

SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION, AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS (SOGIESC) RIGHTS IN THAILAND

**Joint UPR Submission to the
UN Universal Periodic Review**

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1. Introduction

1.1. In this submission, *Manushya Foundation, BUKU Classroom, Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand (RSAT), Health and Opportunity Network (HON), Sirisak Chaited, MPlus Foundation, CAREMAT, Andaman Power, Rainbow Dream Group Thailand, Ruangaroon Lampang Group and Tamtang* examine the compliance of Thailand with the recommendations it received during its 2nd UPR cycle, particularly in relation to the protection of the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in the country. In this context, we analyse the efforts made by the government to implement recommendations received related to compliance of domestic legislation with international human rights standards, protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, and prevention of discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ people. The authors then draw specific, measurable and result-oriented recommendations to ensure that the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in Thailand are respected and upheld.

1.2. During the 2nd UPR cycle, Thailand received a total of 34 recommendations in relation to the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals. Of these recommendations, it supported 33 recommendations and noted one. However, none of the recommendations directly addressed the human rights and equal treatment of the LGBTIQ+ community, showing therefore a lack of understanding of the issues faced by LGBTIQ+ people, at the international level.

1.3. We are deeply concerned with Thailand's treatment of LGBTIQ+ people, who are insufficiently protected by Thailand's legal framework, and are facing severe challenges in advancing their human rights, as well as barriers in accessing public services, particularly healthcare. Even though Thailand hosts one of the larger LGBTIQ+ community in Asia, an estimated 4.5 million in 2018, Thailand has way to go in terms of embracing this community, both on a societal and normative level. Until now, the Thai government failed to put in place a comprehensive approach to recognise non standardised and non-binary sexual relations, gender identities and expressions, as well as coherent practices which will standardise and regulate the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community. Consequently, the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community are severely violated, they are discriminated against, and experience stigma and violence.

1.4. This submission indicates that LGBTIQ+ people face severe challenges in advancing their human rights, in the following manner:

- Section 2 discusses the lack of legal framework protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, and the lack of recognition of transgender identity.
- Section 3 discusses the absence of legislation recognizing same-sex marriages.
- Section 4 discusses discrimination faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in employment, the education system, and military conscription.
- Section 5 discusses the discrimination and harassment faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in the private spheres.
- Section 6 discusses intimidation, transphobic attacks and judicial harassment faced by LGBTIQ+ persons because of their SOGIESC status, human rights work and activism.
- Section 7 discusses barriers faced by LGBTIQ+ persons in accessing healthcare services.



- Section 8 discusses the misrepresentation of LGBTIQ+ persons in the media and how they are underrepresented in politics.
- Section 9 discusses the impacts of COVID-19 on the lives of LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- Section 10 includes recommendations to the Thai government, addressing the challenges and rights violations discussed in foregoing sections.

An annex provides an overview of the recommendations examined in this submission.

2. Section 2. Lack of legal framework protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, and the lack of recognition of transgender identity

2.1. During its 2nd UPR cycle, the Thai government did not receive any recommendation specifically addressing the adoption of legislation protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals. However, it received one recommendation regarding the effective implementation of the Gender Equality Act of 2015,¹ and one on the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law which includes all grounds for discrimination. It supported the former and noted the latter. However, the government failed to implement either of the recommendations, as evidenced below.

2.2. **The Gender Equality Act of 2015** defines unfair gender discrimination and creates protection for people who identify themselves as male, female or of a different appearance from sex assigned at birth. The legislation has been adopted in line with the sections 4 and 27 of the 2017 Constitution of Thailand, stipulating that all persons are equal before the law and shall enjoy equal protection under the law. According to Section 27 of the Constitution, unjust discrimination against a person on the grounds of origin, race, language, sex, age, physical or health condition, personal status, economic or social standing, religious belief, education, or constitutional political views, shall not be permitted. Even though the constitution does not directly mention LGBTIQ+ individuals, the law indirectly protects their rights against abuse and discrimination by affirming that discrimination against people on the grounds of the difference in sex is not permitted.

