

Executive Summary

Annual Performance Report of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand Fiscal Year 2025

The Annual Performance Report of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) for Fiscal Year 2025 is prepared in accordance with Section 45 of the 2017 Organic Act on the National Human Rights Commission. The report covers the performance of the NHRCT from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025. The key operational outcomes for Fiscal Year 2025 are summarized as follows.

Human Rights Protection

The NHRCT received 1,027 complaints alleging human rights violations. Of these, 531 cases (51.70%) were accepted for further action, comprising:

- 97 cases (9.44%) for investigation of human rights violations;
- 126 cases (12.27%) for coordination for the protection of human rights;
- 60 cases (5.84%) for coordination of assistance;
- 9 cases (0.88%) for studies and research for the formulation of recommendations on the promotion and protection of human rights; and
- 239 cases (23.27%) for other forms of assistance.

The issues most frequently complained of continued to be those concerning the right to

justice, followed by the rights to life and personal liberty, and community rights.

The NHRCT concluded the investigation of 133 complaints, finding violations in **71 cases (53.38%)**. For these, the Commission issued formal recommendations to relevant agencies to prevent or remedy further harm. Notable cases include:

1. The Southern Land Bridge Project, which was found to impact on the environment and the livelihoods of local communities, as well as a lack of public participation. The NHRCT recommended suspending the project be suspended until comprehensive public consultations are conducted.

2. Din Daeng Flats redevelopment, in which increased management fees adversely affected low-income residents. The NHRCT urged the National Housing Authority review fee structures, consider a tiered fee system on income, and set clear rent ceilings.

3. Undue judicial delay, involving a case where a detainee was held for over ten years. The NHRCT recommended that the Royal Thai Police improve case-tracking systems to enable parties and stakeholders to monitor case progress.

4. Freedom of expression in the southern border provinces, involving legal proceedings

against activists where the law was used to excessively restrict freedom of expression. The NHRCT recommended that security agencies create space for the public dialogue and peaceful expression.

5. Rawai Sea Nomad Rights (Phuket), involving the encroachment by private entities on public land and waterways used by the Rawai sea nomad community, which affected the rights and livelihoods of local communities. The NHRCT recommended that relevant agencies review the issuance of land titles and designating the area as a cultural protection zone.

6. HIV-based discrimination in employment, involving an airline's refusal to hire a person living with HIV, constituting discrimination on the grounds of health status. The NHRCT recommended that the airline terminate its discriminatory policy and ensure equal access to employment opportunities and career advancement.

In cases where no human rights violations were established, the NHRCT still issued preventive recommendations or human rights promotion measures in **54 cases (40.60%)**. Notable examples include:

1. Chana Industrial City Development Project (Songkhla): The NHRCT recommended that the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre ensure inclusive stakeholders' participation throughout the decision-making process.

2. Cadmium waste transportation (from Tak to Samut Sakhon): Following legal inconsistencies in transport, the NHRCT urged authorities to strictly enforce industrial waste laws and adhere to the principles of business and human rights.

3. Influenza outbreak in Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison: The NHRCT advised that the Department of Corrections and the Ministry of Public Health strengthen disease surveillance and prevention systems within correctional facilities.

4. Land dispute (Surat Thani): Involving a state-owned land in Thung Pak Kho, the NHRCT recommended expediting land demarcation and suspending eviction until a final resolution is reached.

5. Air transport accessibility: Addressing the lack of facilities for persons with mobility disabilities, the NHRCT recommended that all airports provide appropriate facilities and services.

The remaining **8 cases (6.02%)** were concluded for other reasons, such as cases already resolved by authorities, withdrawn by complainants, or those currently under judicial proceedings or having been adjudicated by the courts.

Inspection of Places of Detention and Prevention of Torture

The NHRCT conducted visits to various types of detention facilities to assess human rights risks and prevent acts of torture. A total of 21 facilities in 11 provinces nationwide were inspected, including police stations, prisons and correctional institutions, military training units or recruit training centers, and drug rehabilitation facilities. In addition, efforts were made to strengthen national preventive mechanisms to ensure effectiveness, transparency, and accountability. These included the development of standardized preventive visit guidelines and continued

advocacy for the Government to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), in fulfillment of the Government's stated commitment.

