



CCHR’s Annual Report for 2019

Organization	Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”)
Project Goal	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.
Duration	January - December 2019

During this reporting period, between January and December 2019, the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) has worked progressively toward its goal, as follows:

I. Progress

During the reporting period, CCHR issued 74 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, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (“SOGIESC”), judicial reform, fair trial rights and gender equality.

CCHR has been monitoring the news in order to keep an up-to-date understanding of current events and key issues, focusing particularly on the status of the fundamental freedoms of association, expression and assembly, land rights, business and human rights, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (“LGBTIQ”) rights. In total, during the reporting period, 2252 media reports related to these rights were gathered.

To mark International Human Rights Day, on 9 December 2019, CCHR launched its SOGIESC research report on [The Right to Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics in Employment in Cambodia](#), and presented the findings as well as hosting an exhibition of profiles spotlighting LGBTIQ activist and women human rights defenders (“WHRDs”). Moreover, the Fair Trial Rights Project published two newsletters - one relating to the “Rights to Legal Representation and to be Present at trial”, and the other on [“Fair Trial Rights of Juveniles”](#) - and one [“2019 annual report”](#) on Fair Trial Rights and Trial Monitoring at the Court of Appeal, including recommendations to strengthen the rule of law, fair trial rights, judicial reform and

progressive legislation in Cambodia. The annual report covered the period of 01 November 2017 to 31 October 2018. In addition, CCHR also released various [infographics](#) on business and human rights, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Cambodia's third Universal Periodical Review, LGBTIQ rights, and fundamental freedoms.

In addition, during 2019, CCHR conducted at least 148 live radio talk shows, each focusing on one or more topics including land rights, business and human rights, fair trial rights, LGBTIQ / SOGIESC rights, legal discussions and other various talks in the Weekly Analyses. Key stakeholders from civil society as well as authority representatives were invited to participate and share their views. All of the talk shows were also streamed live on CCHR's Facebook page, which received 8202 likes, 4528 Shares and 353222 Views.

CCHR conducted 12 trainings, Training of Trainers (ToT), reflections and follow-up workshops, roundtable discussions, dialogues and refresher trainings, on various topics related to advocacy, law, business and human rights, and fair trial rights with a total of 343 (159 females, 136 males and 48 LGBTIQ) participants. Moreover, 12 meetings including network meetings, focus group discussions and launchings were conducted involving 288 participants (81 females, 156 males and 51 LGBTIQ).

For example, CCHR conducted three mentoring programs including three days of training. During the last day the students got the opportunity to monitor the court of first instant hearing in Phnom Penh. There were 82 student participants (35 who were females, one monk and one individual with a disability) who attended the mentoring program. Another example is a dialogue workshop held with government representatives on 27 June 2019. 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 Cambodian Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training. The dialogue itself was aimed at sensitizing policy-makers and relevant government officials on LGBTIQ issues and building/creating mutual understanding and dialogue between the LGBTIQ community and policy-makers, developing follow-up actions, and building a cooperative policy environment for civil society. Such dialogues are essential to encourage policy changes incorporating LGBTIQ-specific protections into law to take place in the future.

As part of its Fair Trial Rights Project, in 2019, CCHR monitored 215 cases at the Court of Appeal in Phnom Penh.

CCHR also produced seven educational videos as follows:

- A short animation on [Press Freedom](#) released on 1 November 2019.
- A vox pop video on "[The Importance of Press Freedom](#)" in order to raise awareness regarding the right to freedom of expression.
- A Video entitled "[My Voice My Rights](#)".
- Four other educational videos including [Nak Bontot Ven](#) (New generation), [Nak Ta Prey](#) (The guardian of the forest), [Peak Pit](#) (True word) and [Deambey Nak](#) (For you).

These videos can be viewed online on [YouTube](#) and on [CCHR's Facebook](#).

II. What went well and what did not

In 2019, CCHR engaged with state authorities and the private sector by providing them training workshops on "State Obligation and Human Rights Due Diligence" and "Concluding Workshops". At

least ten participants from local and national authorities attended these two training workshops organized by CCHR.

NGOs have continued to be obliged to fulfil onerous administrative requirements, including reporting requirements to the authorities. The authorities still monitor the activities of CSO's conducted at ground level via recording events/meetings, photographing CSO events, event participants, agendas, and participants lists, and reporting to their supervisors.

III. Lessons learned

Despite facing such restrictions, CCHR has learned that being persistent in its principled and balanced advocacy approach, and engaging in dialogue with various stakeholders as necessary, facilitates the continuation of 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 2019, CCHR continued to overcome barriers to women's engagement, by ensuring equal representation of male and female speakers at events. CCHR also used every opportunity to restate the fact that men, women, and LGBTIQ people have equal legal status with regards to human rights.

In addition, CCHR conducted special events to promote women and individuals with diverse gender identities on the International Women's Day 8 March 2019, and still continues providing appropriate legal, humanitarian and psychosocial support to WHRDs and LGBTIQ people who have faced violence, harassment and threats as a result of their work.

V. Appendix: CCHR's key publications

- [Fair Trial Rights in Cambodia Monitoring at the Court of Appeal Annual Report \(1 November 2017-31 October 2018\)](#)
- [Booklet on "The story of impunity victims"](#)
- Leaflet on [the Universal Periodic Review and Cambodia Update, in 22 June 2018.](#)
- Leaflet on Women' Rights: Domestic and International Laws

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