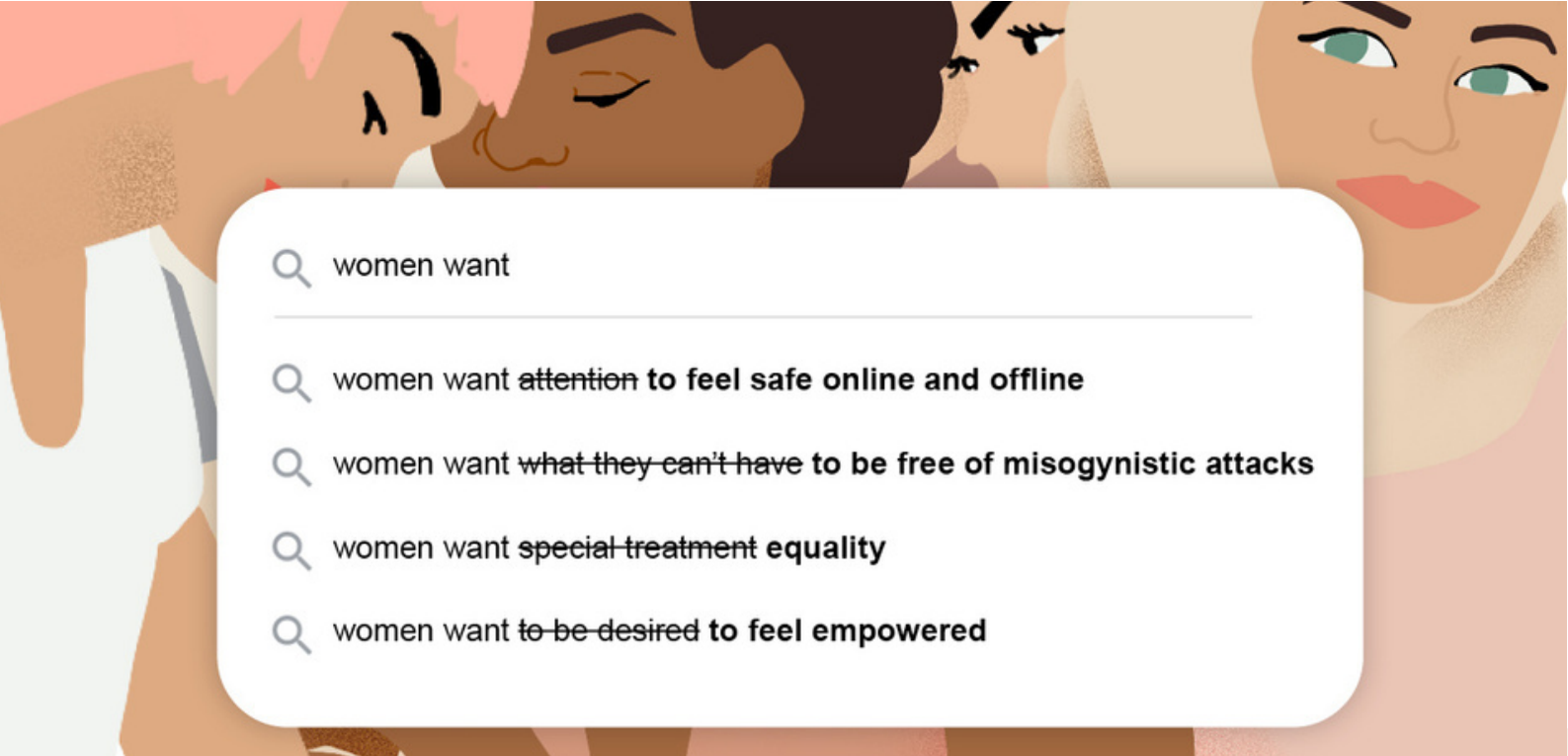


GENDER ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

United Nations Human Rights

- 
- Q women want
 - Q women want **attention to feel safe online and offline**
 - Q women want ~~what they can't~~ **have to be free of misogynistic attacks**
 - Q women want ~~special treatment~~ **equality**
 - Q women want ~~to be desired~~ **to feel empowered**

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS - ONLINE AND OFFLINE

The beginning of 2023 marked a dynamic period for the Gender Accreditation Programme, characterized by significant advancements and innovative outcomes. Accredited Offices in Cambodia, Colombia, the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) and the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), and participating offices in Guatemala and Syria, continued their support for women human rights defenders. They conducted impactful campaigns, provided technical assistance on women's rights and gender equality, and organized capacity building activities. Additionally, these offices actively participated in commemorating international days, including International Women's Day. Explore the accomplishments and key milestones of our offices in the fifth update below!

