, I. & Sultan, R, 2018). Given these factors, it can be expected that the number of domestic violence cases largely exceed the ones reported.



Breakdown of Domestic Violence problems reported, 2014-2018

Problems reported to the Family Support Bureau under Domestic Violence



Denial of ill-treatment

In some cases, the woman seems to be blinded by the fundamental bond that exists between her partner and herself.

While male dominance may lead to violence between partners, it is noted that **some women refuse to acknowledge some acts of violence**, because **they perceive those acts as demonstrations of love**.

Observations made by some women who are not victims:

- *“Ena bann tifi kan zot ena kopin, zot santi zot inpe fier kan zot inn gagn enn kalot avek li. Li’nn tap mwa enn kalot, sa ve dir li kontan mwa, li’nn zalou.”*
- *“Ena dir: ‘Ayo li’nn trouv mwa met sa linz-la, li’nn bez mwa enn kalot.’ sipaki. Me koumadir zot paret pe aksepte.”*



False promises

Sometimes, women victims of violence are fooled by their tormentors who manage to convince them that they will change and not backslide.

Often, a mere promise appears to be enough for the victims to give another chance to their aggressive partner although **the backslide might sometimes be inevitable.**

- *“Mwa osi o debu mo fi’nn bien rod solision, me apre volontela li vinn dapre dimounn-la. Si dimounn-la panvi sanze...”*
- *“Apre li demann pardon, mo pardonn li. Enn klak vinn plis ki enn klak, pardone mem...”*



Commitment to Marital Life

In cases where the couple is already engaged, the woman feels difficulty to leave the home. She must take too many factors into consideration before leaving her husband.



- “Arive bann dimounn, mem kan zot pas mizer, zot gagn bate,” **zot prefer res ar sa dimounn-la ki zot retourn lakaz zot mama.**”
- “Aprè ena boukou bann madam **zot sibir akòz zot kontan misie-la sipozeman.**”
- “Sa ler-la mo pann panse pou al rapòte **parski mo ti kontan li.**”

In the Interests of Children

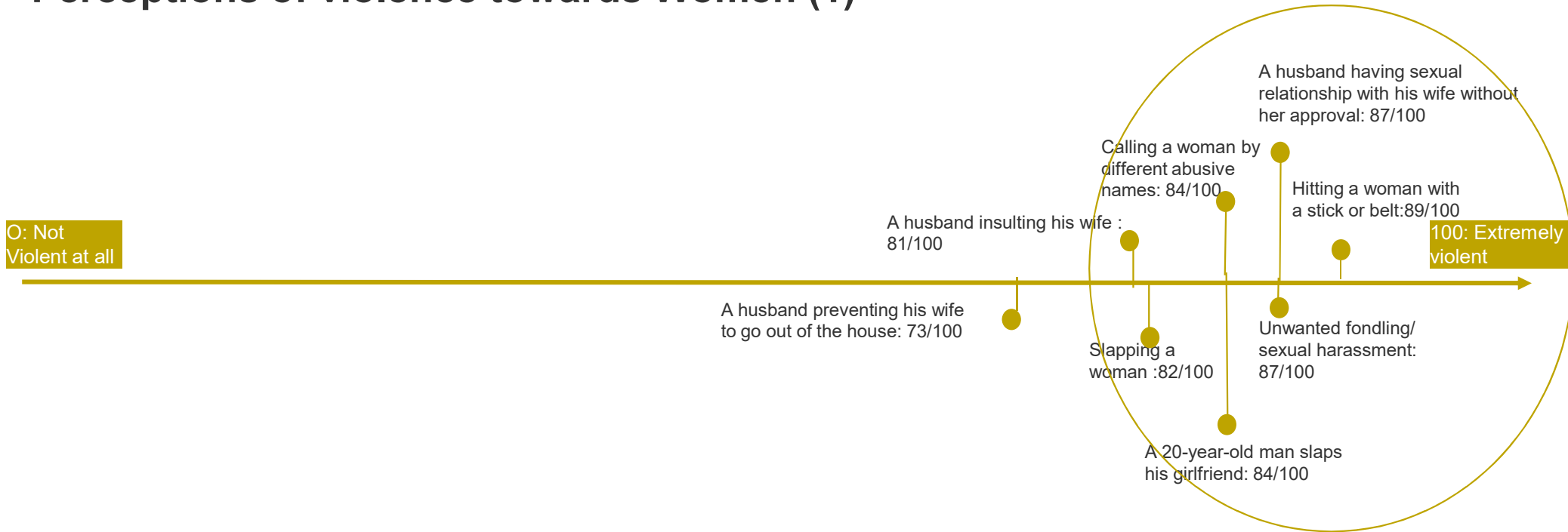
In some cases, women accept to suffer, for the sake of their children, especially when they are still small

They deem that the children need both parents for their proper development.

- *“Ena reste akoz zanfan e misie-la fini konn so pwin feb. Alor li kontinie parey.”*
- *“Enn kote se akoz mo bann zanfan osi, pou ki zot pa grandi san papa.”*



Perceptions of violence towards Women (1)

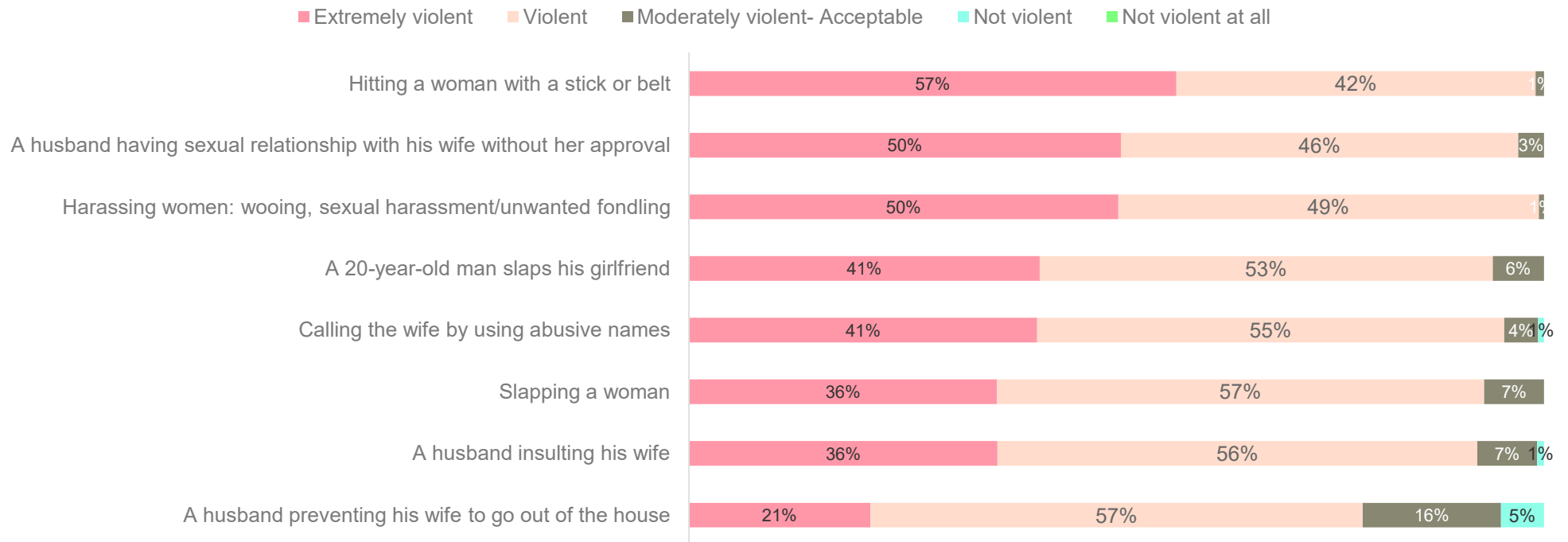


The scale of violence has been reweighted as follows:
 Not violent at all=0 ; not violent= 25; Moderate/acceptable = 50; Violent =75; Extremely violent =100

Base: 500 respondents

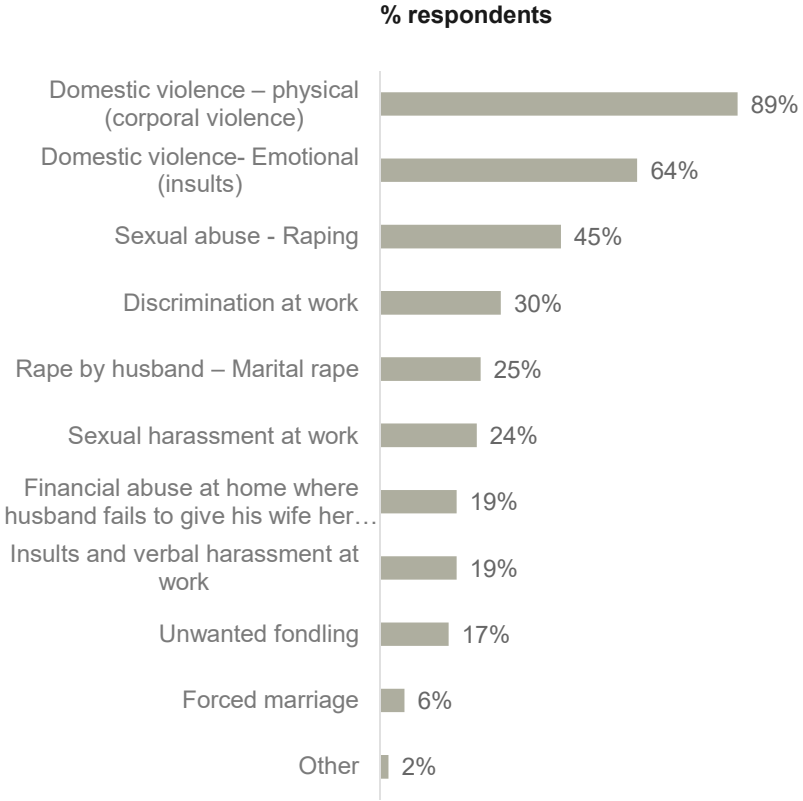
Perceptions of violence towards Women (2)

Most situations as listed below are perceived to be a form of violence towards women.



Base: 500 respondents

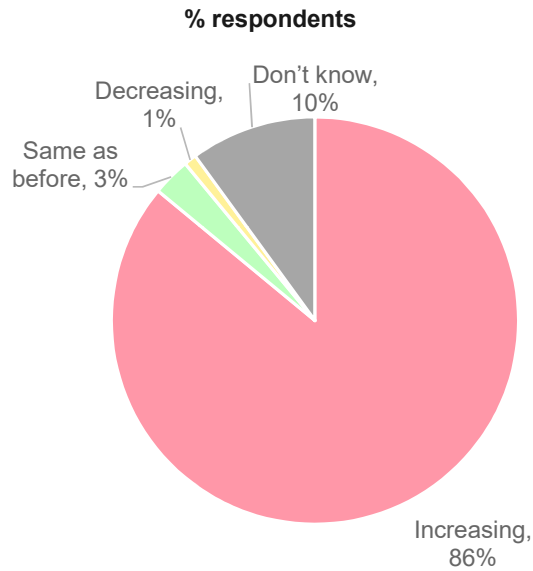
Spontaneous awareness of forms/types of violence towards women



Most common type of violence towards woman which have been cited by the sample is 'Domestic violence' where women are victims of physical assaults.

Perception of rate of violence towards women

There is a strong perception that violence towards women are increasing as compared to two years ago.



