



GMMP+30

NATIONAL REPORT
SURINAME



GMMP+30

Global Media
Monitoring
Project

2025



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GMMP 2025 is coordinated by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), an international NGO which promotes communication for social change.



Data for GMMP 2025 were collected through the collective voluntary effort of hundreds of organizations including gender and media activists, grassroots communication groups, university researchers, students, mediaprofessionals, journalists' associations, alternative media networks and faith groups.

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Grantangi

Sandra Clenem

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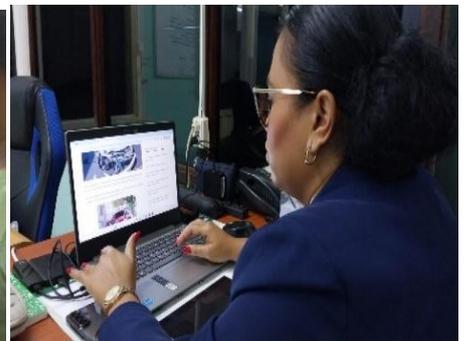


Table of contents

PREFACE	5
Global Context	5
Regional Context	10
National Context	12
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	14
A DAY IN THE NEWS IN SURINAME	17
THE CONTEXT	18
TOPICS IN THE NEWS	20
NEWS SUBJECTS AND SOURCES	21
JOURNALISTS AND REPORTERS	22
JOURNALISTIC PRACTICE: ON WOMEN'S CENTRALITY, GENDER STEREOTYPES AND RIGHTS-BASED REPORTING	23
FOCUS ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE	25
CASE STUDY	26
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	27
RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN 2026-2030	28
Annex 1. Methodology	29
Annex 2. List of Monitors	31

PREFACE

Global Context

Preface

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action premised that “Women’s empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace” (United Nations, 1995). Specifically, the Declaration in its Section “J” established the following objectives related to women and media: Strategic objective J1. “Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication. Strategic Objective J2. Promote a balanced and nonstereotyped portrayal of women in the media” (United Nations, 1995).

The first global monitoring was sparked by a need for empirical evidence on women’s place, role and participation in the news.¹ The Beijing Platform for Action thereafter enshrined media monitoring as a strategy to achieve strategic objective J1. Non-governmental organizations and media professional associations were encouraged to establish “media watch groups that can monitor the media and consult with the media to ensure that women’s needs and concerns are properly reflected” (para 242a)

The GMMP evolved into the largest and longest-running research and advocacy initiative for gender equality in and through the news media. In five-year spurts since 1995, the GMMP takes a snapshot of key gender equality dimensions in the news. Across thirty years to date, the GMMP has built the data from over 160 countries, with at least one observation for each variable and country.

The global news media landscape has changed profoundly, yet women’s place within it has not. The evolution of women’s encounters with the sector across the period has not been as dramatic. The GMMP reveals that, in many ways, the status quo of gross underrepresentation and misrepresentation in content has persisted.

Global findings. The highlights

The global findings are based on 29,935 news articles containing 58,321 people and 26,560 news personnel in 94 countries on the 7th global monitoring day, May 6, 2025.

- 1. Thirty years ago, the report of the first GMMP called for a shift in coverage beyond the male-dominated realms of political and economic power. Not only has the hierarchy of “hard news” in legacy media persisted across time, it has also crossed over into digital outlets.**

¹ Read more in the full text of the Bangkok Declaration, outcome of the 1994 “Women Empowering Communication” conference at which the idea of a GMMP was birthed. <https://whomakesthenews.org/wp-content/uploads/who-makes-the-news/Imported/documents/bangkok%20declaration.pdf>

Digitalization did not bring a radical break from the patriarchal norms of traditional journalism. Instead, it continues to reinforce and amplify a news hierarchy that privileges spheres and issues centred on power, namely, those dominated by men. The challenge is threefold. First, to dismantle the “hard news” bias, second, to integrate more intentionally spaces and issues of greater concern to women, and third, to enable visibility and voice to women present in traditionally male-dominated spaces.

2. After a period of slow but steady improvement, progress toward gender parity in the news has flatlined since around 2010, failing to reach 50% in any media type.

Thirty years after Beijing, women are 26% of those seen, heard, or spoken about in legacy news (29% on news websites). The needle has shifted 9 points in legacy media since 1995, and 4 points in online news during the past 10 years.

Minority groups are five points more likely to be present in digital news than in legacy media. The probability of minority women being featured in the news as the main protagonists or as interviewees is two in a hundred in traditional media (3% for men) and 4% on news websites (5% for men).

3. Women’s visibility in political and economic news has increased significantly – by 15 points each – over the past three decades.

The severe underrepresentation noted in 1995 (7% in political news, 10% in economic news) has improved. Women’s presence in sports news is abysmal, at only 15% of news subjects and sources.

4. The proportion of women providing expert testimony has grown remarkably over the decades, showing the highest increase (+7 points) in digital news since 2015.

In legacy media, the gender gap in authoritative roles as experts and spokespersons has closed at a slower pace than for persons providing testimony based on popular opinion and personal experience – ordinary roles that require no specialized knowledge.

5. Patterns of gender-biased portrayal endure despite decades of change in women’s roles in the physical world

Women have remained about twice as likely as men to be portrayed as victims since 2010. Historically, women were most often portrayed as victims of accidents or poverty. This pattern was overturned in 2025, with “other crime” and “domestic violence” (by intimate partners and family members) becoming the top victim categories.

Women depicted as survivors in legacy media were most likely to have survived “accidents, natural disasters, poverty, and disease” in previous GMMP studies. In 2025, they are most frequently portrayed as domestic violence survivors in equal proportion to accident/disaster survivors.

The over-representation of women as homemakers/parents decreased from 81% in 2000 to 73% in 2025, indicating progress although a persistent journalistic bias toward defining women by domestic roles, despite women's current unprecedented engagement in work outside the home. Underrepresentation in occupations and in positions of power has remained consistent.

The tendency to describe women by their age and physical attributes has also persisted. They have been photographed more often than men (a 7–9-point difference) over the past two decades, with qualitative analysis continuing to show patterns of sexualized portrayal.

6. Gender inequality in the news is much more acute than in the lived experience.

Gender equality in the news, measured by the GEM Index, is moderately correlated with gender indices in other development sectors such as the Gender Social Norms Index. Between 65% to 75% of media gender inequality cannot be explained by reality, indicating the presence of other confounding factors at play that co-mingle to produce the prevailing gendered news narratives.

7. Women's share as reporters in stories published in newspapers and aired on television and radio has risen and stagnated in spurts since 1995.

Globally, the proportion of women as reporters in legacy media rose 6 points from 2000 to 2005, stalling at 37% for 10 years until 2015, rising 3 points again between 2015 to 2020, and gaining just two points in the past five years. The regions approach and consistently fail to achieve parity, except for the Pacific and the Caribbean, exactly at equality, and North America just a single point below. The findings suggest most news systems are willing to absorb a certain proportion of female labor in the reporter role, but not to cede to full numerical gender equality.