2.3. The 2015 Gender Equality Act and its committee have proven to be in some ways helpful in bringing justice to the discriminated and marginalised. Since its introduction, the committee has taken on some cases such as discriminatory job advertisement, university students being banned from dressing in their chosen gender-specific uniforms, transgender women having job applications refused for not dressing and looking like men. However, the Act is still under-used and two challenges are observed in the Act, namely the fact that it is under dispute whether the law covers also sexual orientation and, second, the law permits discrimination if done in order to provide welfare and safety protection, in accordance with religious principles or for national security reasons. These provisions highly undermine the Act and the application of equality in the country. Therefore, discrimination and abuses will continue to affect LGBTIQ+ individuals on multiple levels encompassing both on a legal and cultural level ².

2.4. **In Thailand, transgender identity is not legally recognised.** The Person Name Act (1962), prohibits making changes to one’s legal title, sex, and gender in official documents for transgender people; and allows it for intersex people under strict conditions (upon showing of medical proof of intersexuality at birth and after a gender confirmation surgery). The law is therefore inherently discriminatory as it denies transgender persons their right to identity and self-determination. In July 2019, an NGO supporting legal gender recognition for transgender people made an attempt to push for a bill that would have allowed transgender people to change their title, after they undergo sex reassignment surgery. However, Thai society is against the idea: some fear that criminals would take advantage of the law to change themselves and to avoid paying for their

crimes. Others think transgender women will take this opportunity to fool men into marriage. However, those opinions are shaped without taking into consideration how long and full of difficulties the process of sex-reassignment is, both on a physical and psychological point of view.

- 2.5. To achieve recognition of transgender persons, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) drafted a gender recognition bill. This bill seeks to allow transgender people to change their legal title without undergoing sex reassignment. It was submitted to the parliament in October 2020. However, while a step in the right direction, it was noted by Tunyawaj Kamolwongwat, MP from Move Forward Party, that the bill he had drafted on gender recognition was different from the government’s version, and that the law would not be able to put an end to discrimination against transgender persons.³
- 2.6. The UNDP supported study “Legal Gender Recognition in Thailand: A Legal and Policy Review” (May 2018) illustrates how the absence of a law that enables transgender people to change their title, sex or gender on official documentation can create significant barriers to social inclusion, access to health and social services and enjoyment of human rights. For example, a university refused to deliver to a transgender woman a certificate and transcripts upon completion of her degree because she submitted a photo in which she looked like a woman, while her identification documents had male gender markers.⁴

3. The absence of legislation recognizing same-sex marriages

- 3.1. During its 2nd UPR cycle, the Thai government did not receive any recommendation specifically addressing the legal recognition of same-sex marriages. However, it received one recommendation calling upon the Thai government to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law which includes all grounds for discrimination. Nonetheless, the government only noted it and did not further its implementation.
- 3.2. **Thai law does not recognise same-sex marriages.** The Civil and Commercial Code Section 1148 stipulates that: “A marriage can take place only when a man and woman have completed their seventeenth year of age...”. Mentioning man and woman, the law does not allow for same-sex-marriages, and directly infringes upon people’s right to equality and non-discrimination, principles included in the 2017 Constitution, and the Gender Equality Act of 2015. Since 2014, civil society organizations have been advocating to legalise same-sex marriages by amending Section 1148 of the Civil and Commercial Code to ensure that same-sex couples would be granted equal rights and protection under the law.⁵
- 3.3. **On 8 July 2020, the Cabinet approved the Civil Partnership Bill**, which has been drafted since 2014. After being approved, the Bill was submitted to the House of Representatives Coordination Committee before it will be submitted to Parliament. Only after the bill is approved by the Parliament, it will become law. This bill allows same-sex couples to register their partnership. However, registering a civil partnership does not equal marriage, and therefore under this bill same-sex couples registered do not enjoy the same rights and protections as married couples.⁶ Instead, the bill focuses on aspects such as adoption, acting on behalf of their partner in legal proceedings if the partner is injured or passed away, inheritance matters, alimony, and property. By not providing same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples, the draft law violates Sections 4 and 27 (on equality and non-discrimination) of the Thai Constitution of 2017. As this bill does not provide marriage equality, the bill is criticized by LGBTIQ+ rights activists, who note that through this bill LGBTIQ+ couples are treated as second-class citizens.⁷
- 3.4. At the same time, Move Forward Party’s MP Tunyawat Kamolwongwat proposed a bill to amend the Civil and Commercial Code, to change the terminology in the Code to use ‘spouse’ instead of ‘husband and wife’ and ‘person’ instead of ‘man and woman’ so that individuals can be legally married regardless of their gender. If this bill would pass, all married couples, including same-sex couples would be guaranteed equal rights, duties,

