The Cambodian Center for Human Rights ("CCHR") launches its annual campaign to celebrate key international human rights days

25 November 2021 marks 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 that 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, CCHR will launch its annual campaign called “16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence” ("16 days campaign"), which will run from 25 November to Human Rights Day on 10 December 2021. The campaign aims to raise awareness of women’s rights and the harmful impacts of GBV amongst our community and call on the Royal Government of Cambodia ("RGC") to take immediate and concrete steps to end GBV and promote gender equality in Cambodia.

Across this period, CCHR will also mark a number of other key days on the human rights calendar, including International Women Human Rights Defenders Day on 29 November 2021 and International Human Rights Defenders Day on 9 December 2021, crucial days to celebrate the commitment and dedication of human rights defenders in advocating, educating and raising awareness of human rights in their communities. Further, 10 December 2021 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. The theme of Human Rights Day 2021 is “Equality – Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights,” which constitutes a further occasion for CCHR to shed light on inequality in the country and to advocate for equal rights for all.

Overall, these important days are the opportunity for relevant stakeholders, especially duty bearers and civil society actors, to reaffirm their commitment to protecting and promoting human rights.

Under this campaign, CCHR’s will conduct a series of activities as outlined below:

- On 25 November 2021, on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, CCHR will release a timeline of the Friday Women protests.

- On 29 November 2021, on the occasion of Women Human Rights Defenders Day, CCHR will release a video containing messages to encourage Women Human Rights Defenders ("WRDs"). CCHR will also publish a booklet featuring the profiles of WHRDs and LGBTIQ activists.

- On 1 December 2021, CCHR will a post a quiz about Human Rights Day on Facebook for the public.
• On 9 December 2021, on the occasion of International Human Rights Defenders Day and Human Rights Day, CCHR will organize a hybrid event to celebrate this important day.

• On 10 December 2021, to celebrate Human Rights Day, CCHR will publish its 2021 Human Rights Timeline as well as a short video to summarize the timeline and a series of snapshots to highlight each month’s key events. To conclude the 16 days campaign, an infographic on GBV victims in Cambodia’s courts will be published.

For more information, please contact CCHR’s Advocacy Director Mr. Yuthyia Soun via phone at +855 (0) 88 814 2783 or email at yuthyia@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.