In legacy news media, the gender gap in political reporting has narrowed the fastest (+13 points in 25 years) – outside the sports beat – yet it remains the topic least reported by women. For the first time in 25 years, women now constitute a majority (52%) of science and health reporters. The new tracking of sports news reveals a severely low proportion of female reporters (17%).

Women's share as reporters in national and international stories has seen significant long-term growth (+18 and +16 points, respectively).

8. The sex of the journalist influences the gender lens in stories

The gender lens has historically been found to be sharper in articles by women reporters. Across three decades, a consistent 5–6-point gender gap has existed in source selection, where female reporters feature more female sources than their male colleagues. This gap is even wider (9 points) in digital news. The gender-lens gap between female and male journalists is largest on the indicator regarding women's centrality in the news. The difference is just 1-2 points on other indicators measuring news quality from a gender perspective, but that it exists is an important finding.

9. Gender-based violence is a blind spot in the news. When GBV makes the news, however, the gender lens in reporting is sharper than in stories on all other topics.

Less than 2% of stories cover gender-based violence. This low count is at odds with the serious nature of GBV affecting one in three women and girls worldwide.

Stories on gender-based violence produced by female journalists are more likely to raise gender (in)equality issues than those by men.

While the gender lens is sharper in GBV stories compared to other major topics, there remains enormous room for improvement if news media are to participate in creating a society in which GBV is understood as deviant, criminal, and a violation of fundamental human rights.

10. The bulk of news stories remains deficient in the GMMP dimensions of quality from a gender perspective

The proportion of news stories that clearly challenge gender stereotypes rose from 3% (2005) to 6% (2010) but declined and has remained stagnant at 3-4% since 2015. This indicates an entrenchment of stereotypes in reporting and a consistent journalistic failure to produce content that disrupts stereotypical narratives.

The regional comparisons show significant variations. North American news is exceptional, clearly challenging gender stereotypes in 19% of stories, in sharp contrast to Middle Eastern news, where only 1% overturn simplistic narratives about the roles, attributes, and capabilities of people based on gender.

Gender stereotypes are most prevalent in stories about politics and the economy, both spheres where men are the majority power holders. Over time, challenging stereotypes remains largely confined to topics in which it is safer to challenge the skewed gender power relations status quo. These are celebrity/arts/media, and social/legal news. GBV stories challenge gender stereotypes more than any other news, at 17%. While commendable, this level is insufficient to transform the harmful norms that perpetuate such violence.

The likelihood of news stories to cite human rights or gender equality frameworks has fluctuated modestly, hovering between 7% and 11% over the 15 years that this indicator has been measured. A human rights lens is absent in approximately 9 out of 10 stories.

Online stories are less likely to integrate a human rights lens than those published in legacy media, but the probability of women being the central protagonists in a news story is higher in digital news (15%, compared to 10% in traditional news).

In all story topics except for GBV news, the sex of the reporter matters slightly for the integration of a gender lens. 3% of stories by women clearly challenge gender stereotypes, compared to 2% of those by men. 12% of stories by women highlight gender (in)equality issues, compared to 10% for men. 8% of articles by women adopt a human rights framing, compared to 7% of those by men. In the case of GBV stories, for instance, female reporters are more than 10 points more likely to call attention to gender inequality than those by men.

The GMMP message in 2025, thirty years post-Beijing, is a global news industry whose progress towards gender equality has reached a crossroads.

The almost standstill pace of change in the past 15 years points to a need for a radical shift in strategies by all actors in the news ecosystem to break the inertia. Under the current conditions and with the current tools, remarkable change towards gender equality is unlikely.

The negative impacts of digitalization on the news industry and gender relations online as a whole will undoubtedly make the task of securing women's rights in and through digital news more complex.

Regional Context

The Caribbean includes a geographically and culturally diverse group of countries, some being island nations while others are on the Caribbean coast of mainland Central and South America.

The twelve countries participating in GMMP 2025 included four languages areas - Spanish, Haitian Kweyol, English and Dutch. These countries vary considerably in population, from less than a hundred thousand (Commonwealth of Dominica) to almost 11 million (Dominican Republic).

Gender Equality in the Caribbean:

Many Caribbean nations have a legal framework that protects gender equality, and most are signatories to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In most countries, women's access to secondary education and to participation in the labour force is high, although economic inequality exists with persistent gender wage gaps.

Despite educational gains, women face higher unemployment and are often concentrated in lower-paying jobs. Additionally, women undertake most of the unpaid care work.

Deep-rooted cultural norms and practices perpetuate gender inequality, despite legal reforms, and women remain underrepresented in political leadership. Across the region the average rate of gender-based violence is significantly higher than the global average.

The United Nations Gender Equality/Inequality Indices for Caribbean nations vary considerably: global gender equality rankings vary from a fairly high ranking of 63 (Antigua & Barbuda) to a lower ranking of 165 (Haiti).

Country	Gender Inequality Index - 2023	Global Gender Equality Rank 2023
Antigua & Barbuda	0.24	63
Trinidad & Tobago	0.26	69
Cuba	0.30	75
Bahamas	0.32	81
Jamaica	0.36	88
Suriname	0.39	97
Dominican Republic	0.42	106
Guyana	0.43	109
Belize	0.43	110
Haiti	0.62	165

Table 1

The news media in the Caribbean:

Across the region, progress towards gender equality and communication rights has been advanced as well as hindered by the news media. Some examples of advances are the Codes of Practice at some media houses which take account of gender and violence. Similarly the Broadcasting Codes for Children's Programming (e.g. Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago) seek to include a gender perspective. However, the reality is that in the Caribbean, and across the world, the cultural underpinnings of gender inequality and discrimination against women are often reinforced through the media.

Traditional news media remain an important source of information, ideas and opinion for many Caribbean citizens, however social media and online news sites are increasingly influential and in some places are 'taking over'. In some cases, newspapers have moved online and there is no longer a printed version of the publication. In the evolution of traditional media use, the Dominican Republic stands out. According the 2025 GMMP volunteer group in that country, radio is no longer a significant source of news and was therefore not included in the monitoring exercise.

Who and what appears in the news? How are women and men portrayed? Who is left out? What topics and events are covered - or not covered? These are some of the questions that the GMMP news monitoring seeks to answer.

Some Caribbean countries have participated in every GMMP since 1995 and the four main language areas are represented in GMMP - Spanish, Haitian Kweyol, English and Dutch. An interesting mix of civil society, academic and media organizations have led the GMMP initiative in the region, and along the way, well over a one hundred volunteer media monitors have been trained to carry the GMMP project forward.

WMW-Jamaica, a small women's rights organization (formerly Women's Media Watch), has participated in the GMMP since the pioneering study in 1995 and has been responsible for preparing the Caribbean Reports for GMMP since 2010.