and protections under the law. The bill went on the parliament’s public consultation platform for the public to provide their input and comments⁸ but the parliamentary deliberations have been queued due to more urgent issues to be discussed at the National Assembly.⁹ Therefore, the Foundation for SOGI Rights and Justice submitted a complaint to the Central Juvenile and Family Court towards the end of 2020, questioning the constitutionality of Section 1448 of the Civil and Commercial Code with Section 27 of the 2017 Constitution (related to equality of all persons before the law). The court hearing is scheduled on 26 April 2021.¹⁰

4. Discrimination faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in employment, the education system, and military conscription

- 4.1. During its 2nd UPR cycle, the Thai government did not receive any recommendation specifically addressing discrimination in employment or the education system on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. It received, however, the recommendation to promote equal participation of all members of the society, which it supported, and to adopt an anti-discrimination law, which it noted. Additionally, the government received seven recommendations related to vulnerable groups’ access to education, which it all supported. However, as evidenced below, the government failed to implement the recommendations regarding LGBTIQ+ individuals, who continue to face persistent stigma and discrimination in all stages of employment, including during the recruitment phase and in the workplace, as well as in the education system. This is problematic, as discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals in these areas limits their development, career advancement opportunities, leads to a pay-gap, lower job security, and limited access to social benefits. For more information about discrimination faced by LGBTIQ+ students in the education system and in the military, kindly refer to our UPR Submission on the rights of LGBTIQ+ Youth and Children.
- 4.2. Discrimination towards LGBTIQ+ individuals in employment and in the educational system are made possible through institutions’ policies, which vary. For example, certain schools allow transgender teachers to work in their premises and to dress according to their preferences, while others do not. The same happens to students, who in some cases are barred from campuses due to their appearance or sexual preferences. This is possible because there are no clear guidelines on uniform policies for transgender students. Examples of discrimination due to the lack of norms is the growing number of nightclubs in major cities banning transgender persons from entering their premises, the decision taken by Thai Red Cross Society barring LGBTIQ+ people from donating blood, as well as discriminating policies and practices for LGBTIQ+ when accessing toilets.
- 4.3. Within the LGBTIQ+ community, transgender persons and masculine lesbians are usually more affected when accessing the labour market, because exclusion tends to occur at the interview stage, once their legal gender title is found to be different from their appearances. As reported by the World Bank, 3 out of 4 transgender people face discrimination during job application, such as undergo psychological test not given to other applicants, and at work. This is illustrated in the case of Thanyaluk Lertrirak (June), a transgender woman victim of gender discrimination, who applied to Cute Press, a subsidiary of SSUP group. June’s application was denied on the ground that the position was only opened for cisgender women; a rejection that had deep implications on her mental health and self-acceptance.¹¹ In another case, discriminatory actions were reported in the hiring process against Ms. Pairie perpetrated by Adecco New Petchburi Co., Ltd, for Thai Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.¹² In both, Adecco and SSUP cases, Manushya Foundation and RSAT will be working together with these companies to ensure they comply with the UNGPs¹³ and the UN LGBTI Standards for Businesses.¹⁴ They were already invited by SSUP group to a meeting to discuss the implications of June’s case and shared their expertise on Business and Human Rights in September 2020.¹⁵ In another case, Worawalun Taweekarn, was barred to become a teacher on the grounds of being a transgender woman¹⁶.



4.4. As shown by 2018 studies conducted by the World Bank and by UNDP, the majority of LGBTIQ+ persons have experienced discrimination in access to employment, as well as in career advancement and social security benefits.¹⁷ Hostile work environment manifests itself also in the form of jokes, gossips, insensitive comments, intrusive questions, bullying, and insults. It can also result in serious forms of physical and sexual violence. Often, discrimination and practices amounting to hate crimes lead transgender people to work in limited stereotypical jobs, such as make-up artist, cabaret or show biz.

