Ms. Chhun Monyvechra, 34 years old, is a makeup artist and a high school teacher at Hun Sen high school Veal Rang at Preah Sihanouk province. Alongside these roles she is a member of Steering Committee of Chaktomuk Network. Vechra has been an LGBTIQ activist since 2006.

She has participated in many activities to demand the protection of the rights of her own communities and the wider LGBTIQ community. These activities include engaging with relevant organizations, attending workshops, training programs, networking events, and live concerts to promote and raise public awareness about LGBTIQ rights and seek support in eliminating discrimination.

Although she hasn’t experienced the hardships many LGBTIQ people face, she has seen that most Cambodian LGBTIQs suffer from discrimination from their families and society and have difficulty accessing job opportunities. Importantly, she wants families with LGBTIQ to acknowledge their children and to stop interfering with their choice of partners.

She believes that the work she is doing is very crucial because public participation is still limited. LGBTIQ people do not know clearly what laws are in place to support them, therefore, the more activities we do, the better results we will get. LBGTIQ networking is vital for LGBTIQ people in Cambodia to show the world that Cambodia also has LGBTIQ people and having same-sex relationships is natural. Even though, there is no law to protect LGBTIQs, she is still happy to continue campaigning as they continue to make progress and she is hopeful there will continue to be positive change. While there have been no big successes, it is important for the next LGBTIQ generation to not experience such difficulties.

As an LGBTIQ activist, she defines gender equality as the equality of men, women, and LGBTIQs. We must promote gender equality in order to be equal, to reduce the gender gap, to end gender-based restrictions, and to implement the rule of law and transparency in order to eliminate gender-based discrimination.

"Please be aware of your rights, so that you understand what we are entitled to. We must not do anything that can affect society, so that society does not discriminate against all LGBTIQ."