



**Summary Report of the  
Dialogues with key stakeholders on the Universal Periodic  
Review (UPR) mid-term reporting period on  
SOGIESC - SRHR in Cambodia**

**March-April 2022**



**Introduction**  
**Cambodian CSOs engagement with the third UPR of Cambodia on**  
**SOGIESC - SRHR**



## Timeline: Cambodian CSOs engagement with the third UPR of Cambodia on SOGIESC-SRHR

- **2018:** Consultations with LGBT+ Communities to determine priority issues in preparation of the UPR Joint-submission on SOGIESC-SRHR.
- July **2018:** Publication of **civil society UPR Joint-submission on SOGIESC-SRHR in Cambodia**
- August **2018**-January **2019:** Advocacy engagement with all stakeholders ahead of the UPR review.
- **2019: Third UPR Review of Cambodia → Cambodia received & accepted 9 recommendations on SOGIESC-SRHR**
- May **2019:** National Dialogue on Laws and Policies to Protect LGBTIQ People in Cambodia.
  
- September **2021: Joint statement** by 16 CSOs: *“Step up efforts to protect the rights of LGBTIQ people in Cambodia, in line with the UPR recommendations accepted by Cambodia.”*
  - + Informal Dialogues with Cambodian government, recommending states, and UN agencies.
- December **2021: Roundtable Dialogue on Advancing Legal Protection for LGBT+ Couples in Cambodia**
- December **2021:** Launching of “**ខ្ញុំទទួលយក I Accept**” campaign, to contribute to advancing the legal protection of marriage equality for LGBT+ couples, in line with Cambodia’s commitment at the third UPR.
- March **2022:** Publication of **CSO mid-term UPR report on SOGIESC-SRHR in Cambodia**
  - + **Dialogues with Cambodian government, recommending states, and UN agencies.**



During its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2019, **Cambodia accepted nine recommendations** specifically on the protection of Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) rights.

Recommendations on SOGIESC rights accepted by Cambodia during its third UPR	
Recommendations	Recommending State
<b>Amend the Constitution to enable legal marriage equality for same-sex couples</b>	
Amend the Constitution to ensure marriage equality for same-sex couples. (110.47)	Iceland
Amend article 45 of the Constitution so as to enable legal marriage equality with a view to pursuing full and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in all areas. (110.51)	Netherlands
Amend article 45 of the Constitution to allow same-sex couples to marry. (110.55)	Canada
<b>Enactment of laws and policies guaranteeing non-discrimination on the basis of SOGIESC</b>	
Introduce an anti-discrimination law that guarantees and explicitly prohibits all kinds of discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics. (110.45)	Iceland
Adopt, in consultation with civil society organizations, comprehensive legislation and policies against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and guarantee their implementation through all public entities, in particular in the education, health and labor sectors. (110.50)	Mexico
Introduce new legislation that guarantees equality and explicitly prohibits discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. (110.52)	Sweden
Adopt effective measures to combat and punish discrimination and violence motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. (110.53)	Uruguay
Introduce, by the end of 2023, an anti-discrimination law that guarantees equality and explicitly prohibits discrimination of all kinds, including on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or sex characteristics. (110.54)	Australia
<b>Enact legislation to enable legal gender recognition for trans people</b>	
Introduce a gender recognition law. (110.54)	Iceland



# Civil society joint-report on SOGIESC Rights and SRHR for the voluntary mid-term reporting period of Cambodia's third UPR.

03 March 2022

- ▶ **Endorsed by 19 civil society organizations.**
- ▶ Presents an assessment of the progress made by Cambodia towards the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations on SOGIESC-SRHR since 2019.
- ▶ Suggests concrete recommendations to the Royal Government of Cambodia and other UPR stakeholders including recommending states and UN agencies on ways forward to address remaining gaps and ensure the effective implementation of accepted UPR recommendations on SOGIESC rights before the next UPR cycle, thereby protecting the human rights of LGBT+ communities across Cambodia.