Perception across profile

	Increasing	Same as before	Decreasing	Don't know
Male	82%	3%	1%	14%
Female	89%	4%	0.7%	6%
Urban	92%	1%	0.5%	6%
Rural	81%	5%	1%	13%
16-24	73%	8%	0%	19%
25-34	86%	3%	0%	11%
35-44	85%	2%	5%	8%
45-54	91%	3%	0%	6%
55-65	95%	0%	0%	5%
Hindu	83%	4%	2%	11%
Muslim	86%	4%	0%	11%
General population	89%	1%	0.6%	9%
Chinese	91%	0%	0%	9%
Married	87%	2%	1%	9%
In a relationship	85%	0%	4%	11%
Single	79%	7%	0%	14%
Divorcee/Widow	97%	0%	0%	3%
AB	94%	2%	0%	4%
C1	89%	5%	1%	5%
C2	80%	2%	1%	17%
DE	83%	2%	0.9%	14%

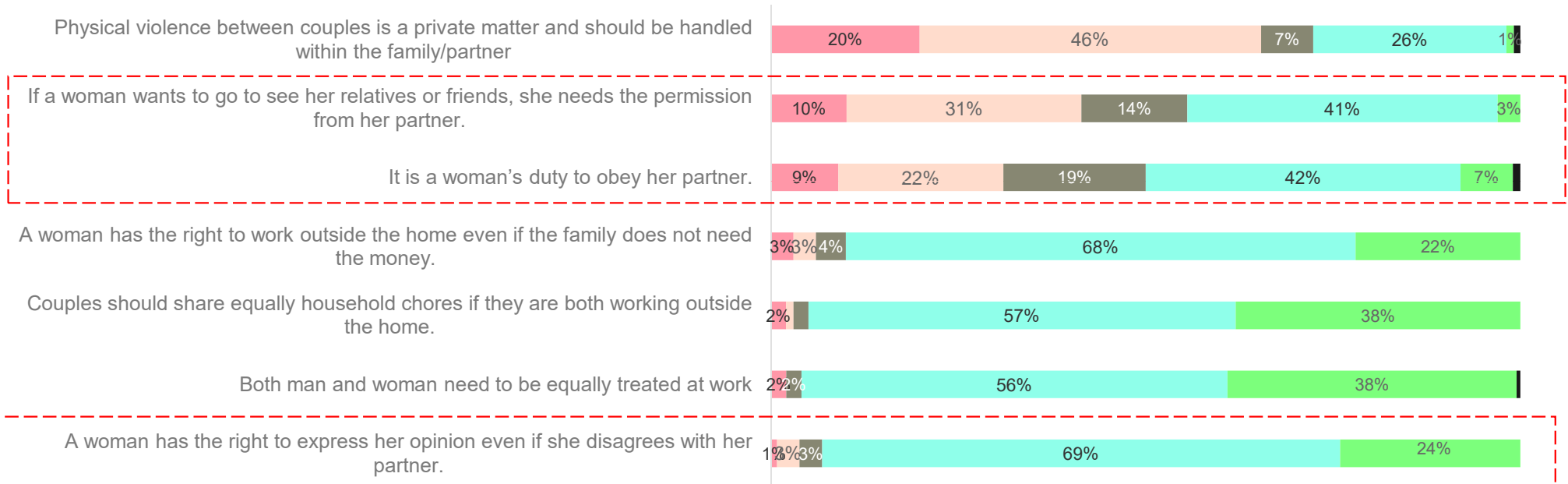
Base: 500 respondents

X Most significant
X Least significant

Attitudes towards women

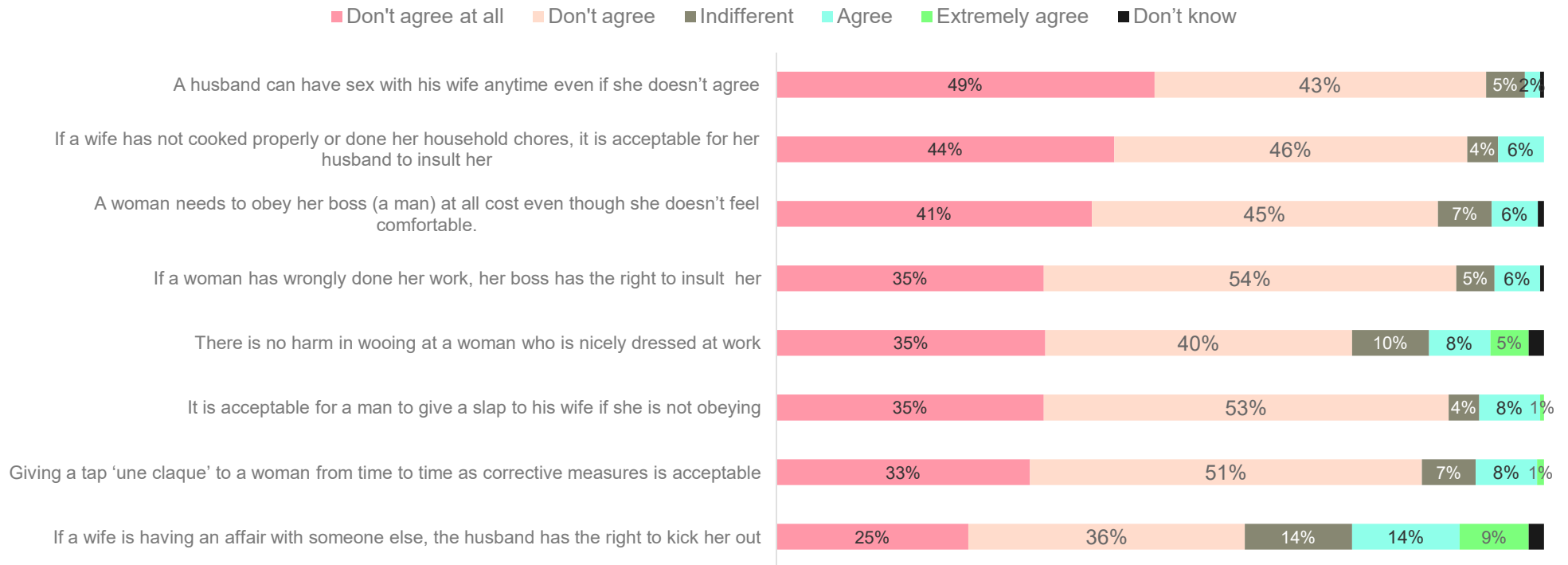
Once more, attitude of the respondents towards women seems to be complex. There is a strong perception that women need to be equally treated as men by sharing equal rights as well as her opinions shall be respected. But at the same time, she still needs to obey her partner and seek for permission when going out.

■ Don't agree at all
 ■ Don't agree
 ■ Indifferent
 ■ Agree
 ■ Extremely agree
 ■ Don't know



Reasons justifying violence towards women

Overall, Mauritians are of the opinions that a woman shall not be insulted or hit irrespective of the circumstances.



Base: 500 respondents

Alcohol / Drug Abuse

- Alcohol and drug consumption are seen as main factors triggering domestic violence
- The Out-of-Control effect caused by those substances seems to make the man see his wife as a punching ball.
 - *“Misie-la ena zour li bwar. Fam-la sorti travay 5er, li vini li koumans lager ar fam-la, bat li devan sa tipti-la, li tromatize.”*
 - *“Souvan defwa, 3 er di matin, li lager, li zoure. kan li’nn bwar lin sou, li rekoz brit.”*
 - *“Boner ou trouv li pe netoy lakour apre li koumans bwar. Mo dir: la taler madam-la so lavi pou amer. Vremem kouma madame-la vini li koumanse.”*



Emotions Taking Over

Male Infidelity

- There is a compulsive need among some men to constantly seek the attention of other women. This womanizing behavior easily generates conflicts in couples, which sometimes degenerate into violence.
 - *“Dan mo ka se violans domestik parski mo misie ti tro kourer, be lerla nou’nn gagn boukou problem...”*



Jealousy

- Possessive men sometimes develop paranoid behaviors leading to conflictual situations.
- In some of those cases, inability to control their partner/ex-partner, leads to violent intentions and behaviours.
 - *“Mo ena enn kouzin, li pa les so fam sorti dan lakaz, ni mars lor semin. Sa touletan zot res gagn lager.”*
 - *“Mo ex konkibin ti vinn devan shelter, li avoy mwa mesaz, li dir li ena enn cutter, kan li pou trouv mwa lor semin li pou pas sa cutter-la ar mwa.”*



Aggressive, by Nature?

- Violent behavior also occurs in cases where the aggressor does not know how else to behave than to be aggressive.
 - *“Tou depan dimounn-la so lespri, si li ena enn lespri inpe vwayou dan li, li pou konport li kouma enn vwayou.”*
 - *“Li dir mwa so papa extra move, li bat so mama.”*
 - *“Mo misie parfwa si kan li’nn fatigue la, ou dir li enn zafer, li reponn ou brit.”*



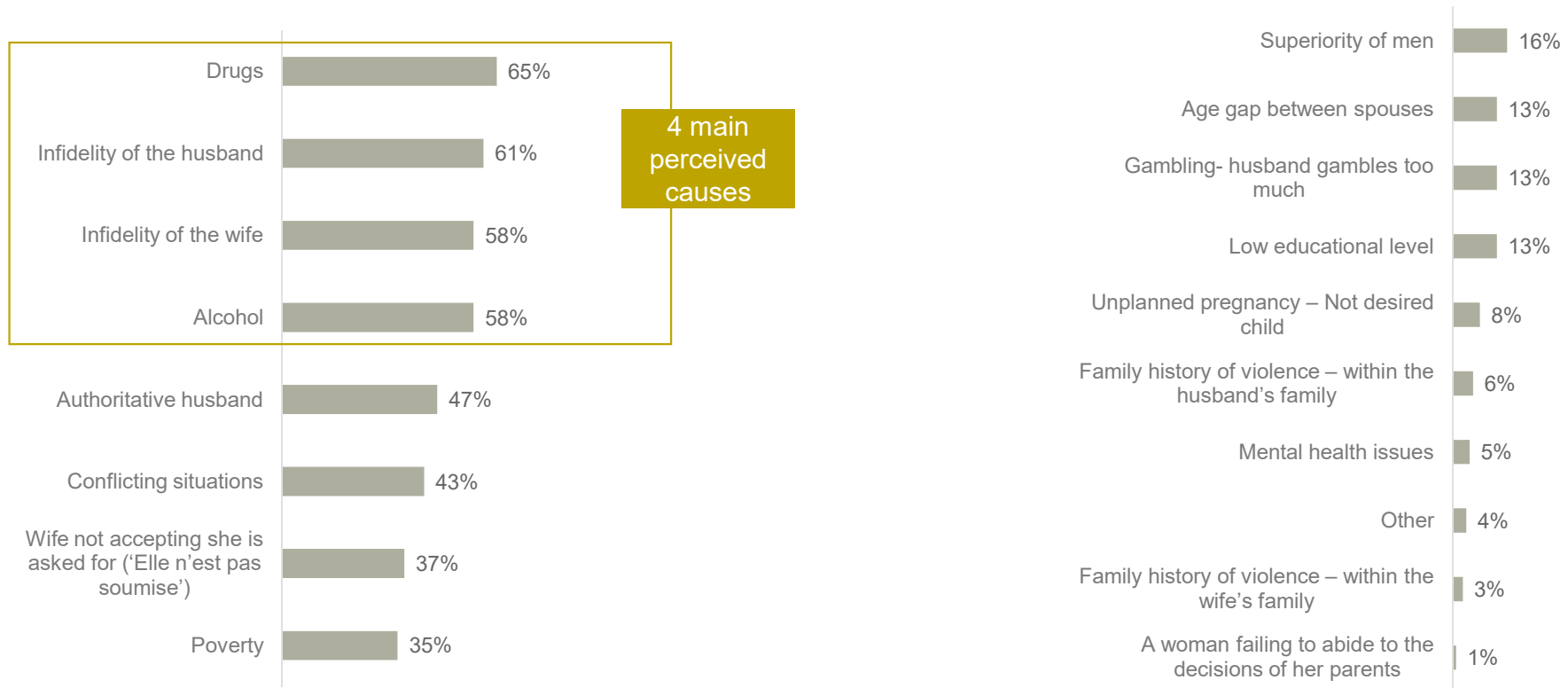
Gossip and Pressure

- The local culture is such that family members and neighbours can sometimes have much involvement in the couple's life
- In addition, with the practice of arranged marriages, the “*ki dimounn pou dir*” thinking weighs heavily in the minds of some Mauritian families.
 - “*Se zot fami ki fer zot vinn violan, lafami tro mont latet lerla zot vinn violan.*”
 - “*Bann vwazin inn fer palab ek akoz sa ki misie-la inn bat madam-la ek li'nn mor.*”



Perceived causes of violence towards women

% respondents



Base: 500 respondents

X Most significant
X Least significant

Lack of Family Support

- Despite being much involved in the couple's life, parents often refrain from interfering when there are conflicts between the spouses.
- **Many women do not benefit from any support from their families while they are facing difficulties in their couple life**, even if they are physically abused.
 - *“Kote mo belmer, zot dir ou li enn zafer normal. Li dir ou li osi, li’nn gagn bate avek so mari, se enn zafer normal.”*
 - *“Se bann dimounn ki mank sipor, ki kontinie sibir. Zot pa kapav ‘voice out’.”*
 - *“Mo rapel kan mo papa ti dir mwa aret plore, to enn tifi twa, to ti bizin kourbe. Akoz tomem inn ariv sa!”*



Lack of Support from Public Institutions and Authorities

Most women who are victims of violence say that even if they try to seek help from authorities, nothing, or not much, is done to help them. They feel helpless and are in the end forced to stay with a violent partners

“Zot dir mwa problem familial sa, **retourn ou lakaz demin li pou korek.** Bizin retourne, se pou sa ki plizir fwa mo’nn retourne.”



