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Cambodian Center for Human Rights

CCHR PRESS RELEASE – Phnom Penh, 24 November 2020

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) launches a campaign for the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Day.

25 November 2020 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Violence against women is one of the most widespread and devastating human rights abuses in the world today, and remains pervasive in Cambodia. It is estimated more than one in five Cambodian women experience violence at the hands of their partner, a number believed to have risen since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To mark this day, the Center for Women’s Global Leadership launched a campaign called ‘16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence’, which starts on 25 November and runs to Human Rights Day on the 10 December 2020. CCHR will be participating in this campaign in order to raise awareness of women’s rights and the harmful impacts of gender-based violence amongst our community, and call on the Royal Government of Cambodia (“RGC”) to take immediate and concrete steps to end gender-based violence in Cambodia.

Across this period, CCHR also observes a number of other key days on the human rights calendar. 28 November 2020 marks International Women Human Rights Defenders Day and 9 December 2020 marks International Human Rights Defenders Day, crucial days to celebrate the human rights defenders advocating, educating and raising awareness of human rights in their communities. Further, 10 December 2020 is Human Rights Day – a significant day to celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the revolutionary document underpinning the international human rights framework and originally enshrining the fundamental human rights owed to everyone.

On these important days, CCHR urges RGC to fulfil their obligations to promote, protect and respect human rights across the country, and in particular take steps to protect women’s rights and promote gender equality. CCHR has planned a series of activities seeking to raise awareness of the human rights situation, particularly in relation to women’s rights and the efforts of human rights defenders in Cambodia. We would be honoured if you would join CCHR for the following events:

On 25 November, International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women, CCHR will release a timeline illustrating key events in Cambodia relating to women’s rights that have occurred in 2020. This timeline covers a number of highly concerning human rights violations involving women between February to November 2020, as well as relevant women’s rights progress by the RGC, to give an overview of the current women’s rights context in Cambodia. On the same day, CCHR will launch an ‘Image Story-telling’ event via Facebook that will run until 4 December, inviting members of our community to share their experiences in response to a relevant image prompt. The winner of this

event will be announced on 5 December and invited to participate in CCHR's radio show on 08 December.

On 26 November, you can watch CCHR's new vox pop style video on 'What is Gender-based Violence?', where the CCHR team goes out onto the streets to discuss the concept of gender-based violence and its repercussions with the public and with CCHR's Executive Director, Ms. Chak Sopheap.

On 27 November, CCHR will be launching its Sithi.org webpage, 'Cambodia under CEDAW review', which hosts a range of documents, information and educational materials related to Cambodia's implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

On 28 November, CCHR will start releasing a series of images of women journalists alongside their messages to share their stories. These will be released each day until 6 December.

Between 4 December and 9 December, you can participate in CCHR's question and answer competition via Facebook, where we will be asking the public questions on the theme of Human Rights Day. The winner will be announced on 10 December.

On 6, 7 and 8 of December, look out for the release of three CCHR educational infographics on women's rights and gender-based violence, including 'Gender-based Violence In Cambodia, Facts & Figures', 'GBV Trials and Fair Trial Rights for Women', and 'GBV Against LGBTIQ Women in Cambodia'. On 8 December, you can also tune into CCHR's radio talk show on 'Solutions for Domestic Violence'. You can tune in through our livestream on Facebook or through radio FM 105.5 MH in Phnom Penh, FM 102.5 in Preah Sihanouk, FM 88 Siem Reap, FM 88 in Battambang and FM 100.75 MHz in Kampot.

On 9 December, International Human Rights Defenders Day, you can join CCHR for the launch of our photo exhibition titled 'My Voice, My Rights', where we will be displaying profiles of inspiring women human rights defenders and LGBTIQ activists in Cambodia, hosting Forum Theatre Performance and holding a presentation on the Fair Trial Rights for Women. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the event's location and further details.

Finally, on 10 December, Human Rights Day, CCHR will be launching the 2020 Human Rights Timeline. CCHR's Human Rights Timeline is an important visual representation of some of the key human rights violations and restrictions that have occurred in Cambodia between 2013 to now, which can be viewed on the Sithi.org website ([English](#) and [Khmer](#)). CCHR will concurrently release a slideshow covering the key events in the Human Rights Timeline for each month of 2020.

Ms. Chak Sopheap, Executive Director, Cambodian Center for Human Rights, comments:

"These significant days in the human rights calendar serve as a good reminder that human rights apply to everyone, everywhere, simply by virtue of their humanity. In particular, women's rights are human rights, and I hope that the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women and the 16 Days Campaign inspires our community to take action against gender-based violence. It is the responsibility of every individual to protect and promote the rights of the women and girls, and I

encourage the public to take these days as an opportunity to stand up for human rights and ensure that they become a reality for all Cambodians.”

For more information, please contact CCHR’s Advocacy Director Mr. Yuthya Soun via Telephone at +855 (0) 88 814 2783 or email at yuthya@cchrcambodia.org or Mr. Lim Borin, Project Coordinator Voice for Gender Equality Project via Telephone at + 855 (0) 12 904 266 or email at borin.lim@cchrcambodia.org.

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Notes to the Editor:

Founded in November 2002, CCHR is a non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights – primarily civil and political rights - in Cambodia.

CCHR is a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global network for freedom of expression, and CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. CCHR is also a member of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) SOS-Torture Network and OECD Watch.

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal www.sithi.org is the 2011 winner of the Information Society Innovation Fund Award in the category of Rights and Freedoms and the 2013 winner of the Communication for Social Change Award awarded by the Centre for Communication and Social Change at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.