IN THIS ISSUE:

International Women's Day

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

Supporting Women Human Rights Defenders

Capacity Building

Human Rights and Elections

Rights of Indigenous Women

Engagement with Human Rights Mechanisms

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

يجب تعزيز المساواة بين الجنسين في الفضاء الرقمي لتصبح بيئة تخدم احتياجات النساء من خلال احترام وحماية وتعزيز حقوق الإنسان الخاصة بهن على الإنترنت



الملاحظات الخاصة بشأن التقرير الأولي لدولة فلسطين المتقدمة من اللجنة المعنية بالتحقيق على جميع أشكال التمييز ضد المرأة



Hackathon and online campaign by OHCHR oPT

OHCHR in the occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt), in partnership with UN Women, the European Union (EU) and Flow Accelerator, marked International Women's Day 2023 by launching an innovative campaign and a Hackathon involving 40 young Palestinian entrepreneurs from Gaza and the West Bank. The hackathon concluded with participants presenting their creative ideas for advancing gender equality, resulting in three teams sharing the first place for their innovative and practical solutions, enhance services accessibility, and their potential to promote gender equality in Palestine.

Tawaoniyah Tech proposed a women's cooperatives platform aimed at providing women with enhanced access to markets, allowing them to sell their products in marginalized areas. *Ustem* presented an educational platform designed to offer user-friendly access to scientific education for women with disabilities. Additionally, *Techno Talk* introduced a mobile application to provide educational and communication services for women with hearing disabilities.



HACKATHON IN OPT

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



OHCHR Colombia

On 8 March 2023, OHCHR Colombia accompanied the Women's March in El Salado (Bolívar), standing in solidarity with women's calls for justice and the elimination of gender-based violence. Prior to the march, the Office attended a meeting with women's organizations to learn about their concerns and gain insight into their valuable contributions to peace.

OHCHR Guatemala's Campaign "Los Derechos Humanos son de todos y todas"

In March, OHCHR Guatemala, jointly with UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched an impactful social media campaign titled "Los Derechos Humanos son de todos y todas" (Human Rights are for all). This initiative, marked International Women's Day and placed a spotlight on seven fundamental rights: health, education, work, participation, access to justice, life free from violence and equality in the digital space. The campaign featured eight commonly used phrases that

perpetuate gender stereotypes. These saying were transformed using inclusive language to underscore the importance of ensuring human rights, advancing gender equality and eliminate discrimination.

On 8 March, OHCHR Guatemala monitored the International Women's Day march in Guatemala City. Hundreds of women took the streets united in their demands for justice for the thousands of victims of femicide and called for the elimination of all forms of violence, among other critical demands.

HogarSeguro

On 8 March, OHCHR Guatemala tweeted to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the tragic events at Hogar Seguro Virgen de la Asunción (HSVA), a government-run shelter where 41 girls lost their lives and 15 others were left injured, due to a devastated fire that erupted on the same day six years ago. The tweet recalled the urgent need to guarantee access to justice in accordance with international norms and standards.



PHOTOS FROM OHCHR COLOMBIA



CAMPAIGN BY OHCHR GUATEMALA

La desigualdad atraviesa todos los aspectos de la vida de las mujeres. Esto incluye el acceso a la tecnología, el



desarrollo de habilidades digitales y el crecimiento de la brecha digital que las deja atrás.



