



**ចក្ខុវិស័យសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា**  
Cambodian Center for Human Rights

**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) Celebrates International Women’s Day  
Phnom Penh, 29 February 2024**

International Women's Day (“IWD”), celebrated annually on 8 March, is a global day commemorating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for investment in women. Significant activity is seen worldwide as groups come together to promote gender equality or rally to secure prosperous and fair economies, and sustainable development for future generations. The theme for 2024’s IWD is: “Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.”

IWD is one of the most important days of the year to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness about women's rights, and invest in their progress. Unfortunately, Cambodia struggles with a patriarchal society that perpetuates deeply ingrained gender stereotypes and social norms, hindering progress in women's rights. Instances of degrading behaviour, such as verbal insults and inappropriate gestures, persist, creating a hostile environment for women and infringing on their rights and dignity. Such attitudes obstruct the pursuit of gender equality by silencing victims and fostering a culture of victim-blaming. Gender-based violence remains a prevalent issue in the country, further compounding these challenges.

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, CCHR will shed light on the vital role Cambodian women play in civil society and the inspiring work of women human rights defenders. Additionally, we will focus on the challenging environment they face, through a series of planned activities:

- On 1 and 4 March 2024, CCHR will release two storytelling videos about WHRDs Seng Theary and Chhim Sithar.
- On 06 March 2024, CCHR will host and live-stream a radio dialogue on “Women Influence.”
- From 4 to 11 March, CCHR will post eight inspirational messages from WHRDs and journalists.
- From 08 to 10 March 2024, CCHR will publish selected segments from the 6 March radio dialogue.

For more information, please contact Mr. Houn Phorn, CCHR’s Sustaining Independent Media and Fundamental Freedom in Cambodia Project Coordinator via telephone at +855 (0)70 757 884 or via email at [phorn@cchrcambodia.org](mailto:phorn@cchrcambodia.org).

– END –

**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](http://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.