



Executive Summary

In 2025, Thailand's human rights situation demonstrated notable developments in legislation, public policy, and rights accessibility. However, persistent challenges continue to hinder the effective promotion and protection of human rights and the full realization of rights guaranteed under the Constitution and Thailand's international human rights obligations. This summary outlines key developments, ongoing challenges, and recommendations from the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT).

1. Civil and Political Rights

1.1 Key Developments

- The drafting of legislation to expand and strengthen assistance and remedies for suspects and defendants, thereby promoting broader public access to justice, and progress in drafting legislation to prevent Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) targeting human rights defenders.
- Efforts to align detention practices with international standards through the establishment of separate facilities for pre-trial detainees and convicted prisoners in eight correctional institutions.
- Judicial accountability for acts of torture, including the conviction and sentencing of 13 military officers in connection with torture-related deaths; provision of compensation and rehabilitation assistance for victims' families in accordance with the 2025 Regulations of the Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance on Assistance, Remedies and Rehabilitation for Victims.

- Designation of technology-related crime suppression, particularly online fraud, as a national priority, and the strengthening of international cooperation to combat human trafficking.

1.2 Challenges and Obstacles

- Persistent barriers to equitable access to justice, including the continued use of military courts in certain cases; restrictions on bail in politically sensitive proceedings; shortages of legal aid services and qualified interpreters; the absence of a centralized interpretation system; and reports of differential treatment of detainees within some correctional facilities.
- Repatriation of certain groups potentially in violation of the principle of non-refoulement, including 40 Uyghurs, Vietnamese religious freedom activists, and Cambodian political opposition members.
- Rapid expansion of technology-facilitated cross-border human trafficking, underscoring the need for enhanced

investigative capacity and tools, reported cases include the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and the deception of Thai workers into illegal overseas employment.

- Reports of both in-person and online intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders; Information Operations (IO) conducted by government agencies targeting political activists, journalists, and academics; and a compilation of surveillance watch lists, with reported instances of individuals being monitored by government officials.

1.3 NHRCT's Recommendations

- Review and reform legislation to ensure equitable and timely access to justice for all; simultaneously expedite investigations into officials granting illicit privileges to inmates; and establish robust oversight framework to eliminate such systemic abuses across the correctional system.
- Implement the concluding observations of the Committee Against Torture (CAT), including accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT); and strict adherence to the principle of non-refoulement.
- Strengthen public awareness and preventive measures against fraud and deception; provide relevant agencies with adequate budgets, personnel, tools, and technology to enhance their capacity to address emerging and technology-driven forms of human trafficking; and build

capacity to identify and verify digital evidence through modern equipment and specialized expertise.

- Educate public and private sector actors on the role of human rights defenders; ensure effective protection against intimidation and harassment; formulate preventive measures addressing hate speech, disinformation, and online harassment targeting human rights defenders; and discontinue surveillance watchlists and information operations that undermine civil liberties.

2. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

2.1 Key Developments

- Thailand's ratification of ILO Convention No. 155 on Occupational Safety and Health (1981); and amendments to labor protection laws to expand maternity leave; provide consecutive leave for child illness, introduce paternity leave; and enhance protections for outsourced workers, including entitlements to remuneration, rest, and leave.
- Utilization of digital technologies to enhance equitable and convenient access to public health services; priority efforts to control and prevent electronic cigarette use among children and adolescents; review of cannabis use regulations to protect the right to health; and implementation of measures to increase the number of medical and public health personnel.

- Promotion of flexible education pathways through credit accumulation systems as alternatives for self-development aligned with individual capacities and life circumstances; and identification and reintegration of out-of-school children into the education system.
- Revision of land demarcation processes to reduce conflicts arising from overlapping land claims between government agencies and the public; amendment of forestry and land management laws through public participation; introduction of protective measures to support farmers affected by declining agricultural prices caused by climate change; and amendment of fisheries legislation to promote fairness and equity.
- Enforcement of laws against factories causing environmental harm in several cases; adoption of measures and mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of the blackchin tilapia outbreak; and submission of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and Clean Air Bills to parliament for consideration.
- Continuous increase in the number of Stock Exchange of Thailand-listed companies disclosing comprehensive human rights due diligence information in their 56-1 One Reports, and development of draft legislation to promote responsible business conduct in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

2.2 Challenges and Obstacles

- Misalignment of labor rights protection with decent work principles, particularly the prevalence of precarious employment such as short-term contracts; employers' failure to register workers in the social security system; inadequate protection for informal workers under Section 40 of the Social Security Act; absence of legal protection for platform workers; complex migrant worker registration processes, exploitation of Thai workers abroad; criminalization of sex work resulting in lack of labor protection and increased risk of exploitation; and contract employment in the government sector undermining rights protection in accordance with international labor standards.
- Three-fold increase in sexually transmitted infection cases since 2021; sharp rise in electronic cigarette use among children and adolescents; escalation of hospital admissions related to cannabis intoxication by 6 - 7 times; and impact of financial liquidity crises in public hospitals on the right to access public health services.
- Persistence of unequal quality and standards of education, particularly in small schools and those in remote areas; and barriers preventing students from low-income households from accessing information on scholarships and educational funding opportunities, compounded by high living costs and education-related expenses.

