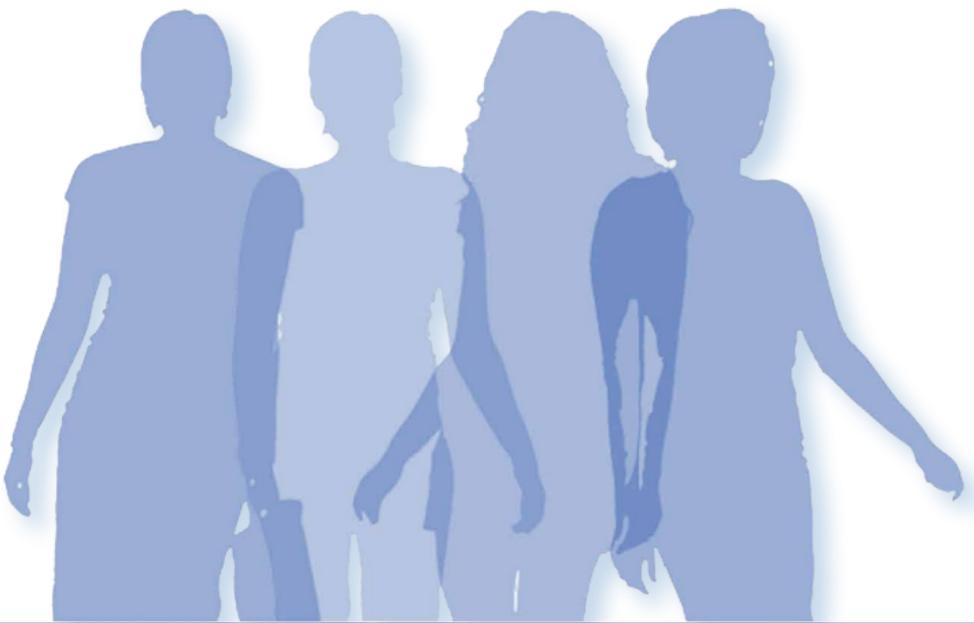




INDEPENDENT COMMISSION
AGAINST CORRUPTION

Women United Against Corruption



Being Bold
for a
Corrupt Free Society



WOMEN UNITED

Women are undertaking important leadership roles in the society, ranging from being Heads of families to independent working Professionals. A 2009 World Bank study shows that women are more trustworthy and less prone to corruption. This implies that there should be more women leaders who understand the impact of corruption, which could pave the way for more sustainable policies to curb corruption.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) urges women to take actions proactively in view of ensuring a corrupt free society.

● **Prevention of Corruption Act (PoCA) 2002**

The PoCA was enacted by Parliament in 2002 to provide for the prevention and punishment of corruption and for the establishment of the ICAC.

According to the Law, an act of corruption includes *“the abuse of a public or private office for private gain”*. The ICAC is mandated to lead the national fight against corruption through the three-pronged approach:



The ICAC is also mandated to investigate into money laundering cases.

AGAINST CORRUPTION : WILL

• • • • Gratification and Corruption Offences • • • •

Gratification means a gift, reward, discount, premium or other advantage other than lawful remuneration and includes, amongst others, the offer or promise of an office, employment or contract. Sections 4-17 describes the different types of corruption offences. Some examples are as follows:

This list is not exhaustive

Section 4: Bribery by Public Official	A citizen had applied for a license. A public official solicits gratification to speed up the procedures.
Section 5: Bribery of Public Official	A driver tempting an enforcement officer with gratification to avoid a contravention.
Section 7: Public official using his office for gratification	A public official uses his/her office to claim mileage when his/her personal car was not used.
Section 9: Influencing public official	A public official exercises pressure by means of threat on a colleague to have the approval for a Building and Land Use Permit for his/her family member.
Section 10: 'Traffic d'influence'	A person solicits gratification from another person, for himself/herself in order to make use of his/her fictitious influence, to enable the latter to secure an employment in a public body.
Section 13: Conflict of Interests	During an interview process, the Head of a Public Body participates in the interview of his relative*. (*See definition in PoCA)
Section 16: Corruption of agent	A private sector employee obtains money from a fruit-seller to allow him to operate within the premises of the organisation, without the consent of the Director.

Under Sections 4-16 of PoCA, any person who commits a corruption offence *"shall, on conviction, be liable to penal servitude for a term not exceeding 10 years"*.

YOU BE BOLD FOR CHANGE?

••••• Women as Corruption Fighters •••••

● **Dora Nkem Akunyili, Nigerian** pharmacologist, faced death threats bravely when she contested corrupt practices which were allowing the manufacturing, import and export of counterfeit fatal drugs, cosmetics and food products, which eventually saved the lives of thousands of innocent Nigerians.



