Gender-based violence ("GBV") refers to violent actions or words directed at an individual because of their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful social norms. **GBV is a violation of domestic and international human rights law.**

Research has shown that lesbian, bisexual and transgender women face disproportionately high rates of GBV to heterosexual women in Cambodia and across the world, yet their experiences are often excluded when considering GBV.

The most common perpetrators of GBV are intimate partners. Yet, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women are excluded from the protections of the 2005 Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims, which defines domestic violence as violence towards a "husband or wife". Therefore, the protective measures of this Act excludes same sex couples or couples where one individual is transgender.

Transgender women are particularly vulnerable to GBV. A 2016 CCHR survey of 135 transgender women showed that:

- 92% of transgender women showed that: **verbal harassment** in a public place;
- 43% of transgender women have faced **physical violence** in a public place;
- 31% of transgender women were **sexually assaulted** in a public place;
- 25% of transgender women have experienced **rape**;
- 39% of transgender women have been **arrested** by the police, with 91% believing it to be because of their **trans identities**.