National Context

Suriname does not have a national action plan specifically addressing Section J (“Women and the Media”) of the Beijing Platform for Action. However, gender equality priorities are articulated in the **Gender Vision Policy Document 2021–2035**, which outlines long-term national objectives across seven key areas:

1. Labour, income, and poverty reduction
2. Education, upbringing, and training
3. Health
4. Control and decision-making
5. Gender-based violence
6. Laws and regulations
7. Environment and climate change

The Ministry of the Interior holds primary responsibility for national gender policy through its implementing body, the **Bureau of Gender Affairs (PGI)**. This office coordinates, supervises, and monitors the execution of the Gender Vision Policy. To effectively fulfill these responsibilities particularly given existing challenges in gender-policy implementation, data collection, and institutional capacity the Ministry of the Interior and PGI must pursue several key actions in the coming years:

- **Finalize an organizational structure** for the Bureau of Gender Affairs that ensures adequate decision-making authority and sufficient human, technical, and financial resources to advance gender equality.
- **Use the Gender Policy Document 2021–2035 as a strategic guide**, translating it into annual work plans with measurable indicators and anticipated outcomes.
- **Integrate gender priorities into Suriname’s national development plans**, ensuring that annual gender-related activities are incorporated into the respective ministries’ annual plans and budgets.
- **Apply gender mainstreaming** across the design and implementation of all laws, policies, and programmes developed by ministries and legislative bodies.
- **Establish a cooperation and monitoring mechanism** within the Bureau of Gender Affairs to support ministries in preparing and implementing annual or multi-year work plans. This mechanism would work closely with Ministerial Planning Units.
- **Maintain an active network** with civil-society organizations and stakeholders to support the monitoring, evaluation, and updating of gender-policy activities and to stay informed about societal developments affecting gender equality.
- **Create a national gender database**, in partnership with the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS), to systematically collect, analyze, and disseminate gender-disaggregated data by age, location, and other variables.
- **Develop a permanent legal-review mechanism** to ensure that laws and regulations are consistent with gender-related international agreements to which Suriname is a party and to monitor the status of gender-equality legislation in Parliament.

The current system of **Gender Focal Points (GFPs)** within each ministry has not always functioned effectively. As part of the new coordination and monitoring mechanisms, the GFP system will be evaluated to determine its effectiveness, identify gaps, and propose improvements or alternative coordination models. The design of these mechanisms will be further elaborated by the Bureau of Gender Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior in line with the national priority areas.

Media Regulation and Environment in Suriname

Media operations in Suriname fall under a legal and regulatory framework that seeks to balance freedom of expression with protections for the public interest. The **Constitution of Suriname guarantees freedom of the press and freedom of expression**.

Key regulatory provisions stem from the **Telecommunications Provisions Act of 2004**, which governs broadcasting and telecommunications. Under this law, the **Telecommunication Authority Suriname (TAS)** is responsible for issuing broadcast licenses, assigning radio frequencies, and monitoring compliance with technical and regulatory standards. Any radio or television broadcaster must hold a valid TAS license before transmitting.

From this framework, several characteristics of Suriname's media environment emerge:

- **Mixed regulatory environment:** While constitutional protections exist, restrictive laws—particularly those related to defamation and “hate speech”—can influence what topics media outlets choose to cover.
- **Economic constraints:** Many media organizations face financial limitations, which may reduce investigative reporting and increase susceptibility to economic or political pressure.
- **Fragmented oversight:** Media regulation is decentralized and lacks a single independent media authority, making it difficult to evaluate compliance or assess media diversity consistently.
- **Self-censorship:** As a result of legal risks, financial pressures, and social constraints, journalists may avoid reporting on sensitive topics, a factor that must be considered when analyzing media content or interpreting media-monitoring results.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

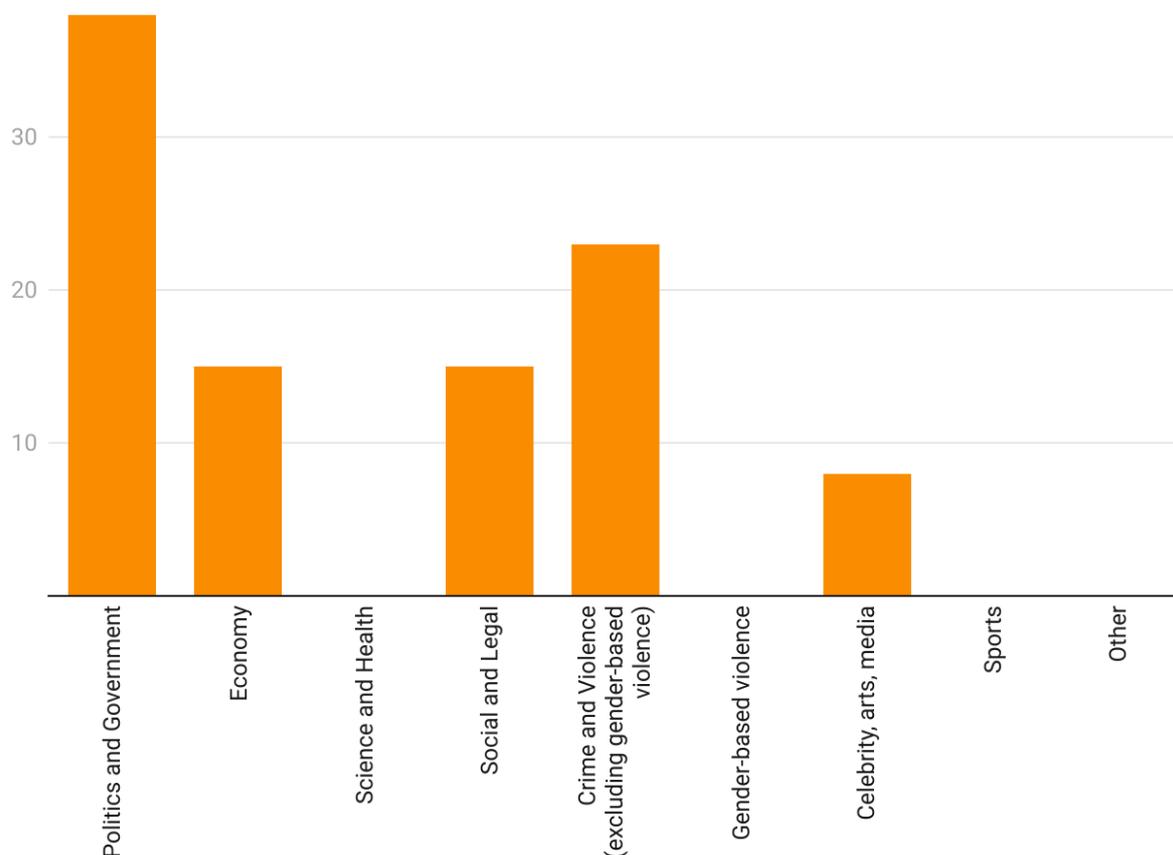
The most recent GMMP monitoring results show that women remain structurally underrepresented in the news media. In traditional media, women account for only **30%** of news sources, representing a significant decline of **8 percentage points** compared to 2020 (38%).