Human Rights Clinic Project

The NHRCT collaborated with network partners to provide counseling and assistance to those facing grievances, specifically vulnerable groups with limited access to justice. Through 13 mobile outreach missions, significant outcomes were achieved in four key areas:

1. Rights and legal status: Accelerated status verification for 1,056 stateless and displaced persons, resulting in 158 individuals successfully receiving national ID numbers.

2. Labor rights: Coordinated with agencies to provide protection and remedies for 72 Thai workers deceived into forced labor abroad.

3. Community and land rights: Developed participatory mechanisms to resolve land disputes in Ubon Ratchathani and Buriram provinces.

4. Institutional capacity building: Launched campaigns to prevent violence within military units, with a primary focus on naval training centers.

Follow-up on the Implementation of Human Rights Measures and Recommendations

The recommendations and measures proposed by the NHRCT have led to legal reform, policy improvement, standards of practice, and the protection of fundamental rights. Relevant

agencies have responded positively to the NHRCT's recommendations, including:

1. Repeal of military aide regulations: The Ministry of Defence revoked regulations regarding military aides to comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which prohibits torture, inhuman treatment, and servitude.

2. Inclusive healthcare in Bangkok: The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) revised guidelines allowing migrant workers to access healthcare at all 69 public hospitals and centers, upholding the right to health under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

3. Action on PM 2.5 pollution: In line with the ICESCR, the Cabinet adopted the Second Action Plan on Particulate Matter (2025-2027). Additionally, the Clean Air Bill passed the House of Representatives on 21 October 2025.

Furthermore, the Cabinet acknowledged the NHRCT's parallel reports to Committee against Torture (CAT) and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Relevant ministries have been instructed to implement the Committees' Concluding Observations to ensure full alignment with international human rights standards.

Policy Recommendations for the Systematic Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The NHRCT issued **22 recommendations** to enhance human rights protections and align laws and policy measures with international standards.

Key proposals include:

1. Justice Fund Act reform: Enhancing access for the disadvantaged by introducing an appeal mechanism, categorizing lawyers by expertise, and adjusting subcommittee compositions to ensure balanced representation.

2. Transboundary pollution mitigation: Addressing mining-related pollution in the **Kok and Sai Rivers** by urging inspections, negotiating the cessation of harmful operations in Myanmar, and fostering regional cooperation.

3. Child protection in online content: Preventing exploitation through dedicated child protection policies and enforcing professional ethics for educators.

4. E-cigarette regulation: Amending laws to regulate electronic cigarettes, prioritizing the right to health for the public, especially children and youth.

5. Road safety as a national priority: Urging the designation of road safety as a top national priority policy with strict law enforcement to prevent traffic-related fatalities and injuries among children.

Human Rights Situation Assessment Report

The NHRCT submitted its **2024 Human Rights Situation Report** to Parliament and the Cabinet on 21 March 2025, in accordance with the timeframe prescribed by law. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of civil and political, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, with a focus on specific groups and the southern border provinces.

Key issues highlighted include:

- **Justice & Accountability:** Torture and enforced disappearance during arrest and detention by state officials.

- **Protection of Human Rights Defenders:** Intimidation and strategic litigation against public participation (SLAPP).

- **Vulnerable Groups:** Violence, barriers to rights access, and the precarious conditions and lack of adequate welfare protection for informal and platform workers.

- **Environmental Health:** Health impacts arising from PM 2.5 air pollution.

Furthermore, the NHRCT has drafted a **Human Rights Index** framework to monitor national human rights trends. In collaboration with the Social Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University, the Commission is currently refining the data collection methodology and calculation metrics before full implementation.