Los "trapos sucios" ~~se lavan en casa~~

SE DENUNCIAN

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

OHCHR Cambodia launched a powerful [social media campaign](#) addressing the critical issue of gender-based violence, both online and offline, shedding light on how digital gender gaps threaten to leave women and girls behind. As part of this initiative, the Office released an impactful video jointly with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) on the 'Importance of Gender Equality, Civic Engagement, and Inclusive Policies.' Furthermore, OHCHR Cambodia took part in an [interview](#) led by RWI and contributed by sharing informative posts focused on raising awareness about women's safety in the context of online violence.

On International Women's Day, the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) paid tribute to the crucial role played by women human rights defenders in advancing human rights in Ukraine. In a [human-interest story](#), HRMMU featured Nataliya Melnyk, one of countless Ukrainian remarkable women, who dedicates her efforts to helping others to cope with severe consequences of gross human rights violations that Ukraine has experienced. Ms. Melnyk works at Blue Bird, a local NGO staffed almost entirely by women. Blue Bird assists torture survivors, injured civilians, and family members of those killed in the war. The overwhelming demand for their services, has led the organization to extend its impact by training others. Blue Bird trains medical workers, social workers, and psychologists, passing their experience ensuring that as many people as possible can access the assistance they require. Blue Bird is also going to train journalists, acknowledging the importance of equipping them with the skills to approach victims of human rights violations with sensitivity and respect, thereby avoiding further trauma. When asked about what brings her the most pride in her work, Ms. Melnyk shared the profound satisfaction of being able to help others, even in the face of their extremely difficult circumstances.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

On 17 May, OHCHR Guatemala monitored the march on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). LGBTIQ+ people and allies marched to raise awareness of the discrimination and violence LGBTIQ+ people face.

OHCHR Cambodia led a social media campaign in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team to mark IDAHOBIT and Pride Month. Throughout Pride Month in May, OHCHR Cambodia had a pride flag all over the façade of the Office. This display served as a powerful symbol of solidarity and aimed to raise awareness of LGBTI people's rights. In addition, the Office continued to call on the Government and other stakeholders to step up their efforts to take concrete actions to fulfill human rights obligations, including on equal marriage laws.



#IWD2023



CREDIT HAMDAD AHMAD OHCHR CAMBODIA



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Cambodia



ДЕНЬ З ПРАВОЗАХИСНИЦЕЮ
ГАЛИНА СКИПАЛЬСЬКА

працює над протидією гендерно зумовленому насильству та допомагає внутрішньо переміщеним жінкам з дітьми



ДЕНЬ З ПРАВОЗАХИСНИЦЕЮ
АНАСТАСІЯ БОБРОВА

старша аналітичка Cedos, координаторка напрямку житлової політики та Українського урбаністичного форуму



ДЕНЬ З ПРАВОЗАХИСНИЦЕЮ
КАТЕРИНА ЧЕРЕПАХА

президентка Громадської організації «Ла Страда-Україна», один з пріоритетних напрямків діяльності – протидія торгівлі людьми



ДЕНЬ З ПРАВОЗАХИСНИКОМ
ОЛЕКСАНДР ЗІНЧЕНКОВ

експерт з прав людини щодо ЛГБТІ, співзасновник громадської організації «Правозахисний ЛГБТ Центр «Наш світ»



ДЕНЬ З ПРАВОЗАХИСНИЦЕЮ
РАДА КАЛАНДІЯ

голова ГО «Циганське національне товариство «РОМЕН», захищає права ромів на Закарпатті

SUPPORTING WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Social media takeover in HRMMU

The United Nation Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) continued its long-standing social media campaign “A Day With a Women Human Rights Defender (WHRD)”. Each month, the HRMMU’s Instagram page is dedicated to showcasing the inspiring work of a Women Human Rights Defender. These takeovers provide a platform for WHRDs to spotlight their ongoing projects, share their remarkable achievements, and shed light on the challenges they encounter while tirelessly advocating for human rights in Ukraine. Between January and May 2023, five WHRDs participated in the campaign. The ‘stories’ (in Ukrainian only) are saved on HRMMU [Instagram page](#) in the highlight section.