4.5. Problematically, when LGBTIQ+ individuals face discrimination, they do not have access to remedy, due to their underrepresentation in government structures, employers' organisations, and trade unions. Additionally, their interests are rarely discussed in social dialogue or in collective bargaining agreements. Consequently, when they encounter harassment and bullying, the avenues for workplace disputes resolutions around such issues are limited.

5. Discrimination and harassment faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in the private spheres

5.1. During its 2nd UPR cycle, the Thai government did not receive any recommendation specifically addressing discrimination and sexual harassment faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in the private spheres, such as within their families and at home. However, the government received 17 recommendations related to discrimination, particularly against women, of which it supported 16 and noted one.

5.2. In Thailand, LGBTIQ+ individuals are being stigmatized and discriminated against, even by their family members.¹⁸ Demographic and socio-economic factors such as ethnicity, income, biological sex and religion influence the level of stigma and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people. Generally, middle-class and upper-class families place more value towards 'saving face' and protecting family reputations than low-income families. On the other hand, LGBTIQ+ people from wealthier families may have more life options because of their financial status. Also, a UNDP 2019 national survey on experiences of discrimination and social attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ people in Thailand demonstrated that the general population is more accepting LGBTIQ+ people outside of their family than those within their immediate family. Consequently, LGBTIQ+ individuals may feel more accepted by people outside of their family, thus leading them to be more open about their sexuality with their social networks.¹⁹

5.3. Not being accepted by their families, LGBTIQ+ individuals experience severe challenges. For example, families who do not accept the sexual preference or identity of their children may pressure them into marriage with someone of the different sex as a way of hiding the person's sexuality, or even in the hope that the marriage will eliminate same-sex desires and behaviours. Problematically, lack of family acceptance leads to LGBTIQ+ individuals hiding their identity and withdrawing from social support networks. Additionally, lack of acceptance results in self-stigma and severe mental health issues: particularly in rural areas, where there are higher rates of suicidal attempts of LGBTIQ+ individuals.²⁰

6. Intimidation, Transphobic attacks and Judicial Harassment of LGBTIQ+ persons because of their human rights work and activism

6.1. During its 2nd UPR cycle, the Thai government received 9 recommendations on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society representatives which are applicable to the case of LGBTIQ+ rights defenders. For example, the government committed to several recommendations including to "ensure that human rights defenders in Thailand are treated in accordance with the UN General Assembly Declaration on Human Rights Defenders." Of the recommendations received, 8 were accepted and 1 was noted. However, as examined in this section, the government has failed to effectively implement these recommendations in respect to LGBTIQ+ individuals defending human rights.



- 6.2. In January and February 2021, 21-years-old transgender woman Phetcharin, from Loei province located in Northeastern Thailand, faced gender-based hate crimes because of her sexual orientation and gender identity. The hate crime against her occurred in the form of threatening messages and phone calls from a man who claimed to be a journalist from Thairath TV. The man also visited her house and conducted an investigation on her to find personal information about her, place where she had worked, lawsuits she was engaged in, etc. He did not only threaten Phetcharin, but also contacted her mother and other acquaintances. The journalist threatened when she refused to give him an interview regarding an incident that had occurred earlier in January involving her. After that, the journalist continued to pressure Phetcharin to give him an interview, which he did through threats.²¹
- 6.3. Feeling scared and unsafe, Phetcharin reached out to the Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand, to seek help. At the Association, she was assisted by Nada Chaityajit, transgender woman, human rights lawyer, and prominent LGBTIQ+ activist. However, when Nada assisted Phetcharin and contacted the journalist regarding the incident and the threats, Nada also started receiving transphobic threats, including death threats, through messages and phone calls in which he warned her to ‘stay out of his business’. In the messages to both transgender women, the journalist made clear that he hates transgender women, whom he called “faggots”.²² Both women became targets of the harassment as a result of their SOGIE, Nada additionally due to her legitimate human rights work and legal assistance to Phetcharin. Eventually, Phetcharin was forced to relocate from Loei province in order to ensure her safety and that of her family members, and both women will need to receive mental health support in order to restore their well-being and prevent trauma. With support of Manushya Foundation and RSAT, Nada and Phetcharin have submitted a complaint letter against the journalist to the Thairath TV on 12 February 2021, requesting effective investigation and justice.²³
- 6.4. In early February 2021, an LGBTIQ+ and sex workers’ rights defender Sirisak Chaited “Ton” and Chanya Rattanathada “Panan”, Thai transgender woman, LGBTIQ+ rights defender and co-founder of Young Pride Club, were charged under the Covid-19 Emergency Decree for joining pro-democracy protests in Chiang Mai in November 2020 where they publicly advocated for equality, justice and real democracy. On 16 February 2021, they were summoned to the Chiang Mai Police Station together with 32 other people to acknowledge their charges.²⁴ Their accusation is another case of the Thai government’s actions to suppress legitimate human rights defenders’ activities under the disguise of emergency measures.