Promoting Human Rights Awareness across All Sectors of Society

The NHRCT collaborated with multi-sectoral partners to disseminate knowledge, raise awareness, and foster a culture of respect for human rights in Thailand. A central initiative was the **annual Human Rights Assembly**, which developed policy recommendations for the Cabinet and Parliament. The 2024 Assembly was held under the theme “Our Rights, Our Future,” with the focus on the right to a healthy environment, access to justice, and the rights of older persons. In 2025, the theme for the Assembly was “Human Rights: Our Everyday Essential.” Participants advanced discussions on

environmental and elderly rights while addressing emerging challenges, including labor rights, business and human rights, and the intersection of human rights and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Human rights education activities were tailored to diverse target groups. For **schools and higher education**, the NHRCT promoted the five-level human rights curriculum for teachers, while utilizing storytelling and case studies to facilitate practical discussions among university students. With the **executives**, the NHRCT engaged leaders from the public, private, and civil sectors to embed human rights into organizational policy. The Commission provided training for **specialized groups**, such as religious leaders and *pondok* school administrators to safeguard children's rights, while developing a draft declaration to protect **platform (gig) workers** in alignment with international standards.

To ensure broad reach, the NHRCT disseminates information via radio, newsletters, and weekly press briefings. Overall evaluation of these activities indicated that **96.75% of participants** reporting increased knowledge and awareness of human rights.

Research and Studies

The NHRCT Office received funding from the **Science, Research, and Innovation Promotion Fund** for four research projects. Two have been completed:

1. Development of Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) Tools and Systems: This project compiled international HRIA best practices to design assessment tools, which were piloted in

the **Land Bridge Project** (Ranong and Chumphon) and the **Mae Moh Livable City Project** (Lampang).

2. Development of Human Rights Knowledge Assessment Tools: This resulted in an academically grounded framework to evaluate both human rights knowledge and behaviors reflecting respect for human rights.

Both completed projects will be integrated into the NHRCT's operations. Meanwhile, two projects remain ongoing:

1. Development of Environmental Rights Laws and Mechanisms: Focused on analyzing legal gaps and formulating policy recommendations for comprehensive environmental management.

2. Enhancing the Implementation of NHRCT Recommendations: Aimed at enabling state agencies to effectively apply the Commission's recommendations to address and prevent human rights violations.

International Cooperation

The NHRCT has actively advanced international cooperation by strengthening ties with global and regional networks, including the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (**GANHRI**), the Asia Pacific Forum (**APF**), and the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (**SEANF**). Through these forums, the Commission has exchanged knowledge on critical issues such as gender equality, elderly rights, torture prevention, and transboundary environmental rights.

Furthermore, the NHRCT fulfilled its international treaty obligations by submitting reports and responding to inquiries regarding

CAT and CEDAW. Key areas of focus included the enforcement of anti-torture laws, detention center inspections, gender equality legislative amendments, and the decriminalization of sex work.

The Commission also engaged with UN agencies, international organizations, civil society, and diplomatic missions to address pressing human rights concerns. These discussions covered the situation of the Uyghur people, cross-border complaints, the National Screening Mechanism (NSM) for non-citizens, cybercrime, and the development of child-friendly complaint mechanisms—all aimed at fostering sustainable human rights protection.

Organizational Development

The NHRCT Office has expanded its regional capacity by establishing a **third regional office in northern Thailand**. In line with international standards, this strategic move enhances public accessibility and operational efficiency. It enables **prompt on-site inspections** for urgent violations, strengthens **local partner networks**, and facilitates **context-specific knowledge dissemination**—particularly regarding legal status, community rights, and the right to a healthy environment.

Furthermore, the Office has adopted **Thailand Quality Award (TQA)** criteria to improve overall organizational effectiveness. To support national digital transformation goals, efforts have been accelerated to develop a **modern human rights information system**, ensuring the public can access protection and promotion services more

conveniently and responsively.

Challenges and Recommendations

The first key challenge is the need to amend the 2017 Organic Act to ensure full compliance with the Paris Principles in two areas:

1. Removing the duty to provide immediate clarifications against reports deemed "inaccurate or unfair" regarding Thailand's human rights situation; and

2. Granting the NHRCT powers to mediate human rights disputes.

The NHRCT has consistently urged Parliament, the Cabinet, and relevant agencies to adopt these amendments. Such reforms are essential to align the Commission's functions with international standards and enable timely, effective responses to violations.

The **second challenge** is the delayed or partial implementation of NHRCT recommendations, which hinders the protection of vulnerable groups. To address this, the Cabinet should mandate that state agencies strictly implement these recommendations and provide regular progress reports. This will facilitate effective monitoring and ensure concrete human rights outcomes for all.