

The Universal Periodic Review Factsheet: Women and Children's Rights

Introduction to the UPR

- [The Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#), established in 2006, is a process to evaluate the human rights records of all UN Member States and operates on the principles of universality, non-discrimination, and equality.
- The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) carries out the review, which involves an interactive dialogue between the State under review, the 47 current HRC Member States, and observer States.
- Cambodia has undergone two UPRs, the first in 2009 and the second in 2014; at its last UPR, Cambodia accepted 163 recommendations, meaning it has committed to implement them, and noted 42. It will have its next review in 2018.

Concerns Related to Women and Children's Rights

- Women face discrimination in employment, in the household, and in education, health, and politics, despite the fact that Cambodia has ratified CEDAW.
- Rates of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence are still very high, negatively affecting women's sense of self-worth, security, and political and socio-economic empowerment.
- Although most children attend primary school, many do not finish it, and very few attend university, which lowers children's future opportunities and leaves them vulnerable to abuses such as child labor, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and child marriage. The ILO estimates that over 10% of children aged 5-17 work as laborers.

Important UPR Recommendations on Women and Children's Rights

- **118.50** Implement all measures, including national awareness-raising campaigns, and efforts aimed at amending or eliminating patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes discriminating against women, including those based on the Chbab Srey (recommended by Uruguay).
- **118.62** Take all the measures to prevent and combat violence and sexual abuse against women and children, including rape, by promoting an effective mechanism to receive and investigate complaints of sexual violence and offering the victims psychological and medical assistance (recommended by Uruguay).
- **118.67** Continue its efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of the child, including finalizing and implementing the new draft of a national plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labour for the period 2013–2018 (recommended by Indonesia).
- **118.76** Redouble efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children (recommended by Ecuador).

Recommendations for the RGC

- ✓ Engage with all stakeholders – including children and women's rights activists, women leaders, NGOs, CSOs, and others – in the implementation of recommendations;
- ✓ Establish clear indicators, in conjunction with civil society, to determine progress for each accepted recommendation; and
- ✓ Ask for technical assistance and support, when necessary, from OHCHR and relevant stakeholders during the implementation process.