



Executive Summary

In 2024, Thailand's human rights situation and the implementation of government agencies have shown significant progress in legislation, policy, and people's access to rights. However, some limitations and challenges remain. Therefore, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) recommends that the government and relevant agencies take necessary actions to promote and protect the rights guaranteed under the Constitution and in compliance with its international human rights obligations. Key points are summarized as follows:

1. Situation of Civil and Political Rights

1.1 Key Developments of State Action

- Thailand has acceded to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) and has continuously made efforts to effectively enforce the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act B.E. 2565 (2022).
- An initiative is taken to differentiate persons detained during trial from convicted inmates by providing for separate designated areas and applying different regulations such as an inmate uniform.
- The Victim Identification and Referral Center has been officially established under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in order to identify potential victims of human trafficking. In addition, the Standard Operating Procedure for screening individuals who may be victims of forced labor or human trafficking in labor sectors has been revised to increase efficiency of the victim identification process.

- The state has made an effort to develop legal frameworks and measures to protect human rights defenders and prevent the strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP). Furthermore, national policies and plans have been reviewed and revised to ensure a comprehensive protection of digital rights.

1.2 Challenges and Obstacles

- The right to access to criminal justice remains hindered, particularly the shortage of specialized and linguistically diverse interpreters. Additionally, instances of torture and cruel treatment persist. The NHRCT has investigated those cases and found human rights violations, including the cases of deaths and injuries during military and police training.
- Thailand is the origin, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. International and regional cooperation are needed to address the issue in accordance with international standards. In addition, the risk of human rights violations has increased due to the movement of undocumented migrant

workers, irregular migration, and the upsurge of cybercrime.

- Human rights defenders continue to face threats in various forms, including intimidation, physical assaults, murders, and being subjected to SLAPP. In addition, the government restricts the freedom of assembly by imposing limitations on the presented content and prosecuting political activists and citizens for expressing political opinions on certain issues.

1.3 NHRCT's Recommendations

- Enhance efficiency of the justice system and law enforcement, especially by providing specialized training for interpreters to promote public access to criminal justice processes, adopting appropriate measures to prevent harm to life of trainees during officers' training programs, and raising awareness among officials to ensure that their performance of duties are in accordance with human rights principles.
- Protect victims of human trafficking by developing a protection system that is sensitive to gender and the specific needs of vulnerable groups, for example, increasing the number of interpreters, revising budget allocation for victim protection to align with current economic conditions, and improving officials' capacity in screening and identifying victims.
- Protect human rights defenders and freedom of expression by developing laws and measures to prevent SLAPP,

educate government officials and business sector regarding the roles of human rights defenders, revise the law on public assemblies and related legislation, and ensure that officers perform their duties with prudence when enforcing laws that may restrict freedom of speech and expression.

2. Situation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

2.1 Key Developments of State Action

- Labor laws has been amended to enhance protections for domestic workers while discussion is underway to draft a bill to increase maternity and paternity leave.
- A number of laws have been drafted in accordance with human rights principles, such as the elimination of discrimination and clean air bills. By-laws regarding preserving national parks, wildlife, and community forests have also been drafted or amended.
- There is some progress in government's policies and implementation regarding labor rights. These include adjusting the minimum wage to 400 baht per day in ten tourist provinces, registering migrant workers to ensure their access to health and labor rights, extending the period for migrant workers to find new employers after leaving their current job to mitigate a risk of becoming illegal labor. Regarding the right to health, the Universal Health Coverage is upgraded under "30-baht Get Treatment Anywhere" policy in

pilot provinces, aiming to provide health services access regardless of registered health facilities for convenience and reduce overcrowding in healthcare facilities. Increased effort is made to monitor and follow up on individuals at risk of suicide.

- The government has continuously made efforts in bringing children who have dropped out of school back to the education system. Budget allocation is made to the Equitable Education Fund to provide support for students in primary and lower secondary education.
- The government has addressed land and housing issues by making more land allocation to the people and approved additional areas for One Map. The government has also raised awareness and disseminated knowledge on human rights in business sector through Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD).