In online media, the share of female sources has increased to **22%**, but this figure remains strikingly low. Women are almost entirely absent from coverage related to science, health, sports, and the economy. Only in socio-legal topics within online news do women constitute a majority of sources (56%).

Notably, in the categories of sports and celebrity/media, not a single female source was recorded.

Figure 1

[Subjects print, radio & television]



Created with Datawrapper

This unequal representation is further reinforced by persistent gender stereotypes. Media portray men and women not only in disproportionate numbers, but also through frames that fix roles and characteristics in stereotypical ways. Such framing contributes to enduring and inaccurate perceptions of social relations (Hall et al., 2013). The ways in which women and men are depicted are closely connected to broader political, social, cultural, and economic structures, and they directly influence how policies are designed, implemented, and evaluated.

Research consistently shows that men are primarily represented within the public and professional sphere, whereas women are more often associated with the private sphere (Van Zoonen, 1999; Macdonald, 1995; Smelik, 1999; Milestone & Meyer, 2012). As a result, men tend to be linked to *hard news* topics such as politics and economics and to “hard” professional roles, while women appear more frequently in *soft news* areas such as social issues or legislation and in “softer” occupational roles (De Vuyst et al., 2016).

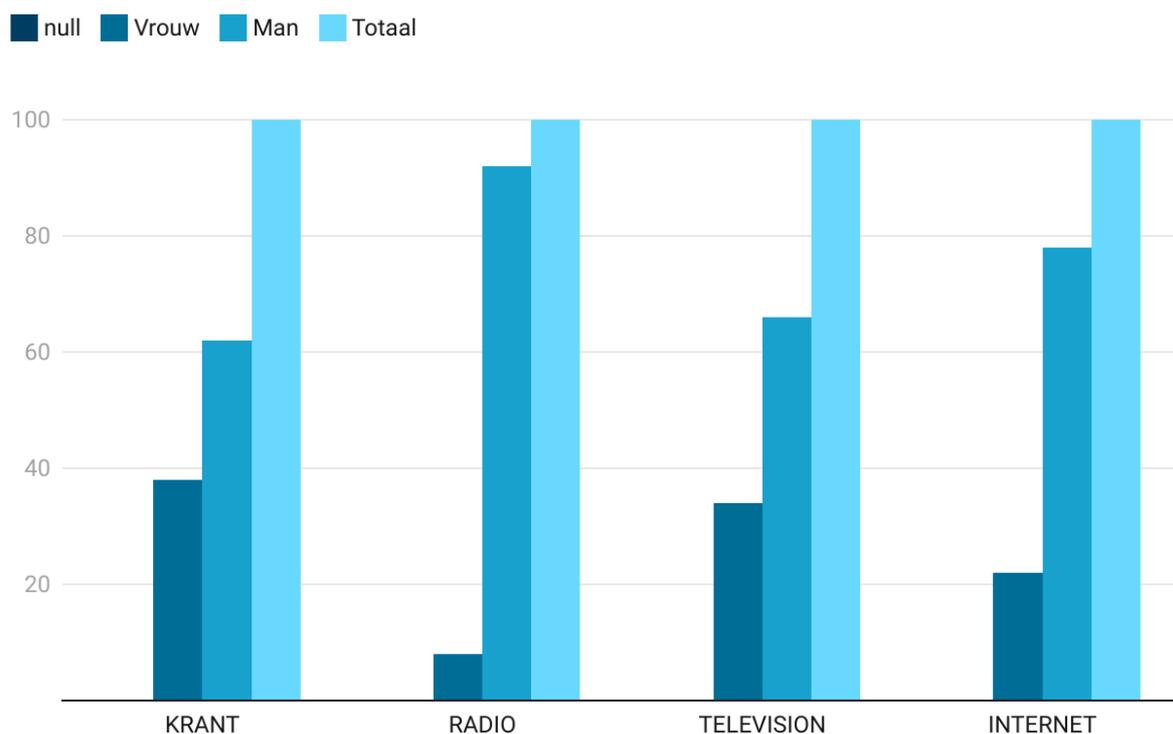
Findings from the 7th edition of the GMMP reveal that within print, radio, and television, women perform relatively better as sources in the fields of economics (42%) and politics (37%) compared to other domains. However, this visibility does not significantly influence the overall picture. In online media, women are strongly represented in socio-legal topics (56%), but in most other areas their presence remains extremely limited. Notably, no female sources were included in coverage of sports, celebrity/media news, or reporting on gender-based violence.

Overall, the average share of female news sources remains alarmingly low:

- **Print/Radio/TV:** 12.4%
- **Internet:** 11.0%

Figure 2

[Vrouwen in het nieuws (bronnen) per medium Verdeling naar geslacht van alle media]



Created with Datawrapper

The minimal difference between traditional and online media indicates that both sectors are making insufficient progress and that structural gender inequality continues to persist within journalistic practice.

Although various training programmes have been offered to media professionals in recent years, there has been little visible improvement. Policy follow-up has also remained limited. Within the policies of the relevant ministries, namely the Ministry of Home Affairs (gender

policy), the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism (media licensing), and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (media policy), there are no concrete actions or effective implementation of **Section J: Women and the Media** of the Beijing Platform for Action. As a result, the role of the government in promoting gender equality in the media sector remains underdeveloped and insufficiently implemented.

Furthermore, although Suriname has ratified key international agreements, including **CEDAW** (1993), the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** (1993), the **ICPD Programme of Action** (1994), the **Beijing Platform for Action** (1995), and the **Belém do Pará Convention** (2002), these commitments have hardly been translated into national media policy frameworks, monitoring mechanisms, or concrete interventions.

These findings highlight the urgent need for:

- **Policy integration:** explicit inclusion of gender equality in media policy, licensing procedures, and regulatory oversight.
- **Institutional accountability:** a clear division of responsibilities among the ministries involved in implementing Section J.
- **Monitoring and enforcement:** systematic data collection, established benchmarks, and periodic reporting on gender representation in the media.
- **Capacity building:** more targeted and effective training for media professionals to promote gender-sensitive journalism.

Strengthening these policy areas is essential to reduce structural inequality in the media sector and to ensure compliance with both national and international obligations.

A DAY IN THE NEWS IN SURINAME

On Tuesday, **6 May 2025**, the Media Monitoring Project was also carried out in **Suriname**. Over the course of the day, **110 media items** were reviewed.

Table 2

MEDIA	AANTAL
KRANTENARTIKELEN	13
TELEVISIEBERICHTEN	31
RADIOBERICHTEN	21
INTERNETBERICHTEN	45

The media agenda was largely centered on political content, with a strong emphasis on the upcoming **National Assembly (Parliamentary) elections**. Coverage mainly consisted of candidate promotion and campaign messaging, alongside voter education initiatives such as explanations of the electoral process. This focus indicates a strategic use of the media to shape public opinion and encourage electoral participation in the period leading up to the elections.

A total of **148 sources** (see Table) were identified within the analyzed items. These sources included individuals, literature, and other media outlets.

