



**មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា**  
**Cambodian Center for Human Rights**

**MEDIA ALERT – Phnom Penh, 19 September 2016**

**CCHR press conference to launch research report entitled**  
**“Discrimination Against Transgender Women in Cambodia’s Urban**  
**Centers”**

[The Cambodian Center for Human Rights](#) (“CCHR”) announces that it will hold a press conference **at 8.30am on Wednesday 21 September 2016** at **CCHR’s office** to mark the launch of a new research report entitled *“Discrimination Against Transgender Women in Cambodia’s Urban Centers”* (“the Report”).

The Report is based on the findings of CCHR’s field research, collected through 135 surveys conducted in April 2016 in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Preah Sihanouk and Battambang provinces. The survey asked respondents about their experiences and perceptions of discrimination based on their gender identity / expression, both from state (e.g. police, local authorities and schools) and non-state (e.g. family, employment, relationships) actors. The report also analyzes the legal, social and cultural context in which Cambodia’s trans women live.

CCHR’s research reveals that Cambodian trans women are subject to shockingly high levels of discrimination in many areas of their lives. Nearly all of the trans women surveyed by CCHR experienced some kind of harassment while in public spaces because of their trans identities, in most cases multiple times over the past 12 months. This proportion of respondents who had experienced verbal abuse, physical violence, sexual assault and rape in public spaces because of their trans identities is truly shocking and shows that Cambodian streets are alarmingly unsafe spaces for trans women. Discrimination in employment is another serious issue uncovered by this research, with large numbers of respondents reporting being refused employment, and many more reporting dismissal from employment, due to their trans identities.

CCHR hopes that the release of the Report will raise awareness about the discrimination and harassment trans women face in Cambodia, and provide a timely reminder to the Cambodian Government that trans women face continual harassment and discrimination because of their trans identity and that immediate action should be taken to implement anti-discrimination measures, through legislation as well as training local authorities. CCHR further hopes that the launch of the Report will trigger an end to discrimination and harassment in Cambodia’s urban centers.

**What:** Report Launch and Press Conference

**When:** Wednesday 21 September 2016, 8.30am – 11am.

**Where:** CCHR Office, N°798, Street 99, Boeung Trabek, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**For more information, please contact CCHR's SOGI Project Coordinator, Nuon Sidara via telephone at +855 (0) 979 666 566 or e-mail at [sidara.nuon@cchrcambodia.org](mailto:sidara.nuon@cchrcambodia.org) or CCHR Legal Consultant Pat de Brún via telephone at +855 (0) 8953 6215 or e-mail at [pat.debrun@cchrcambodia.org](mailto:pat.debrun@cchrcambodia.org).**

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Notes to Editor:

CCHR, founded in November 2002, is a non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights – primarily civil and political rights – throughout Cambodia.

CCHR is a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global network for freedom of expression. CCHR is also a member of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) SOS-Torture Network.

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal [www.sithi.org](http://www.sithi.org) is the 2011 winner of the Information Society Innovation Fund Award in the category of Rights and Freedoms and the 2013 winner of the Communication for Social Change Award awarded by the Centre for Communication and Social Change at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.