

Report

Input on “Respecting Protecting and Fulfilling the Rights to Freedom of Thought” Ministry of Cult and Religion of Cambodia

In the Kingdom of Cambodia, the field of religion has played an important role in protecting the freedom of thought in religion and belief from ancient times to the present day. Currently, despite the many challenges of religion and belief, the Ministry of Cult and Religion of the Kingdom of Cambodia and other relevant institutions, both nationally and internationally, strive to continue their duties and contribute to the promotion of freedom of thought in religion and belief, including respect for the rights, freedoms, beliefs and religions of individuals, respect the values of the beliefs and religions of each religion in the analysis of the right path for the happiness of society.

I. The Rights to Freedom of thought scope and content:

Article 43 of the Constitution of Cambodia states that “Khmer citizens of both sexes have full religious rights. Freedom of belief and religious observance are guaranteed by the state in a way that does not affect other religions or beliefs to public order and security. And in Chapter 3 "On the rights and obligations of the Cambodian people" as in Article 31 states that "the Kingdom of Cambodia recognizes and respects human rights as stated in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenant. Both conventions related to human rights, women's rights and children's rights. Khmer people have equal rights before the law, all the rights and freedoms are the same of obligation, no racism, color, sex, language, religion, political affiliation, national origin, social status, resources or other status. Everyone must not infringe on the rights and freedoms of others. The exercise of these rights and freedoms shall be in accordance with the provisions of the law.

II. Freedom of thought Law and policy:

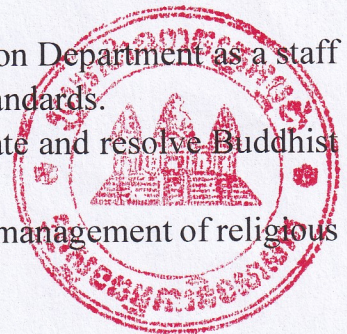
- The laws and policies of the Kingdom of Cambodia provide freedom of religion and practice of religion guaranteed by the State in conditions that do not affect other faiths or religions to public order and security.

- Freedom of thought in law and policy is implemented in accordance with Sub-Decree 154 on the Organization and Functioning of the Ministry of Cult and Religion.

- The Ministry has a Complaints and Dispute Resolution Department as a staff to mediate and resolve disputes in accordance with legal standards.

- The Monk Assembly court is the advisor to coordinate and resolve Buddhist abbots.

- Ministry of Cult and Religion is drafting a law on the management of religious affairs.



III. Potential infringement of freedom of thought:

Public authorities may not infringe on an individual's right to freedom of thought, but in some cases public authority may interfere with that right to justify an individual's freedom of thought, invalidating the safety, order, and rights of others.

The Ministry of Cult and Religion is implementing Circular No. 04/21 MoCR, dated March 4, 2021 on the registration of superstitions in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

IV. State practice to promote freedom of thought including with private and public actors

- The Ministry of Cult and Religion promotes religious freedom by conducting interfaith workshops twice a year in collaboration with partner NGOs and using the Royal Government's budget on drug promotion, environmental protection, climate change, peace and development. Sustainable development at the national and sub-national levels for religious harmonization

- Dissemination Workshop on World Religious Harmony Week is held once a year to promote religious harmony, peace and sustainable development at the national and sub-national levels.

- The Ministry of Cult and Religion organizes a sermon program in the program "Buddhism Connects with Society" and organizes a Buddhist concept program so that people have a better understanding and practice in daily practice, especially young people and children have a clear understanding of the value of distinctive of Khmer culture, traditions and customs and participate in maintaining and promoting social morality.

- Ministry of Cult and Religion cooperates to organize the annual Meak Bochea and Pisak Bochea.

- Ministry of Cult and Religion cooperates Annual General Meeting of Buddhist Monks.

- The Ministry of Cults and Religions cooperates the annual Al-Quran recitation and Ramadan (fasting) with Islam.

- Ministry of Cult and Religion cooperates Annual Christian Conversation and Harmony Program.

- The Ministry of Cult and Religion has been working with relevant ministries to promote the research and compilation of scriptures, rituals for distribution and inclusion in these curricula to study, research and disseminate awareness more comprehensive on religious affairs.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Cult and Religion will continue to work on the above four points, especially on the Law on Religion, as well as promote the implementation of the policy "Promoting the religion of the state, moral values, society and religious harmony" and the political program of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Continuing to Respect Freedom of belief and Religion, Promoting Buddhism, the State Religion, Especially Continuing to Strengthen Buddhism at All Levels among the people caused by religious differences, the aim is to turn the potential of all religions into a driving force for socio-economic development, strengthen peace, unity, preserve national traditions and promote broad social moral values. Beliefs and religions for all religious organizations operating in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

At the same time, the Kingdom of Cambodia has the Ministry of Cult and Religion under the responsibility of the Royal Government of Cambodia on religious affairs, ready to share all experiences on belief and religion and promote international cooperation on inter-faith dialoged in order to achieve harmony and peace in the areas and the world.