Table 3

MEDIA	AANTAL
KRANTENARTIKELEN	17
TELEVISIEBERICHTEN	38
RADIOBERICHTEN	13
INTERNETBERICHTEN	80

In total, **122 reporters, news anchors, and interviewers** contributed to the production of the monitored media content. Notably, television and online news platforms typically relied on around three reporters to produce six to seven items, whereas radio news often involved a single newsreader responsible for approximately five items.

THE CONTEXT

Suriname's media landscape is diverse and multilingual, reflecting the country's complex cultural composition and political environment. The media sector includes a combination of state-owned and private outlets, operating across print, radio, television, and increasingly digital platforms. Traditional media such as newspapers and radio remain influential, particularly among older audiences and in rural districts, while online news platforms have gained prominence among younger audiences and urban populations.

Media content in Suriname is strongly shaped by political developments, with election periods generating high volumes of campaign-related coverage. News production is often concentrated in Paramaribo, and reporting frequently relies on official sources, including government representatives and political spokespersons. This structural reliance on institutional voices has implications for diversity in sourcing, including gender representation. The GMMP monitoring was conducted to assess the extent to which women and men are represented in Surinamese news media, both as subjects and as sources. The monitoring provides a snapshot of gender patterns in news content and journalistic practice, contributing to global comparative data and national policy reflection.

Media Monitored and Sampling Rationale

The monitoring exercise was carried out on Tuesday, 6 May 2025, in accordance with GMMP's global methodology. The selected media outlets were chosen based on their national relevance, audience reach, credibility, and representation of different ownership structures and linguistic communities.

Special attention was given to Suriname's multilingual context. Media were selected in Dutch as well as in widely spoken community languages such as Sarnami, Javanese, and Sranantongo, which functions as a lingua franca across ethnic groups.

The sample included:

- Two major national newspapers
- Two widely accessed radio news providers
- Four leading online news platforms
- Four television news broadcasters

This selection ensured coverage across media formats and reflected the most influential news sources shaping public discourse in Suriname.

Based on these considerations, the following media outlets were selected:

Newspapers

- *De Ware Tijd*
- *Times of Suriname*

Radio

- Radio 10
- Radio Garuda

Online News Platforms

- Starnieuws
- Keynews
- Sun.sr
- Waterkant.net

Television

- TV Trishul
- STVS
- ATV
- ABC Televisie

Monitoring Team

The Suriname monitoring team consisted of trained coders who participated in both online and in-person GMMP capacity-building sessions. These trainings focused on standardized coding procedures, selection criteria, and gender-sensitive media analysis.

The monitoring team included:

1. Sandra Clenem
2. David Bijlhout
3. Mitera Clenem
4. Sharon Linger
5. Keshia Marengo
6. Janiva Samuels

The team worked collaboratively to ensure consistency, accuracy, and adherence to GMMP monitoring standards.

TOPICS IN THE NEWS

Figure 3

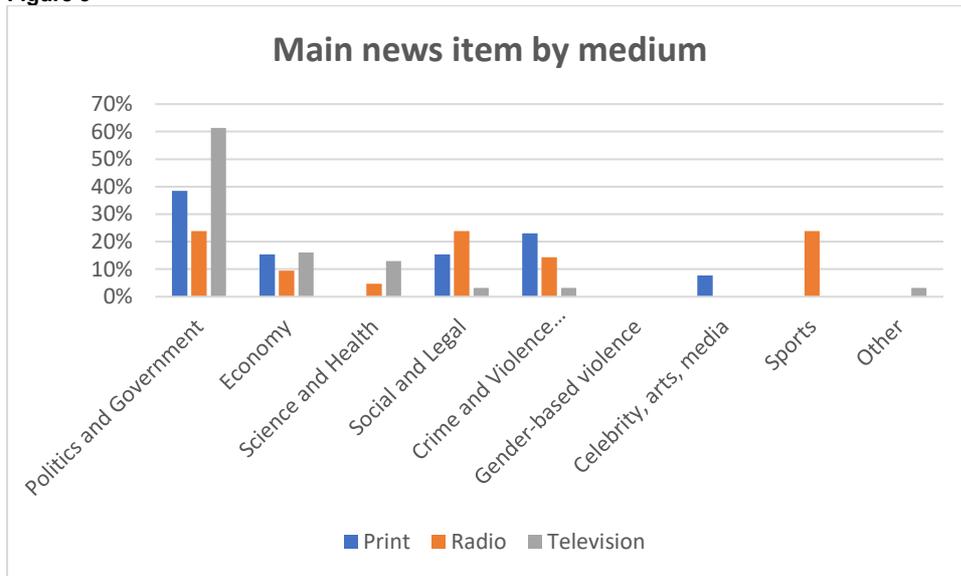
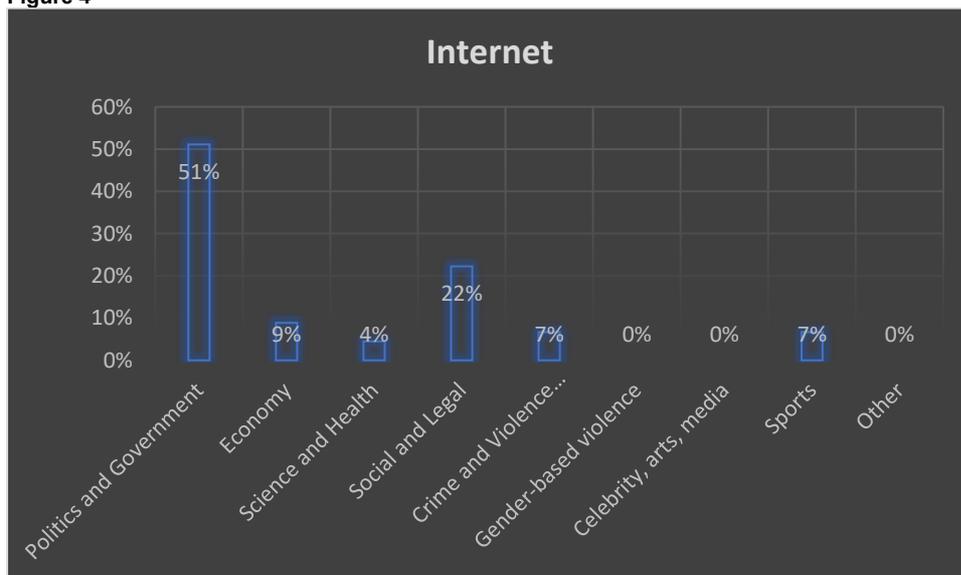


