From:        "Sam Inn" <sam.inn@lwd.org.kh>
To:        "'Ingrid Bergenholm-England'" <ingrid.bergenholm@svenskakyrkan.se>, "'David Mueller'" <davidlwf@gmail.com>, <srwatsan@ohchr.org>,
Cc:        <sam\_inn\_kh@yahoo.com>
Date:        25/01/2012 09:20
Subject:        RE: Consultation and call for submissions: Stigmatization in the realization of the rights to water and sanitation

Hi Ingrid,
Please see my responses below questions.
These refer to our observations in Cambodia generally.
Best regards,

Inn
**From:** Ingrid Bergenholm-England [mailto:ingrid.bergenholm@svenskakyrkan.se]  **Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 8:25 PM **To:** Sam Inn; David Mueller **Subject:** VB: Consultation and call for submissions: Stigmatization in the realization of the rights to water and sanitation

Dear friends,
Now ACT has forwarded new information about a consultation by the United Nations system implements. This time the issue is water and it comes from the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation. She wants to collect information about stigma and how it affects the right to water and sanitation. As we know that many of you CoS  partners are working directly with the issue of water and sanitation and otherwise, you work with rural development, etc, so you may have info to share. Kind regards, Ingrid

Dear friends,

We are mailing you to inform you about a consultation carried out by the Special rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation. The special rapporteur is gathering information on how different groups and individuals stigmatization affects their access to water and sanitation. We believe that you, through your work ,have close contact with many individuals, communities and groups that do not see their right to water and sanitation realized or affected due to stigmatization. This information would be of great value to the Special rapporteur and enable her to carry out her work. Unfortunately we only received this request today and the deadline for submission is 31 January. However, the Special rapporteur always receives information on the right to water as an input to her work. Maybe you have received this information through other channels of the ACT Alliance but we hope that you do not mind in that case to receive it twice. The stigmatization the Special rapporteur is looking for can be stigmatization of persons with HIV/Aids, stigmatization of minorities (religious or ethnic). These are only some examples, and you have all the information about the context you are working in.

These are the questions the Special rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation are making:

•        Which groups and individuals experience stigmatization?
Usually, most vulnerable people and families such as HIV infected and affected people and poorest families within communities experience stigmatization. Groups of political beliefs experience stigmatization.
•        How are different groups and individuals affected?
HIV infected and affected people may be not allowed to use community wells, ponds or any other water sources. Poorest living in the urban slums areas have very limited access to water and sanitation because their needs are not considered by city developers and the government. Group perceived supporting political opposition parties may be prevented to access irrigation water systems or water facilities funded by the ruling party. The selection of target location for the construction of wells or pond may not focus on the priority of most vulnerable households. Even though there may be wells or ponds in communities, but they are far away from houses of poorest households.
•        How is stigmatization relevant to access to water and sanitation?
The stigmatization of those groups and people is crucial to hinder them to get access to water and sanitation. This is really about the issue of human rights to water and sanitation.
•        What measures are being taken to address and overcome stigmatization?
Awareness raising about the stigmatization and its impacts and rights to water and sanitation to local authorities and communities as a whole is very helpful to reduce stigmatization. Furthermore, most vulnerable people are to be empowered to raise their voices and participate in the development projects so that their interests can be considered in the decision making process. Right based empowerment is a good means to fight against stigmatization.
Submissions can be transmitted electronically to srwatsan@ohchr.org (encouraged) or be addressed to:

Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation
ESCR Section
Special Procedures Branch
UNOG-OHCHR
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 917 90 06

Best regards,
Ingrid Bergenholm England
Programme Officer,
Church of Sweden.