

Call for applications for a Research Assistant

Research on gender-based violence against ethnic minorities under the Khmer Rouge

The Cambodian Defenders Project is seeking a Research Assistant for a full time, fixed term position, to work on a research project investigating gender based violence against ethnic minorities during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Location: Phnom Penh

Duration: 7 months, full time

Starting date: as soon as possible

The Project

Cambodia was devastated by the Khmer Rouge, which ruled the country from 17 April 1975 to 7 January 1979 and was responsible for causing the death of more than 1.5 million people due to starvation, executions, disease and injury. Among the atrocities committed during that period, sexual and gender-based crimes, primarily targeted at women and girls, are the least well known due to the shame and stigma which have silenced victims for decades.

There are very few research studies that have researched sexual and gender-based violence during this time. Two studies that have examined this subject – one by Kasumi Nakagawa (2007) and another by Katrina Natale (2011) - indicate that some ethnic groups in the population were specifically targeted by the regime for rape and other forms of gender-based violence. This research will document ethnic minorities' experiences of sexual and gender-based violence during the Khmer Rouge regime. The purpose of this work is to document survivor accounts for the Cambodian historical record and to inform advocacy efforts for transitional justice mechanisms and supports for survivors.

More specifically, the project aims to:

1. provide an avenue for respondents to speak of their experience of sexual and gender-based violence, in a safe environment with access to psychological support
2. gather knowledge and build understanding of the extent and characteristics of sexual and gender based violence perpetrated during the Khmer Rouge regime against ethnic minorities
3. determine whether gender-based violence perpetrated against ethnic minorities differed from that of the mainstream Khmer population.

Target groups for the research are Vietnamese, Khmer Krom, Cham and Khmer Islam peoples.

Research team

The Research Team will consist of a Research Coordinator, two Research Assistants and eight volunteer Interviewers. Other CDP staff will provide assistance and advice as required.

The Research Coordinator will provide overall project planning and management, and provide ongoing supervision, support and training to the Research Assistants. The Coordinator will be actively involved in data collection and analysis, and report writing.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Project Activities

- Assist in development of work plans and field research plan
- Contact NGOs to source respondents for the research
- Assist in transcribing and checking transcriptions
- Assist in checking translations and interpretation
- Contribute to analysis of data
- Assist with report writing
- Liaise with report designer and printer
- Assist with planning research launch and follow-up activities
- Other duties as required.

2. Field Research Activities

- Organise fieldwork logistics
- Assist in developing interview questions
- Assist with interviews
- Supervise team of Interviewers, including on-site monitoring and debrief
- Other duties as required.

Preferred Qualifications

The successful candidate will possess some or all of the following characteristics:

- Fluency in written and spoken Khmer and good English
- University degree in the social sciences, law or psychology or other related field
- Research experience and working in a research team is an advantage
- Knowledge of sexual and gender based violence is an advantage
- Experience in conducting interviews
- Good communication skills
- Willingness and ability to spend periods of time (at least one week including weekend and evenings) in the provinces of Cambodia
- Knowledge of word processing and spreadsheets
- Willingness to work under pressure to meet deadlines.

Submission of application

This position is open to **Cambodian nationals only**. For more information or to apply for this position, please send your current CV (not to exceed 2 pages), a letter explaining your interest in this position and detailing relevant achievements, and the contact information for 2 professional references (employers, lecturers, etc.). Additional information is not required unless requested.

Please send your application by email to Rochelle Braaf, International Advisor, Cambodian Defenders Project, **rochellebraaf.cdp@gmail.com** by **25 August 2013**. If submitting in hard copy, please deliver to 1LEO Street 450, Sangkat Tuol Tompong II, Phnom Penh by **5pm, Friday 23 August 2013**. Only successful candidates will be contacted.

Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.