“Ninport ki moman li kav fer ou enn zafer, mem si ou sou protection order. **Protection order-la se zis enn papie sa. Li pran li, li desir li.**”

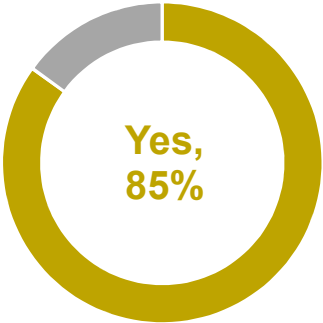
“Plizir fwa mo ti al stasion pou raporte, **mo pa ti ena protection order. Zot pa fer nanie, zot pa ekoute.**”

“Dan enn zourne, trwa fwa mo ti al stasion [...] **mo’nn res stasion depi 7 er ziska 2 er di matin, apre ki zot in pran enn depozision.**”

“Zot pa vinn koz ar li, zot zis vinn pran mo depozision. Zot pa mem koz are li. **Si zot pena prev, zot pa pou pran okenn aksion.**”

Awareness of women victim of violence (1)

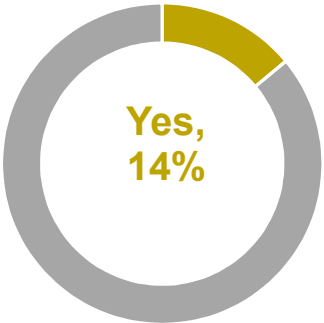
During the last 12 months, have you heard/read or witnessed any situations where women are victims of violence in Mauritius?



Base: 500 respondents



Do you personally know a woman who is victim of any forms of violence or witnessed any such situations?



Base: 425 respondents

What have been done to help victims?

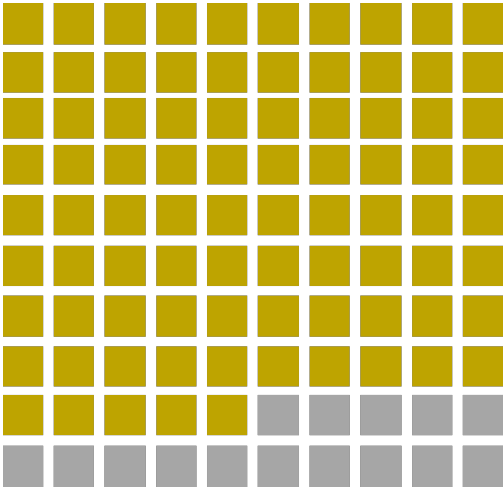
	% responses
Nothing	31%
Talked to her	17%
Advised her to leave this relationship	6%
Called/went to the police	6%
Counselling	6%
Asked for divorce	4%
Talked to the couple	4%
Advised her to call the police	2%
Advised her to go to a womens' centre	2%
Advised her to inform concerned authorities	2%
Advised the person to obtain a protection order	2%
I divorced	2%
I helped the person	2%
I left the house	2%
I prevented the man from continuing with violence	2%
Manifested	2%
Prevented her from committing suicide	2%
Removed her from her house	2%
Talked to the husband	2%
Testified against the person	2%
Went to police to obtain a protection order	2%

Base: 60 respondents

Awareness of women victim of violence (2)

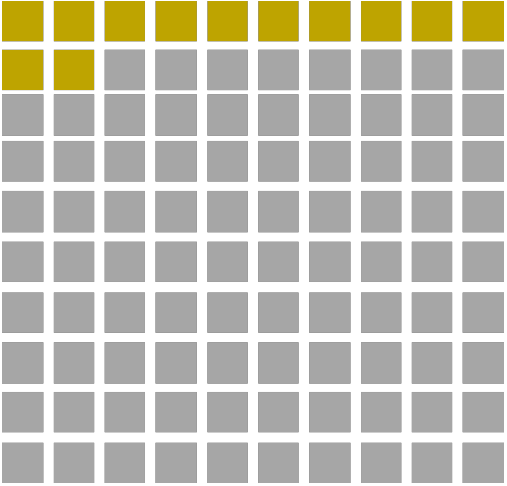
% of respondents who have you heard/read or witnessed any situations where women are victims of violence in Mauritius during last 12 months:

85%



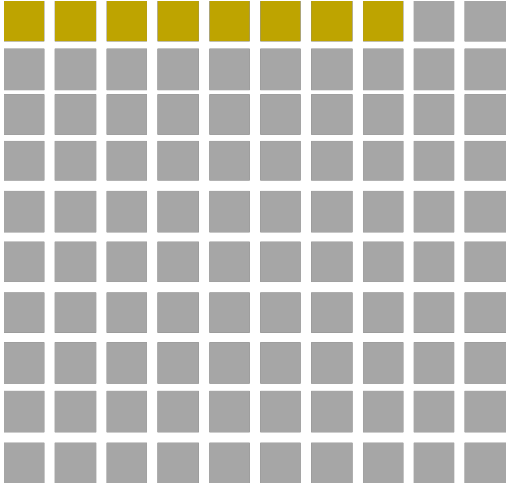
% of respondents who personally know a woman who is victim of any forms of violence or witnessed any such situations:

12%



% of respondents who have helped the victims:

8%



Base: 500 respondents

Feelings Generated among Women by Violence

Fear

- Not knowing what might happen next time creates a strong feeling of insecurity: « *C'est sa, mo ena enn freyer.* »

Shame

- While she already feels degraded by the behaviour and attitude towards her, the woman sometimes feels double-shame when such situations occur **in front of children**
- Moreover, such scenes sometimes project the Mother as a weak person in the eyes of children: “*Li trouv so papa kouma enn ero si li pe bat so mama. Li'nn trouv so papa for. Li'nn trouve ki so mama pa'nn kav fer nanie fas a so papa. Koumadir li kontan fason so papa fer avek so mama.*”

Violent thoughts inside the Woman's Mind

- The ‘An Eye For An Eye’ thinking
 - “*Mo anvi bate mwa osi, koumsa li resanti douler so kamarad.*”
- In some cases, those thoughts can lead to extreme intentions:
 - “*Kan li pe dormi, ena boukou zafer ki mo pe mazine, mo anvi pran enn zafer mo pik ar li.*”

Perception
of Violence
towards
LGBT



Violence against LGBT

Mauritius is one of the 66 signatories of the UN declaration on sexual orientation and gender identity, where it agrees to not discriminate on basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. Article 3 of its constitution states that there shall be no discrimination by reason of sex on an individual's right to life, liberty, security and the protection by the law.

However, the term LGBT and the concept of non-binary sexual identity has not been defined in the constitution or any such legal documents. As such, there are no official records or census of the community and of the type of violence targeted towards it. Since 2008, the Equal Opportunities Act is the only legal document which mentions sexual orientation, whereby it prohibits employers from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

Unfortunately, there are no official statistics of violence, persecution and discrimination against the LGBT community. 2 mediatised cases of discrimination against LGBT happened in 2018 and 2015, where in:

1. In 2018, the Pride march was threatened by a group of about 500 Muslims, whom were reportedly carrying weapons and,
2. In 2015, police officers arbitrarily arrested a transgender person for wearing women's clothing. She was threatened, physically assaulted, forced to strip, and later released without charge.




Acknowledgement and Acceptance [1/2]

- While the existence and presence of LGBT people in the Mauritian Society seems to be increasingly acknowledged, their acceptance still appears to be a challenge
- The reading is that **LGBT remains a relatively sensitive** subject, as **all Mauritians do not seem ready to fully cohabit with LGBT people**
- Comments collected seem to denote LGBT as a taboo, which in turn leads to some kind of hypocrisy
 - *“LGBT pena okenn moral pou mwa ladan me antan ki imin mo respekte bann-la.”*
 - *“Mo pa tro dakor ar sa parski Bondie in kree enn fam avek enn zom. Aster seki anvi fer li, mwa mo pa la pou kritik zot.”*

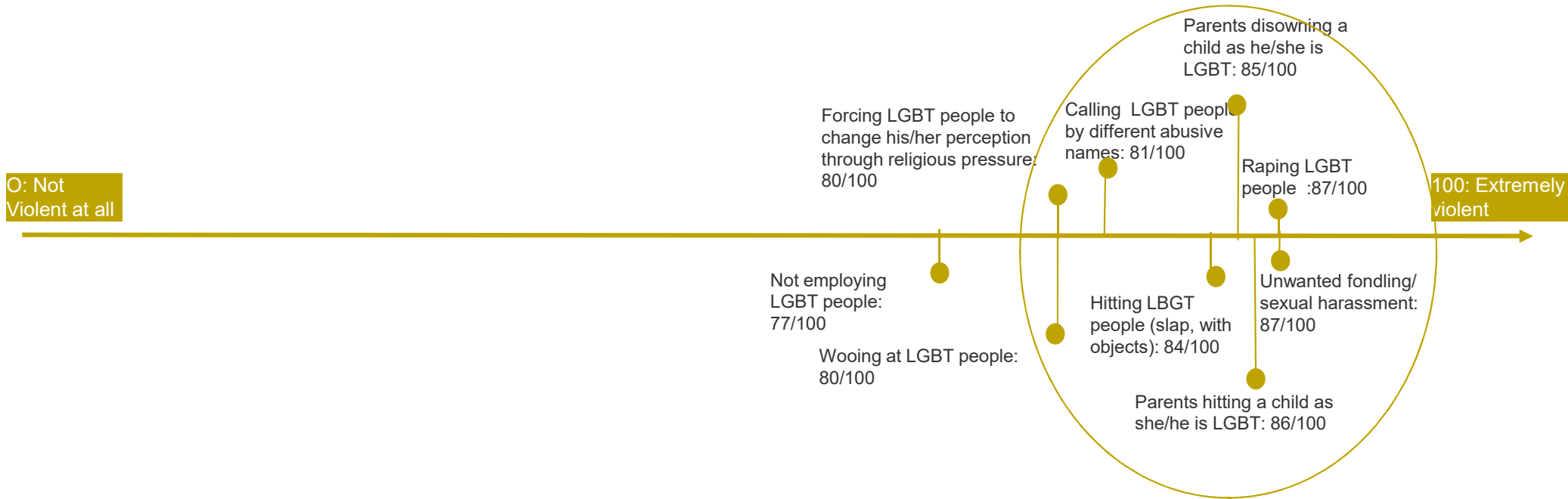


Acknowledgement and Acceptance [2/2]

The perception of non-LGBT people who tried to analyse the situation, is that non-LGBT people actually do not know what type of attitude to adopt towards LGBT people, because **they are afraid of difference**.