See full report:

<https://rockcambodia.org/universal-periodic-review-upr-mid-term-report-on-the-rights-of-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-lgbt-people-in-cambodia/>

A grid of 19 logos for endorsing organizations, including: RoCK, RHAC, Cambodian Center for Human Rights, Micro Rainbow International Foundation, GADC, SILAKA, Klahaan, ILGA ASIA, ilga, apcom, arrow, apa, actionaid, Save the Children, DCA, rfsu, IWDA, DESTINATION JUSTICE, and JASS.

**Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) Rights and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Cambodia**

**Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mid-term report for the third UPR of the Kingdom of Cambodia**

03 March 2022

*Joint-report prepared by Rainbow Community Kampuchea Organization ("RoCK"), the Cambodian Center for Human Rights ("CCHR"), the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia ("RHAC"), Micro Rainbow International Foundation ("MRIF"), and also endorsed by Gender and Development for Cambodia ("GADC"), Klahaan Organization, SILAKA Cambodia, ActionAid Cambodia, DanChurchAid Cambodia ("DCA"), Save the Children, ILGA Asia, APCOM, Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights ("APA"), Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women ("ARROW"), Just Associates Southeast Asia ("JASS SEA"), ILGA World – the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education ("RFSU"), International Women's Development Agency ("IWDA"), Destination Justice.*

**Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mid-term report Cambodia**  
**Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) Rights and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Cambodia**

*Joint-report prepared by Rainbow Community Kampuchea Organization (RoCK), the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR), the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC), Micro Rainbow International Foundation ("MRIF"), and also endorsed by Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), Klahan Organization, SILAKA Cambodia, ActionAid Cambodia, DanChurchAid Cambodia (DCA), Save the Children, ILGA Asia, APCOM, Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Just Associates Southeast Asia (JASS SEA), ILGA World – the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), and Destination Justice.*

**Summary - Progress towards implementation of third cycle UPR recommendations on SOGIESC & SRHR accepted by Cambodia**

Recommendations on SOGIESC rights & SRHR accepted by Cambodia at its third UPR	Recommending State	Progress towards implementation at the mid-term period (January 2022)*
<b>Marriage Equality for LGBT+ couples</b>		
Amend the Constitution to ensure marriage equality for same-sex couples. (110.47)	Iceland	<b>Not yet implemented</b> The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has not yet taken significant concrete actions to advance the process of legal review and reform to enable legal marriage equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) couples.
Amend article 45 of the Constitution so as to enable legal marriage equality with a view to pursuing full and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in all areas. (110.51)	Netherlands	
Amend article 45 of the Constitution to allow same-sex couples to marry. (110.55)	Canada	
<b>Enacting laws and policies prohibiting discrimination on the basis of SOGIESC</b>		
Introduce an anti-discrimination law that guarantees and explicitly prohibits all kinds of discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics. (110.45)	Iceland	<b>Not yet implemented</b> The RGC has not yet publicly taken significant concrete steps to review existing laws and introduce new legislation which explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of SOGIESC.
Introduce new legislation that guarantees equality and explicitly prohibits discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. (110.52)	Sweden	
Introduce, by the end of 2023, an anti-discrimination law that guarantees equality and explicitly prohibits discrimination of all kinds, including on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or sex characteristics. (110.54)	Australia	
Adopt, in consultation with civil society organizations, comprehensive legislation and policies against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and guarantee their implementation through all public entities, in particular in the education, health and labor sectors. (110.50)	Mexico	<b>Some progress made, but further concrete actions remain to be taken to guarantee full implementation</b> <i>Some welcomed first steps and progress in terms of general "measures" and "policies" against discrimination based on SOGIESC: Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum; inclusion of lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) persons in National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW); statement by high level officials; awareness raising work by CSOs. Nonetheless, further concrete actions by the RGC are needed to fully and effectively implement the recommendations.</i>
Adopt effective measures to combat and punish discrimination and violence motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. (110.53)	Uruguay	
<b>Legal Gender Recognition</b>		
Introduce a gender recognition law. (110.54)	Iceland	<b>Not yet implemented</b> The RGC has not yet taken significant concrete actions to advance on introducing legislation supporting transgender people's right to be legally recognized according to their self-defined gender identity.