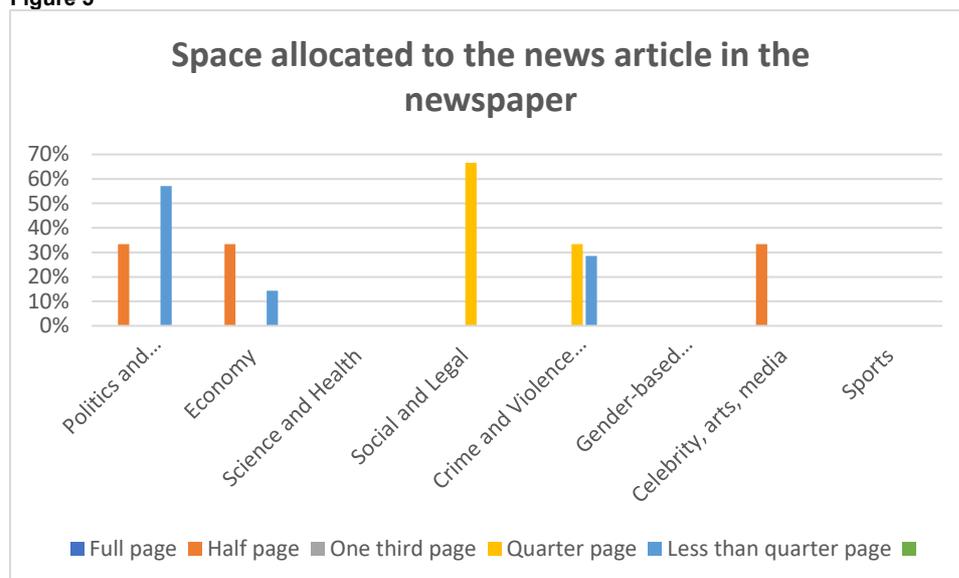
Figure 4



As shown in Figures [3 & 4], politics was the dominant news topic in both traditional media (41%) and online news (51%). This is not surprising, as preparations for the upcoming elections were in full swing and political actors were actively seeking media attention.

Political coverage was particularly prominent on television, where it accounted for as much as 61% of all news items. It is also important to note that reports categorized under “social and legal” issues were often framed within the context of political campaigning or counter-campaigning, rather than as independent social reporting. Photographs from political campaigns frequently occupied a large portion of newspaper front pages, further underscoring the strong focus on electoral politics.

Figure 5

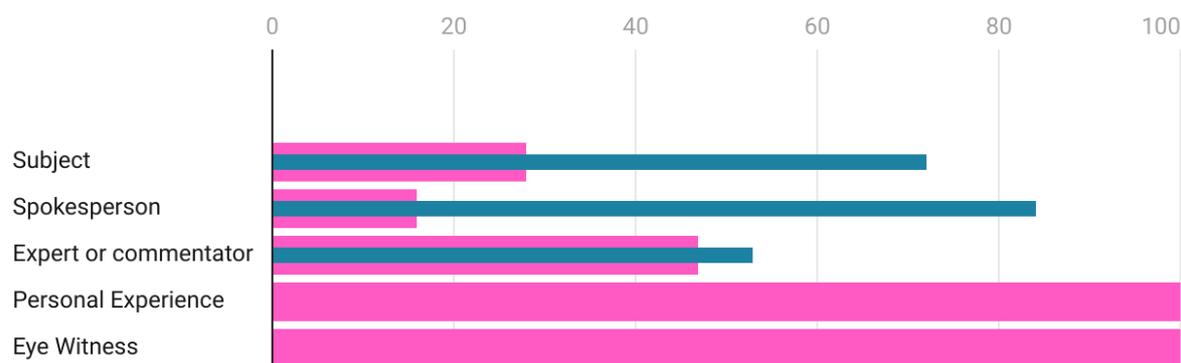


NEWS SUBJECTS AND SOURCES

The 2025 study shows that in traditional media, women were most frequently consulted as experts in the areas of politics and government (37%), economics (42%), and crime (33%). In online media, however, the pattern differs. Women were most often consulted in relation to social and legal issues (56%), followed by politics and government (22%) and science and health (20%).

Figure 6

Female Male



Created with Datawrapper

In total, **64 individuals** were interviewed during the monitoring day. Among those interviewed, **one woman** was consulted as an eyewitness and **one woman** was included based on personal experience.

As shown in **Figure 6**, men were more frequently consulted as experts (53%), compared to women (47%). Men were also far more often approached as spokespersons (84%), whereas women accounted for only 16% in this role.

JOURNALISTS AND REPORTERS

Figure 6

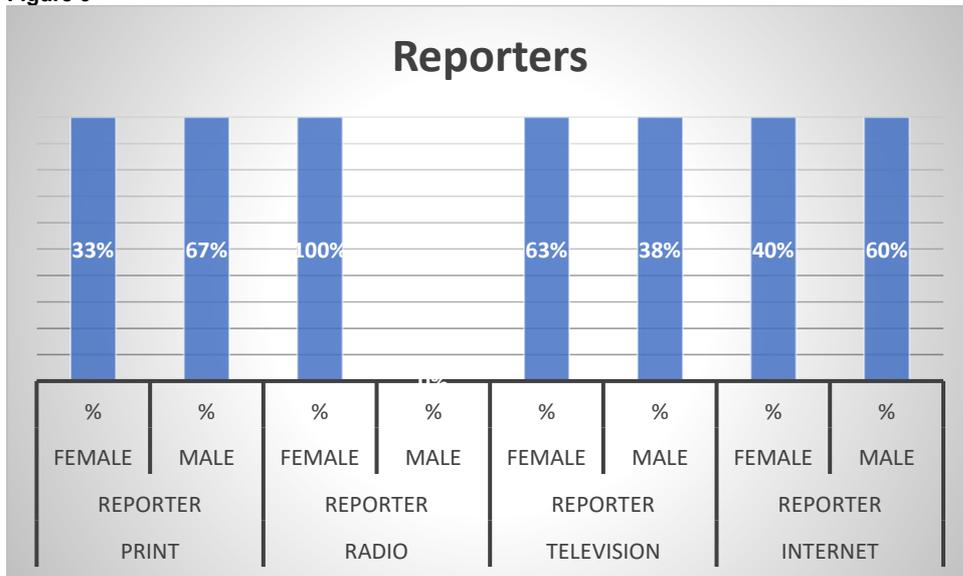
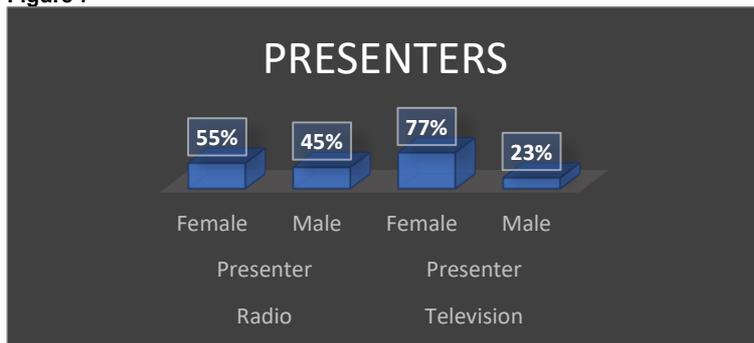
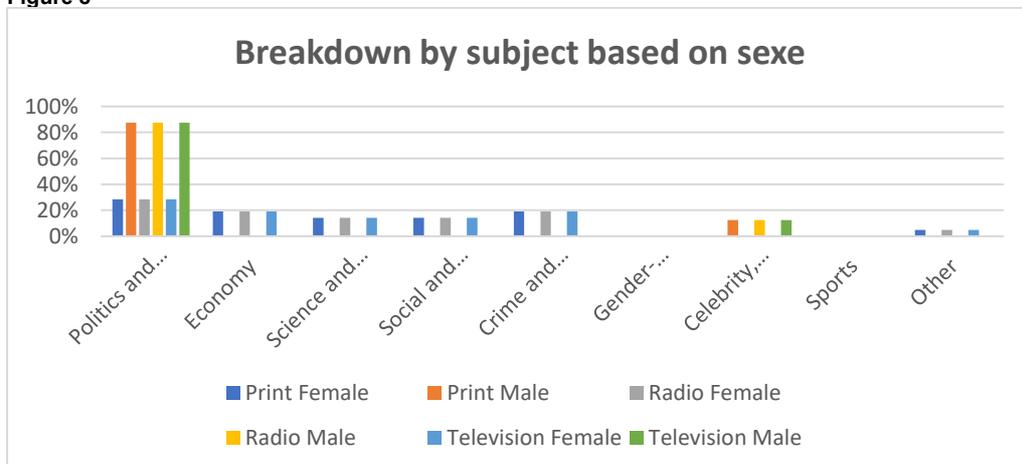