● **Eva Joly, former French Investigating Magistrate,** headed the biggest corruption case of the 1990s under life threats from the culprits and sentenced the convicts with the severest legal penalties. She was also a Government advisor on international corruption.



South Africa's Public Protector Thuli Madonsela won the Integrity Award 2014 by Transparency International. Her most high-profile work is an investigation of the South African President's alleged use of taxpayers' money to purchase personal home improvements. In a report released in March 2014, Madonsela recommended that the President apologise and pays back the money spent.



● **Women lose due to corruption**

In 2009, pregnant with twins, Ugandan Sylvia Nalubowa went to the hospital. She was reportedly turned away by nurses who allegedly demanded money to call the doctor. The story goes that Nalubowa could not afford to pay them. She was left unattended and died.

● **Did you know?**

- ◆ **United Nations:** Research revealed that an estimated 70 % of the world's poor people are women.
- ◆ **International Labour Organisation:** Women depend on public services (like education and health care) whose access is reduced by corruption.
- ◆ **Global Corruption Barometer:** Women have greater awareness of the problem of corruption.
- ◆ **Transparency International's Advocacy and Legal Advice 2013:** only 38 % of women reported corruption due to cultural barriers (girls will not complain to males), lack of knowledge of reporting lines or fear of being stigmatised.

Women against corruption today

- **International Women's Day:** Anti-Corruption Women Forum held to mark this day.
- **Regional Comité Anti-Corruption (CAC):** Women leading many CAC committees in Mauritius.
- **Women engaged in the following ICAC Platforms:** Integrity Clubs (Secondary schools) & Anti-Corruption Clubs (Tertiary sector), Public Private Platform Against Corruption (PPPAC), Private Sector Anti-Corruption Taskforce (PACT), Trade Union Against Corruption (TAC), Civil Society Network Against Corruption (CSNAC), Anti-Corruption Academic Forum (ACAF)
- **Useful websites:** www.corruptionresearchnetwork.com, www.whistleblowingwomen.com, www.transparency.org, www.unwomen.org, www.worldbank.org

Simple ways to become an anti-corruption model:

<i>Public & Parastatal Bodies/ Local Authorities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of anti-corruption tools* such as Managing Conflict of Interests, Guidelines for Gifts and Gratifications for Public Officials, Code of Conduct for Councillors, Best Practice Guide on Recruitment and Selection in Parastatal Bodies. (*www.icac.mu/publications) • Identify corruption risk areas and discuss with Anti-Corruption Committees/Ethics committees of your organisation.
<i>Private Sector</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your company to sign up for the Integrity Pledge Project (IPP) under the aegis of the Mauritius Institute of Directors (MIoD). • Reinforce policies on gifts, whistleblowing and key corruption issues and communicate same to all staff to further consolidate your corruption-free business environment.
<i>Youth/ Young Professionals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join the ICAC platforms! Engage in discussions about what ethical behaviour consists of, what corruption is and ways of fighting it, and ensure best practices. • Participate in anti-corruption competitions/events. • Sign the online anti-corruption pledge* (*www.icac.mu/pledge)
<i>Civil Society (NGOs, Trade Unions, Religious Bodies, Senior Citizens, Media)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilise the trade unions' collective voice and bargaining power against corruption. • Teach children that corruption is unacceptable. • Act as a watchdog against corruption in all areas of the society. • Raise awareness about the cost of corruption.

"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it"
Margaret Thatcher

Your Personal Integrity Checklist

- I can recognise, resist, reject and report corruption.
- I will not get involved in any act of corruption.
- I will uphold the highest level of integrity at all times.
- I will extend my support and collaboration to anti-corruption initiatives.
- I will encourage other people to engage in anti-corruption events.

Report an act of corruption : Ladies, you are protected!

- Anonymous complaints:** Any person may (a) without disclosing his/her identity; and (b) orally or in writing, notify the Commission or an officer of the existence or possible existence of a corruption offence.
- Protection of informers:** Where the Commission receives information in confidence to the effect that an act of corruption has occurred, that information and the identity of the informer shall be secret between the Commission and the informer, and all matters relating to such information shall be privileged and shall not be disclosed in any proceedings before any court, tribunal or other authority.
- Victimisation:** A person who commits an act of victimisation (injury, damage, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, threats) against a person who has made a disclosure to ICAC shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to pay a fine not exceeding 50,000 rupees and to imprisonment not exceeding one year.
- False disclosure:** A person who discloses an act of corruption to ICAC while knowing it to be false shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to pay a fine not exceeding 50,000 rupees and to imprisonment not exceeding one year.

From PoCA 2002

REPORT CORRUPTION ON 142

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