\*Please refer to the full civil society UPR mid-term report on SOGIESC rights and SRHR in Cambodia for a comprehensive analysis of progress towards implementation of these accepted recommendations on SOGIESC-SRHR. The full report is available at: <https://rockcambodia.org/category/rock-publication/>

**Recommendations to the Royal Government of Cambodia to address implementation gaps & ensure implementation of accepted recommendations on SOGIESC-SRHR before the next UPR cycle\***

**Marriage equality for LGBT+ couples**

*Cambodian LGBT+ persons have continuously identified the obtention of legal marriage equality as the priority to protect their equal marriage and family rights, as well as to reduce and ultimately eliminate the high levels of discrimination they face.*

- Take concrete steps working together with all relevant stakeholders to enable legal marriage equality for LGBT+ couples, based on the commitment in the third cycle UPR.
- Promptly consider forming a multi-stakeholder working group (or similar appropriate mechanism) 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 and other relevant laws. The multi-stakeholder technical working group should include all relevant stakeholders including relevant Cambodian government institutions, members of the LGBT+ community and civil society organizations (CSOs) working on SOGIESC rights, SRHR, women's rights, gender equality and children's rights, and United Nations agencies.

**Laws and Policies prohibiting discrimination based on SOGIESC**

- Conduct activities at key ministries levels, particularly within the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice, to increase understanding among government officials on SOGIESC and SRHR concepts and rights, the context for LGBT+ rights in Cambodia, and the current gaps in protecting their equal and equitable rights.
- Increase efforts by government officials and institutions, including the Ministry of Information, in engaging proactively with the media and diffusing messages encouraging the public not to bully or discriminate against LGBT+ people, and in particular encouraging parents and families to accept and support their LGBT+ children.
- As a first step, relevant institutions from the RGC should consider issuing official government letters highlighting the right to non-discrimination based on SOGIESC in all sectors including family, education, health, and employment/workplace. The official letters can be specifically addressed to commune councilors and local officials in charge of civil registration. In parallel, the RGC should study the possibility for concrete legal and policy changes to effectively protect LGBT+ people from discrimination based on their SOGIESC in all sectors and guarantee their equal and equitable rights.
- To achieve SOGIESC-inclusive CSE curriculum in schools going forward, it is important that the RGC and Ministry of Education Youth and Sports establish a clear action plan with adequate human resources and budget allocation, and educational materials, to step up efforts to train public schools teachers nation-wide on SOGIESC & SRHR concepts and rights so that they can effectively and adequately teach their students.
- Develop effective implementation of NAPVAW (2019-2023) and strategic interventions, accompanied by adequate resource allocation, notably regarding education, awareness raising, and protection for LBT persons from gender-based violence and discrimination, including making available and accessible comprehensive health and legal services for LBT survivors. This should be carried out through strengthening the work of the Technical Working Group on Gender – Gender Based Violence (TWGG-GBV), and in consultation with civil society working on the rights of LGBT+ persons. MoWA and through the work of the TWGG-GBV should also consider studying necessary legal reforms to protect LBT persons from gender-based violence and discrimination.

**Legal gender recognition for transgender people**

- Engage in further dialogue with relevant ministries, and other key stakeholders, including CSOs working on SOGIESC-SRHR rights, and transgender persons, in order to advance the process of introducing legislation enabling legal gender recognition based on self-determination in line with international human rights law and standards. Consider learning from the experiences of other countries in enacting laws and policies allowing legal gender recognition, and international human rights standards related to legal gender recognition.

**Suggested recommendations for other stakeholders including Recommending States & United Nations agencies to support implementation of UPR recommendations on SOGIESC-SRHR.**

- Continue regular and pro-active dialogue with civil society on how to advance on the protection of SOGIESC rights and SRHR in Cambodia. *In addition, consider supporting the work (including through funding and technical supports) of CSOs, academic institutions, and media and journalism working to support the progress on advancing the protection of SOGIESC rights and SRHR in line with UPR recommendations accepted by Cambodia.*
- Consider raising the issue of the protection of SOGIESC rights and SRHR in line with accepted UPR recommendations in their interactions with the Cambodian government. *Notably, consider proactively offering some supports to the RGC in advancing on legal reforms to protect SOGIESC rights and SRHR in line with accepted UPR recommendations (including technical expertise for legal review, and sharing experiences from other countries regarding the processes, requirements, and procedures for legal reforms to protect SOGIESC rights, including legal marriage equality for LGBT+ couples).*

\*Please refer to the full civil society UPR mid-term report on SOGIESC rights and SRHR in Cambodia for the comprehensive list of recommendations.