7. Barriers faced by LGBTIQ+ persons in accessing healthcare services

- 7.1. During its 2nd UPR cycle, the Thai government did not receive any recommendation specifically addressing the right to health of LGBTIQ+ persons. However, it received eight recommendations addressing the right to health of vulnerable populations, which it all supported. Among others, the Government committed to ‘develop the health system through the strengthening of the right to enjoy health for all segments of the society and to facilitate access to health services for all the population in the Thai territory’. However, as evidenced below, the government failed to implement these recommendations with respect to the LGBTIQ+ community, who continue to face severe barriers in accessing healthcare services.
- 7.2. LGBTIQ+ people experience barriers in accessing health care and social services, and in some cases, they are being denied medical services and treatments.²⁵ Often, healthcare providers do not take patients’ confidentiality seriously and reveal information about their SOGIE to their family or community, which is problematic due to the discrimination and stigmatisation they face within their families. In other instances, LGBTIQ+ patients are being mistreated, often because of their appearance or in relation to their positive HIV status. As reported by the 2019 UNDP survey, one in five LGBTIQ+ respondents faced difficulties accessing mental health services, hormone therapy and gender-affirming surgery.²⁶



8. Misrepresentation of LGBTIQ+ persons in the media, and insufficient representation in politics

8.1. During its 2nd UPR cycle, the Thai government did not receive any recommendation addressing the problematic underrepresentation and negative portrayal of the LGBTIQ+ community in the media. Nonetheless, as evidence below, this issue deserves attention, as LGBTIQ+ individuals are often portrayed with derogatory terms. This does not only harm self-acceptance and well-being of LGBTIQ+ individuals, it also causes discrimination and stigma against them.²⁷

8.2. LGBTIQ+ identities are vastly underrepresented in Thai news media, and often times, they are represented inaccurately, stereotypically, harmfully or without a clear understanding of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. A 2019 study conducted by Fongkaew found that gay men or Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Male to Female transgender people are overrepresented in the media compared to Female to Male transgender persons, lesbians, bisexuals, queer and/or intersex people. It was also found that 88 percent of news stories are based on secondary sources and do not include the voices of LGBTIQ+ people themselves.²⁸ Media also play on stereotypes associated with LGBTIQ+ identities.

8.3. In politics, LGBTIQ+ individuals are also underrepresented, with only three LGBTIQ+ Parliamentarians sitting at the National Assembly: Thunyawaj Kamolwangwat (Move Forward Party), Nateepat Kulsetthasith (Move Forward Party), and Kawinnart Takee (Thai Local Power Party). Although it is seen as a progress for Thailand, the representation of the LGBTIQ+ community at the Parliament remains insufficient compare to the vibrant and large LGBTIQ+ community in the country. In 2019, the Parliament created a specific committee to address challenges faced by vulnerable populations, the ‘Committee on Child Affairs, Youth, Women, Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups and LGBTQ people’, composed of members from vulnerable groups.²⁹ While this can be seen as a progress, it would be important for the LGBTIQ+ community to engage within a sub-committee specific to SOGIESC issues so that they can lobby for their own rights and effectively tackle rights violations and discrimination.

