



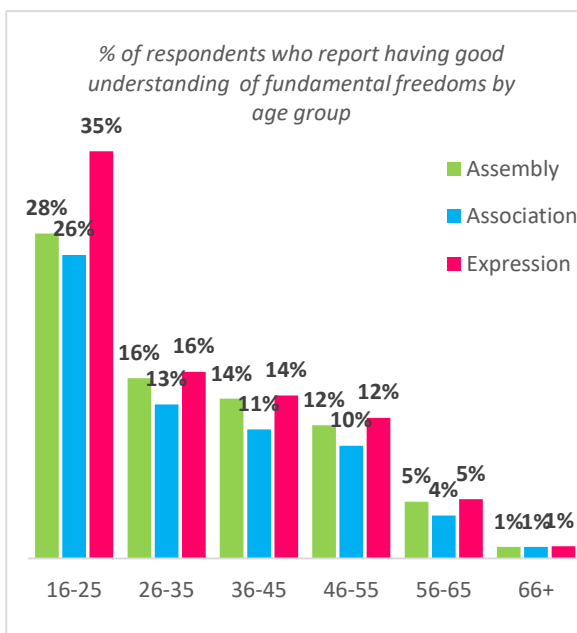
## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN CAMBODIA: SEVEN YEARS TREND (2016-2022)

The Fundamental Freedom Monitoring Project (FFMP) is a multi-year project that monitors the space for civil society in Cambodia, including the degree to which the freedoms of association, expression and assembly (fundamental freedoms) are understood and can be exercised. The FFMP conducts an annual public poll to monitor if individuals in Cambodia understand fundamental freedoms and feel free to exercise them. Each year<sup>1</sup>, the public poll uses convenience sampling across all provinces and aims to capture a range of age groups and genders.

The FFMP public poll has an average of 975 respondents per year. While the FFMP aimed for 1,000 respondents each year, the number of respondents was lower in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. In 2022, FFMP conducted a public poll with 1424 respondents.

### Percentage of respondents who report having a good understanding of fundamental freedoms by age in 2022.

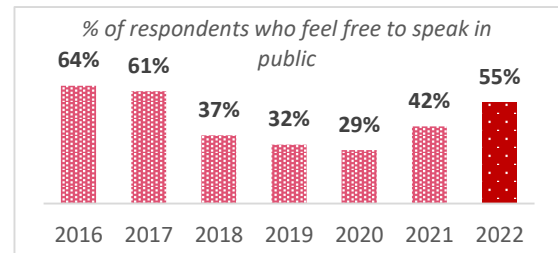
The chart below shows the proportion of respondents who reported having a good understanding of fundamental freedoms disaggregated by age, which the bracket with the highest percentage of respondents who reported an understanding of fundamental freedoms was between 16 and 25 years old.



### Extent to which individuals feel free to exercise fundamental freedoms

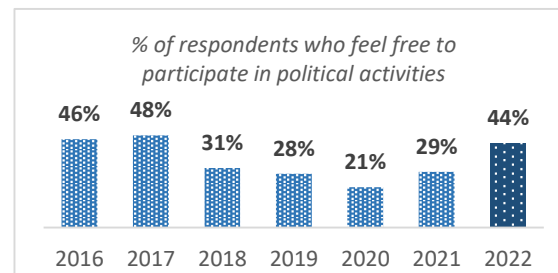
#### Freedom to speak in public:

The percentage of respondents who reported feeling “Free”<sup>2</sup> to speak in public increased in 2022 compared to 2021.



#### Freedom to participate in political activities:

The percentage of respondents who reported feeling “Free”<sup>3</sup> to participate in political activities has increased in 2022 after dropping for the last four years.



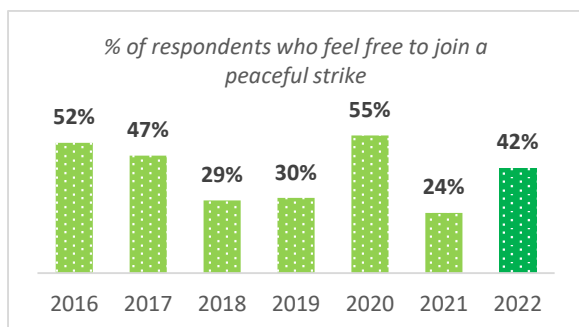
<sup>1</sup> Public polls were conducted in October 2016 (2016), March 2018 (2017), March 2019 (2018), March 2020 (2019), December 2020 (2020), December 2021 (2021), and December 2022 (2022).