- *“Mo panse o nivo LGBT, se ki lom de touletan kan li ti trouv enn zafer diferan li koumans panike. Li gagn per diferans e li gagn per sanzman.”*
 - *“Enn boug inn bez enn rob rouz ar li. Me aster morisien kan li pe trouv enn rob lor enn boug li fini abriti...”*
- 
- Moreover, it seems that people are concerned about children’s perceptions and reactions, and the way those children’s own sexual orientations might be influenced as a consequence.
 - Parents of young children especially, are strongly opposed to the display of sexual orientation from LGBT people:
 - *“Fer koumadir enn zanfan inn trouv sa, kouma to pou explik li kiete sa? Eski to pou explik li kiete sa ouswa to pou koz li enn manti?”*
 - *“To pa kav pe marse, ena zanfan otour twa, to pe met enn linz ki pa korek pou inspir sa zanfan-la fer parey.”*

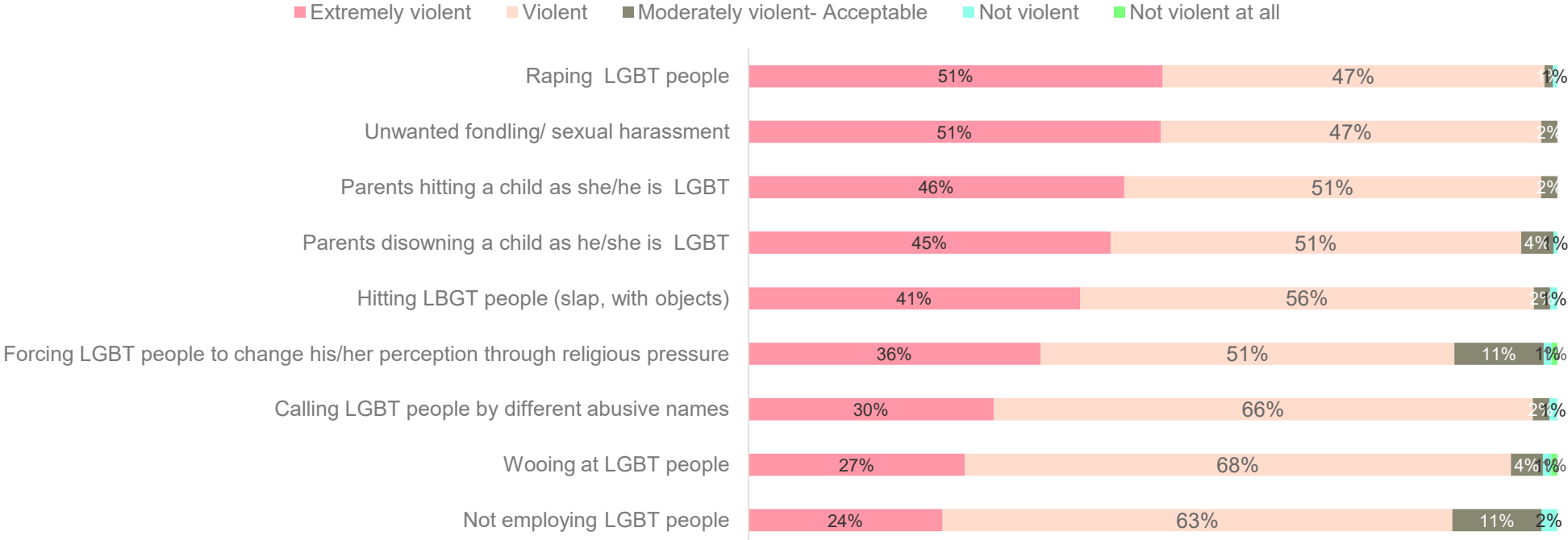
Perceptions of violence towards LGBT (1)



The scale of violence has been reweighted as follows:
 Not violent at all=0 ; not violent= 25; Moderate/acceptable = 50; Violent =75; Extremely violent =100

Perceptions of violence towards LGBT (2)

Overall, the majority of respondents evaluated all situations below as violent acts.



Base: 500 respondents



Q: I will list different situations and will ask you to rate the level of violence based on a score of 1 to 5 where 1= Extremely violent; 2= Violent; 3= Moderately violent-Acceptable; 4= Not violent; 5= Not violent at all

Discrimination caused by Stigma

Despite not being a direct form of violence, this situation does affect its victims in various circumstances.



“Moi je n’étais pas parti à l’université car mes parents, vue ma personnalité, trouvaient que ça n’avait pas trop d’importance.”

“Si interviewer-la kone sipa li enn gay ou enn lesbienn li pa pou rekrit li.”

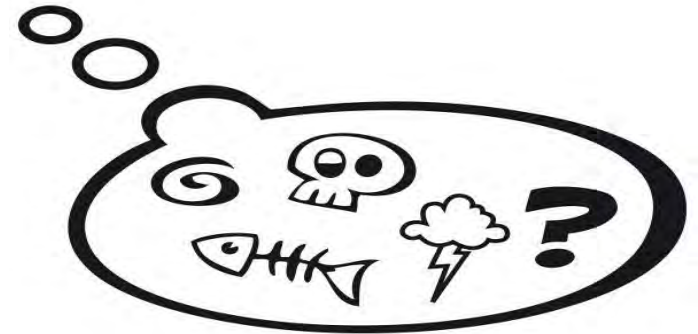
“Mo ena enn kamarad ki gay, zame li’nn resi gagn enn travay ki li ti anvi aköz so lorientasion seksiel.”

“J’étais bullied à cause de ma personnalité. Mo bann profeser ti pe met mwa devan klas parce que j’étais comme ça.”



Verbal Abuse

- LGBT persons are often the targets of insults, due to their sexual orientation, which is the most common form of aggressive behavior from which they suffer:
 - *“Maltrete, bann mo ki indesan; ena kan to pe marse mem zot pe pran plezir avek twa, zot dir: PD, pilon, pedale.”*
- Nevertheless, they are used to those situations, and they seem to be less and less affected by such comments
 - *“Par moman li kav bles twa me apre, pou enn moman to pou dir: tu es toi, tu fais comme tu veux.”*



Threats

- LGBT persons are also at times victims of threats from people of the general public who **express openly their opposite views on this lifestyle/display of different sexual orientation.**
 - *“Li kav pe menas twa dan enn dialog, li kav pe menas twa an rigolan, li kav pe menas twa: fer enn figir ar twa.”*
- Being the target of threats, **LGBT people somehow live in the fear of being assaulted.** Thus, they try to stay on the alert, something that makes them rather uncomfortable.
 - *“Demin ou apredemin to kav pe marse trankil, dimounn kav atak twa pou nanie, to pa mem koz ek li, zis li ena enn laenn pou twa, ki tomem to pa kone.”*

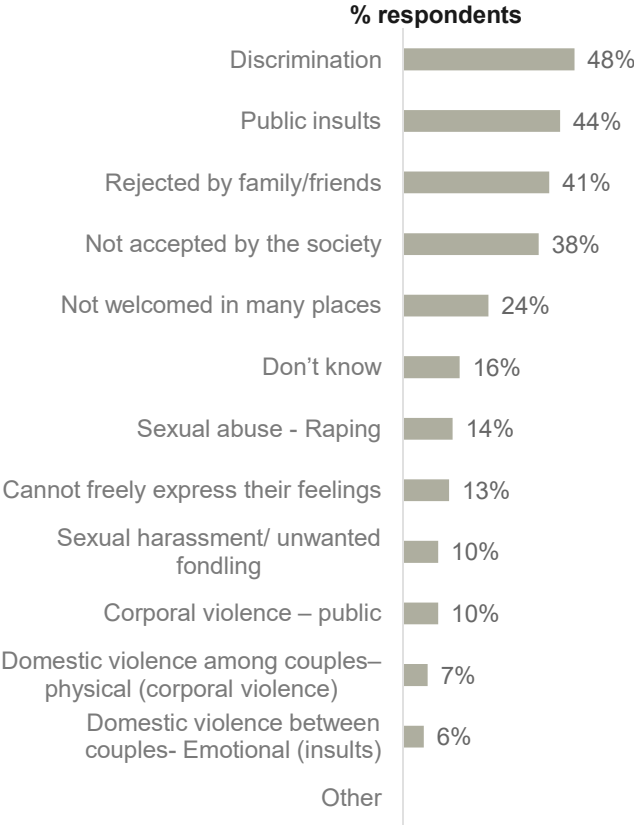


Violence suffered by Lesbians

Harassment that could lead to Rape

- Although lesbians surveyed declared that were not directly concerned with violence, they mentioned harassment as a form of aggression they suffer. It happens that they are sometimes persecuted by some men who do not accept their sexual orientation.
- They perceive that some men are obsessed with the sexual aspect of homosexual relationships, which seems to bother them more than the other dimensions.
 - *“Bann zom zot baz zo zis lor sex, zot pa pe koz santiman.”*
- As a result, those men give lesbians the impression that they want to ‘straighten’ them:
 - *“Zot dir twa to enn zoli tifi, to kontan bann tifi. Kav to pann gagn enn bon garson dan to lavi. Zot ariv dan enn stad kot zot koumans koz bann koze pa serye: wey to pa anvî gout enn zom sipaki...”*
- In some cases, this will to ‘straighten’ involves violent acts:
 - *“Pour eux, si tu es devenue lesbienne, c’est que tu n’as pas goûté à un bon pénis. Donk zot inn eseye dres twa koumadir. Contre ta volonté, c’est-à-dire ils te forcent à avoir des relations...”*

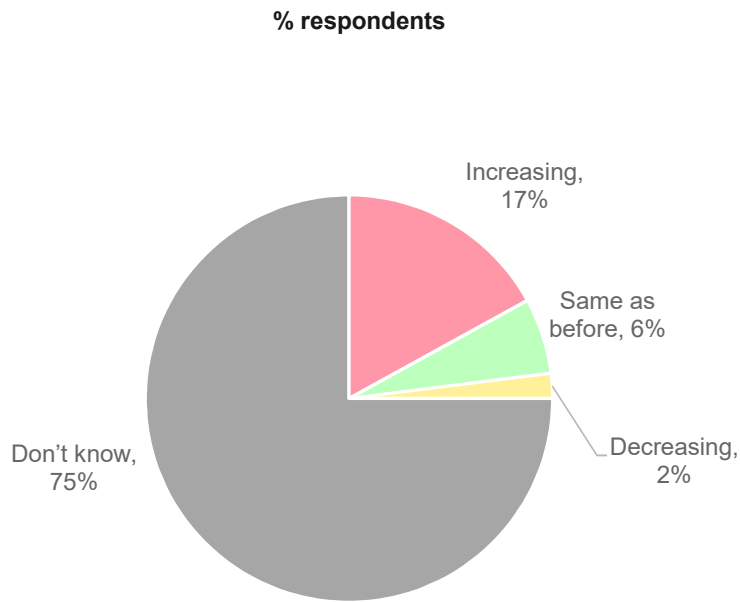
Spontaneous awareness of forms/types of violence towards LGBT



Discriminations, public insults, rejected by families/friends and failed to be accepted by the society are the most common forms of violence towards LGBT that have been spontaneously cited.

Perception of rate of violence towards LGBT

3 out 4 respondents have no idea about the rate of violence towards LGBT in Mauritius.