9. The impacts of COVID-19 on the lives of LGBTIQ+ Individuals

9.1. The COVID-19 crisis exacerbated the challenges faced by the LGBTIQ+ community, leaving them more vulnerable than others regarding economic impact, violence and discrimination, and access to health. The pandemic has worsened the situation where LGBTIQ+ people have already struggled.

9.2. LGBTIQ+ individuals have been particularly hit by the economic impact of the pandemic. Many of them worked in industries such as entertainment, tourism or sex work which were the most affected due to the lockdown.³⁰ Those employed in the informal sector were very likely to live without incomes and struggle to find shelter.³¹ An online survey conducted by the UNDP Thailand and the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) found that 47% of the LGBTI population lost their jobs or were forced to go on unpaid leave.³² After being laid off, many of them were forced to come back to their families and were thus exposed to physical and emotional violence within the family unit, which was reported by 14% of respondents.³³ Access to benefits from the government COVID-19 response was hindered by complex procedures as many documents are required, which makes application difficult for LGBTIQ+ people.³⁴ The survey revealed that 51% of respondents did not receive assistance from the government. The pandemic also had an impact on their access to healthcare and medication as community clinics, where they used to go, were closed, causing trouble in finding hormones and HIV treatment. Even if public hospitals can provide the same treatment, LGBTIQ+ people were unwilling to go there because of possible discrimination and prejudice from healthcare providers.³⁵



9.3. The pandemic also impacted legislative processes and impeded legal developments of LGBTIQ+ rights. The same-sex marriage bill proposed by Tunyawaj Kamolwongwat, MP of the Move Forward Party, which aimed at improving the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community was postponed and delayed by other more urgent issues. The panel established to review this law has yet to meet and make any progress because of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶

10. Recommendations to the Thai Government

Manushya Foundation, BUKU Classroom, Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand (RSAT), Health and Opportunity Network (HON), Sirisak Chaited, MPlus Foundation, CAREMAT, Andaman Power, Rainbow Dream Group Thailand, Ruangaroon Lampang Group and Tamtang make the following specific recommendations to the Thai government to ensure that the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals are being protected and upheld.

10.1. Regarding the lack of legal framework protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, and the lack of recognition of transgender identity

- a. Revise Section 27 of the 2017 Constitution to unequivocally mention and recognise SOGIESC by 2022, de facto ensuring that all people, including LGBTIQ+ persons, are entitled to enjoy the same protection provided in international human rights law and domestic legislations, including with respect to the right to life, security of persons and privacy, the right to be free from discrimination and the right to freedom of expression.
- b. Guarantee that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. Prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, natural or social origin, property, birth or other status, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- c. Revise the 2015 Gender Equality Act to clearly cover sexual orientation by 2022, and push for the adoption of the gender recognition Bill by 2022, in order to protect transgender people’s rights, including their right to change their legal title without undergoing sex-reassignment surgery.
- d. Facilitate recognition of the preferred gender of transgender persons and establish arrangements to permit relevant identity documents to be reissued reflecting gender and name, without infringement of other human rights.

10.2. Regarding the absence of legislation recognizing same-sex marriages

- a. Amend the Civil and Commercial Code, Book 4, Article 1448 to recognize same-sex marriages, so that same-sex couples would be guaranteed equal rights, duties, and protection under the law, by 2022.

10.3. Regarding the discrimination faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in employment, the education system, and military conscription

- a. Enact a comprehensive anti-discriminatory legislation that includes discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity among prohibited grounds and recognize intersecting forms of discrimination, by 2022.

- b. Amend laws that overlook discrimination in all stages of employment, such as the 2008 Civil Service Act, which in Section 36.4 it is prohibited for a person to be a civil servant if “being morally defective to the extent of being socially objectionable”, which leads to a discriminatory reading against LGBTIQ+ people, by 2023.
- c. Ensure that businesses and employers abide to Thailand’s National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, the UNGPs and the UN LGBTI Business Standards to guarantee equal treatment with elimination of all forms of discrimination against LGBTIQ+ in all processes and aspect of employment including recruitment process, by the end of 2022.
- d. By the end of 2022, ensure equal treatment with a view to eliminating discrimination in all aspects of employment and occupation for all workers, by enacting an anti-discrimination law and monitoring body specifically designed to tackle employment discrimination, and to penalise perpetrators of such violations.