Figure 7



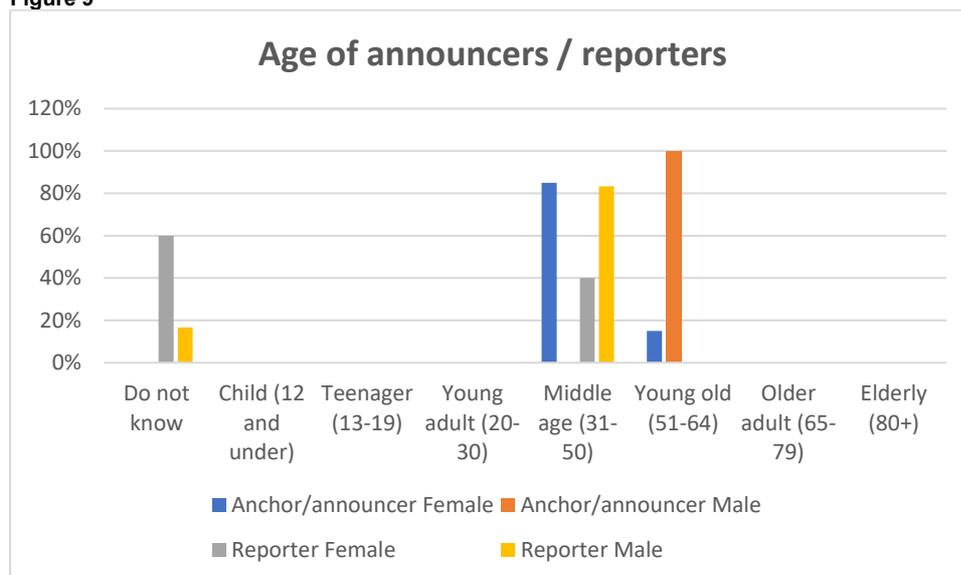
The news is predominantly presented by women. On radio, **55%** of newsreaders are female, while on television this figure rises to **77%**.

Figure 8



The table shows that political topics in both traditional and online news are reported predominantly by men, who account for **88%** of the coverage.

Figure 9



This suggests that men remain more likely to be assigned to “hard news” beats such as politics and governance, while women may be more concentrated in other journalistic functions.

Age Patterns

The ages of announcers and reporters ranged from 31 to 64 years. Most female presenters were between 31 and 50 years old, while the largest group of male presenters fell within the 51–64 age range.

A number of reporters could not be visually assessed due to lack of screen presence, and women formed the largest group within this category.

Overall, while women are visible in newsrooms, their participation does not necessarily translate into equal authority, topic allocation, or influence over sourcing practices.

JOURNALISTIC PRACTICE: ON WOMEN’S CENTRALITY, GENDER STEREOTYPES AND RIGHTS-BASED REPORTING

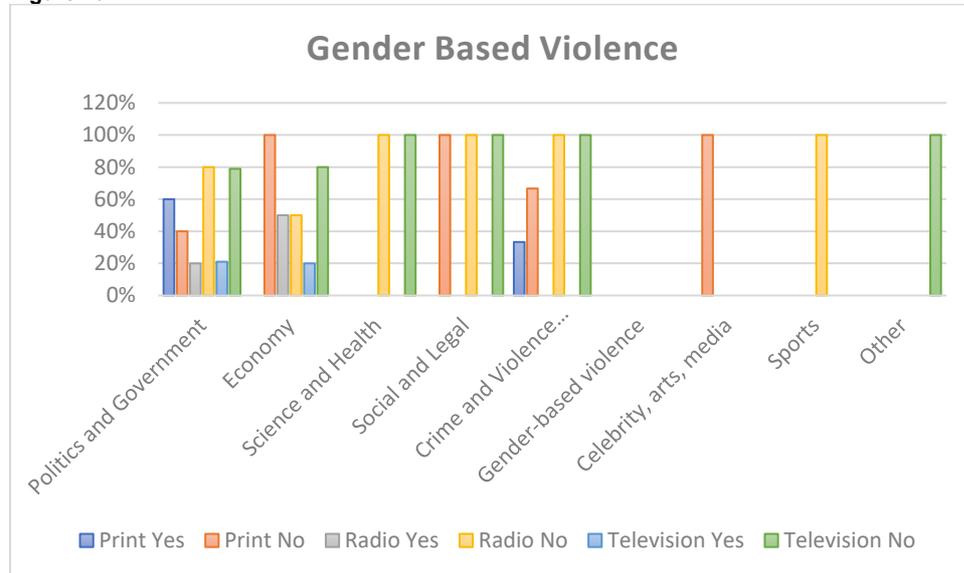
The findings indicate that none of the monitored news items addressed **gender-based violence (GBV)** as a central topic. Gender-based violence refers to acts of violence perpetrated against individuals on the basis of their gender or socially constructed gender roles. Although women and girls are disproportionately affected, men, boys, and individuals with diverse gender identities may also experience such violence.

GBV encompasses a broad range of manifestations, including:

- **Physical violence**, such as assault and bodily harm
- **Sexual violence**, including rape, sexual abuse, and harassment
- **Psychological and emotional violence**, such as intimidation, humiliation, and coercive control
- **Economic violence**, involving financial deprivation or enforced dependency
- **Harmful practices**, including forced marriage and so-called honour-related violence

The underlying causes of gender-based violence are frequently linked to structural inequalities, unequal power relations, and discriminatory cultural norms and gender stereotypes. GBV constitutes a fundamental violation of human rights and has profound and long-lasting consequences for the physical and psychological well-being of survivors.

Figure 10



FOCUS ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a critical human rights and public health issue, affecting women and girls disproportionately. Media coverage plays a central role in shaping awareness, accountability, and prevention efforts.

However, the GMMP monitoring recorded no news stories focused on gender-based violence during the monitoring day.