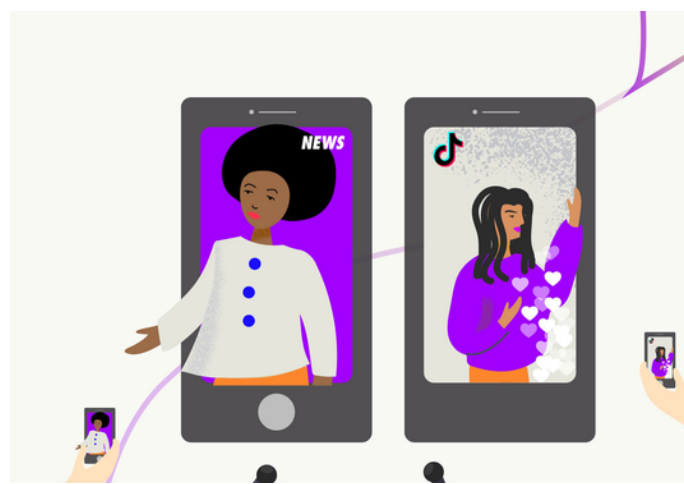
[Halyna Skypalska](#) from the NGO *Health Right International* informed about her work on combatting gender-based violence and providing support to victims, including internally displaced women with children.

[Anastasiia Bobrova](#) from the NGO *Cedos*, who works on housing policy, explained the challenges Ukraine faces in trying to ensure that every person in a vulnerable situation can secure access to an adequate home and is able to live in dignity.

[Kateryna Cherepakha](#), the Head of *La-Strada Ukraine*, informed about the risks of human trafficking and exploitation.

[Oleksandr Zinchenkov](#), a co-founder of the NGO *Nash Svit*, shared how his organization monitors and defends the human rights of the LGBTI community and how his work and priorities have changed since the war.

[Rada Kalandiia](#)’s Roma National Society “*Romen*” that protects the rights of Roma people had to relocate from the city of Vuhledar, Donetsk region, to the Transcarpathia region as a result of the war. She spoke about their work with internally displaced Roma and local Roma families.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Women in search of forcibly disappeared persons

OHCHR Colombia strengthened the capacities of rural women's organizations in Meta and Guaviare by equipping them with the necessary knowledge of norms and standards aimed at safeguarding the rights of victims of forced disappearance. Through this initiative, these organizations are empowered with the tools and resources required to facilitate their active participation in the search for their disappeared loved ones.



Gender integration in reparations

On International Women's Day, OHCHR Colombia participated in a public dialogue organized by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz, JEP), with the goal of integrating gender perspective into the reparations provided to victims of the armed conflict. OHCHR drafted a comprehensive document with recommendations based on international standards. One of the key recommendations focused on the establishment of a gender indicator system designed to assess the adequacy of each imposed sanction – particularly, its capacity to repair the specific harms endured by women and LGBTI persons, and allow for their effective participation in activities. OHCHR also provided technical assistance to the JEP in the implementation of a gender-sensitive investigative methodology. This support was instrumental during two hearings with female victims of forced recruitment. Additionally, the Office provided support on gender integration in two workshops that convened nearly 100 victims and judicial representatives. These events allowed the JEP gathered valuable insights on gender-specific damages and the needs and expectations of victims and survivor concerning restorative measures.



CAPACITY BUILDING

OHCHR Syria - Gender integration in emergency response

On 22 March 2023, OHCHR Syria organised a special Human Rights Reference Group (HRRG) meeting in follow up to International Women's Day. The meeting brought together a total of 15 participants representing various Syrian civil society organizations (CSOs) and UN agencies, including the protection cluster. The discussion focused on "Gender Integration and Mainstreaming in Emergency Response: Case of Türkiye and Syria earthquake." The opening remarks were delivered by Markus Werne, Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, who stressed the importance of gender integration in humanitarian work. One of OHCHR Syria's Human Rights Advisors shared how gender could be integrated in emergency response. Syrian CSOs shared their insights and challenges of the situation faced on the ground. The meeting also produced recommendations on gender integration in the earthquake response.

