

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA

FACTS & FIGURES

WHAT IS IT?

Gender-based violence ("GBV") refers to harmful acts directed at an individual **based on their gender**, predominantly against **women**. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. This includes, but is not limited to: violence against women; domestic violence; sexual violence including rape, sexual assault, and gang-rape ('bauk'); and human trafficking.

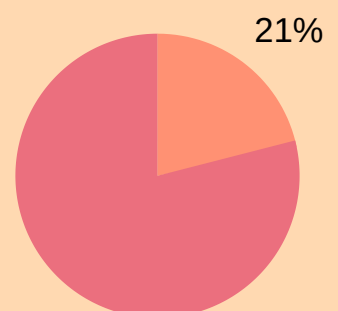
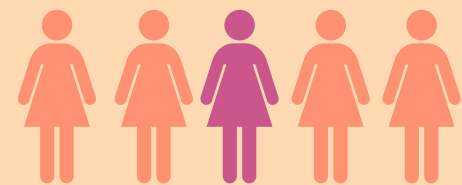
In Cambodia, women suffer from many forms of violence and abuse, which is a **violation of human rights** as enshrined in Cambodian domestic law and international human rights law. GBV is often linked to harmful patriarchal structures and societal norms that remain deeply entrenched in Cambodia, such as prescribed gender roles or ideals of female submissiveness. This can lead to GBV in all walks of life – in the home, in the community, or in the workplace. It can be perpetrated by partners, family members, by colleagues, by acquaintances or by public officials or more.

STATISTICS

A 2015 survey by the Ministry of Women's Affairs found:

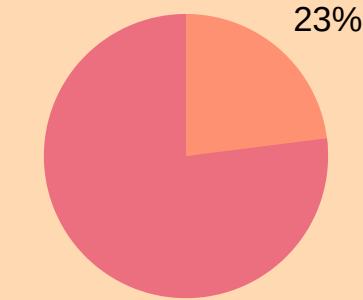
- **21%** of women aged 15 - 64 reported having **experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner at least once**
- **20%** of women reported that their **first sexual experience was either coerced or forced**
- **49%** of these women **had not told anyone** about the violence, predominately reporting fear, embarrassment or believing it was normal.

1 IN 5 WOMEN IN CAMBODIA HAVE EXPERIENCED GBV.



79%

23% OF WOMEN IN LAND CONFLICT FACE GBV



77%



Certain groups of women are **disproportionately impacted** by GBV, including indigenous women, women human rights defenders, women with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (“LGBTIQ”) individuals and sex workers. For example:

- A 2016 CCHR survey revealed **23% of women involved in land disputes** experienced domestic violence, 59% of whom said it only started after the land conflict;
- A 2020 National Assembly report revealed **70% of sex workers** experienced gang rape;
- A 2016 CCHR survey of **transgender women** found **43%** of respondents had experienced physical violence and **25%** had experienced rape.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW PROHIBITS GBV

DOMESTIC

Equal rights for women and protections against GBV are enshrined in:

- The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- The Criminal Code of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- The Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims
- The Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

INTERNATIONAL

Pursuant to Article 31 of the Constitution, all human rights treaties to which Cambodia is a party shall be automatically absorbed into domestic law. **Cambodia has ratified a number of conventions relevant to the elimination of GBV.** This includes:

- The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and its Optional Protocol.
- The International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Social, Economic and Cultural Rights

Sources: CCHR, 'Cambodia's Women in Land Conflict', (2016).
 General Secretariat of the National Assembly, 'The Challenges of Women in Leadership: Key Findings from Gender Statistics Analysis, (2020).
 CCHR, 'Discrimination Against Transgender Women in Cambodia's Urban Centers', (2016)

