



**GENOCIDE EDUCATION**  
**EDUCATION ON THE KHMER ROUGE GENOCIDE IN CAMBODIA**  
The Teaching of "A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)"

16<sup>th</sup> Commune High School Teacher Training  
in Battambang Province

The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), and with the generous support from the European Union (EU) and core support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is pleased to announce the 16th Genocide Education Commune High School Teacher Training in Battambang Province. This five-day training will start on October 10th, 2016 at the Teacher Training Center, Battambang provincial town. Approximately one hundred trainees will attend this intensive training program.

DC-Cam has worked closely with five provinces – Battambang, Pursat, Ordar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin – to ensure that the maximum participants from those provinces attend the training. The training provides them with information and knowledge about the history of Democratic Kampuchea, as well as a wide array of participant-centered teaching methods geared toward enhancing each individual teacher, the teaching profession, and the school curriculum in Cambodia. Through this training, each trainee will learn to be an insightful and effective educator who can guide their students to learn about their history and discuss the past with those survivors who have settled in their communities. Moreover, the trainees will have a chance to meet with survivors of the Khmer Rouge who are currently Civil Parties of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

The history of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) continues to have an impact in Cambodia even today. Millions of Cambodians perished and the generation that survived continues to harbor the mental and physical effects of severe deprivation, mass atrocity and war. The generation that was born after 1979 also has questions like “How could this occur?” While it is never easy to answer this question, it is critical to institutionalize the practice of teaching this history in the classroom. Teaching this history not only preserves the memory of those who suffered and died, but it also ensures the events and conditions that preceded the descent into violence and atrocity never return. The curriculum is based on student-centered learning methods, and it is framed around activities that encourage historical empathy, discussion, critical thinking, and self-reflection. There are activities involving research projects, creative writing, interviewing parents and community members, and guest speakers. While teaching this history is undeniably difficult, it is crucial to the future of Cambodia and the greater transitional justice enterprise.

This training has the following objectives:

1. Enhance teachers’ knowledge on DK history
2. Enhance teachers’ pedagogical skills in teaching DK history
3. Enhance teachers’ access to (and capability in using) DK period witnesses for use in the classroom

4. Increase sustainability and effectiveness of the Ministry of Education's formal DK history education curricula in local communities.
5. Increase sustainability and effectiveness of the Ministry of Education's formal DK history education curricula in universities.

**Guest speakers:**

Christopher Dearing is speaking in his personal capacity as an independent educational consultant. As an educational consultant, he published (with co-author Dr. Chea) the teacher's guidebook for this training, "Teaching the History of Democratic Kampuchea: Teacher's Guidebook," as well as other publications, including "A History of the Anlong Veng Community: The Final Stronghold of the Khmer Rouge Movement" (with co-author, Dy).

Kelly Watson is an International Program Coordinator with the Educators' Institute for Human Rights, a non-profit organization that develops partnerships with teachers in countries recovering from conflict to provide training in the best practices on human rights, genocide prevention, and Holocaust education. Along with being on staff at the EIHR, she is a Regional Education Corps member at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, a Master Teacher with the USC Shoah Foundation, and teaches 8th grade English at Fishers Junior High in Fishers, Indiana. In 2001, Mrs. Watson self-published a collection of Holocaust survivor memories entitled *Indiana Voices of the Holocaust: Teens Talk to Survivors and Liberators* and has co-written online curriculum for the USC Shoah Foundation about the genocide in Rwanda.

This 16th Commune Teacher Training does not happen without supporting from donors. The European Union (EU) through the United Nation Office for Project Service (UNOPS) fully supports this program and a training seminar for university lecturers and professors.

***For more information, please contact:***

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