2.2 Challenges and Obstacles

- Some workers are laid off without receiving legal compensation while contract employment in government sector has impacted workers' rights. Informal and platform workers are not adequately protected under labor laws and lack sufficient social welfare benefits. A number of migrant workers continue to face labor rights violations and lack health insurance coverage. The absence of data linkage causes difficulties in tracking them into the national health insurance system. Moreover, some Thai workers are lured

to work abroad and face violation of their labor rights.

- Access to healthcare services for patients under the National Health Security in Bangkok areas faces budget allocation and referral problems. Mental health problems have resulted in a high suicide rate and a shortage of medical personnel remains a challenge. Moreover, measures to tackle PM 2.5 have not yielded concrete result while a large number of patients are found to have suffered from air pollution-related health issues.
- Some children within the age range of compulsory education are not in the education system because of poverty as the government is unable to provide financial assistance to all students from impoverished families.
- Some individuals are prosecuted for disputes on overlapping claim of land with the state. Questions are raised with regard to the adequacy and transparency of a mechanism to monitor cross-border investments and address their potential impacts. Public hearings on the development of projects by government and private sectors lack meaningful participation while environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports are not up to date and do not include potentially affected areas.

2.3 NHRCT's Recommendations

- Amend labor laws to provide monthly employees with overtime payment, consider the termination of short-term contract and temporary employment

by government agencies to promote job security, review labor laws, and related legislation to enable workers, in such sectors as fisheries, agriculture, and domestic work, to access social security system, and provide protective measures for platform workers while there is no specific law in place.

- Consider establishing a fund to insure against risks of layoffs without compensation and other entitled benefits, collaborate with destination countries (Sweden and Finland) to facilitate a government-to-government arrangement for fruit harvesting workers, establish an unified migrant worker database to track workers and bring them into the social security and universal healthcare systems as well as develop the migrant health volunteers (MHVs) system to enable it to monitor and support migrant workers in wider areas.
- Establish a standard operating procedure for referring patients under the National Health Security to hospitals in Bangkok, standardize the online referral system, enhance staff capacity in investigating and documenting suicide cases as well as educate the public on how to cope with mental health issues and understand warning signs of suicide.
- Monitor and assist dropped out students and bring as many of them back into the education system as possible to ensure their right to education based on their potential and the right to pursue an occupation, and screen information to

identify students from impoverished families and provide them with equitable education funds and other basic support.

- Take into consideration the people's way of life and public participation in making land allocation and resolving land issues, strengthen the enforcement of laws relating to projects or activities that may impact on the environment or public health, and undertake a study on mandatory measures for large business enterprises and their supply chains to disclose information on activities that risk causing human rights violations.
- Strictly enforce environmental and health laws by taking into account the Business and Human Rights Principles, ensuring particularly the right to access to information and freedom of expression, advocate for clean air legislation, and emphasize to government agencies and private project owners that a public consultation be conducted in a comprehensive manner.

3. Human Rights Situation of Specific Groups

3.1 Key Developments of State Action

- The government has withdrawn the reservation to Article 22 of CRC to promote and protect the rights of children who are seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable domestic or international laws and procedures.
- Several laws to promote human rights of specific groups have been amended,

are being reviewed or drafted. These include legislation relating to the right to marriage for LGBTQIA+, prohibition of harsh punishment on children, protection of victims of domestic violence, and promotion and protection of the way of life of ethnic groups.

- Social welfare has been expanded. Universal Child Support Grant has been expanded to cover from the fourth month of pregnancy until a child is six years old and local government organizations have been designated to distribute the grant. The new elderly allowance rate ranging from 700 - 1,250 baht monthly has been approved while the universal allowance for persons with disabilities has been increased to 1,000 baht per month. Furthermore, the government has approved a measure to promote saving across all age groups to prepare for retirement.
- Healthcare services have also been expanded. Public and private health facilities for safe abortion have increased from 110 to 113. Families and communities are promoted to provide care for the elderly through the Foster Family Program and the Elderly Care and Rights Protection in Communities Program.
- A wide range of human rights promotion measures for specific groups have been implemented. The Cabinet has approved guidelines to expedite the resolution of nationality and legal status issues for long-term migrants and their children born in the kingdom. The National

Screening Mechanism (NSM) to distinguish refugees and asylum seekers from economic migrants has been put into operation. Various housing programs have been launched for the urban poor while the government has made efforts to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the public sector.

