



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
PHNOM PENH**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**AUSTRALIA FIGHTS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Violence against women is totally unacceptable and can only be reduced if we advance gender equality, Australian Ambassador HE Penny Richards said today, speaking at a function to mark International Women's Day. Ms Richards was joined by special guests, H.E. Lt. General Un Sokunthea, Deputy Commissioner General of the Cambodian National Police, and Dr Pung Chhiv Kek, the Founder and President of LICADHO.

Ms Richards said Australia was committed in its bilateral aid program to achieving this in Cambodia.

Building on this commitment, the Australian Embassy's Counsellor (Development Assistance), Ms Megan Anderson, announced that Australia would provide USD82,100 to fund the Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights Project managed by LICADHO, the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights. This project aims to prevent gender-based violence through the provision of training, referrals to support services and awareness campaigns on the issue.

This builds on the Australian Government's existing programs to support Cambodian efforts against domestic violence.

The Australian funded Cambodia Criminal Justice Assistance Project, or CCJAP, supports a number of activities with the Cambodian National Police, the Ministry of Justice, the General Department of Prisons and local communities to support Cambodian efforts to stop violence against women. These activities include the development of training on gender issues, supporting gender mainstreaming, and promoting the recruitment of female police officers.

Australia has committed around USD50,000 to support Hagar, a non-government organisation, to provide direct integration assistance to women and children who have suffered from domestic violence and exploitation.

The Australian Government has provided Monash University with over USD500,000 to conduct a research project on gender-based violence against Cambodian women with disabilities. The project will be implemented collaboratively between Australian and Cambodian partners and will develop pilot training and inclusion tools to assist women with disabilities who have been victims of violence.

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