

**Call for Contribution of Ideas of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
(ECCC) Residual Functions Related to Victims**



SUBMISSION FROM YOUTH FOR PEACE

**To: Judges YOU Ottara and Claudia FENZ, Co-Rapporteurs on Residual Functions
Related to Victims**

Youth for Peace (YFP) is pleased to submit the following proposal on inter-generational dialogue in response to the ECCC's Call for Contribution of Ideas for Residual Functions related to Victims. As a renowned non-governmental organization in Cambodia, YFP has been conducting critical work in bringing about a society of peace and social justice in Cambodia by developing good role models and active citizenship of youth who understand and practice a culture of peace. Any residual function of the ECCC related to victims that facilitates dialogue, understanding, and learning across generations, will be crucial in ensuring the legacy of the ECCC, will serve to deepen the knowledge about the Khmer Rouge and accountability around it, and foster understanding and conversations in families and communities across Cambodia. Since 2007, YFP has been engaging in various projects, encouraging victims of the Khmer Rouge to share their stories and narratives, and projects fostering dialogue between victims of the Khmer Rouge and young people across Cambodia.

Relevance of engaging with victims and youths

In Cambodia, knowledge about the Khmer Rouge regime, and the accountability that the ECCC has been implementing, remains low. Cambodia also remains a country where dialogues on this period of time remain limited at best, and information transferred within families varies in contents and truths.

Engaging with not just victims but including youth in residual activities for victims by the ECCC ensures that the largest portion of Cambodian society is also included in the ECCC's work and legacy. YFP's inter-generational work and dialogue projects ensure the following:

- Victims and youths improve their understanding of the history related to the Khmer Rouge, the causes of genocide, and efforts around reconciliation
- Cambodia's youth, born well after the Khmer Rouge, and comprising the largest portion of its population, are engaged in Cambodia's search for justice, accountability, and reconciliation in a well-informed and peaceful manner,
- A safe space is provided for Cambodians to share their experiences between young and old, among families, and within communities, that promotes reconciliation and an understanding of the ECCC in Cambodia's transitional justice process
- To engage youth to take an active role in the transitional justice and reconciliation process as initiated by the ECCC

Proposal

In submitting this proposal, we acknowledge and understand that residual functions related to victims should fall within that set out in the Addendum to the Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia. The ECCC will have a direct implementation role in the proposed activities. The activities proposed here can be tailored to 3 years. The funding is secured for such activities and can have specific focus areas and target groups to suit the needs for a residual function for victims with the ECCC.

This proposal grows from projects that YFP has conducted and will use, for example, The Rescuers Project that YFP is implementing in 2022. The Rescuers Project is an outreach project that seeks to tell the stories of ordinary people who became "rescuers" during the Khmer Rouge Regime and promotes the importance of civil and moral courage in society (*Hien Klahan*). The 'Rescuer Project' will highly contribute to this process by sharing the stories of rescuers, providing positive examples of rescuing behavior, and encouraging moral courage while educating youth to be agents of dialogue and change in Cambodia. Interviewing and collecting these narratives is done by youths who have been trained by YFP and who develop relationships and trust with the victims to encourage an environment where such dialogue and conversation can take place. The target groups for this proposal are Cambodian youth, former rescuers and survivors of the Khmer Rouge Regime, and wider Cambodian civil society. Furthermore, in the next three years, YFP will continue with the conservation of the crime side. The ECCC should pay attention to the crime side from now till the end.

The legacy of the ECCC is connected to the discourses that emerge from its victim participation and outreach programs. The ECCC has sought, as one of its main objectives, to provide as much information as possible on the activity of the Court and educate the public, working transparently to build public confidence in the judicial process. This includes focusing on youth as a target group for outreach and educational activities. While establishing truth and accountability for the Khmer Rouge regime remains essential in recovering from the past and achieving reconciliation, this proposal can contribute positively to the future of Cambodia by being a positive pillar that focuses on the stories of survival and that focus on strengthening social and compassionate behavior, especially in future generations. Any residual function for victims will shape the legacy of the Court, and in doing so, younger generations must be invested in this work. Projects that focus on intergenerational dialogue are a clear way to facilitate this legacy while allowing victims and survivors to share their narratives and heal in the process.

We welcome any opportunity to clarify our submission and look forward to engaging in continuous dialogue with the ECCC on residual functions related to victims. We thank the ECCC and Judge You, and Judge Fenz for the opportunity to submit this proposal and for their commitment to victims.

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