Perception across profile

	Increasing	Same as before	Decreasing	Don't know
Male	16%	8%	2%	74%
Female	18%	5%	2%	75%
Urban	<u>25%</u>	8%	0.7%	<u>66%</u>
Rural	<u>11%</u>	5%	3%	<u>81%</u>
16-24	16%	<u>12%</u>	3%	69%
25-34	22%	6%	0%	72%
35-44	11%	7%	3%	79%
45-54	17%	4%	1%	78%
55-65	19%	2%	5%	74%
Hindu	<u>12%</u>	7%	1%	<u>80%</u>
Muslim	18%	<u>0%</u>	5%	77%
General population	21%	9%	2%	<u>68%</u>
Chinese	<u>53%</u>	7%	0%	<u>40%</u>
Married	18%	5%	0.9%	76%
In a relationship	22%	9%	4%	65%
Single	15%	8%	3%	74%
Divorce d/Widow	15%	5%	<u>11%</u>	69%
AB	19%	6%	0%	75%
C1	20%	5%	4%	70%
C2	<u>10%</u>	6%	0.9%	<u>82%</u>
DE	18%	8%	2%	72%

The Actual Perception regarding LGBT Exposure to Violence

- Non-LGBT persons surveyed seem to agree to the fact that most LGBT persons are not victims of **only physical violence**, i.e. slapping, beating or rape
- It turns out that LGBT people surveyed also share this view
- In other words, they find that being LGBT does not by default expose the person to violence, and that factors such as family support and the ability of their living and working environments to see them just like any human being, does decrease risks of violent behaviour towards them.
- Furthermore, they believe that, as long as their sexual orientation is not displayed too openly, this tends to generate less animosity towards them.
- *“Mwa, li pa paret si mo lesbienn. Si demin mo met enn linz LGBT mo marse, lozikman si bann dimounn pou atak mwa, zot pou atak mwa. Li koumsa, me bann lesbienn zot pa gagn bann insilt tro, lor semin.”*

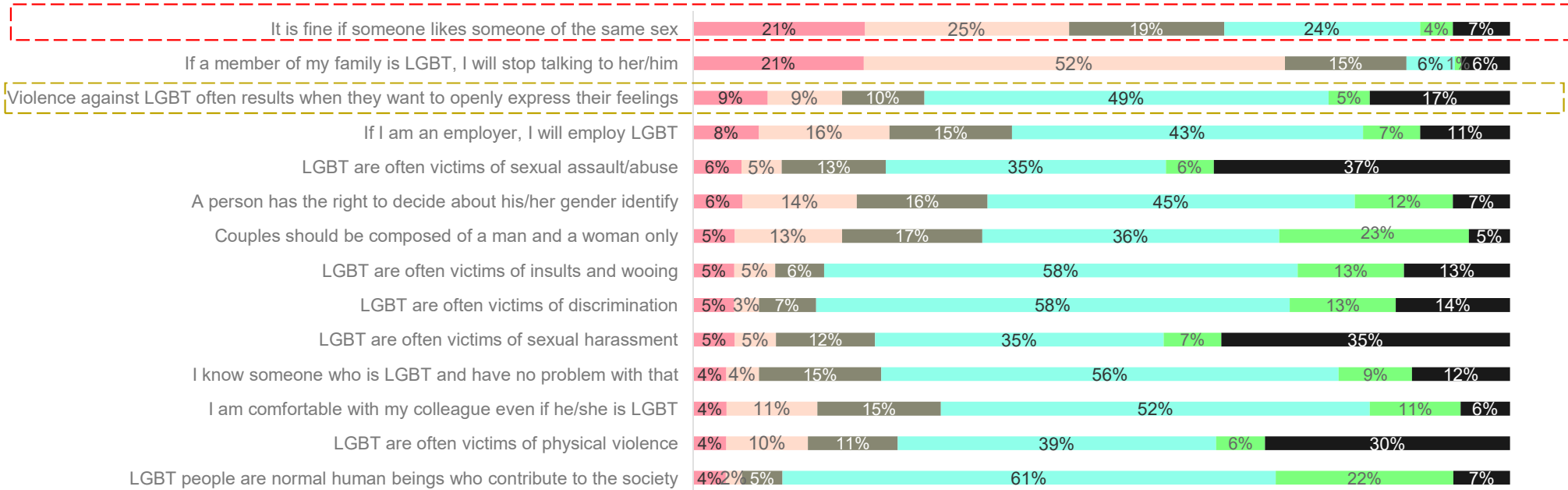


Attitudes towards LGBT

Nearly 50% reject the idea of individual liking someone of the same sex but this does not mean that they will ignore that person. When it comes to employ LGBT people, 50% have no qualm in employing them if they were an employer. It is worth noting that 1 out two respondents believe that violence against LGBT are triggered when the latter openly express their feelings.

On another note, when it comes to victims of sexual assault/harassment or physical violence, one out of three respondents are unaware of such situations. But nearly 75% are conscious that LGBT are victims of discrimination, insults and to a lower extent victims of sexual assaults and physical violence.

■ Don't agree at all ■ Don't agree ■ Indifferent ■ Agree ■ Extremely agree ■ Don't know



Acceptance by Close People

Many acts of violence (insults, threats and discrimination) suffered by LGBT persons are inflicted by their own family. For some, their family members have accepted and support their sexual orientation and choices, while others have to bear with the aggressive behavior of some relatives.



Acceptance

- *“Mo bann fami aksepte mwa, mo bann kamarad aksepte mwa. Donc, je m’en fou des autres.”*
- *“Mo mama li’nn dir mwa ok, nou bizin dir to papa, mo’nn dir li ok, il n’y a pas de souci. Nou’nn koze.”*



Non-Acceptance

- *“Mon grand frère, n’était pas d’accord. **Li ti aret koz ar mwa.**”*
- *“Mo’nn gagn enn ta problem lor sa bann zafer-la. **Mo’nn gagn bate, enn zour mo ti bizin kit lakaz.**”*
- *“Bann dimounn, inn koumans mont latet mo frer, toulezour kan li sorti travay, li rant lakaz, **li vini pou bat mwa.**”*

Experience of Violence by LGBT

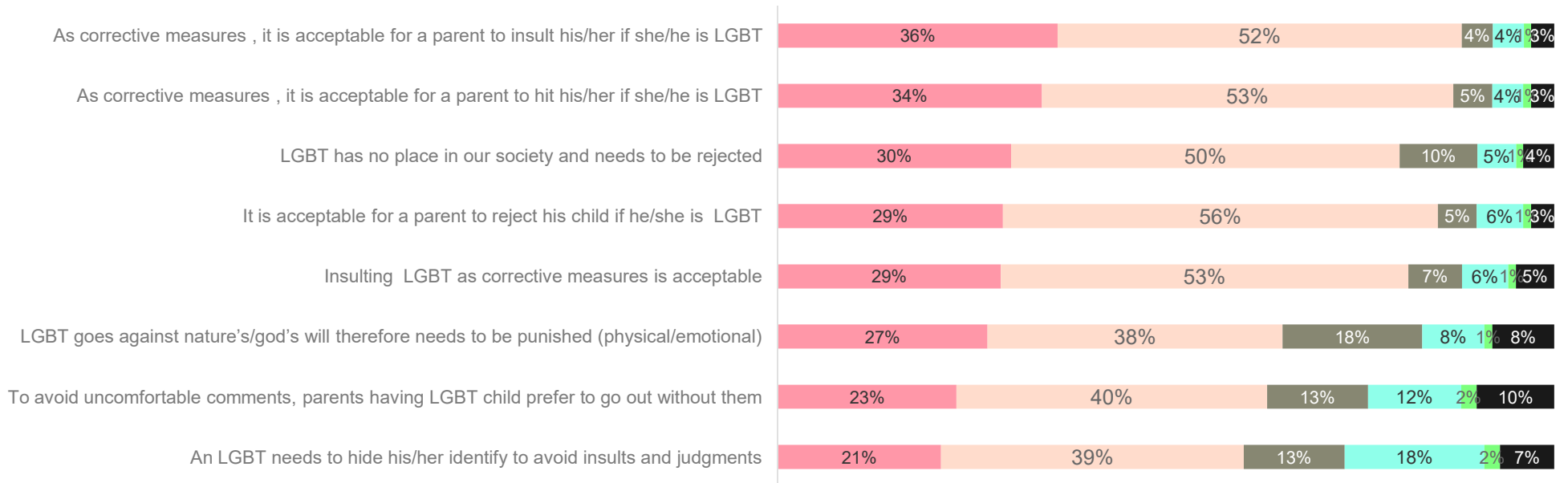
- The highest levels of violence towards LGBT people from outsiders lie in **threats** and **verbal abuse**
- Moreover, they are affected by the **discrimination** they have to face in every spheres of their lives, mainly at work and school.
- These reactions seem to arise when the differences of the person are clearly visible – physical appearance, way of dressing, behaviours, etc



Reasons justifying violence towards LGBT

Overall, similarly to children and women, the majority of respondents are of the opinions that LGBT people shall not be insulted or hit irrespective of the situations

■ Don't agree at all ■ Don't agree ■ Indifferent ■ Agree ■ Extremely agree ■ Don't know



Base: 500 respondents

Causes of Violence Identified [1/2]

Provocation

Question: Does the mere sexual orientation of LGBT people really disturb, or is it the open display of that orientation?

There is a perception that some LGBT persons are provocative, and that their behavior might generate violence or hatred from non-LGBT people or even from other LGBT members. **This view is shared by some LGBT persons as well.**

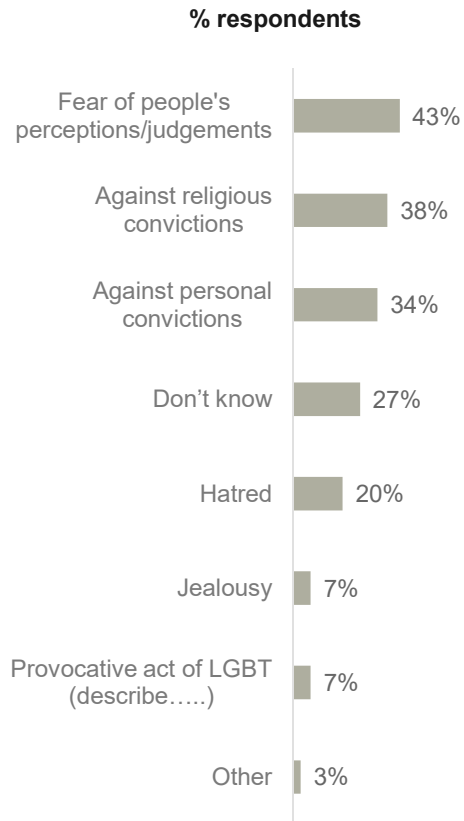
- *“Ena bann gay kontan kas-kase, kontan fer zot bann zes, lera dimounn pran nisa.”*
 - *“Zot dir, aret fer plis ki fam! Fam pa fer kouma twa.”*
 - *“Ena bann trans to gagne onte pou mars ek zot lor semin telman zot ekzazere.”*
- } Perceptions by LGBT persons
-
- *“Kan zot pe fer zot bann zafer mo trouv zot pe inpe provok bann dimounn.”*
 - *“Pa bizin expoz zot an piblik, bann kitsoz koumsa.”*
 - *“Pou ki dimounn respekte zot, zot bizin ena enn fason abiye, ene fason konport zot dan lasosiete.”*
- } Perceptions by ‘non-LGBT’ people

Causes of Violence Identified [2/2]

Sexual Solicitations by some LGBT people

- Some non-LGBT as well as LGBT people surveyed, agreed to say that **there were cases where LGBT persons voluntarily put themselves into situations where they may become exposed to violence.**
- In their opinion, those cases include sexual solicitations made by LGBT people. In such cases, it is believed that victims are fully aware that they might create situations where their clients' surprise turns into anger, and anger yields physical violence
- Comments below from LGBT persons:
 - *“Mo ena enn konesans ki fer travailleur du sexe, mo’nn trouv li debraye, seve inn sifone, enn kote talon pena. Li’nn dir mwa, li’nn gagn trwa dimounn enn sel kou (clients). Kan zot inn fini fer zot bann zafer, zot inn trap li, inn bat li.”*
 - *“Akoz zot trase aswar, zot gagn bate ar klian. **Zot pa dir zot trans, bann klian-la panse fam sa...**”*

Perceived causes of violence towards LGBT

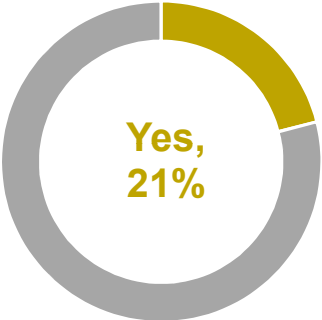


It seems that causes of violence towards LGBT are triggered by the fact that they have difficulties to accept and co habit with LGBT.