- Delays in land allocation for housing and livelihoods; inadequacy of the proposed legal criteria and amendments for ensuring community security and customary rights; unequal allocation of natural resources undermining sustainable agricultural practices; and impacts of laws controlling encroachments on public waterways on customary rights of small-scale fisheries.
 - Adverse impacts of projects and activities on natural resources and the environment, including mining, illegal dumping, and improper disposal of industrial waste; communities affected by high levels of PM 2.5 air pollution; gaps in disaster risk management reflected in responses to flooding and its impacts; and persistence of legal and regional cooperation constraints in addressing transboundary contamination in the Kok and Sai Rivers.
 - Inconsistent business operations with UNGPs, including termination of workers without severance pay, environmental impacts from potash mining operations, and mining activities in Myanmar leading to transboundary water contamination in the Kok River.
- workers; engage in dialogue with countries of origin to simplify procedures and reduce fees for migrant worker registration; establish a comprehensive migrant worker database, negotiate with destination countries to facilitate government-to-government recruitment for Thai workers engaged in forest product harvesting; decriminalize sex work and issue ministerial regulations to ensure protection of sex workers; and discontinue the use of contract employment in the public sector.
- Urgently address the financial liquidity crisis in public hospitals and ensure equitable access to health services; strengthen comprehensive sex education and prevent sexually transmitted infections; enforce strict controls to prevent the sale and use of electronic cigarettes among children and adolescents; and implement effective measures to ensure the use of cannabis exclusively for medical purposes.
 - Accelerate the development of medium and small schools to expand educational opportunities for students in remote areas and ensure access to quality education comparable to that of large schools; disseminate information on scholarships and educational funding opportunities; and provide financial assistance to students from low-income households.
 - Advance the allocation and resolution of land-related issues; review and amend relevant legislation by sensitizing to local

2.3 NHRCT's Recommendations

- Enhance protection of workers' rights by eliminating all forms of precarious employment; expand benefits for insured persons under Section 40 of the Social Security Act, issue ministerial regulations to ensure legal protection for platform

livelihood security, customary rights, and meaningful community participation; formulate measures to support farmers and protect the right to an adequate standard of living, reduce economic inequality; and revise criteria for authorizing construction in coastal areas to ensure customary rights.

- Rigorously monitor and regulate industrial facilities while advancing legislation on the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and clean air; expedite impact assessments and provision of remedies for flooding; resolve chemical contamination in the Kok and Sai Rivers; and ensure active and meaningful participation of affected communities in sustainable recovery and preventive measures.
- Expedite enactment of legislation on the promotion of responsible business conduct; support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in integrating the UNGPs and Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) processes through training programs, advisory services, and development of human rights risk assessment tools for businesses.

3. Human Rights Situation of Specific Groups

3.1 Key Developments

- Adoption of new legislation advancing the rights of specific groups, including the prohibition of corporal punishment of children; the extension of maternity leave from 98 to 120 days; the recognition of

same-sex marriage rights; the protection and promotion of ethnic groups' way of life; and the criminalization of sexual assault and harassment.

- Review of existing laws to better promote and protect human rights, including the Child Protection Act, the Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence Act, and the National Savings Fund Act to encourage long-term savings among informal workers and low-income individuals.
- Adoption of policies and measures to further promote and protect human rights, such as the Cabinet Resolution of 29 October 2024 to accelerate nationality and legal status for long-term residents and their Thai-born children; the Cabinet Resolution of 26 August 2025 permitting Myanmar displaced persons in nine temporary shelters to engage in lawful employment; and the designation of relevant agencies to implement NHRCT's recommendations on child safety in school buses and migrant learning centers.
- Improvement of social welfare services, including expanded public health services and specialized clinics for LGBTQI+ persons, temporary housing for homeless persons, and the upgrade of passenger waiting areas, pick-up points, and audible pedestrian signals in accordance with universal design principles to enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities and older persons.

