



**CCHR’s Annual Report for 2020**

<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 2020

During this reporting period, between January and December 2020, the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) has worked progressively toward its goal, as follows:

**I. Progress**

During the reporting period, CCHR issued 87 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, 1132 media reports related to these rights were gathered.

25 November 2020 to 10 December 2020 was the 16 Day of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence Campaign (“16 Days Campaign”), organized under the theme “Leave No One Behind”, which runs from International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women until Human Rights Day. The 16 Day Campaign aims to promote and raise awareness on gender based-violence and to create a space for women from various fields to express and advocate to end the gender based-violence in Cambodia. To mark these days, CCHR created a campaign for both the 16 Days of Activism and Human Rights Day and released a series of activities, listed below, via CCHR’s social media (Facebook and Twitter) and on

CCHR’s website, which sought to raise awareness of the human rights situation, particularly in relation to women’s rights and the efforts of civil society and human rights defenders in Cambodia.

No	Date	Publication
01	24 November 2020	Press release introducing the campaign, in both <a href="#">Khmer</a> and <a href="#">English</a> .
02	25 November 2020	Infographic: ‘Overview of women’s Rights in Cambodia in 2020’, in both <a href="#">Khmer</a> and <a href="#">English</a> .
03	25 November to 4 December 2020	Facebook event: The CCHR team launched a <a href="#">Facebook competition</a> of ‘Image Storytelling’ on the issue of violence against women, inviting members of the community to discuss a relevant image prompt.
04	26-30 November 2020	Voxpox video on ‘What is Gender-based Violence?’, <a href="#">available in Khmer</a> with English subtitles.
05	27 November 2020	Launch of CCHR Sithi.org webpage ‘Cambodia and the CEDAW Review Process’ in both <a href="#">Khmer</a> and <a href="#">English</a> .
06	28 November to 6 December 2020	A series of images of women journalists alongside their messages about gender-based violence.
07	4 December to 9 December 2020	Facebook event: The CCHR team launched a Facebook <a href="#">question and answer competition</a> on Human Rights Day and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
08	6 December 2020	Infographic: ‘Gender-based violence in Cambodia: Facts and Figures’, in both <a href="#">Khmer</a> and <a href="#">English</a> .
09	7 December 2020	Factsheet: ‘Gender-based violence trials and women’s fair trial rights in Cambodia’s courts’, in both <a href="#">Khmer</a> and <a href="#">English</a> .
10	8 December 2020	Radio talk show on ‘Solutions for Domestic Violence’, livestreamed on CCHR’s website, Facebook page and through five radio stations.
11	8 December 2020	Infographic: ‘Gender-based violence against LGBTIQ women in Cambodia’, in both <a href="#">Khmer</a> and <a href="#">English</a> .
13	10 December 2020	Launch of 2020 Human Rights Timeline on Sithi.org website – a visual representation of key human rights violations that occurred over the year. Available in <a href="#">Khmer</a> and <a href="#">English</a> .
14	10 December 2020	<a href="#">12 infographics</a> illustrating key events in each month of 2020 from the Human Rights Timeline.

Moreover, the Fair Trial Rights Project published four newsletters (1) “[The Right to Presumption of Innocence](#)” 2) “[Right to Legal Representation and to be Present at Trial](#)” 3) “[The Explanation of Rights](#)”; and 4) “[The right not to be compelled to confess guilt or to testify against oneself](#)”. FTR also published one factsheet on “[Gender-based Violence Trials and Women’s Fair Trial Rights in Cambodian Courts](#)”, one [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. CCHR also released various [infographics](#) on gender-based violence, women rights, LGBTIQ rights, fair trial rights, fundamental freedom and business and human rights. For example, On 31 March 2020, International Transgender Day of Visibility, the Project released a new [infographic](#) raising awareness about the discrimination faced by transgender individuals within the employment sector in Cambodia. The infographic highlighted quotes by individuals within the transgender community, explaining their experiences within the workplace and when seeking employment. It also voiced recommendations for the RGC and employers in Cambodia on methods of decreasing discrimination against transgender individuals in the workplace.

In addition, during 2020, CCHR conducted at least 154 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, received 1,884,179 reaches, 13,370 likes, 5,452 Share, 6,712 comments and 332,893 Views.

CCHR has conducted 11 trainings and workshops on various topics related to advocacy, law, business and human rights, and security with a total of 204 participants (71 males, 102 females and 31 LGBTIQ people). CCHR conducted 12 meetings including CSOs quarterly meetings, sharing sessions and awareness raising sessions among the communities, sharing sessions among lawyers, report launches, and a joint Human Rights Day celebration were conducted involving 255 participants (128 males, and 127 females). As part of its Fair Trial Rights Project, in 2020, CCHR monitored 185 cases in the Appeal Court in Phnom Penh.

CCHR also produced four educational videos as follows:

- [Video](#) on highlighting the importance role of journalists during the Covid 19 situation (03 May 2020).
- On 11 June 2020, the Project produced a short [video](#) with English subtitles to introduce the role and mandate of the United Nation of Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association (UNSRAA). The video also explains the fundamental freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, the rights which the UNSRAA is dedicated to promoting.
- A Video entitled on [My Rights, My Justice](#) (15 July 20)
- A short video clip on [What is Gender Based Violence?](#) (26 Nov 20)

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

## **II. Challenges and Lesson Learned**

During project implementation in 2020, CCHR faced some challenges both internally and externally. Externally, the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges for CCHR's project implementation, particularly earlier in 2020, as all CCHR staff were required to work from home from 30 March to 30 April 2020, but also through the November and December local outbreak in Cambodia. To adapt to the pandemic, CCHR adopted a new culture of working either online/remotely or face to face working depending on the COVID-19 situation. CCHR followed the government's directives by following the measures put in place by the Ministry of Health, such as announcements limiting physical gatherings and meeting attendees to curb the spread of the outbreak, among others.

Due to the pandemic, some of this year's planned physical activities/events became online activities to align with important safety measures. Some physical events planned for Nov and Dec 2020 were again restricted when Cambodia faced another wave of COVID-19 and recorded its first cases of community transmission. As a result, the government banned physical gatherings exceeding 20 people, and as such, all physical events were postponed to a future date once the COVID-19 risk subsided.

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.

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.

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

In 2020, 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 2020, the 16 Day of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence Campaign and 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.

### **IV. Appendix: CCHR’s key publications**

- [Fair Trial Rights in Cambodia Monitoring at the Court of Appeal Annual Report](#) (01 Nov 2018 to 31 October 2019)
- Leaflet on the role of UNSRAA in both [Khmer](#) and [English](#)
- Leaflet on the findings of the Special Rapporteur, exploring freedom of assembly and association in the digital era and their links with the sustainable development goals (“SDGs”), in both [Khmer](#) and [English](#).

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