Women human rights defenders (WHRDs) are women who promote and strive for the protection and realization of human rights. In Cambodia, WHRDs work in many areas to protect your human rights:

- Land rights
- Labor rights
- Women's rights
- LGBTIQ rights

### Harassment and violence against WHRDs

- **Gender discrimination**
  - Threats are an even bigger issue for WHRDs because of their status as women in a culture of gender discrimination.

- **Judicial harassment**
  - WHRDs often face intimidation, threats, arrests, and criminal charges. WHRDs are excessively punished for their activism.

- **Psychological impact**
  - Stress related to their work takes a heavy toll on WHRDs psychologically. Many describe symptoms like depression and insomnia.

- **Loss of income**
  - The loss in income because of campaigning can have devastating impacts, meaning families are unable to pay for basic necessities.

- **Gender-based violence**
  - WHRDs have less time to fulfill the traditional housewife role. This often leads to tensions within the household and to domestic violence.

### WHRDs are protected under international, regional and domestic law:

#### International
- The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders includes the rights to seek the realization of human rights (Article 1). The United Nations Resolution on Protecting Human Rights Defenders urges states to take appropriate steps to protect WHRDs. Women’s rights are protected by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (“CEDAW”).

#### Regional
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) in November 2012, which contains provisions related to the work of all HRDs, such as the protection of the right to freedom of expression and opinion (Article 23), the right to freedom of peaceful assembly (Article 24), and the right to participation in the political life of one’s nation (Article 25).

#### Domestic
- The Constitution guarantees the “respect and recognition” of all rights listed in international human rights covenants, including that all Khmer citizens are equal before the law, regardless of sex (Article 31), and that all forms of discrimination against women shall be abolished (Article 45). However, there is no anti-discrimination legislation in Cambodia to put the principles of the Constitution into effect.

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*SUPPORT WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS - SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS*