

**Summary Result of the
Roundtable Dialogue on Advancing Legal Protection for
LGBT+ Couples in Cambodia
and Cultural Art Performance and Exhibition Event**

ខ្ញុំទទួលយក - I Accept Campaign Launching

9th & 11th December 2021

Event video summary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXYQEpcVQEM>





9th December 2021 at Himawari Hotel: Roundtable Dialogue on Advancing Legal Protection for LGBT+ Couples in Cambodia under the presiding of H.E. Mr. Keo Remy, Minister Delegate Attached to the Prime Minister and President of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee
Total Participants: 85 people



I. Concrete mechanisms to respond to Legal Marriage Equality for LGBT+ couples were identified

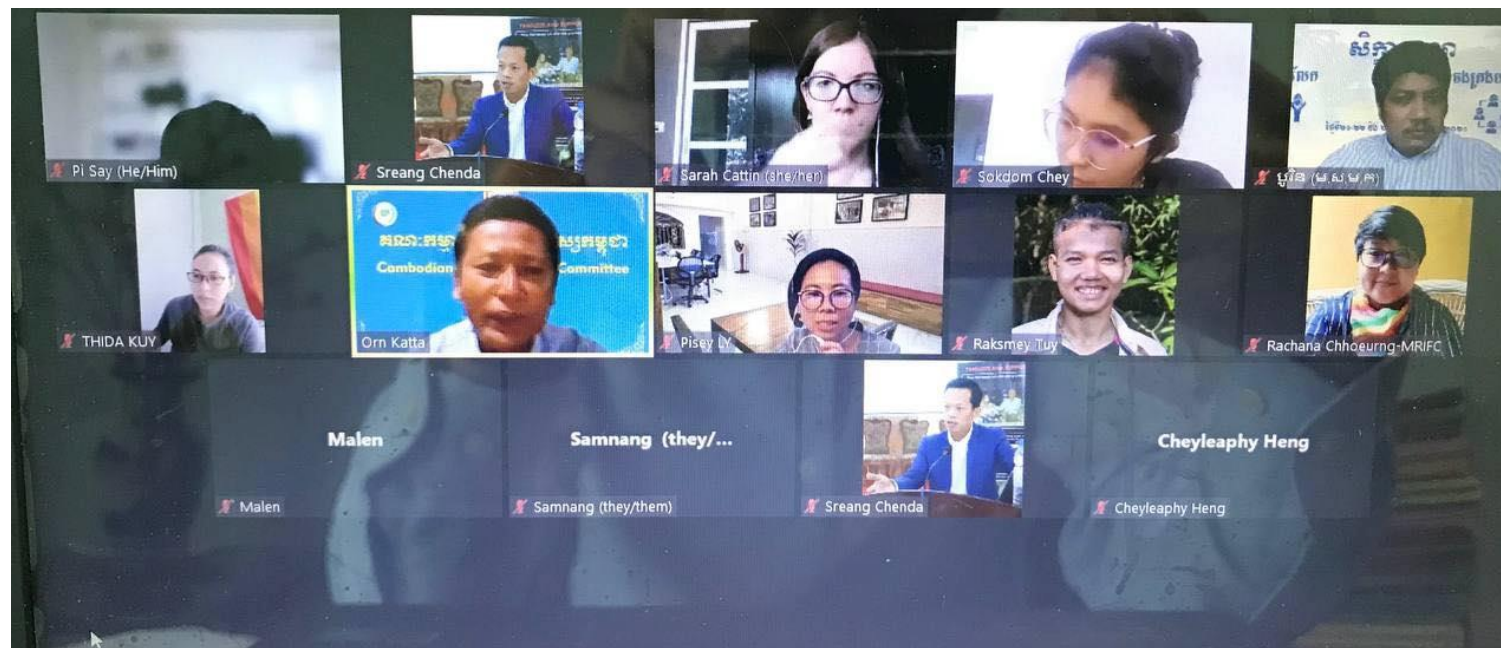
1. LGBT+ community members presented again their clear call for the creation of a multi-stakeholder working group in charge of studying and reviewing the proposed legal amendments to enable legal marriage equality for LGBT+ couples, including the proposed amendment to Article 45 of the Cambodian Constitution.
2. LGBT+ community members could get more clarity on the Ministry of Interior's existing mechanisms - the Legislative Council to receive and review Draft Legal Amendment.
3. Relevant national institutions including the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Cambodian Human Rights Committee (CHRC) have increased their awareness and are now well aware of the challenges and the needs of legal protection for LGBT+ couples and families who are one of the marginalized groups the government takes into account. This was made possible thanks to several factors:



I.3.1. The demand from LGBT+ community to the Cambodian government about their needs are concrete and real, presented with confidence, logical reasons, clear, and respectful manner.



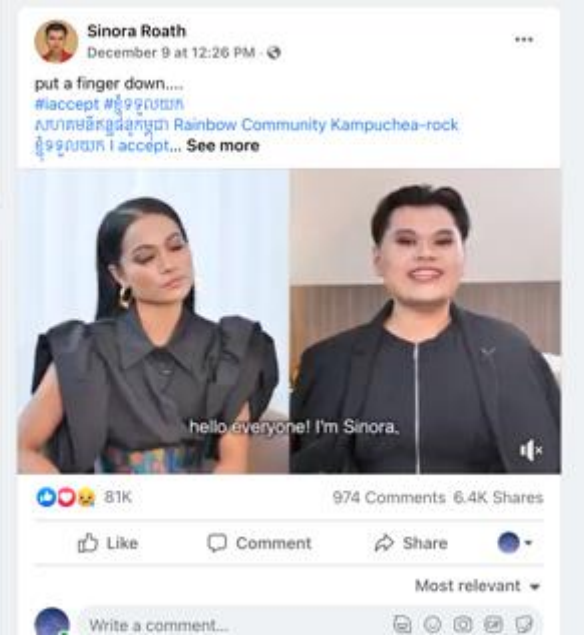
I.3.2. The call for concrete action is based on the [joint statement](#) “Step up efforts to protect the rights of LGBTIQ people in Cambodia, in line with the Universal Periodic Review recommendations accepted by Cambodia.” endorsed by 16 civil society organizations (CSOs) and submitted to CHRC and MoWA on 27th September 2021.



I.3.3. CSOs coalition collaborative activities and approaches with the Cambodian government, UPR recommending states, and UN as key stakeholders are consistent, persistent, pro-active, respectful, dialogue, and solution-oriented. It helps build the foundation of reliable working relationship with the Cambodian government.



I.3.4. Increased visible support for LGBT+ people from significant stakeholders including parents, local authorities, media (commune council), CSOs, public, artists, and social media influencers.



II. LGBT+ community and CSOs gained support from the government for the awareness raising campaign

Local authorities national government representatives support the launch of “ខ្ញុំទទួលយក - I Accept” campaign, one of the important strategy for public awareness raising for accepting LGBT+ persons and their legal marriage.



Photo: The launching of ខ្ញុំទទួលយក - I Accept Campaign on 9th December 2021



III. Local authorities (commune council) expressed their support for LGBT+ couples

Local authorities presented their good practices and willingness to register administrative documents for LGBT+ citizens, and appealed to national authorities to find the solution for LGBT+ couples to be able to get married and register their marriage.



III.1. Local authorities recognized the challenges and needs of LGBT+ community



The supports of local authorities for the LGBT+ community are made possible because of many years of pro-active awareness raising, open and respectful communications, and collaboration.

“I have seen, met and got actual experience with LGBT+ persons. I continue supporting LGBT+ community all along. However, the national authorities need to solve the legal challenges so that I can implement on the ground to serve people at my local level.” ~ Tem Sommony, a commune chief in Svay Rieng.

IV. Parents actively and vocally support their LGBT+ children and community



Parents shared their experiences and insights about their acceptance and supportive journey of their LGBT+ children. This is a strong evidence for the Cambodian local and national government and general public that parents do want to see their LGBT+ children fully respected and protected. The supportive parents is also a tangible hope and motivation for LGBT+ community, especially young people.





The unconditional love of parents who understand and want to see the great happiness of their children participate in the awareness raising and advocacy for legal marriage for LGBT+ people. They engage in photo story, roundtable dialogue, press conference, and media as guest speakers. These build on their activeness and commitment for equality of their children and LGBT+ community inspire other parents.



IV.1. The important role of LGBT+ community members

The effort of LGBT+ people to keep trying and continuing to explain to their parents, local authorities, and national government the difficulties, needs and importance of having recognition and protection by law for LGBT+ families.



Mr. To participated in a RoCK event from 2018 witnessing the Declaration of Family Relationship (a form of private contract) signing ceremony for his children and other LGBT+ couples. His active support was partially encouraged by the courage and effort of his child and child in law, Raksmei and Sreynoch, explaining, showing their capability and gratitude, and respectful for them.



V.2. LGBT+ community have confidence, faith and motivation to continue the advocacy journey towards the goal of Legal Equal Marriage



Sorn Noeun, RoCK active member, who has witnessed the celebration of RoCK annual events as well as dialogue with the Cambodian government and local authorities since 2009, expressed that he is moved to see the green light from the government after many years of our community efforts. This positive change motivated him to do more.



V. The general public is aware of the issues and the needs of legal marriage equality of LGBT+ people

This was made possible thanks to different influential factors:

1. Voices of civil society networks who promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, women rights, gender equality, child rights, LGBT+ rights, arts and culture through collaboration and supportive processes of organizing the roundtable dialogue and ខ្ញុំទទួលយក - I Accept Campaign.
2. Participation of the press and social media pages, who RoCK has been engaged with, published reports and articles on LGBT+ rights and the events positively, accurately and ethically.
3. Mobilization of human resources are arranged on time before the campaign launching to help with social media contents and clear plan for public awareness.
4. RoCK team have the ability to facilitate, mobilize support, and collaborate with individuals, groups and organizations actively and responsibly.





11th December 2021 at Odom Garden: Cultural Art Performance and Exhibition Event
Limit public participation: 250 people





Edit



ខ្ញុំទទួលយក | accept

@IacceptMEK - Community

Edit Send message

- Home
- Groups
- Events
- Reviews
- More ▾

Promote



RoCK social media channels



Facebook page



Twitter



Website + ខ្ញុំ ទទួលយក - I accept webpage

I accept Facebook page



Insights [See all](#)

Last 28 days : Nov 19 - Dec 16 ▾

People reached	26,894 ▲2689300%
Post engagements	8,102
Page likes	699
Tagged product clicks	0

RoCK Facebook page

Insights [See all](#)

Last 28 days : Nov 19 - Dec 16 ▾

People reached	34,994 ▼62%
Post engagements	13,332 ▼8%
Page likes	727 ▲170%
Tagged product clicks	0

Media Coverage on I Accept Campaign

1. [អត្ថបទផ្សព្វផ្សាយនៃទិវាសិទ្ធិមនុស្សអន្តរជាតិ២០២១](#)
2. [សហគមន៍អ្នកស្រលាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នាចង់មានច្បាប់រៀបការ ខណៈប្រធានសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជាគាំទ្រ](#)
3. [យុទ្ធនាការ “ខ្ញុំទទួលយក” បំណងចង់ឱ្យមានសមភាពច្បាប់អាពាហ៍ពិពាហ៍អ្នកស្រលាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា](#)
4. [ឯកឧត្តម កែវ វ៉េមី ៖ ខ្ញុំមិនទុកឱ្យអ្នកស្រលាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នារស់នៅឯកានោះទេ](#)
5. [LGBT+ Community Launches Marriage Campaign](#)
6. [សហគមន៍អ្នកស្រលាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នាចង់មានច្បាប់រៀបការ ខណៈប្រធានសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជាគាំទ្រ](#)
7. [មេសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា ទទួលស្គាល់ថាសង្គមកម្ពុជា មានការរើសអើងការស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា ពីសំណាក់ក្រុមគ្រួសារ សហគមន៍ និងមនុស្សនៅជុំវិញខ្លួន](#)
8. [គណៈកម្មាធិការសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា គាំទ្រឲ្យបង្កើតច្បាប់ធ្វើសំបុត្រអាពាហ៍ពិពាហ៍ចំពោះអ្នកស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា](#)
9. [យុទ្ធនាការ «ខ្ញុំទទួលយក» ដើម្បីសមភាពច្បាប់រៀបការ ដល់អ្នកស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា](#)
10. [កិច្ចពិភាក្សាប្រចាំសប្តាហ៍៖ ស្ថានភាពបច្ចុប្បន្ន នៃអ្នកស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នានៅកម្ពុជា](#)
11. [ប្រធានបទ តើអ្នកស្រលាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា អាចធ្វើអ្វីបានខ្លះ នាពេលបច្ចុប្បន្ននេះ ?](#)
12. [ទិវាសិទ្ធិមនុស្សអន្តរជាតិរបស់ស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា ២០២១](#)
13. [ទិវាសិទ្ធិមនុស្សអន្តរជាតិ “ខ្ញុំទទួលយក”](#)
14. [យុទ្ធការ« ខ្ញុំទទួលយក និងសមភាពច្បាប់អាពាហ៍ពិពាហ៍»](#)





VI. A solidarity, harmonize and healing space and process of LGBT+ community, parents, local and national authorities, and general public through:

- Time, process, approach and method with clarity, ongoing, pro-active, and regular engagement.
- Attitude and behavior full of respect and discipline
- Safe space that gives a sense of warmth
- Communication, trust and empathy
- Knowledge and information
- Experience and evidence
- Courage and faith
- Individual and collective voice and power, patience, perseverance and solidarity.





We belong to one harmonized society