<sup>2</sup> The category "free" is composed of the percentage of respondents who reported feeling "very free" or "somewhat free".

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

### Freedom to peacefully strike:

In 2022, 42% of respondents reported that they felt “Free”<sup>4</sup> to join a peaceful strike, increasing 18% in comparison with 2021.

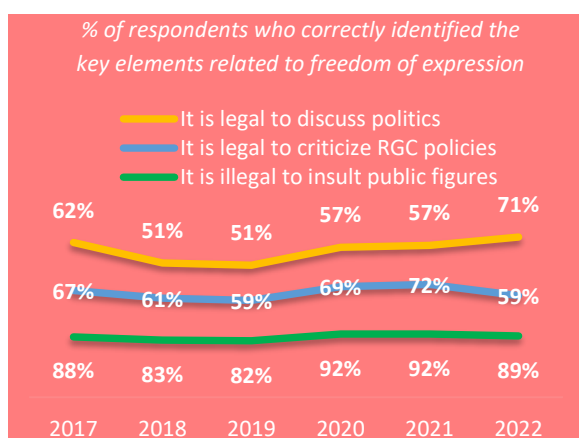


### Ability of individuals to identify the limitations of their rights

Individuals' ability to freely exercise fundamental freedoms depends on their understanding of the legal system in relation to these freedoms. Each year questions are asked to identify if certain activities were legal or illegal.

### Freedom of expression:

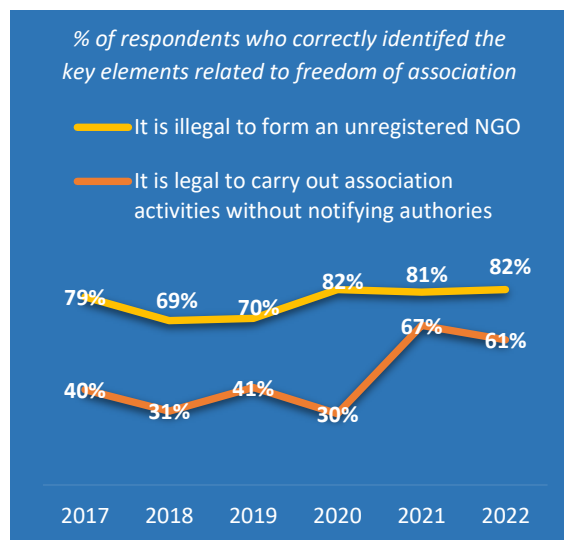
Fewer respondents correctly identified it is legal to criticize the Royal Government of Cambodia’s (RGC) policies (59%) when compared to 2020 and 2021. There was a significant increase (71%) in the number of respondents who correctly answered that it is legal to discuss politics. Similarly, the percentage of respondents who correctly identified it is illegal to insult the public figure has decreased from 92% in 2021 to 89% in 2022.



<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

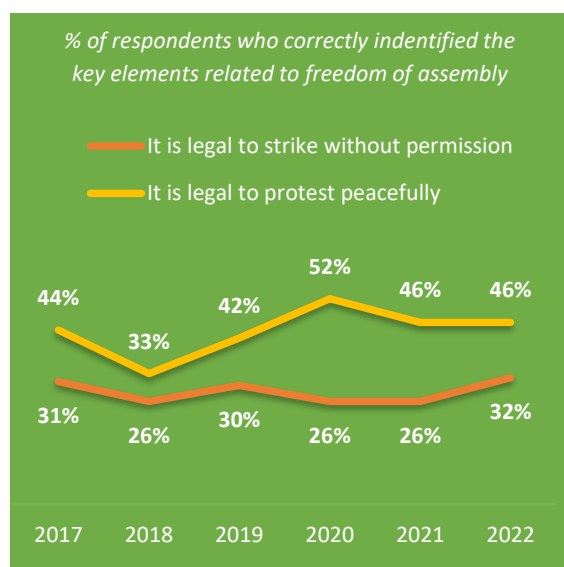
### Freedom of association:

Most respondents correctly identified that it is illegal to form an unregistered non-governmental organization (NGO). However, the percentage of respondents who correctly answered that it is legal for an association to undertake activities without notifying authorities decreased by 6%.



