



Ministry of Information
No: 271 PrK



Ministry of Women's Affairs

**Joint Prakas
On
Media Code of Conduct for Reporting on Violence Against Women**

Minister of Information

Minister of Women's Affairs

- Having seen the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Having seen the Royal Kram NS/RKT/0913/903, dated 24 September 2013 on the Appointment of the Royal Government of Cambodia
- Having seen the Royal Kram 02/NS/94, dated 20 July 1994, promulgating the Law on Organization and Functioning of the Council of Ministers
- Having seen the Royal Kram NS/RKM/0196/14, dated 24 January 1996, promulgating the Law on the Establishment of the Ministry of Information
- Having seen the Royal Kram NS/RKM/0105/002, dated 1 September 2005, promulgating the Law on the Establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Having seen the Royal Kram NS/RKM/0995/07, dated 1 September 2005, promulgating the Press Law
- Having seen the Royal Kram NS/RKM/1005/031, dated 24 October 2005, promulgating the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims
- Having seen the Sub-decree 70 ANKR.BK, dated 5 August 1999, on the Organization and Functioning of the Ministry of Information
- Having seen the Sub-decree 71 ANKR.BK, dated 13 July 2007, on the Modification of the General Department of Administration and Broadcasting into the General Department of Administration and Finance and the General Department of Information and Broadcasting
- Having seen the Sub-decree 13 ANKR.BK, dated 7 February 2005, on the Organization and Functioning of the Ministry of Women's Affairs
- In accordance with the necessity of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Women's Affairs

DECIDE

Article 1.-

The purpose of the joint Prakas is to establish a media Code of Conduct for reporting on violence against women, including physical, mental, sexual and economic violence, in order to prevent reporting of violence against women for entertainment or comical purposes and to change social attitudes towards the elimination of violence against women, to be in compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Neary Rattanak Strategic Plan IV and the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW) 2014-2018.

Article 2.-

Reporters shall not report in a way that describes in detail, shows or depicts in detail violent acts related to violence against women or rape that causes unnecessary distress to the victim, viewers or those involved.

Article 3.-

Newsreaders and reporters should report on violence against women in a way that informs as a source of information to relevant competent authorities to take action; that educates the public in order to change the negative attitudes of society and that contributes usefully to public dialogue about violence against women.

Article 4.-

Reporters should refer to specific legal provisions that perpetrators breach and its lawful punishment so that audiences are aware of the consequences and impact that may result from committing violence against women and to ensure the non-recurrence of violence against women.

Article 5.-

Reports shall include information that encourages and educates the public to alert competent authorities or relevant civil society organizations to violence against women. Reports shall not reveal the identity of those who report violent acts to authorities.

Article 6.-

Media reports shall not show images/video of the survivors/victims and perpetrators of violence or reveal information that could lead viewers to ascertain their identity. If deemed necessary, the images/videos shall be pixilated to de-identify them.

Article 7.-

Reports shall respect the privacy and dignity as well as ensure the protection and safety of victims/ survivors no matter where the images or videos are sourced from, including:

- Avoid graphic images/videos of death, injury, naked bodies or shock resulting from violence against women,
- Not reveal names and specific locations where violence against women occurs,
- Not show images/videos of victims/survivors of violence against women or reveal information that could lead to the identification of victims/survivors, including the names and address of victims/survivors or their relatives etc, and not divulge the address of victims or perpetrators. For example, when violence occurs in commune 'A' or district 'B' the commune or district is named if necessary rather than the specific address or specific village).

Article 8.-

To uphold the victim's dignity and to reduce victims/survivors shame, reporters shall review their stories in detail. In cases where there is a request from a victim/survivor to make changes to the story, an opportunity to make changes should be given.

Article 9.-

Media shall be highly vigilant when covering court action during the hearing process related to all crimes of violence against women.

Article 10.-

Media shall use appropriate and accurate language in order to uphold the dignity of victims/survivors when describing violence against women. Avoid terms like 'volatile relationship, lazy, shameless, adultery, strong sex drive' and other derogatory language which is inappropriate when describing violence against women.

Article 11.-

Avoid prejudice in reporting violence against women which could mislead or misinform the public as to the cause of the violence (for example, alcohol, lack of awareness, ignorance, poverty or reasons caused by victims/survivors). These excuses could enable perpetrators to avoid legal responsibility and would instead place blame on victims/survivors.

Article 12.-

Avoid blaming or faulting women for all violence that has happened to them. Reports shall refrain from adding personal insight or comments that clothing, lifestyle, profession, job, character, sexual orientation and time or place of the crime may have played a role in the violence.

Article 13.-

Use accurate, reliable statistics on violence against women in order to give audiences accurate information of the prevalence of crime. Reports shall avoid generalizations that are not supported by factual information. Reports shall include information on certain trends, such as the fact that most rapes are committed by someone known to the victim.

Article 14.-

Reporting violence against women in all forms of media shall comply with the requirements set forth in this joint Prakas.

Article 15.-

All media including news reporters, newsreaders, editors-in-chief shall effectively enforce this joint Prakas from the date of signature.

Phnom Penh, 20 July 2017

Minister of Information
[Sealed and signed]

Minister of Women's Affairs
[Sealed and signed]

HE. Khieu Kanharith

HE. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi

Copied to:

- Council of Ministers
- Ministry of Women's Affairs
- All General Departments of Ministry of Information "to be informed"
- Municipal/Provincial Departments of Information
- Municipal/Provincial Departments of Women's Affairs
- Cambodian TV and Radio Associations
- Associations of Journalists
- All TV, Radio Stations and all newspaper and magazine offices
- As in article 15 "for implementation"
- Archives