

-Humanitarian Law RULES!

Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law

Newsletter

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Joint Commitment to End All Forms of Gender Based Violence

The Heads of State and Government will gather for the United Nations General Assembly high-level week in September 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for the 2023 SDG summit. Its purpose is to provide high-level guidance to the target year of the 2030 Agenda-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹ The 17 SDGs are not going well due to the waves of Covid-19.² Additionally, the 5th SDG, will not be achieved by 2030 but another 286 years.³

The 5th SDG, gender equality, is not only off track but reversed since Covid-19.⁴ 30% of women around the world have experienced both partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, that is 760 million women globally.⁵ Further, the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality, also raised the concern about offline and online violence against women and girls.⁶

In Cambodia, even if the pandemic lockdown was a short period, online abuse has been noticed and was found mostly on a social media platform called Facebook.⁷ Many types of online violence have been reported by women and homosexuals such as un-consent filmed sexual intercourse, intimate photograph threats, cultural discrimination, and sexual harassment by being a gay man. Following the survey from Cambodia League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO) of 718 people, 38% of respondents with 20% women said to have been sexually harassed online.⁸

Generally, a victim of online violence can be happening to both sexes; but more with women and girls. Although it seems to be targeted online, it can result in the suffering of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm.⁹ The major health problems for women including physical, mental, and sexual are caused by intimate partner violence and sexual violence, which may lead to unintended pregnancy and abortion. Moreover, it may affect children's conduct later in life by witnessing such violence within the family. It also impacts social and economic costs when women are injured from the violence, and cannot hence take care of themselves and their children.¹⁰

¹ United Nations, *The 2023 SDG Summit – the High Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly*

<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023>

² World Economic Forum, *How much progress is being made on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals?*, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 21 September 2022

[Are the UN's Sustainable Development Goals on track? | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#)

³ UN Women, *Advancing gender equality: UN Women at Davos 2023*, 10 January 2023

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/announcement/2023/01/un-women-at-davos-2023>

⁴ UN Women, *In focus: Sustainable Development Goal 5*, 23 August 2022

[In focus: Sustainable Development Goal 5 | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

⁵ The World Bank, *Violence against women and girls-what the data tell us*, Gender Data portal, 1 October 2022

[Violence against women and girls – what the data tell us - World Bank Gender Data Portal](#)

⁶ UN Women, *Press release: UN Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the role of technology and innovation, education in the digital age in accelerating gender equality*, 18 March 2023

[Press release: UN Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the role of technology and innovation, and education in the digital age in accelerating gender equality | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

⁷ Cambodianess, *Report: Marginalized Communities Targeted with Online Abuse in Cambodia*, Society, Gerald Flynn and Phoung Vantha, 2 December 2021

[Report: Marginalized Communities Targeted with Online Abuse in Cambodia | Cambodianess](#)

⁸ Cambodia LICADHO, *Report: Status Update: Harassment on Social Media in Cambodia*, November 2021

[Report: Status Update: Harassment on Social Media in Cambodia | Cambodia | LICADHO \(licadho-cambodia.org\)](#)

⁹ European Institute for Gender Equality, *Combating Cyber Violence against Women and Girls*, Publication, 25 November 2022

[Combating Cyber Violence against Women and Girls | European Institute for Gender Equality \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹⁰ World Health Organization, *Violence against women*, Newsroom, 9 March 2021

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday to Friday
8.45am – 5.30pm

E-RESOURCES

E-Journals on (1) Human Rights Law Review and (2) Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law and other Free E-Resource

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Overall, violence against women is preventable. We also see its growing evidence as a framework called “RESPECT Women” was published in 2019 by WHO, UN Women, and the other 12 UN and bilateral agencies to prevent violence against women. Furthermore, the health sector has to promote unbiased gender norms and provide extensive care to a victim of violence to supply women with services they may need.¹¹

[Violence against women \(who.int\)](#)

¹¹ World Health Organization, *Violence against women*, Newsroom, 9 March 2021
[Violence against women \(who.int\)](#)