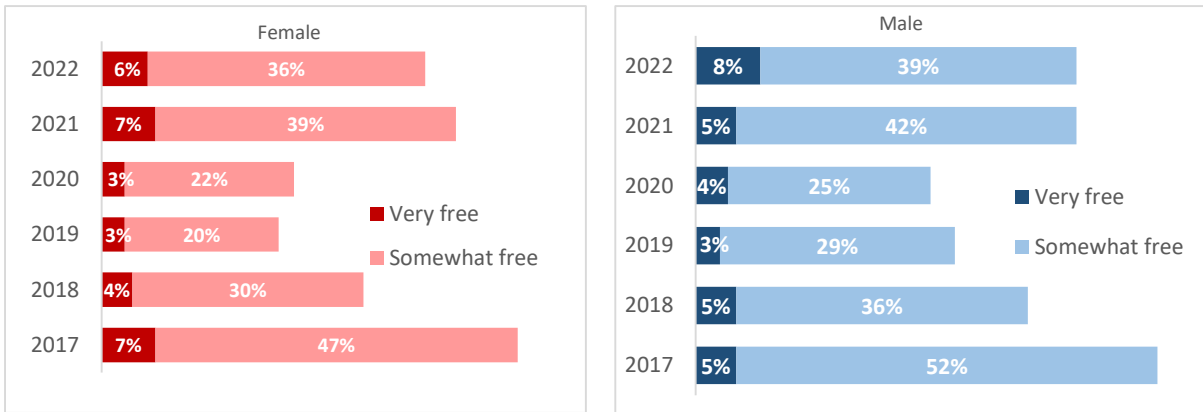
### Freedom of assembly:

The proportion of respondents who correctly identified that it is legal to strike without permission has increased from 26% in 2021 to 32% in 2022. However, the percentage of respondents who correctly answered that it is legal to protest peacefully remains low (46% only).

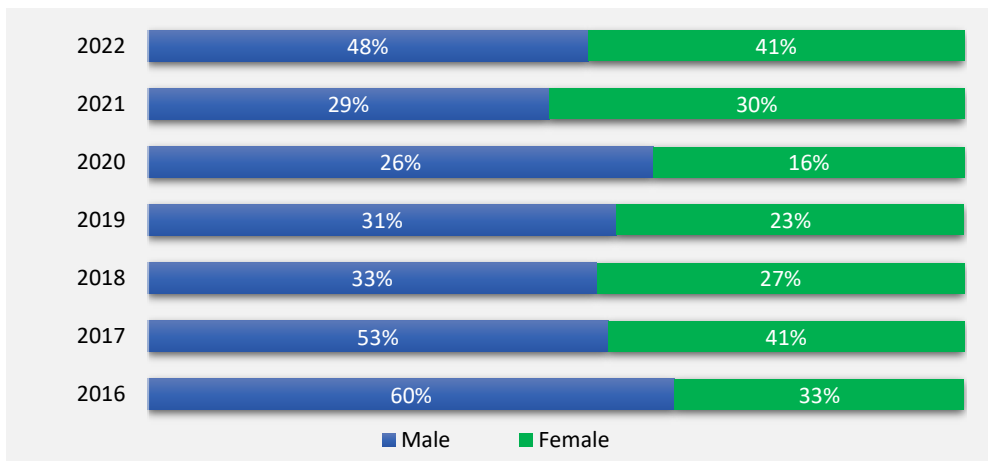


**Differences by gender**

In 2021, females felt freer than males to “Speak on Social Media”. However, the percentages are relatively close between genders except 2019 that females and males felt far difference from each other.



The graph below demonstrates an overall positive trend that the gap between the percentage and men and women who have answered that they felt “very free” or “somewhat free” to **partake in political activities is closing**. However, 2022 does show a widening of the gap from 2021. This is potentially problematic and will need to be monitored.



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Cambodian Center for Human Rights



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