For any inquiries, please contact: [contact@rockcambodia.org](mailto:contact@rockcambodia.org).



**Dialogues with key stakeholders on the Universal Periodic  
Review (UPR) mid-term reporting period on **SOGIESC** - SRHR  
in Cambodia**

**March-April 2022**



# Dialogues with key stakeholders on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mid-term reporting period on SOGIESC –SRHR in Cambodia

In **March-April 2022** following the publication of the CSO mid-term report on SOGIESC-SRHR, RoCK together with Love is Diversity, CCHR, RHAC and MRIF organized a series of meeting with key stakeholders:

- **Representatives from the Government of Cambodia**, including CHRC, MoWA and Mol.
- Representatives from **UPR Recommending States**, including Canada, the Netherlands, Iceland, Australia, Sweden and Mexico.
- Representatives from **United Nations agencies**, including UN Resident Coordinator Office, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF.
- RoCK also participated in the **National Consultation Workshop on the UPR mid-term report** organized by CHRC and UN Cambodia.

Objectives of these dialogues:

- ▶ **Discuss progress towards implementation of third cycle UPR recommendations on SOGIESC & SRHR accepted by Cambodia since 2019.**
- ▶ **Discuss the ways forward for supporting progress towards equal protection of the rights of LGBT+ persons in Cambodia, in line with supporting the implementation of UPR recommendations and primarily towards enabling marriage equality LGBT+ couples as prioritized by the LGBT+ community.**





# Government of Cambodia

Online dialogues with representatives from the Royal Government of Cambodia including:

- **Cambodian Human Rights Committee (CHRC)**
- Legislative Council of the **Ministry of Interior (MoI)**
- General Department of Social Development of the **Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA)**
- *In the future, also planning to meet the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).*

## Key points discussed:

➔ *Recommending the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group in charge of studying and reviewing the proposed legal amendments to enable legal marriage equality for LGBT+ couples, under the coordination of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee.*



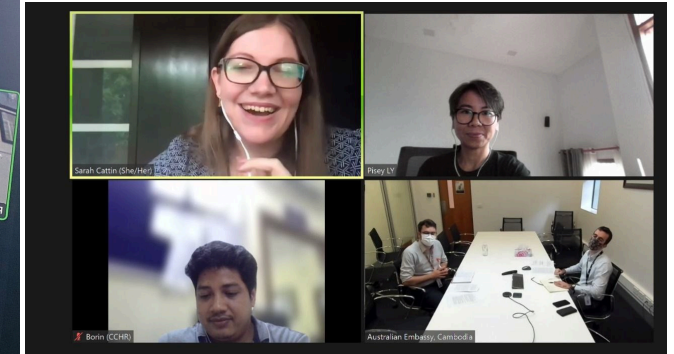
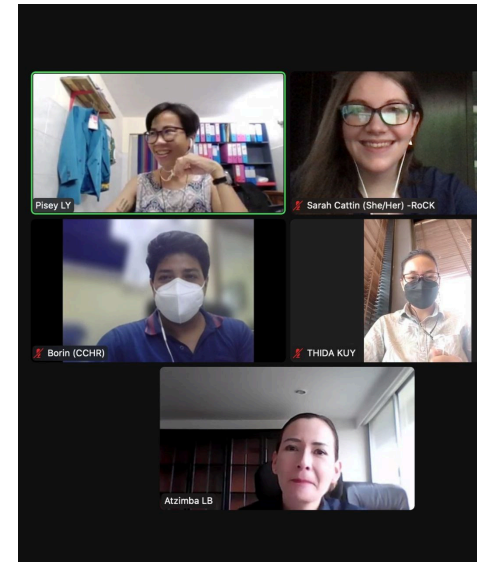
# Recommending States

Meetings with representatives from UPR recommending states including:

- Office of the Embassy of **Canada** in Phnom Penh,
- Embassy of **Iceland** in Beijing,
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the **Netherlands** in Thailand,
- Embassy of **Mexico** in Thailand,
- **Australian** Embassy in Cambodia,
- Embassy of **Sweden** Section Office in Phnom Penh

## Key points discussed:

*Request for recommending states to support the implementation of UPR recommendations on SOGIESC-SRHR, including continuing proactive dialogues on protection of LGBT+ rights in Cambodia, considering providing technical supports and sharing experiences in enacting legal marriage equality legislation.*

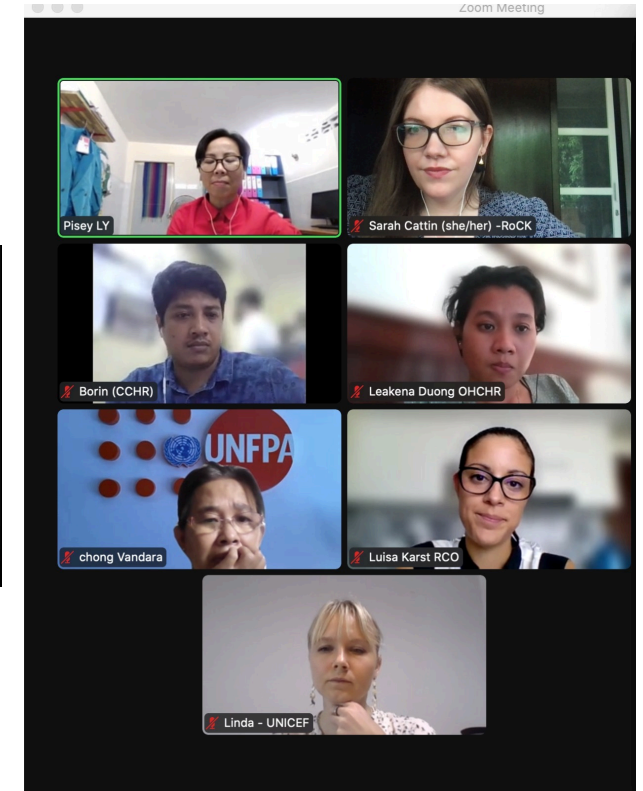
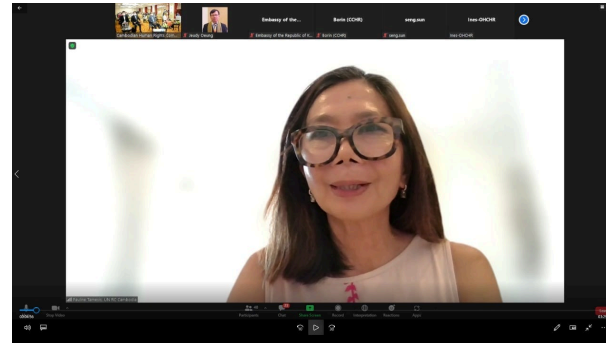


# UN Agencies

*“During my conversations with LGBTI community in Cambodia, they have continuously identified the obtention of legal marriage equality as a priority to protect their rights and reduce the high levels of discrimination they face. The UN supports recommendations by Iceland, Netherlands, and Canada, to allow same-sex couples to marry, in order to promote equality for all Cambodians.”*

Ms. Pauline Tamesis, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cambodia

Opening remarks at the Consultation on the UPR mid-term report developed by the RGC following the 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR cycle, 23 March 2022



# Consultation on the UPR mid-term report developed by the RGC following the 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR cycle, organized by CHRC & UN Cambodia 23 March 2022



While progress has been made, there are a number of outstanding UPR recommendations to the government that require further attention, including those encouraging Cambodia to amend the Constitution to allow same-sex couples to marry;

RoCK asked about action on LGBT+ rights related recommendations; in response CHRC member His Excellency Katta Orn welcomed collaboration between NGOs and the CHRC to address LGBT+ problems and called on LGBT+ groups to compile laws and research on same-sex marriage, for the CHRC to use as a foundation for further advocacy.