Base: 500 respondents

Awareness of LGBT victim of violence (1)

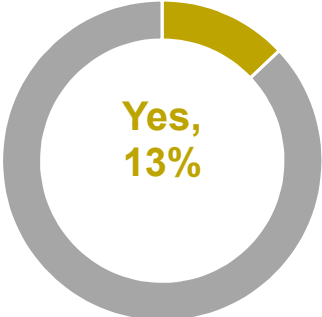
During the last 12 months, have you heard/read or witnessed any situations where LGBT are victims of violence in Mauritius?



Base: 500 respondents



Do you personally know LGBT people who are victim of any forms of violence or witnessed any such situations?



Base: 105 respondents

What have been done to help victims?

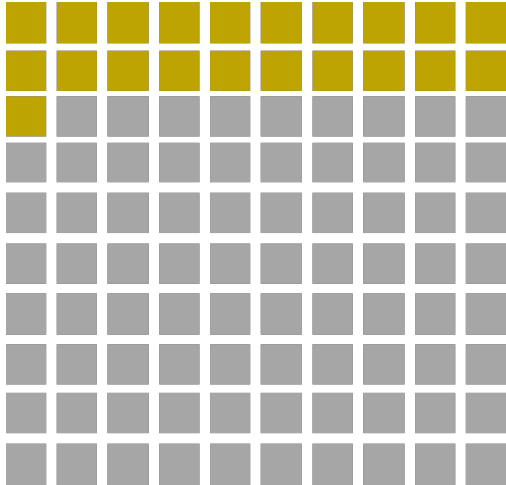
	% responses
Nothing	4
Advised the person	2
Called the police	1
Counselling session	1
Defended the person	1
Divorce procedure	1
Provided shelter to the person	1

Base: 13 respondents

Awareness of LGBT victim of violence (2)

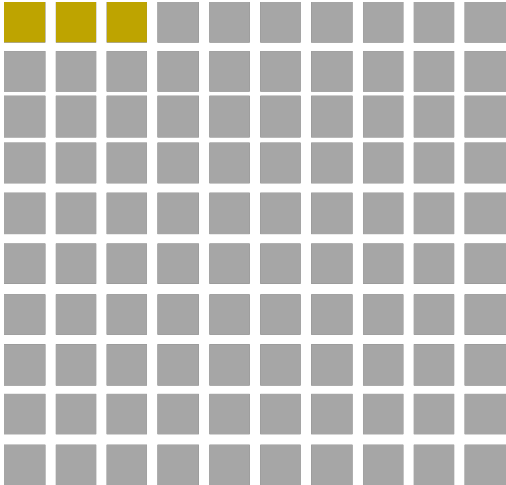
% of respondents who have you heard/read or witnessed any situations where LGBT people are victims of violence in Mauritius during last 12 months:

21%



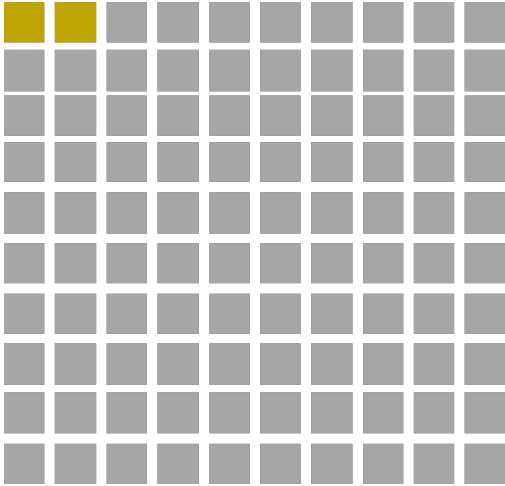
% of respondents who personally know LGBT people who is victim of any forms of violence or witnessed any such situations:

3%



% of respondents who have helped the victims:

2%



Base: 500 respondents

Reactions of LGBT People towards Threats or Situations of Physical Violence

Each person reacts differently towards violent situations. Among LGBT people 2 types of behaviours which are used to face violence have been identified.

Fly

- *“Nou sove nou ale. Sa ki pa gagn letan bizin rod enn plas pou kasiet tousala.”*
- *“Gagn per, pa kone ki pou fer lera nou retourn dan kanpman.”*

Fight Back

- *“Seki to pe fer, mo pou fer li plis ek twa. Mo pa pou les twa denigre mwa devan dimounn. Mo pou denigre twa plus bas que terre.”*
- *“Kan bann-la ti pe bouli mwa, mo ti pe pran zot zet zot dan fatak. Plito mo agres zot ki mo reponn zot verbalman.”*

Appendix



Awareness of social issues across profile

	Drug	Crime	Alcoholism	Domestic violence	Poverty	Corruption	Unemployment	Rape-women	Bullying	Rape - child	Prostitution	Discrimination-sexual	Sickness /health issues
Male	87%	64%	52%	49%	27%	30%	14%	7%	9%	7%	10%	6%	5%
Female	73%	59%	59%	60%	34%	14%	11%	12%	10%	9%	5%	6%	7%
Urban	80%	50%	46%	54%	33%	17%	15%	10%	14%	11%	11%	6%	4%
Rural	80%	70%	62%	55%	29%	26%	11%	10%	6%	6%	5%	6%	7%
16-24	73%	56%	56%	52%	19%	10%	14%	15%	16%	5%	8%	11%	5%
25-34	82%	69%	56%	57%	35%	27%	16%	11%	10%	8%	7%	4%	9%
35-44	77%	64%	54%	53%	33%	25%	13%	11%	3%	13%	6%	8%	6%
45-54	81%	50%	56%	51%	38%	18%	12%	8%	9%	11%	6%	3%	5%
55-65	87%	69%	55%	59%	23%	29%	7%	5%	9%	2%	9%	3%	3%
Hindu	82%	65%	57%	57%	26%	23%	14%	9%	7%	7%	4%	7%	6%
Muslim	81%	59%	54%	53%	38%	17%	24%	5%	6%	5%	11%	2%	5%
General population	76%	55%	54%	51%	32%	21%	6%	14%	16%	11%	7%	6%	6%
Married	81%	60%	58%	50%	34%	25%	13%	9%	7%	8%	7%	5%	5%
In a relationship	91%	80%	41%	68%	21%	10%	6%	9%	11%	20%	15%	9%	9%
Single	77%	60%	54%	58%	22%	14%	12%	12%	15%	6%	6%	6%	7%
Divorced/Widow	76%	67%	41%	69%	39%	30%	14%	11%	9%	8%	7%	10%	4%
AB	87%	58%	53%	53%	32%	23%	9%	10%	12%	8%	9%	5%	15%
C1	78%	56%	51%	54%	27%	21%	14%	13%	10%	8%	7%	6%	4%
C2	79%	68%	59%	53%	31%	28%	12%	8%	4%	8%	5%	6%	6%
DE	80%	65%	61%	57%	34%	15%	14%	7%	13%	7%	9%	6%	3%
...	66%	70%	45%	58%	45%	37%	0%	14%	18%	7%	33%	9%	0%
Total	80%	61%	55%	54%	30%	22%	13%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	6%

Perceptions of violence towards children across profile

	A father slaps his six-year-old daughter on the face	Insult at a child for being disobedient	Hitting a child with a stick or belt	Saying a child that he/she doesn't deserve to be born	Saying a child that life would have been easier without him/her	Yelling/shouting at a child to do his homework	Hitting a child for not performing well at school	Calling the child by using several names "Bourik, zako, lisien cochon, bouffon imbecile"	Sexually harass a child	Touching or hugging a child against his/her will	Watch pornographic videos in the company of a child
Male	76	74	80	86	86	57	69	81	94	89	94
Female	73	74	82	87	88	53	72	83	93	85	94
Urban	75	77	81	87	89	59	75	84	93	88	93
Rural	74	72	81	86	86	52	67	80	94	86	95
16-24	71	74	80	86	87	55	70	80	91	81	92
25-34	75	78	83	89	90	55	73	83	94	89	96
35-44	76	76	80	86	87	54	69	84	95	89	95
45-54	74	72	81	84	85	53	70	79	93	85	93
55-65	75	70	81	87	87	58	71	83	95	89	96
Hindu	73	72	81	85	86	55	69	80	93	86	95
Muslim	75	76	77	87	87	55	74	85	94	87	95
General population	75	75	81	87	89	56	72	84	93	87	93
Chinese	85	82	86	93	93	46	64	78	95	94	98
Married	74	74	81	86	87	54	71	82	94	87	95
In a relationship	77	72	77	84	85	49	71	77	90	85	92
Single	73	75	80	88	87	57	71	82	93	84	93
Divorced/Widow	81	74	83	90	93	61	72	86	96	90	95
AB	73	75	82	87	89	53	73	84	96	89	95
C1	75	74	81	88	88	55	71	82	94	85	94
C2	75	75	80	86	86	56	71	81	93	87	95
DE	74	71	81	83	84	55	69	80	92	88	94
Total	74	74	81	86	87	55	71	82	94	87	94

Perceptions of violence towards women across profile

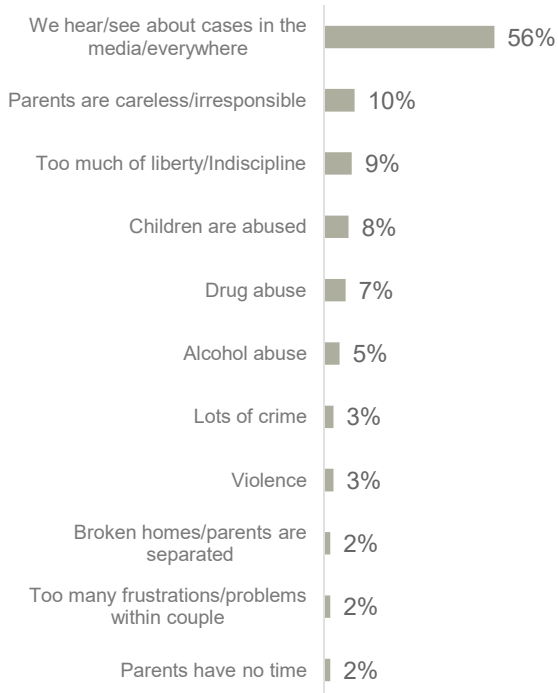
	Slapping a woman	A 20-year-old man slaps his girlfriend	A husband insulting his wife	Hitting a woman with a stick or belt	A husband preventing his wife to go out of the house	Calling the wife by using abusive names	A husband having sexual relationship with his wife without her approval	Harassing women: wooing, sexual harassment/unwanted fondling
Male	80	84	79	88	71	82	84	86
Female	84	84	84	89	76	86	90	89
Urban	83	85	85	88	76	85	91	89
Rural	81	83	79	90	71	83	83	86
16-24	82	82	81	87	75	82	87	86
25-34	84	85	84	91	77	87	89	89
35-44	83	84	81	88	71	84	87	87
45-54	80	83	83	89	75	83	85	87
55-65	81	86	80	90	68	83	85	88
Hindu	82	84	80	89	71	83	85	87
Muslim	82	83	83	88	72	84	89	88
General population	82	84	84	88	77	85	87	87
Chinese	87	90	88	91	79	83	94	90
Married	81	84	81	90	72	83	85	87
In a relationship	82	87	82	88	79	83	88	89
Single	84	83	83	87	75	84	88	87
Divorced/Widow	88	88	88	92	79	88	91	93
AB	84	86	81	90	71	85	87	86
C1	81	84	82	89	74	85	87	88
C2	82	83	81	89	72	82	85	87
DE	83	84	82	87	74	84	88	87
Total	82	84	82	89	73	84	87	87