Workshop for WHRDs on Security

In May, OHCHR Syria organized an online workshop on "Syrian Women Human Rights Defenders in the Digital Space: Online protection and Digital Security," in partnership with UN Women Regional Office for Arab States. The first day focused on the role and challenges faced by WHRDs in the Syrian context. The second day was facilitated by two

digital security experts, equipping the participants with practical tools to protect themselves online and offline from digital threats.

Roundtable on the Right to Health

On 28 April 2023, OHCHR Syria organised a roundtable on the right to health in Syria in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, UN partners, and Syrian civil society representatives. The roundtable discussed the state of the health care sector after more

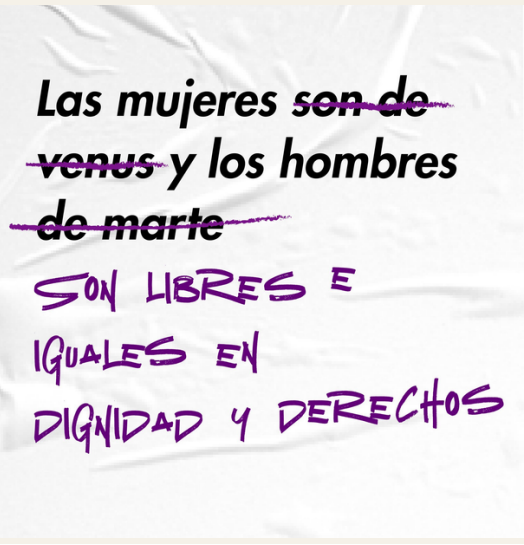
than twelve years of conflict and the aggravating impact of the February 2023 earthquakes. One of the sessions was focused on the impact of a gravely affected healthcare sector on the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Syria. Attention was drawn to the limited availability of SRHR services and the barriers to accessing them. When discussing gender-based violence, participants emphasized the importance of including men and boys. Partners at the event agreed that adequate funding is key to improve the current situation and to respect, protect and fulfil human rights obligations. The roundtable marked a key event in the Office's long-term engagement with the Special Rapporteur and partners on the right to health in Syria.



OHCHR SYRIA AND PARTICIPANTS AFTER THE ROUNDTABLE IN ISTANBUL

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ELECTIONS

OHCHR Guatemala monitored the human rights situation in the context of the 2023 general election, including women's and LGBTIQ+ people's rights to non-discrimination and equal access to participation.



CAPACITY BUILDING



National Action Plan Resolution 1325 in Colombia

OHCHR Colombia participated in the regional forums to elaborate the first National Action Plan of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. These regional meetings aimed to collect the diverse voices of a plurality of women — including rural women; women from indigenous and Afrodescendant communities; lesbian, bisexual and trans women, as well as former guerrilla combatants within these groups. The goal was to draft a National Action Plan that could effectively address the diverse security needs and priorities of women in Colombia. In April 2023, OHCHR Colombia organized a workshop in Caquetá in collaboration with a peasant women's organization. This workshop played a pivotal role in preparing the regional forums. During this workshop, OHCHR elaborated on the relevance and content of UN Resolution 1325. Participants identified challenges and put forth proposals related to prevention, protection, participation, and rehabilitation measures.

Women Observatories

OHCHR Colombia supported the development and enhancement of two women's observatories. OHCHR Office in Bogotá provided technical assistance to the Presidential Council on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law to establish an information system dedicated to monitor cases of violence against women journalists. This initiative is a significant step toward addressing and mitigating gender-based violence within the field of journalism.

In addition, the OHCHR Office in Arauca supported the Elizabeth Gallego Human Rights Foundation by conducting a workshop on international standards on gender equality. This workshop aimed to strengthen its Gender Observatory.



CAPACITY BUILDING



OHCHR Guatemala

In March, OHCHR Guatemala, in coordination with other UN Agencies, conducted a training to National Civil police officers designated as Gender Focal Points in various police stations in Guatemala City. Around 60 police officers gained an in-depth understanding on international norms and standards related to women's rights. The training also covered mechanisms for the protection of their rights when facing violence.

In March, OHCHR Guatemala conducted a webinar on women's human rights and international mechanisms for the protection of their rights. The webinar was tailored to the staff of the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM). Over fifty staff members actively participated in this informative webinar.

