



## Ministry of Social Affairs, Community Development and Sports

### PRESS RELEASE

#### SADC REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, SOUTH AFRICA



Seychelles was recently represented at the SADC regional conference on Gender Based Violence (GBV) held in Johannesburg South Africa 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012. The delegation was headed by the Principal Secretary for Social Affairs, Mrs Linda William-Melanie; Principal Probation Officer, Ms Elsa

Nourrice; and member of ASFF, Mrs Monica Servina.

During the three day workshop participants shared best practice in regards to GBV country level interventions and worked towards drafting the SADC Regional GBV Strategy. The draft regional strategy and the plan of action will be further developed and strengthened in time to be presented at the SADC Gender minister's meeting to be held in Angola in May 2012.

Findings were presented from a regional audit of the situation and response of various countries including Seychelles. The audit revealed that most countries share common challenges. (i) lack of services for survivors of GBV (ii) lack of funds (iii) capacity for effective implementation of GBV PoA (iv) monitoring and evaluation. The region has prioritized the need to establish standard data collection processes as a crucial step to better evaluating the impact of activities undertaken to meet the targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.