Mrs. Chray Nim

"Women must learn to be self-sufficient, do not be afraid of those who do not respect you. Stand up for yourself and for society. You must be hopeful, get involved in social work and gather as much information as possible in order to make informed decisions in the future."

Mrs. Chray Nim, 41 years old, is a vegetable seller and launderette owner; simultaneously she has been a land and women's rights activist since 2012. She used to be a housewife, she was married to a civil servant and was entirely economically dependent on her husband. In 2012 she and her community suffered from land rights abuses. The other community members were less likely to fight for their land back so she came forward to advocate for herself and on behalf of the whole community. She was chosen to be the community representative by her community members, tasked with coordinating and leading advocacy activities.

Since then she has engaged in many activities in order to demand for the respect of the entire community's land rights, including the protection of her own rights. Such activities include peaceful protests, community empowerment, social media advocacy, and psychological support for other women with similar problems.

She went through a series of challenges that impacted her mental health, even resulting in suicidal thoughts. She suffered discrimination from her family-in-law as well as physical, economical and psychological abuse from her husband to force her to stop protesting and advocating. Because of her refusal to stop her advocacy activities, she was divorced by her husband and her own family, as well as her family-in-law, cut off communication with her. This resulted in a downward spiral for her. Her child got sick and she could not afford to take care of them, she was detained by police for her advocacy and she began to suffer from depression. Despite these challenges, she has not stopped her advocacy and other social work, instead it has become a great motivation for her. As a result, Nim and her community have had many accomplishments, including receiving a notice of cessation of their forced eviction. Her community is now much stronger. She became a land and women's rights activist who is very active in supporting not only her own community, but also other communities through outreach, empowerment, and participation in many protesting activities.

As a land and women’s rights activist, and a victim of domestic violence, she describes gender equality as giving value and equal right, as women can do whatever men can do. She says that equal rights must be granted in practice, not only promised on paper or in speeches. She says that gender inequality causes emotional distress, mental health illnesses, and many other issues; for herself she was divorced by her husband for participating in advocacy and faced many problems because she is a woman.