3.2 Challenges and Obstacles

- Legal issues and limitations are one of the challenges. These include the lengthy process of amending laws to protect the rights of specific groups and inadequacy of current laws in addressing new forms of sexual harassment in educational institutions, workplace, and online platforms.
- There are limitations relating to Government's policies and implementation. For instance, welfare allowance is not sufficient given the current economic conditions, putting persons with disabilities and the elderly at risk of poverty. Opportunities for women and their level of participation in decision making at all levels remains low. Educational personnel and resources to support children with disabilities are still insufficient. Moreover, there is no comprehensive strategy to guarantee the right to education of migrant children in learning centers. The right to land of ethnic groups remain unresolved.
- The prevalence of violence against children, women, LGBTQIA+, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, both

in families and public spaces, has been increasing. In addition, discrimination against individuals based on age, disability and gender identity and sexual orientation persists, especially in employment.

- The specific groups face challenges in accessing necessary services. Assistive devices for persons with disabilities are not suitable for performing daily tasks and activities. Women with unplanned pregnancies continue to face obstacles in accessing safe abortion services. In addition, a number of urban poor cannot access housing and basic utilities.

3.3 NHRCT's Recommendations

- Accelerate and promote enactment of laws to provide safeguard for victims of domestic violence, children in need of protection, and amnesty to those affected by forest and land policies, safeguard the livelihoods of ethnic groups as well as enhance officials' knowledge and understanding of laws to protect and promote the rights of specific groups.
- Improve social welfare schemes such as child support grants, allowance for the elderly and persons with disabilities to align with economic conditions, and establish a "Physical Assistive Devices Bank" to provide free maintenance services for assistive devices for persons with disabilities.
- Develop a mechanism to effectively protect human rights. This includes adoption of safety measures for school buses and use of modern technology

to improve safety, accelerate efforts to eliminate violence in domestic and public spheres such as disseminating learning media to prevent bullying in schools, raising public awareness on sexual harassment in the workplace, and formulating policies to eliminate gender-based violence in the nine temporary shelters.

- Promote human rights of specific groups such as increasing women's participation in decision-making at all levels, accelerate employment of the elderly and persons with disabilities in the public sector, and make preparation to uphold the rights of LGBTQIA+ under the new law.
- Develop an integrated database system among agencies to inform policy formulation, such as those on persons with disabilities' health, domestic violence and violence against women, and learning centers for migrant children.

4. Human Rights Situation in the Southern Border Provinces

4.1 Key Developments of State Action

- The government has reduced the areas under the Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations, B.E. 2548 (2005).
- The complaints regarding acts of torture during detention have a tendency to decrease while regulations to enhance effectiveness of assistance and remedies for those impacted by unrest has been developed.

- The government has taken efforts to address malnutrition and health issues among children in the southern border provinces.

4.2 Challenges and Obstacles

- Violent incidents in the southern border provinces have increased.
- The government fails to bring suspects in the crackdown on Tak Bai protest to justice within the statute of limitations.
- The enforcement of special security laws affects individuals' rights and creates fear among the public in exercising their freedoms. In addition, there is a concern on the mental health of individuals who were previously detained under special security laws.
- The situation of public health and access to basic services is an issue of concern. There are reports of child deaths and illnesses from vaccine-preventable diseases and a low rate of children receiving standard vaccinations. The maternal mortality rate is also high.
- People continue to demand their rights to participate in the government's development projects and natural resources management. This echoes a need to improve public participation processes to make it more effective.

4.3 NHRCT's Recommendations

- Review the enforcement of special security laws in the southern border provinces and repeal such laws in areas where they are no longer necessary.
- Accelerate the drafting of a regulation to provide assistance and remedies to those affected by violent incidents and ensure its prompt implementation to deliver effective support.
- Adopt a strategy to promote vaccination that is appropriate in the context of the southern border provinces and continuously raise awareness among the public and communities.
- Prioritize a genuine public participation when implementing projects and in the management of natural resources in the area.

The NHRCT will follow up on the progress and outcomes of the aforementioned recommendations to serve as a basis for monitoring and assessing the country's human rights situation in the following year. This is to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights as stipulated in the Constitution and in accordance with Thailand's obligations under international human rights treaties.

