



**CCHR’s Annual Report for 2018**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”)</b>
<b>Project Goal</b>	CCHR’s vision is of a non-violent Cambodia in which people can enjoy the fundamental human rights to which they are entitled, are treated equally, are empowered to participate in democracy, and all can share in the benefits of Cambodia’s ongoing economic development. CCHR is an independent and non-partisan organization, whose work is premised on the values of equality, impartiality, transparency and non-discrimination.
<b>Duration</b>	January- December 2018

During this reporting period, between January and December 2018, the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) has worked progressively toward its goal, as follows:

**I. Progress**

During the reporting period, CCHR issued 71 publications related to human rights, including press releases/statements, open letters, joint statements, human rights defender’s alerts, briefing notes, research reports, factsheets, joint submissions, infographics and leaflets. These documents were released in order to advocate for, educate and raise awareness of a wide variety of human rights issues, including fundamental freedoms, land rights, business and human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (“SOGI”) rights, women, judicial reform, minority rights and political participation.

As a result of ongoing media monitoring through 2018, CCHR has been monitoring the news in order to keep an up-to-date understanding of current events and key issues, focusing particularly on land rights and business and human rights in general, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights (“LGBTs”), and the status of fundamental freedoms across the country. In total, during the reporting period, 5104 media reports related to freedom of association and other fundamental freedoms, land rights, business and human rights, LGBTs rights and women were gathered.

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, on 07 March 2018, CCHR released a joint statement entitle [CSOs LAUNCH GENDER EQUALITY PROJECT, CALL ON RGC TO STEP UP SUPPORT FOR WOMEN, LGBTQ INDIVIDUALSCSOs](#), and an infographic of [Women Rights](#) aiming to raising awareness on women rights in both local and international legal framework. Moreover, The FTR Project published two newsletters (one relating on [“Fair Trial Rights for Women in Cambodia”](#); and other one was on [Right to a Reasoned Judgment](#)”) and one annual [report](#) on Fair Trial Rights and Trial Monitoring at Appeal Court, covering the period of 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2017.

In addition, during the reporting period, CCHR conducted at least 142 live radio talk shows, each focusing on one or more of the topics listed in paragraph 1 above, including land rights, business and human rights, fair trial rights, LGBT and SOGI rights, legal discussion and weekly analysis. Key stakeholders from the civil society and from the authorities were invited to participate and share their views. All of the talk shows were also streamed live on CCHR's Facebook page, which received 5447 like, 2255 Share and 133662 Views.

CCHR has conducted 16 trainings, Training of Trainers (ToT) training, reflection and following workshops, roundtable discussion, dialogue and refresher training on various topics related to advocacy, law, business and human rights, and fair trial rights with a total of 326 (99 females) participants. Moreover, 12 meetings including network meetings, focus group discussions and launchings were conducted involving 192 participants (99 females). One example of the training is the mentoring program, CCHR conducted one mentoring program includes 3 days of training. During the last day, the students go to monitor the court in the morning, and the afternoon consists in reflective discussions. Then, later, a reflection workshop is conducted, consisting of a half day of court monitoring, and a half day of reflective discussions. There were 30 student participants (8 females and 2 LGBT) attending the mentoring program. According to the evaluation that participants filled, most of participants were satisfied with the program, and wished for more programs. Participants raised the importance in the program that they could answer the questions of exam for court clerk recruitment.

Another example is dialogue workshop. On the occasions of Gay Pride and the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia ("IDAHOT"), on 31 May 2018, CCHR co-organized the 'Dialogue on Public Policies to Promote LGBTIQ Rights in Cambodia'. The majority of CSOs working on SOGIESC rights in Cambodia participated in the event, along with representatives from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training. This event aimed to promote dialogue and discussion to explore LGBTIQ community's priority issues and seek legal and policy supports from relevant sectors to address the following identified priority issues: (a.) Legal issues including same-sex marriage, adoption, and the possibility of changing gender based on one's own determination on legal documents (identification card, family book and passport); (b.) Discrimination and exclusion from families and schools; (c.) Employment opportunities and discrimination in the workplace.