OHCHR Colombia

OHCHR Colombia met with indigenous, afro-Colombian and peasant women human rights defenders from Choco, Meta and Putumayo. The objective of this meeting was to comprehensively analyze the human rights situation and assess potential risk scenarios faced by girls and women in the context of conflict. The Office provided technical assistance, focusing on individual and collective protection routes. Additionally, guidance was offered on self-protection mechanisms and on the inclusion of gender-sensitive methodologies to monitor human rights violations. In Putumayo, OHCHR Colombia accompanied and supported the process of Andean-Amazonian women, which seeks to advance the implementation of the gender indicators outlined in the Peace Agreement, the comprehensive rural reform and drug-trafficking solutions.



RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

OHCHR Guatemala

In April, OHCHR Guatemala facilitated the participation of representatives from the Guatemalan National Midwives' Movement, known as "Nim Alaxik", in the twenty-second session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) held in New York. During the session, the organization engaged with key stakeholders, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the President of the UNPFII, the Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section of OHCHR and various member states representatives. Their advocacy efforts resulted in a specific recommendation being incorporated into the final session report. This recommendation urged the State of Guatemala to fully implement the 2019 Constitutional Court ruling in support of Indigenous midwives.

From 25 to 27 April, OHCHR Guatemala conducted a field mission to the department of Izabal, to monitor the human rights situation of Garifuna and Afro descent women. The team visited the cities of Livingston and Puerto Barrios, where they delivered a workshop on women's human rights and international mechanisms for the protection of their rights. Additionally, the team met with a wide range of civil society organizations and government institutions during the visit. This approach aimed at gathering crucial information regarding women's and LGBTIQ+ people's human rights in the context of the general elections.



UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Los Derechos Humanos son de todos
Y TODAS



DISCUSSION DURING MONITORING FIELD MISSION IN IZABAL

CAPACITY BUILDING



Official visits in Colombia



OHCHR Colombia received a visit from three UN experts: the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten; and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhan Mullally. On 25 May, OHCHR Colombia participated in a commemorative event marking the National Day for the Dignity of Victims of Sexual Violence. During this event, the Office held discussions with representatives of the Colombian government on protection measures for victims.

OHCHR provided support to the Special Rapporteur Ms. Mullally during her mission to various locations in Colombia, including Bogotá, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Apartadó, Necoclí, Pasto and Ipiales. During these visits, she met with survivors and victims of trafficking as well as with human rights defenders. Following the conclusion of her visit, she issued a [press release](#) urging Colombian authorities to incorporate the issue of trafficking in persons into Colombia's Peace Policy discussions and to implement and strengthen the ethnic chapter of the Final Agreement "to prevent trafficking, assist and protect victims, develop survivor-centered and survivor-led programmes, and measures to combat impunity".



ENGAGEMENT WITH UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Law on Domestic Violence

In February, OHCHR Cambodia held a discussion with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on women's rights to exchange information on the amendment process of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims, adopted in 2005. In the discussion, NGOs shared information about their work to prevent domestic violence, protect victims, and address challenges related to the implementation of the law. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has provided recommendations to amend the law.

Independent Expert on SOGI

From 10 to 20 January, OHCHR Cambodia supported the mission of the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI). The final mission statement was published in Khmer and English. The Office facilitated consultations with the Resident Coordinator and United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to follow up the recommendations made by the IE SOGI, including on the integration of gender and LGBTI rights into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2027.

Workshop

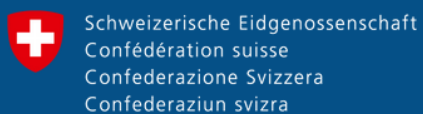
In May, OHCHR Cambodia organized a discussion jointly with UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with 13 NGOs working in gender equality to discuss engagement with UN Human Rights Mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and CEDAW.

OHCHR CAMBODIA
MARKED THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF WOMEN JUDGES
10 MARCH





For further information about the Gender Accreditation Programme please see www.ohchr.org/en/women/ohchr-gender-accreditation-programme



Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs FDFA