Ms. Chhom Vy has been an LGBTIQ activist since 2014. She is 31 years old and lives in Sdov village, Theay commune, Barphnom district, Prey Veng Province. She has actively participated in meetings, workshops, presentations, counselling and educational performances in order to promote LGBTIQ rights, such as marital and parental rights. She believes that LGBTIQ activism has been successful at making people aware of LGBTIQ rights, reducing LGBTIQ discrimination and helping LGBTIQ people gain skills and jobs.

As a transgender woman she has suffered discrimination such as members of the public and authorities have said inappropriate things to her and even threatened her and been violent towards her because of her gender identity and activism. However, she is happy to continues to campaign because she believes activism is vital as it encourages LGBTIQ people to be brave.

She understands gender equality as people being treated equally regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. She believes gender equality must be promoted because LGBTIQ people are still discriminated in which can affect LGBTIQ peoples’ mental health. Furthermore, LGBTIQ people do not aware of their own rights clearly.

“LGBTIQ people must be brave enough to speak out to others, especially their own families, we must not do robbery or drugs, we must do good deeds and do what society recognizes.”

December, 2019

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