As part of its fair trial rights project, in 2018, CCHR monitored 234 cases at the Appeal Court.

CCHR also produced two educational videos. The first video, entitled "Support Environmental Human Rights Defenders", aimed to illustrate how important of Environment Human Rights Defender play in order to protect environments and natural resources. The video can be found on [YouTube](#) and on [CCHR's Facebook](#). The video has received numerous hits on Facebook with 183 shares, 122 'likes' and 39,000 views<sup>1</sup> as of 12 September 2018. The second video is entitled "Mentoring Program on Fair Trial Rights" and depicts the experiences and perspectives of students who attend the mentoring program. The video can be viewed online on [YouTube](#) and on CCHR's Facebook. It received 34 shares, 147 likes and 82,000 views as of 08 August 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> View: number of times that a post was accessed for at least 3 seconds, source: <http://bit.ly/1upjLvd>.

In November 2018, CCHR also produced four radio dramas: 1. [Nak Bontor Ven](#) (New generation), 2. [Pheak Pit](#) (True word), 3. [Derm Bei Nak](#) (For you), 4. [Nak Ta Prey](#) (The guardian of the forest). CCHR also published one leaflet on [the Universal Periodic Review and Cambodia Update, in 22 June 2018](#).

## **II. What went well and what did not**

CCHR engaged with state authorities and private sector by providing them training workshops on “Remedy and State Responsibility” in relation to human rights issues associated with private actors’ activities and “State Obligation and Human Rights Due Diligence” based on United Nation on Guiding Principle on Business and Human Rights. At least 26 participants (including 3 females) from local and national authorities attended these 3 training workshops organized by CCHR.

NGOs have continued to be obliged to fulfil onerous administrative requirements, including reporting requirements to the authorities. An October 2018 memo from Phnom Penh’s Police Chief set out a strategy to control the activities of those critical of the government, including monitoring CSOs. On 27 November 2018 the RGC Ministry of Interior repealed the 3 days’ notice requirement (set out in a Ministerial Directive by the Ministry of Interior issued on 2 October 2017), and instructed both municipal and provincial authorities to facilitate the activities of CSOs and local communities “without restrictions,” however it remains to be seen whether this will lead to meaningful implementation on the ground.

In addition, some community representatives in certain provinces had been subject to intimidation and threats, preventing them from contacting external stakeholders to join meetings and training with NGOs, and from conducting events at the ground.

## **III. Lessons learned**

Despite facing such restrictions, CCHR learnt that being persistent in its principled and balanced advocacy approach, and engaging in dialogue with various stakeholders as necessary, helped it continuing to do its work. CCHR also ensured that it approached all issues from a strictly human rights, apolitical and principled perspective, aiming to give a balanced view of events.

## **IV. Gender and Rights Based Approach**

In 2018, CCHR launched its new project named “Gender for Voice Equality” aiming to contribute to improved gender equality within government structures and in public life in Cambodia by ensuring that targeted women, girls and LGBTQ individuals are empowered to claim their rights and have increased support from authorities and their communities. During the reporting period, CCHR sought to overcome barriers to women’s engagement, by ensuring equal representation of male and female speaks at events. CCHR also used every opportunity to restate the fact that men and women and LGBTs have equal legal status with regards to human rights.

In addition, CCHR conducted special events to promote women and gender identity on the International Women’s Day 8 March 2018, and still continues providing appropriate legal, humanitarian and psychosocial support to WHRDs and LGBTs who have faced violence, harassment and threats as a result of their work.

## **V. Appendix: CCHR’s key publication**

- [Annual Report on Fair Trial Rights in Cambodia: Monitoring at the Court of Appeal, June 2018](#).
- Leaflet on [Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#).

- Leaflet on [the Universal Periodic Review and Cambodia Update, in 22 June 2018.](#)
- Briefing Note [on Business and Human Rights Preventing, Mitigating and Remediating Land-Related Rights Violations in the Kingdom of Cambodia: Seven Areas for Improvement.](#)

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