



RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Brief Assessment of the Implementation of the 4th Cycle UPR Recommendations

The CRC Coalition of Thailand welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Thailand. **The Coalition is a network of 41 civil society organisations, international non-governmental organisations, and child rights advocates working to promote and protect children's rights and monitor Thailand's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its three Optional Protocols (Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts; Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure).** This submission was informed by evidence gathered from Coalition members and a participatory consultation process with children and young people from diverse backgrounds across Thailand, ensuring their meaningful engagement in the UPR process. It highlights ten priority child rights issues, with particular attention to **violence against children, discrimination and inclusion, adolescent health and well-being, migrant and stateless children, child participation, conflict-affected children, child marriage, alternative care, climate justice, and emergency contexts.**

REALITIES ON THE GROUND

Challenges

Cases, Facts, Comments

Challenges 1: Violence Against Children, including Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)

- Around 400,000 children (9% of those aged 12-17) experienced online child sexual exploitation and abuse in Thailand.
- Draft amendments criminalizing online grooming, sextortion, cyberstalking and cyberbullying have not yet been enacted.
- Evidenced by a 2025 operation in Bangkok that identified 50 child victims and 70 suspected offenders, reflecting better investigative capacity but revealing the scale of the problem.
- Emerging threats include AI-generated abuse materials and online grooming of younger children

Challenge 2: Stateless, Refugee and Undocumented Migrant Children

- Approximately 600,000 stateless persons remain in Thailand.
- Between 2019-2025, 26 Migrant Learning Centres (MLCs) closed, affecting 7,532 children.
- Practical barriers continue to limit access to education despite Education for All policies.

Challenge 3: Children in Conflict and Emergency Situations

- Nearly 6,000 people have been killed in the Deep South conflict since 2004.
- Children continue to experience loss, trauma, disrupted education and restrictions on movement.
- Thailand has not endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration.

REALITIES ON THE GROUND

Challenges

Cases, Facts, Comments

Challenge 4: Child Early and Forced Marriage and Unions (CEFMU)

- 17% of women aged 20-24 were married before turning 18.
- Judicial exceptions continue to permit marriage below 18 years of age.
- Child marriage disproportionately affects marginalized communities and undermines education, health and protection rights

Challenge 5: SOGIESC Inclusion and Legal Identity

- Thailand still lacks legal gender recognition based on self-determination.
- Children with diverse SOGIESC experience discrimination, bullying and exclusion in schools and communities.
- Access to affirming mental health services remains limited.

**Every Child Counts, Every Voice Matters,
Every Right Must Be Protected.**

Challenge 6: Children's Rights to a Healthy Environment and Climate Change

- Children are increasingly affected by PM2.5 pollution, floods, droughts, extreme heat and unsafe water.
- Rural, migrant, stateless and low-income children face the highest risks.
- Thailand has yet to establish a national mechanism to implement CRC General Comment No. 26.

Challenge 7: Children's Right to Quality Care

- 135,000 children live in residential care facilities; nearly half are unregistered.
- 3 million children live apart from their biological parents, with most cared for by grandparents or relatives.
- Poverty remains a major cause of family separation and institutionalisation.
- Limited gatekeeping, caregiver support, and social work capacity continue to hinder family-based care.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. On Challenges 1: Violence Against Children, including Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)

- 1.1 Fast-track adoption of pending Criminal Code amendments.
- 1.2 Establish a National Centre for Online Child Protection.
- 1.3 Strengthen accountability of technology and gaming companies.
- 1.4 Expand digital literacy and online safety programmes.

2. On Challenge 2: Stateless, Refugee and Undocumented Migrant Children

- 2.1 Ensure access to education, health care and child protection regardless of migration status.
- 2.2 Recognize and support Migrant Learning Centres.
- 2.3 Establish child-sensitive asylum and protection procedures under CRC Article 22.
- 2.4 Accelerate statelessness resolution measures.

3. On Challenge 3: Children in Conflict and Emergency Situations

- 3.1 End military use of schools and endorse and implement the Safe Schools Declaration.
- 3.2 Strengthen psychosocial and educational support for affected children.
- 3.3 Improve protection under OPAC commitments

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. On Challenge 4: Child Early and Forced Marriage and Unions (CEFMU)

- 4.1 Remove all exceptions allowing marriage under 18.
- 4.2 Implement a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage.
- 4.3 Strengthen prevention and protection systems.
- 4.4 Improve disaggregated data collection

5. On Challenge 5: SOGIESC Inclusion and Legal Identity

- 5.1 Enact a Legal Gender Recognition law.
- 5.2 Strengthen anti-bullying protections in schools.
- 5.3 Ensure access to youth-friendly and gender-responsive mental health services.
- 5.4 Promote acceptance and reduce stigma.

6. On Challenge 6: Children's Rights to a Healthy Environment and Climate Change

- 6.1 Establish a national mechanism to implement CRC General Comment No. 26.
- 6.2 Strengthen climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.
- 6.3 Expand climate education and child participation.
- 6.4 Prioritize vulnerable children in environmental responses

7. On Challenge 7: Children's Right to Quality Care

- 7.1 Expand family- and community-based care
- 7.2 Establish a national gatekeeping system and strengthen support for kinship/foster care.
- 7.3 Improve oversight and data collection on alternative care.



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