- Strengthening of mechanisms and human resources by related agencies for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the establishment of a national early childhood development database and capacity-building initiatives for early childhood practitioners, domestic violence response personnel, and caregivers for older persons.

3.2 Challenges and Obstacles

- Delays in legislative reforms aiming at ensuring human rights protection for specific groups, such as the draft law on the protection of victims of domestic violence; inefficient implementation of existing laws, including the absence of a systematic guideline for the issuance of identification documents to migrant workers; and the lack of explicit safeguards against hate speech targeting ethnic groups in the 2025 Protection and Promotion of the Way of Life of Ethnic Groups Act.
- Continuing challenges in policies and measures to protect the rights of specific groups; insufficient social welfare benefits for persons with disabilities and older persons relative to economic conditions; low participation of women in decision-making at all levels; personnel and resource deficiencies constraining inclusive education for children with disabilities; persistent barriers for the urban poor in accessing basic rights; delayed resolution of the legal status and rights of stateless persons; reported

corruption and inconsistent implementation across localities; lack of standard measures to ensure the right to education for migrant children; and substantively unsolved land tenure issues affecting ethnic groups.

- Continually increasing violence against children, women, ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, and older persons in physical, psychological, and sexual forms across private, public, and online spaces; persistent discriminatory practices, such as the denial of employment based on disability, pregnancy, and HIV status; challenges in accessing essential services, including limited access to assistive devices, information, and sign language interpreters for persons with disabilities; risks to the life, safety, and well-being of children from drowning, accidents, mental health issues, and bullying; obstacles in accessing safe abortion services for women; limited access to adequate housing for the urban poor; and language and cultural barriers, and high travel costs hindering access to education and healthcare for ethnic groups.

3.3 NHRCT's Recommendations

- Accelerate the adoption of by-laws, regulations, and operational guidelines; amend existing laws to ensure effective human rights protection of specific groups; ensure adequate budgetary allocations; and strengthen the capacity of frontline officials through training to enhance legal implementation.

- Advance the enactment of legislation to ensure effective protection for survivors of domestic violence and for children; promote and protect the rights of women and LGBTQI+ persons; promote gender equality; and eliminate all forms of discrimination.
- Enhance social welfare programs, including child support grants, old-age allowances, and disability benefits in line with economic conditions; establish “assistive device bank” to provide free maintenance services; and promote access for the urban poor to secure, adequate, safe, affordable housing, and essential basic utilities.
- Develop effective human rights protection mechanisms, such as implementing comprehensive school safety measures; adopt strong measures to prevent and respond to all forms of violence in private, public, and online spaces; raise awareness of sexual harassment in schools and workplaces; provide specific protection mechanisms for individuals facing intersecting forms of discrimination; and establish policies to eliminate gender-based violence in temporary shelters.
- Promote the rights of specific groups by increasing women’s participation in decision-making; accelerate the employment of older persons and persons with disabilities in the public sector; expand access to age-appropriate contraception and comprehensive sexuality education; prepare measures to accommodate LGBTQI+ rights under new legislation; and strengthen public awareness of ethnic rights while developing mechanisms for equal access to services.
- Develop central database systems across government agencies to support evidence-based policy-making, specifically regarding persons with disabilities, homeless persons, and victims of violence; and develop sex-disaggregated data systems.
- Ensure the protection of the right to life and security, such as enforcing safety standards for school vehicles; implement effective measures to prevent child drowning; promote awareness of the risks associated with narcotics and electronic cigarettes; ensure the availability of safe abortion services in every province; and establish referral networks to guarantee timely access to services.

4. Human Rights Situation in Border Areas

4.1 Key Developments

- Further reduction of areas under the 2005 Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations in the southern border provinces.
- Development of draft regulations regarding assistance and remedies for persons affected by unrest to enhance comprehensive, timely, and effective support.
- Strengthening of vaccine delivery system by relevant agencies and enhancement of child health services in the southern border provinces.

- Undertaking of measures by state agencies to protect the rights to life, physical integrity, and property of the population; provision of physical and psychosocial support and remedies to persons affected by the Thai–Cambodian conflict; and efforts to promote and protect children’s right to education through appropriate teaching and evaluation centered on the child’s best interests.

4.2 Challenges and Obstacles

- Escalating violence in the southern border provinces.
- Undermined continuity of efforts in the southern border provinces due to political instability; suspension of the peace dialogue process since August 2024; and rights-related consequences of the continued enforcement of special security laws, including the prosecution of activists, allegations of physical abuse during custody and detention, and the multi-dimensional impacts on former security-related detainees and their families.
- High malnutrition rates and low routine vaccination coverage among children in the southern border provinces; and rising maternal mortality and substance use among pregnant women, resulting in adverse effects on child development.
- Adverse impacts of military attacks along the Thai–Cambodian border on the rights to life, physical integrity, and property of both civilians and military personnel; ineffective crisis communication and

the spread of misinformation via social media; deficiencies in crisis management and public preparedness; inadequate protection of vulnerable groups; and insufficient provision of proportionate assistance and remedies.

