

Recommendations for 2nd National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women (NAP VAW)

Submitted to TWGG-GBV Working Group

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Violence Against Women (VAW) occurs not only today but sadly has a past history of decades. Especially during times of conflict women faced many types of violence that still affects their lives today and feed into the acceptance of VAW in the present. It is of utmost importance that the 2nd NAP VAW adequately addresses past VAW to extinguish the root causes of women's sufferings today.

Primary Prevention/Awareness-Raising

- a) Acknowledge the truth that widespread sexual and gender-based violence occurred during Democratic Kampuchea by initiating or supporting on-going **documentation** to preserve the history of past experiences of victims and survivors, to break the silence and to reveal root causes of VAW. Such documentation should be made publicly available, especially for universities, as basis for further research, discussion and awareness on the connection and continuum between past and present VAW.
- a) Use the results of documentation projects for discussions on the impact and root causes for VAW in the **public and school education** to promote the notion that these acts are unacceptable at any times.
- b) Set-up national or local **Women's Hearings** under the leadership of MoWA on violence against women in the past and today to give a voice to survivors; publicly acknowledge their suffering and condemn such acts. Such Hearings should be used as inter-generational or inter-communal platform for a dialogue on prevention of VAW.

Service Provision

- b) Establish a **reparations program** led by MoWA and implemented in cooperation with civil society which includes a package of services for victims of gender-based violence during conflict (e.g. health services, counseling services). The content of the reparations should be developed in consultation with the victims and respond to their needs.
- c) Closely monitor the establishment of the Victims Foundation for Khmer Rouge survivors to ensure that these initiatives are gender sensitive and inclusive of GBV victims.
- d) Improve cooperation between MoWA and civil society on VAW in conflict by forming a **special advisory panel** to the government on GBV in conflict with the purpose of proposing projects and programming or offering input and advice on how to successfully integrate the perspective of this unique group of survivors into services contemplated by the government.
- e) Provide training and raise awareness among all service providers about VAW in conflict to ensure that services are considerate of the needs of GBV victims from that period. Service providers should be conscious that most elderly women who request services are survivors of conflict facing specific difficulties (e.g. PTSD).

General Recommendations

As a member of the UN General Assembly, adhere to obligations under Security Council Resolutions including those specified in UN SCRs 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, and 1960 and

- report on the situation of survivors of sexual violence during conflict, including access to support and justice, in Government reports on the above obligations;
- regularly report on the prosecution rate of sexual violence as per Security Council Resolution 1325 global indicators.