This absence does not imply that GBV is not occurring in Suriname. Rather, it suggests that such stories may not be prioritized within newsroom agendas, may be underreported, or may fail to be framed as structural gender issues.

The lack of GBV coverage represents a missed opportunity for rights-based journalism and reinforces silence around violence that is deeply connected to gender inequality. Future media monitoring and training should encourage greater attention to GBV reporting, survivor-centered approaches, and the inclusion of women's voices in stories addressing violence and justice.

CASE STUDY

Access to Clean Water

A television news item reported on efforts to bring clean water to communities living outside the city. Access to water is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goals and is essential for health and wellbeing.

The news item featured only government representatives, with no inclusion of community members affected by water shortages.

Given that water insecurity often places a disproportionate burden on women—who are frequently responsible for household care and water collection—the absence of women’s voices weakens the story’s social relevance.

A more gender-sensitive approach would have included interviews with women residents to reflect lived realities and strengthen public understanding of the issue.

This case illustrates a broader pattern: women’s perspectives are often excluded even in stories where gendered impacts are significant.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The GMMP 2025 monitoring confirms that gender inequality in Surinamese news media remains deeply structural. Women continue to be significantly underrepresented as news subjects and sources, particularly in domains traditionally associated with power and authority, such as politics, economics, science, and sports. Although women are highly visible as news presenters, this visibility does not translate into equal representation as experts, spokespersons, or decision-makers within news narratives.

Media content continues to reproduce gender stereotypes by assigning men authoritative roles and limiting women's presence to specific topic areas. The near-total absence of women in sports and the lack of reporting on gender-based violence highlight serious gaps in inclusive journalism.

The findings demonstrate that both traditional and online media have made insufficient progress over time, and that gender equality commitments have not yet been effectively institutionalized in media policy or practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN 2026-2030

To advance gender equality in the Surinamese media sector, coordinated action is required across policy, institutions, and journalism practice.

1. Policy Integration

Gender equality must be explicitly incorporated into national media policy frameworks, including licensing procedures, newsroom regulations, and public broadcasting standards.

2. Institutional Accountability

Relevant ministries should define clear responsibilities for implementing Section J (Women and the Media) of the Beijing Platform for Action, supported by inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms.

3. Monitoring and Benchmarks

A national system for ongoing gender monitoring should be established, including:

- annual data collection
- clear benchmarks for improvement
- regular public reporting

4. Capacity Building

Training programs must move beyond awareness and focus on practical newsroom change, including:

- gender-sensitive sourcing
- avoiding stereotypes
- increasing women experts in hard news
- rights-based reporting on GBV

5. Promoting Women's Voices

Media organizations should actively expand databases of women experts, ensure diversity in spokesperson selection, and adopt editorial targets for balanced representation.

6. Strengthening GBV Coverage

Journalists should be trained in ethical, survivor-centered reporting on gender-based violence, ensuring that GBV is treated as a public issue rather than a private incident.

Annex 1. Methodology

Methodology

Over a full 24-hour cycle, thousands of volunteers from the Pacific to the Caribbean monitored their news media, adding their countries' voices to this important pulse-check on gender representation in the news media. The seventh edition of the GMMP was marked by many firsts, highlighting the enhancements introduced to this study over the years. Marking a first for the GMMP, 2025 relied entirely on electronic data capture, with no handwritten forms used; coding sheets were submitted to the technical team either directly through the platform or using the spreadsheet version of the familiar coding template. This was also the first time that the majority of the online data capture was done by in-country teams, who were responsible for over 12,000 entries. Another first was the prominence of internet news items, which surpassed radio entries at the global level and in six of the eight regions, reflecting the ongoing shift toward digital news sources.

Despite these evolutions, the fundamental GMMP methodology has remained consistent over the decades, preserving the comparability of findings across survey rounds.

How the monitoring took place

The GMMP monitoring day brought together a vast global network of volunteers, all committed to answering the question, *how is gender portrayed on an ordinary news day?* The GMMP country networks, ranging from university research teams to media advocacy groups, brought with them deep expertise in local media ecosystems, ensuring that the data captured was contextually grounded, accurately capturing the nuances of news coverage across the world. In some regions, collaboration crossed borders; teams in Latin America and Asia supported neighbouring countries with data entry, ensuring that knowledge and effort were shared wherever needed.

In the lead-up to the monitoring day, the WACC team and regional coordinators ran a series of training sessions on the GMMP methodology. Country teams received refresher training on the sampling methodology and monitoring procedures, along with an introduction to the updated topic breakdowns. Teams had a choice of two monitoring options: full monitoring, which provided a detailed view of gender representation across news media, or short monitoring, which captured only the key GMMP indicators.

The training sessions also covered the use of the GMMP's custom data capture platform, which has been used since 2015. Available in English, French, and Spanish, the platform serves as the central system for consolidating responses from country teams after the monitoring day. On the monitoring day itself, teams carry out the initial data capture offline, as discussion and reflection are a key part of the monitoring process. These collaborative sessions allow teams to review findings, compare interpretations and ensure consistency. To maintain accuracy, radio and television bulletins were recorded, and copies of digital and print media were collected for reference.

The GMMP questions capture quantitative data on four key dimensions of each news item: i) About the story: the topic, story placement and scope; ii) About the people in the story - subjects and sources; iii) About the news personnel - announcers, presenters and reporters - in the story; and, iv) The quality of the story from a gender perspectives -gender stereotypes, women's centrality, rights- and gender equality angles. Country teams can also include up to three additional questions about the people in the story, to explore concerns of specific national interest. Additionally, teams provide qualitative context to aid interpretation, describing the news agenda on the monitoring day, their reasons for selecting particular media outlets, and key features of their national media system. Teams also conduct a structured qualitative analysis following the GMMP's standard framework, complementing the quantitative data with insights that help explain patterns and trends in gender representation in the media.

While teams were not limited in the number of outlets they could monitor, guidance was provided on the recommended minimum through the GMMP media bands chart. The media bands system, first introduced in 2005, was designed to promote a more balanced distribution of data and to provide each country with guidance on the minimum number of media outlets to monitor. The bands were determined by the overall number of each type of media in each country. Over the years, desktop research has formed the basis for compiling these numbers, which were then validated with country teams. For this edition, many of the media research databases previously relied upon were outdated, prompting us to turn inward and draw on historical GMMP databases as a reference for nationally relevant outlets. This list was reviewed and confirmed by country and regional coordinators.

In several countries, the number of media outlets relevant to this study has declined since 2020, reflecting shifts in the media landscape. Subsequently, the number of media bands was reduced; for instance, broadcast media bands were scaled down from five to three. For internet news, countries were ranked according to internet usage rates published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and grouped into corresponding media bands.

Conclusion

From classrooms and offices to shared virtual spaces, the GMMP network turned a single ordinary news day into a globally representative snapshot of gender in the media. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication of thousands of volunteers, whose careful and diligent monitoring of media outlets worldwide sustains this important tradition of media monitoring.

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