

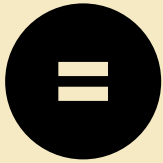


4th CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CAMBODIA 2024 THEMATIC FACTSHEET 1 OF 4

GENDER EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

TOPIC #1

3RD CYCLE RECOMMENDATIONS



I) During the previous UPR cycle, 9 recommendations to prevent gender based discrimination and violence, and to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation (the Philippines (110.175) and Uruguay (110.177), Mexico (110.50), Italy (110.180), Moldova (110.184), Togo (110.186), Portugal (110.189), Spain (110.191), Brunei Darussalam (110.192)

II) Cambodia received and accepted five recommendations pertaining to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) (Iceland 110.45, Mexico 110.50, Sweden 110.52, Uruguay 110.53, Australia 110.54).

CHALLENGES

IMPACT

Gender discrimination



Despite being removed from the formal school curriculum in 2007 by the Ministry of Education (MoEYS) and Ministry for Women’s Affairs (MoWA), the chbab srey – a centuries-old code of conduct outlining the behavior that Cambodian girls and women must abide by in order to be deemed pure and virtuous – continues to be widely taught across the country.

Entrenched gender norms affect girls in and outside the home. A disproportionate unpaid care work burden affects girls and women from early childhood through to old age, limiting their capacity to pursue educational and professional opportunities. At school, girls are exposed to harassment and violence at the hands of boys and adult males, including figures of authority (e.g. teachers).

"Poor families pull the daughter out of school as they still think that girls are kitchen bound. Even if she has high education, she will not use it in the future, she will still work on household chores."

An adolescent girl in a focus group discussion held in October 2023 by TdH NL

Discrimination towards children with diverse SOGIESC



According to a 2021 civil society study, children with diverse SOGIESC who do not adhere to heteronormative gender norms and expectations are subjected to stigma, bullying, discrimination, physical and psychological violence due to their actual or perceived SOGIESC.

Despite the recent integration of SOGIESC-related topics into school curricula, many teachers lack the training and knowledge to implement inclusive practices. Similarly, there is a lack of access to inclusive health services as health professionals generally have a limited understanding of SOGIESC, especially in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

"I experienced discrimination from my own family, my school and my community because of my different gender identity".

Testimony from LGBT youth, collected by TdH NL, January 2024

Offline and online sexual violence



Gender-based violence remains prevalent in Cambodia with a significant rise in online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

The 2022 **Out of the Shadows Index** - which assesses sexual violence against children - rated Cambodia only 50.4 out of 100. Prevention through education of school staff, parents, youth and children remain insufficient. With regards to response, the capacity of the judicial system to prosecute cases in a child-friendly manner remains low.

The 2022 **Disrupting Harm Study** estimates that 11% of children aged 12-17 experience online sexual exploitation, the majority at the hands of people they know (family, community members, peers). While a draft Child Protection Law includes a comprehensive chapter to criminalize Online Child Sexual Exploitation, there are concerns about the adoption and enforcement of the law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Build capacities of educational institutions to ensure they are fully inclusive of all children, without discrimination of any kind, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

2

Ensure that children with diverse SOGIESC have access to child-friendly information about SRHR that is tailored to diverse SOGIESC and their own rights, and create safe spaces in each province. Improve access to inclusive healthcare and social services, psychological counselling and child protection mechanisms for children with diverse SOGIESC.

3

Enhance the implementation of Positive Parenting policies, strategies and toolkits to reach all parents and guardians across the country to raise awareness of child rights, gender equality and diversity, and risks of all types of sexual violence, including online.

4

Speed up the adoption and promulgation of the comprehensive Child Protection Law, including its chapter that covers OCSE offences i.e. Online Grooming, possession, production and distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Materials, Sexual Extortion and Live online sexual abuse. Define clear responsibilities for its enforcement at the provincial and district levels and ensure sufficient financial and human resources are allocated.

QUESTION

Considering the efforts put into the development of the Child Protection Law by the Government in consultations with civil society, what is the timeline for the finalization of this law making process and putting this law into action?

SOURCES

Save the Children (2021) LIVE AND LEARN: Children with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE) in Cambodia
ECPAT, INTERPOL and UNICEF (2022). Disrupting Harm in Cambodia
Economist Impact 2022 Out of the Shadows Index

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AEA, BSDA, CFS, CCDO, CAD, KNGO, COLT, CCPCR, CHC, CIAI, CKIMHRDA, CLA, COCD, CPCDO, CRF, CTOD, CVCD, CWDA, ERIKS, GNC, Hagar, Happy Tree, Homeland, ICS-SP, KHEMARA, KKKHRDA, KNK, KrT, KYA, CIFA, LAC, Mith Samlanh, OEC, PE & D, UWS, Plan, PSOD, RAO, SC, SCI, SCADP, SFODA, KPY, SSO, SOS, SVC, TdH-G, TdH-NL, TLC, VCAO, WVI, WP, WOMEN, NTFP, ICC, WMC, BTS, MRO, PPS, CADDP, and **3 Child and Youth-Led Networks: CAN, AYRG & CCYMCR.**