4.3 NHRCT’s Recommendations

- Advance concrete, results-oriented policies to address the situation in the southern border provinces through inclusive participation and comprehensive public consultations; and concurrently review and repeal special security laws as they become unnecessary.
- Accelerate the adoption and implementation of draft regulations regarding assistance and remedies for persons affected by unrest in the southern border provinces to ensure comprehensive and equitable support.
- Undertake proactive measures to promote and protect the right to health for children and women.
- Build public trust in border dispute management by strengthening rapid, effective crisis communication at both national and international levels; ensuring accessible and inclusive public communication channels; promptly monitoring and countering misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech to prevent public panic.
- Review and strengthen contingency and emergency preparedness plans based on local contexts; enhance community resilience in border areas through

regular drills and incident action plans; and accelerate the provision of adequate remedies to all affected persons.

5. Implementation of the NHRCT's Recommendations in the 2024 Human Rights Assessment Report

In the 2024 Human Rights Assessment Report, the NHRCT issued 92 primary recommendations and 160 sub-recommendations designed to align national practices with international human rights standards. Subsequent monitoring and assessment by the NHRCT reveal that **26 agencies have successfully implemented 79 of these sub-recommendations, representing a completion rate of approximately 49.37 percent.** Notable progress has been observed in the area of **access to justice**, where the Royal Thai Police established core policies aimed at strengthening investigative procedures and elevating judicial standards. These reforms focus on optimizing budget and personnel management to ensure that criminal investigations are timely, fair, transparent, and responsive to public needs.

In the realm of **anti-trafficking**, relevant agencies collaborated to develop a specialized screening checklist to identify victims of human trafficking and forced labor under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Complementing this technical advancement, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security conducted comprehensive training programs for competent officials under the 2008 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, fostering a consistent application of these screening protocols. Regarding the

right to education, the government launched the “Thailand Zero Drop-out” policy, a strategic initiative intended to secure continuous and inclusive educational access for every child.

Furthermore, significant efforts were made in **community rights** and natural resources management. The National Land Policy Committee and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment allocated land tenure to target populations across 1,579 areas in 73 provinces. This initiative covers roughly 4.4 million rai (7,040 square kilometers), achieving an overall implementation rate of 46 percent. Finally, addressing the human rights landscape in the **southern border provinces**, the Government adopted a resolution on 13 January 2025 to rescind the declaration of a severe state of emergency in the Yaha District of Yala Province. This move effectively lifted the application of special security laws in a region where such measures were no longer deemed necessary for public safety.

In addition, **relevant agencies are in the process of implementing and have partially fulfilled actions corresponding to six sub-recommendations, representing 3.75 percent.** Regarding the right to justice, the Ministry of Justice has prepared a draft amendment to the 2001 Damages for the Injured Person and Compensations and Expenses for the Accused in the Criminal Case Act. In the area of statelessness and migration, the Cabinet approved new management measures allowing Myanmar asylum seekers in nine designated shelters to remain in the Kingdom for employment under specific conditions. Relevant agencies are currently conducting consultations to establish

operational guidelines to ensure the effective implementation of these measures. Furthermore, regarding children lacking civil registration or Thai nationality, the Cabinet acknowledged the NHRCT’s recommendations and designated the Office of the Basic Education Commission under the Ministry of Education as the lead agency to coordinate a study on appropriate protective measures.

However, **75 critical sub-recommendations remain outstanding, accounting for 46.88 percent.** These include the necessity of upgrading immigration detention facilities to meet international standards and adoption of viable alternatives to indefinite detention. There is also a standing need to review immigration policies that may inadvertently increase the risk of human trafficking. Furthermore, the 2015 Public Assembly Act and related legislation

require amendments to ensure full compliance with international human rights obligations. Socio-economic recommendations also remain unfulfilled, specifically regarding the increase of allowances for older persons and persons with disabilities to reflect prevailing economic conditions, as well as the promotion of women’s participation in decision-making at all levels.

The implementation of these multifaceted recommendations requires significant time and sustained cooperation among all stakeholders. Continued monitoring of progress and outcomes remains essential to support the government in fulfilling its obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. Such efforts are vital to ensuring consistency with the Constitution and international human rights treaties, ultimately securing the full enjoyment of substantive rights for all persons.

