Homosexuality is not criminalised in Cambodia, but lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people still experience discrimination and abuse resulting from their sexual orientation or gender identity. Cambodian culture places great importance on the traditional family structure, i.e. a marriage between a man and a woman, that produces children. This can often result in LGBT people being pressurized, harassed, and even forced to marry against their will by their families.

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights runs a SOGI Project to promote and protect the rights of LGBT people in Cambodia. The Project aims to empower LGBT people to advocate for their rights in Cambodia. To do this we provide skills training, supply a small grant fund, publish reports, and run an online web portal full of useful tools.

CCHR also provides legal advice and representation to LGBT people whose human rights have been violated.

If you are the victim of discrimination on the basis of your SOGI, please contact CCHR Hotline on (+855) 17 50 50 50.

For more information visit http://sogi.sithi.org.
### What is SOGI?

SOGI stands for ‘Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity’. But what does that mean?

- **Sexual Orientation**: a person’s capacity for profound emotional, sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender or the same gender or both.
- **Gender Expression**: Refers to how a person presents their gender. This can include behaviour and outward appearance such as dress, hair, make-up, body language, voice, chosen name, and pronoun.
- **Gender Identity**: a person’s deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.
- **Gender**: refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.
- **Sex**: refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women.
- **LGBT**: stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
- **Homophobia**: discrimination against a person based on their sexual orientation
- **Transphobia**: discrimination against a person based on their gender Identity
- **Transgender**: An umbrella term that refers to an individual whose gender identity is different from their sex assigned at birth.

### What are SOGI rights?

SOGI rights are human rights. Human rights are *inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being.*

Unfortunately, LGBT people regularly face discrimination because of their SOGI – these include invasions of privacy, denial of employment or education, denial of healthcare, and physical and emotional abuse.

### History of SOGI rights?

1948: Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in states unequivocally that *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”*

2004: King Norodom Sihanouk declares his support for same-sex marriage in Cambodia, saying “God loves a wide range of tastes.”

2006: the **Yogyakarta Principles** were signed, affirming 29 Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to SOGI.