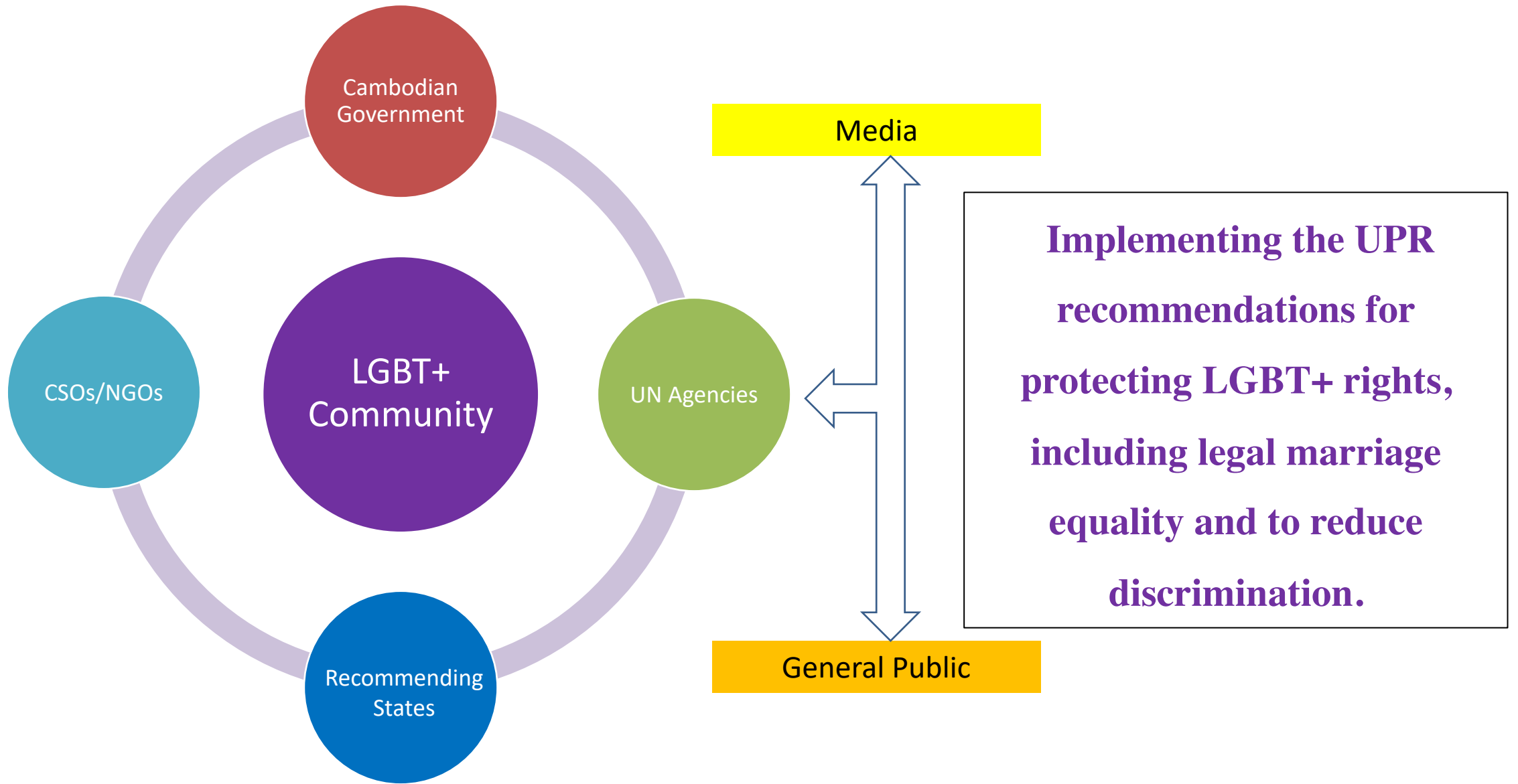
# Next Steps



## In the next two years before the fourth cycle of Cambodia's UPR scheduled in 2024:

- ▶ **Continue proactive dialogue and engagement with all key stakeholders to contribute to progress towards equal protection of the rights of LGBT+ persons in Cambodia, in line with supporting the implementation of UPR recommendations and primarily towards enabling marriage equality LGBT+ couples as prioritized by the LGBT+ community.**
- ▶ Specifically, the immediate next step will be working with all stakeholders for the formation 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 learning from legislation and experiences from other countries.
- ▶ "ខ្ញុំទទួលយក - I Accept" campaign supports the progress towards the implementation of these accepted UPR recommendations, by raising the voices and stories of the Cambodian LGBT+ community members, their families, their parents, allies from all sectors, and the general public across the country through the media and social media, for more understanding, acceptance, and support for the importance of obtaining legal marriage equality for LGBT+ couples in Cambodia.





