

**Gender-Based Violence
Against Sexual Minorities
During the Khmer Rouge Regime**
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I never talked about it to anyone.

***I never talked because it seemed
shameful.***

-Male to Female (MtF)

Supporter



- GIZ
- CDP colleagues
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Key Terminology

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits a person's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality between women and men, which includes, physical, psychological, social, economic or other type of harm intentionally inflicted on a person because of his/her gender.(UN definition)

Key Terminology

Sexual violence

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, against another person sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.

(WHO definition)

Key Terminology

Rape

The perpetrator invading the body of another person by conduct resulting in penetration, however slight, of any part of the body of the victim or the perpetrator with a sexual organ or of the anal or genital opening of the victim with any part of the body or using an object or any other part of the body. The invasion is an act committed by force, or by the threat of force or coercion, such as that was caused by fear of violence, duress, detention, psychological oppression, or abuse of power, against such person or another person, or by taking advantage of a coercive environment or the invasion was committed against a person incapable of giving genuine consent. (ICC)

Key Terminology

Oral sex

Sexual activity in which the genitals of a person are stimulated by the mouth of another

Key Terminology

Gender Identity

Each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms

Key Terminology

Sexual Orientation

Each person's capacity for profound emotional, and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender or the same gender or more than one gender

Key Terminology

Bisexual	A person who is sexually attracted to both sexes
Heterosexual	A person who is sexually attracted to the opposite sex
Homosexual	A person who is attracted to a person of the same sex.
MtF	Male to Female transgender
FtM	Female to Male transgender

The research

Gender-Based Violence Against Sexual Minorities During the Khmer Rouge Regime

Primary objectives

1. Document experiences of gender-based violence and sexual violence against sexual minorities during the KR regime to enable their experiences to be known;
2. Determine the nature of gender based violence and sexual violence perpetrated against sexual minorities in regard to types of violence, survivors and perpetrator profile, and locations of violence; and
3. Utilize findings to empower LGBT communities by breaking the culture of silence about such violence for ending impunity for perpetrators.

Methodology of the research

1. Review of relevant literature and meeting with experts to identify key issues for sexual violence and GBV against sexual minorities during the KR regime
2. Preparation for the field research- interview questionnaires, identification of research site.