Perceptions of violence towards LGBT across profile

	Wooring at an LGBT	Calling an LGBT by different abusive names	Hitting an LBGT (slap, with objects)	Not employing an LGBT	Raping an LGBT	Unwanted fondling/sexual harassment	Parents disowning a child as he/she is an LGBT	Parents hitting a child as she/he is an LGBT	Forcing an LGBT to change his/her perception through religious pressure
Male	79	79	83	75	86	87	85	85	81
Female	80	83	85	79	88	87	84	86	80
Urban	82	83	85	80	88	87	85	86	81
Rural	78	80	84	75	86	88	85	85	80
16-24	79	82	84	78	86	85	84	85	82
25-34	79	80	84	79	88	91	86	85	81
35-44	80	83	85	77	87	89	87	88	81
45-54	78	79	83	76	84	82	80	83	76
55-65	81	81	85	74	90	90	88	87	82
Hindu	80	80	84	76	87	87	85	85	82
Muslim	79	80	82	76	86	86	80	84	75
General population	79	83	84	79	87	87	85	86	80
Chinese	83	88	92	87	92	90	94	94	85
Married	79	80	84	76	87	87	84	86	78
In a relationship	80	85	87	78	84	88	86	87	84
Single	79	81	83	78	87	87	85	85	83
Divorced/Widow	82	84	88	86	88	89	89	87	84
AB	79	82	87	74	89	87	86	85	79
C1	81	82	85	79	87	88	86	88	81
C2	80	82	83	76	86	85	84	84	81
DE	78	79	82	76	85	87	82	82	78
Total	80	81	84	77	87	87	85	86	80

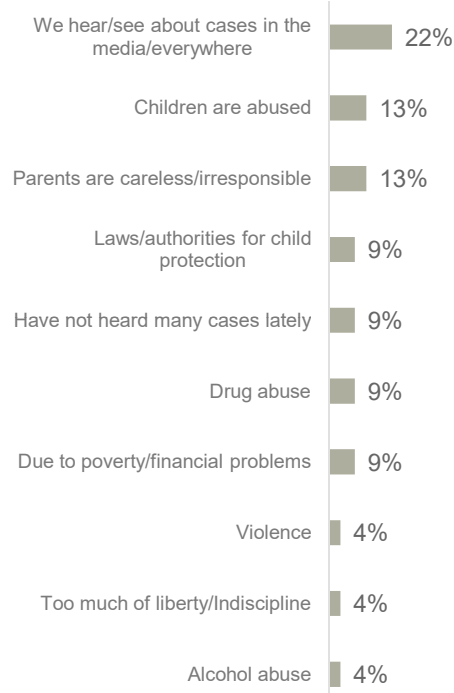
Reasons : perception of rate of violence towards children

Increasing- % respondents



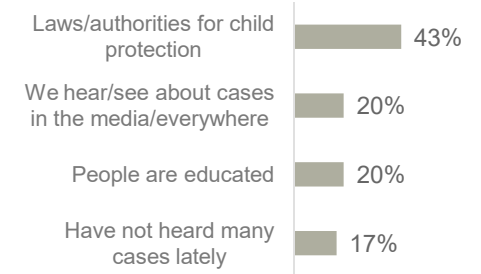
Base : 265

Same as before - % respondents



Base : 30

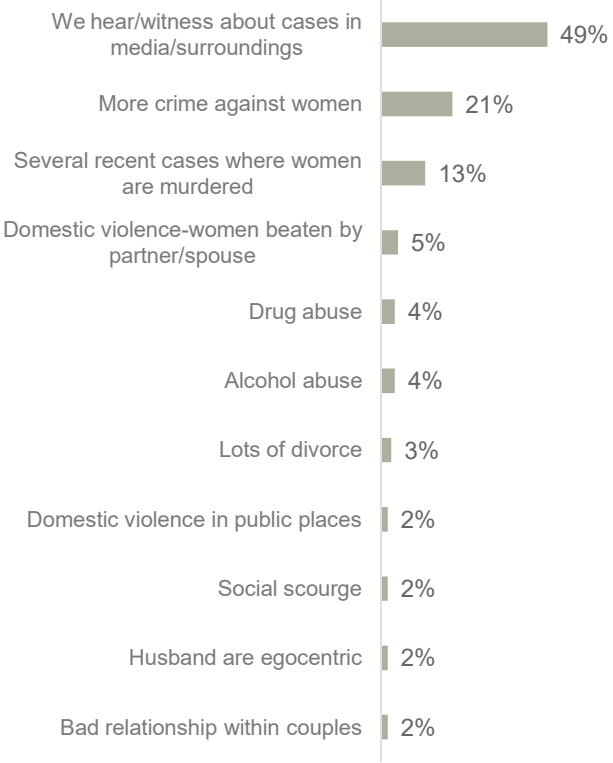
Decreasing – % respondents



Base : 50

Reasons : perception of rate of violence towards women

Increasing- % respondents



Base : 430

Same as before – Number of respondents

We hear/witness about cases in media/everywhere	5
Many cases are not reported	2
Domestic violence-women beaten by partner/spouse	2
Laws are not severe enough	2
Many women are submissive	1

Base : 15

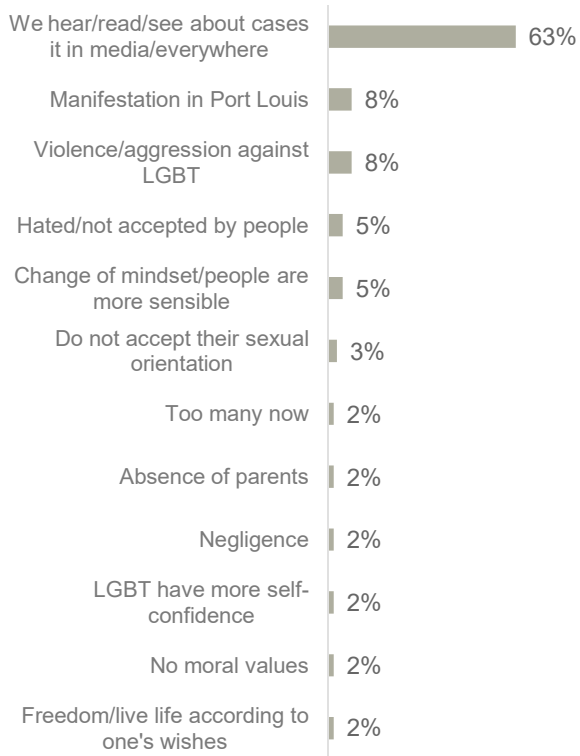
Decreasing – Number of respondents

Level of violence has decreased	2
Women are working/independent	1
Laws are more severe	1

Base : 4

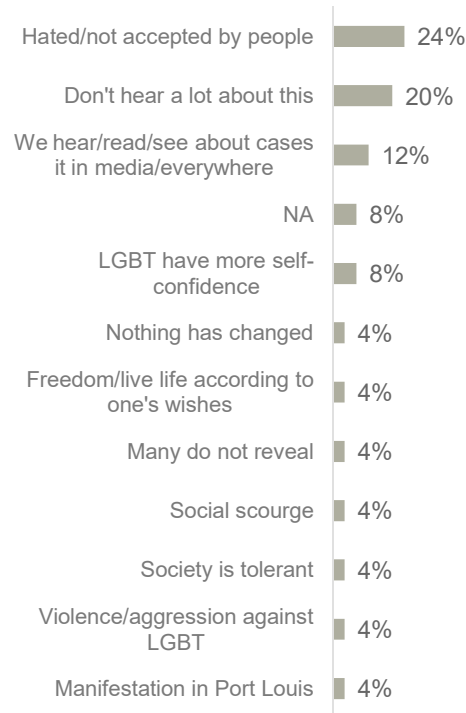
Reasons : perception of rate of violence towards LGBT

Increasing- % respondents



Base : 85

Same as before - % respondents



Base : 30

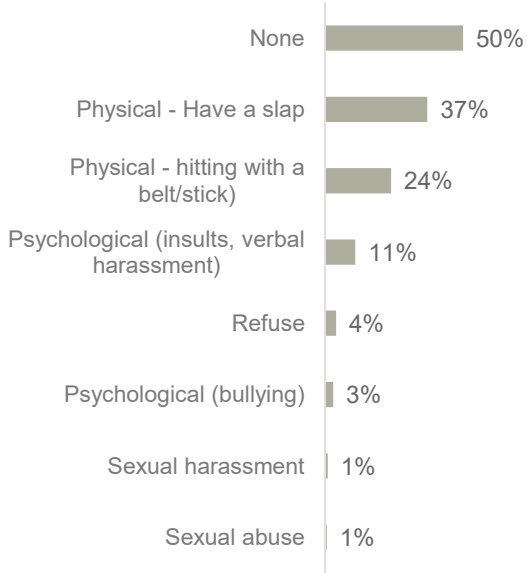
Decreasing – Number of respondents

Change of mindset/people are more sensible	4
Don't hear a lot about this	3
Due to the laws	1
Society is tolerant	1

Base : 10

Victim of violence

During your lifetime, have you ever experienced any of the following form of violence?



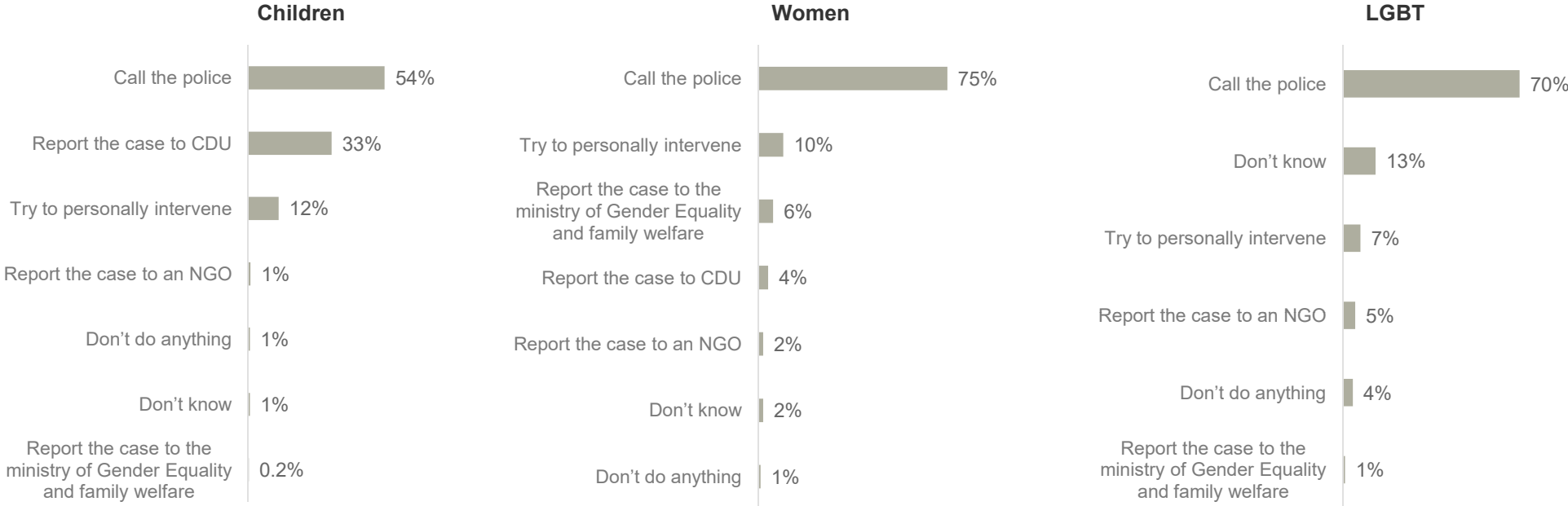
Base : 500

Can you tell us if it was during.....?