# Media Coverage

- CSO UPR mid-term report on SOGIESC-SRHR in March 2022
- National Dialogue and Launching of the “I Accept” legal marriage equality campaign in December 2021
- CSO Joint-Statement on the UPR mid-term on SOGIESC-SRHR in September 2021





# Media Coverage

- *RFI*, កញ្ញា លី ពិសី៖ អាពាហ៍ពិពាហ៍ស្របច្បាប់សំខាន់ក្នុងការបង្ការភាពងាយរងគ្រោះរបស់អ្នកស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា, 03 March 2022. [https://fb.watch/cqDHM8\\_W3n/](https://fb.watch/cqDHM8_W3n/)
- *BTVnews*, សហគមន៍អ្នកស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នាចង់មានច្បាប់រៀបការ ខណៈប្រធានសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជាគាំទ្រ, 10 December 2021. <https://news.btv.com.kh/public/article/7424?fbclid=IwAR3HpLWtXDHh1DBqDKsOez4KNxPu9uQdFREhOhjdir1dmMe7GjBgS1EeHNo> <https://youtu.be/Lw-E9koZMEs>
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- *AMS*, ឯកឧត្តម កែវ រ៉េមី ៖ ខ្ញុំមិនទុកឱ្យអ្នកស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នារស់នៅឯកនោះទេ, 10 December 2021. <https://ams.com.kh/education/life-education/news/he-keo-remy-i-do-not-leave-lgbt-people-alone/>
- *Cambodianess*, LGBT+ Community Launches Marriage Campaign, 10 December 2021. <https://cambodianess.com/article/lgbt-community-launches-marriage-campaign>
- *Freshnews*, មេសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា ទទួលស្គាល់ថាសង្គមកម្ពុជា មានការរើសអើងការស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា ពីសំណាក់ក្រុមគ្រួសារ សហគមន៍ និងមនុស្សនៅជុំវិញខ្លួន, 10 December 2021. <http://www.freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/localnews/223090-2021-12-10-04-39-13.html>
- *VOD Radios*, ទិវាសិទ្ធិមនុស្សអន្តរជាតិ “ខ្ញុំទទួលយក”, 10 December 2021. <https://www.facebook.com/VODKhmer/videos/1073090596837202/>
- *Thmey Thmey*, យុទ្ធនាការ “ខ្ញុំទទួលយក” ដើម្បីសមភាពច្បាប់រៀបការ ដល់អ្នកស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា, 11 December 2021. <https://thmeythmey.com/?page=detail&id=110518&fbclid=IwAR2yIcONpkER7ycAZ5SkIE3PMBspihntjCPZnodbyW9IEwOmAb9ICTE0Q9U>
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- *RFI*, អង្គការសមាគមចំនួន១៦ដែលធ្វើការលើកកម្ពស់សិទ្ធិអ្នកស្រឡាញ់ភេទដូចគ្នា, 27 Sep 2021. [https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=2067815713356161&\\_rdr](https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=2067815713356161&_rdr)
- *Cambodianess*, “LGBTIQ Advocates Urge Same-Sex Marriage Reform”, 30 September 2021. <https://cambodianess.com/article/lgbtiq-advocates-urge-same-sex-marriage-reform?fbclid=IwAR3ftfFV5zkle-AGPkMZV9iT41jhtBUsoSzsXrYLSNm85Fis-ebKi9Fd2hE>
- *Khmer Times*, “Sixteen NGOs ask Government to protect LGBTIQ rights”, 30 September 2021, <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50944348/sixteen-ngos-ask-government-to-protect-lgbtiq-rights/>





**We belong to one harmonized society**