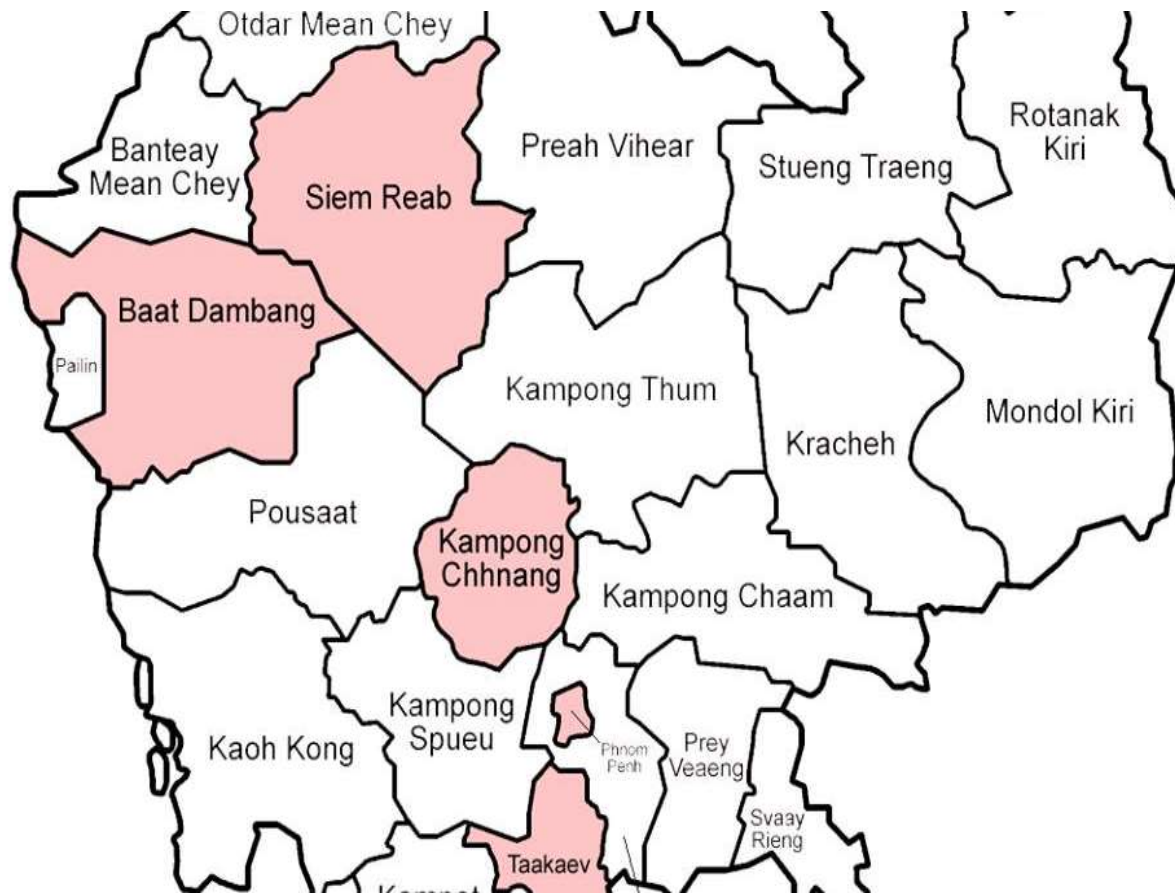
Methodology of the research

3. Field research with 48 respondents- face to face in safe environment, tape-recorded with consent. Interviews were conducted following the ethical guidelines set out in the “International Protocol on Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict” (Foreign & Commonwealth Office, UK)
4. Transcription and data entry from a structured interview questionnaires from the field interviews

Methodology of the research

5. Data analysis to identify key themes and patterns across the interviews, as well as individual case examples
6. Report writing and peer review of the draft report.

Research sites



Sexual identity/gender identity of respondents :total 48

	MtF Male-to- Female	FtM Female-to- male	Gay men	Lesbian women
heterosexual	33	5		
homosexual			5	3
Bisexual			2	

Social status in KR

	Number
Base person	23
New person	25
Total	48

- Base person: People who were already living in KR control area before 1975
- New person: People who were evicted from cities when KR took power in 1975

Main findings

If they knew (that I was a lesbian),
they would have killed me.

- A lesbian woman, base people

Main findings

- All people from sexual minorities interviewed tried to hide their sexualities during the KR regime.
- Almost all transgender persons in the research were threatened/abused/harassed due to their sexualities.

***I would not have been
abused and discriminated
if I had not been a gay.
-MtF, Battambang***



Crime reported in the research

Male KR leader raped me through the anus. They were young, 16-17 years old.....it was day time. They were 2 to 3 soldiers covering my face and other parts. He raped me in the position of bottom-up. Only one person raped me. Other KR leaders just seized me. They seized me for their top leader to rape. My body hurt for about a half month. It was hurt along my back. It seemed like it was tore down... so hurt....

- A MtF, 10 years old when she was raped

Main findings

- 56 per cent of respondents (27) were forced to get married (including 17 MtF), and three MtF were raped within forced marriage.

I told him that I was a boy. However, he still loved me so he requested Angkar to marry me. He didn't want me to be killed, to be hurt, so he proposed the marriage and told Angkar that I was a woman....at that time, if we told KR (about our gender identity) we would be killed. So, he kept the secret because he was afraid of losing me
- A MtF, new people

Main findings

- The majority of perpetrators of sexual violence were KR soldiers (17) but non-KR perpetrators were also identified (2). Three respondents were attacked by both the KR and non-KR.

A chief of prison approached me and ordered me to perform oral sex for him because he knew what I used to do with another KR soldier. Yet, I refused, then he hit me with his gun seriously on my body and one of my bones was broken, I failed down to the ground and lost consciousness. When I was faint he raped me. Few minutes later, I became conscious and went back to the jail.

- MtF, Phnom Penh

Main findings

- Many Male-to-Female (MtF) respondents were forced to perform oral sex by both KR and non-KR persons.

They knew me as a gay, so they ordered me to sleep and have sex with them because they thought I liked that also. In total, about 20-30 persons (forced me). For example, in this month I met this man and next month I met a new man depending on the place that they ordered me to move.....I was afraid when I did it, because if they knew they would kill me.

- A MtF, base people

Main findings

- All gay men in the research experienced sexual violence.
- No lesbian women interviewed experienced sexual violence.

When I was sleeping, they stripped off my trousers and played with my genital. ..I was not sure who touched my body, it was night time....They touched everywhere they wanted and they disrobed my clothes and touched my genital... I was younger than them so I couldn't stop them. They touched and played with me and sometimes I shouted, then an elder may have helped me.... when they came, those KR let me free.

- Gay man, Base person, Phnom Penh

Way forward –Gaps in knowledge

- Knowledge gap in violence against boys and men in the KR regime identified
- More information is essential among Lesbian and FtM to understand complexity of violence perpetrated against them- under-reporting of crimes, or?
- Perpetrators profile need to be analyzed more.

Thank you for your attention