	Childhood at home	Childhood at school	Childhood others place....(to specify)	Adolescence (precise the place...)	Adulthood at parent's place	Adulthood at spouse's place	Adulthood at work	Adulthood others place... (to specify)
Physical - Have a slap (base: 185)	89%	46%	1%	2%	1%	11%		
Physical - hitting with a belt/stick) (base: 120)	82%	59%		0.90%		6%		
Psychological (insults, verbal harassment) (base: 55)	37%	10%		6%	10%	38%	12%	2%
Psychological (bullying) (base:15)*	17%	35%	15%	27%		21%		

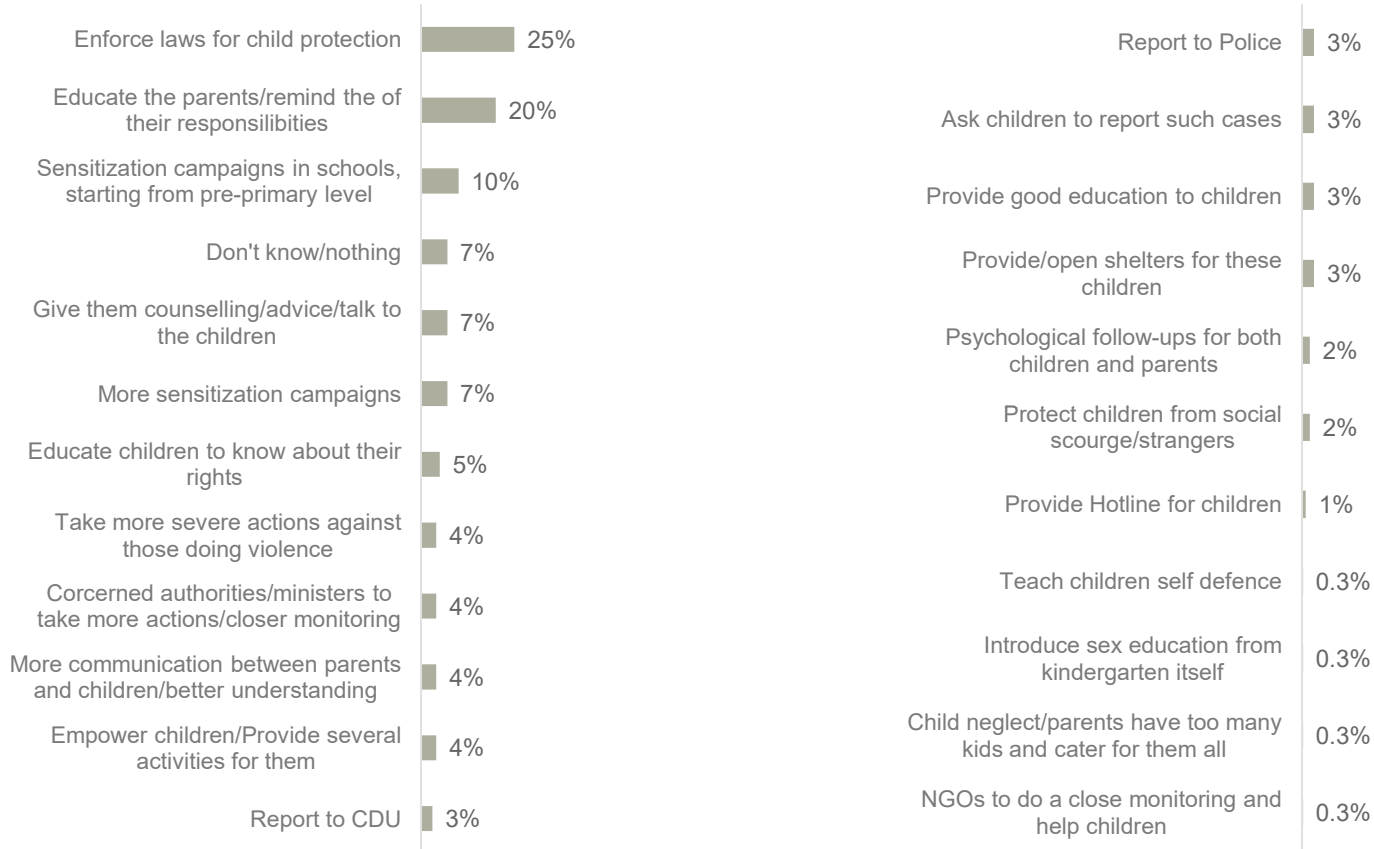
* caution: sample is too small to draw conclusions

If aware of victims : proposed solution to help victims of violence



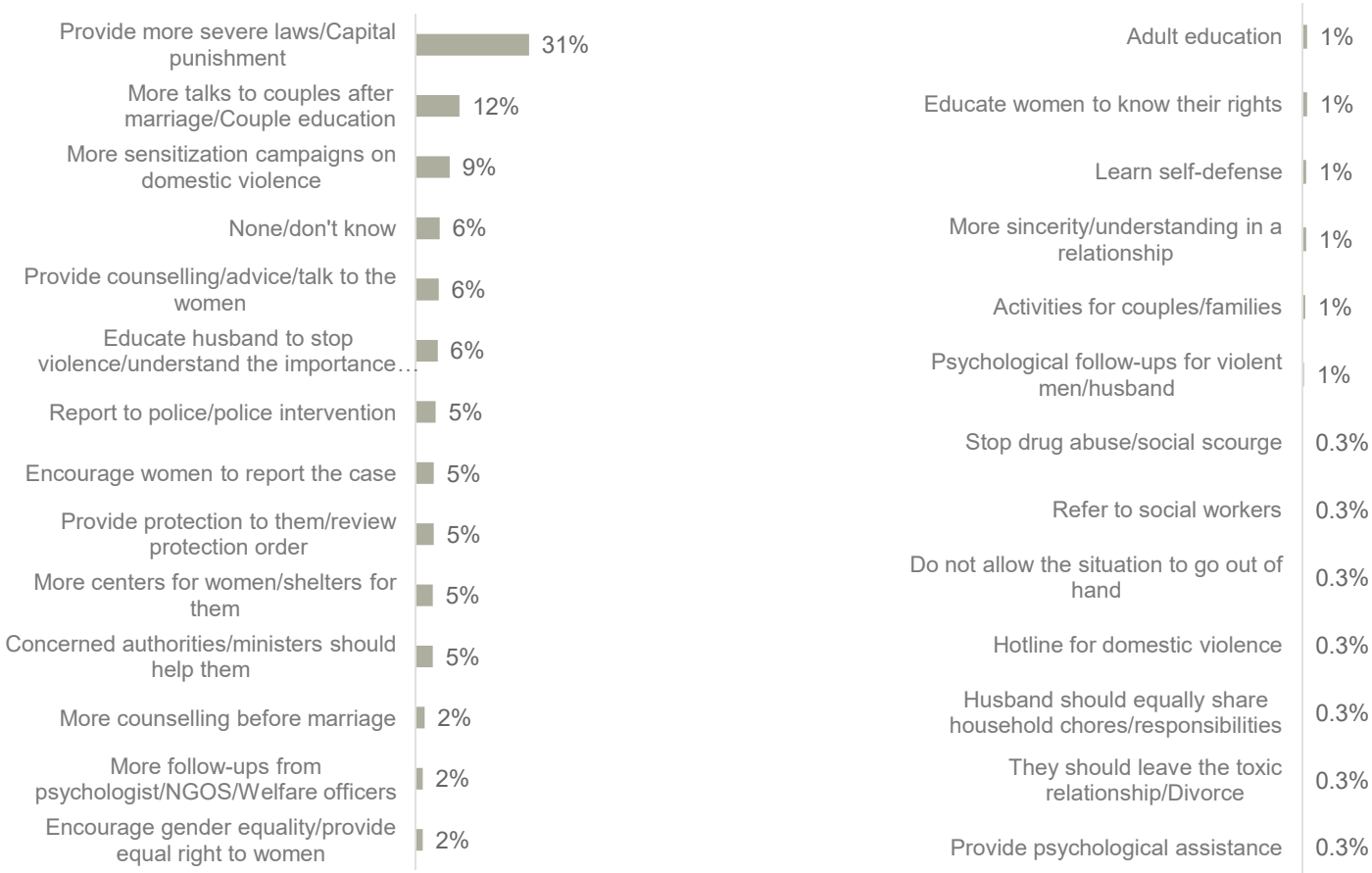
Base : 500

Proposed solution to help victims of violence - Children

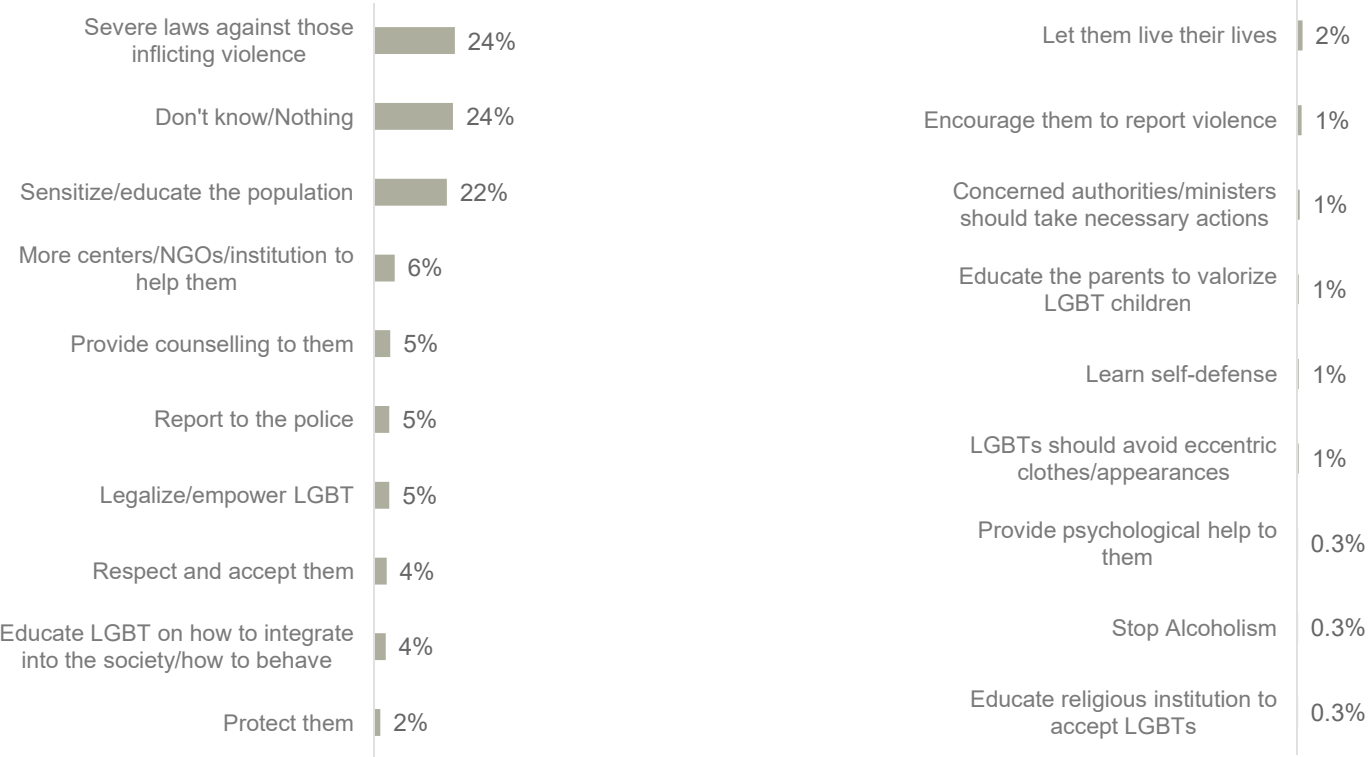


Base: 500 respondents

Proposed solution to help victims of violence - Women



Proposed solution to help victims of violence - LGBT



Base: 500 respondents

Q. According to you, what can be done to protect victims of violence in Mauritius?

Thank you

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