10.4. Regarding the discrimination and harassment faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in the private sphere

- a. Ensure that individuals can exercise their rights to freedom of expression in safety, without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

10.5. Regarding intimidation, transphobic attacks and judicial harassment of LGBTIQ+ persons because of their human rights work and activism

- a. According to section 84 (e) of the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, the Royal Thai Government should enact a comprehensive anti-discriminatory legislation that includes discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity among prohibited grounds and recognize intersecting forms of discrimination. In this regard, the Thai Cabinet should collaborate with civil society organizations to enact gender-sensitive laws, applicable to all sectors and segments of society. Thailand should therefore immediately repeal the 2015 Gender Equality Act’s provision allowing for sexual and gender-based discrimination on grounds of welfare and safety protection, as well as for religious or security reasons and ensure that, in all relevant policies, SOGIE are included as a basis for non-discrimination.
- b. Amend the 2017 Constitution to unequivocally mention and recognize SOGIE as a basis for discrimination by 2022, and investigate and punish discriminatory criminal incidents against LGBTIQ+ individuals both online and offline as hate crimes.
- c. Amend the Criminal Code to introduce the offences of “Gender Harassment” and “Hate Speech” online and offline by 2023, in line with international human rights standards and best practices, including appropriate punishments for the perpetrators of gender harassment and hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ people and other vulnerable groups, to address harassment and gender-based hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ individuals, and ensure that people experiencing such incidents have access to remedy in accordance with Thailand’s international human rights obligations under Articles 2(1), 2(3) and 14 of the ICCPR.
- d. Ensure that human rights defenders, including LGBTIQ+ rights defenders and activists, journalists, civil society members, lawyers and academics are able to carry out their legitimate activities to bring to light human rights violations without fear or undue hindrance, obstruction or legal and administrative



harassment in line with Thailand’s obligations under the ICCPR and with respect to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

10.6. Regarding the barriers faced by LGBTIQ+ persons in accessing healthcare services

- a. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, without discrimination, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and intensify measures to ensure that LGBTIQ+ people do not suffer from discrimination and violence in healthcare settings. This is particularly important as LGBTIQ+ people still experience stigma and discriminatory practices when accessing health services in Thailand, ranging from insensitive jokes, irrelevant questions being asked, and in some cases, lack of confidentiality around the patient’s SOGIE, medical services and treatments being denied.
- b. Ensure that healthcare facilities, goods and services are designed to improve the health status of, and respond to the needs of, all persons without discrimination on the basis of, and taking into account, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- c. Ensure all healthcare professionals are trained on SOGIESC, including through the inclusion of SOGIESC in the medical and nursing school curriculums, by 2024.
- d. Ensure access to affordable and quality medication and counselling services for LGBTIQ+ people and for those living with HIV/AIDS, heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

10.7. Regarding the misrepresentation of LGBTIQ+ persons in the media, and insufficient representation in politics

- a. Raise awareness of LGBTIQ+ and SOGIESC rights, sensitise journalists to LGBTIQ+ issues and develop a handbook of good practices for positively reporting on LGBTIQ+ people and issues.
- b. Ensure that LGBTIQ+ persons are fairly represented in all sectors of society, including in the media and in politics, including by creating a parliamentary sub-committee for LGBTIQ+ individuals’ rights, inclusive of LGBTIQ+ representatives by 2023.

10.8. Regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on the lives of LGBTIQ+ individuals

- a. Ensure that LGBTIQ+ persons have access to health care and medicine, especially by addressing social stigma and discrimination in public hospitals, as recommended in the Report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human rights of LGBT persons of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- b. Take into consideration the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ and include them in COVID-19 responses; Ensure that they have access to benefits without discrimination.

Annex: Assessment of implementation of UPR recommendations received during the 2nd UPR Cycle of Thailand, particularly in the context of the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons

Theme: Compliance of National Legislations with International Human Rights Obligations of Thailand			
158.26 Incorporate key human rights principles in the new constitution in line with the obligations of Thailand under international human rights law	Accepted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - general	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.28 Continue to consider protection and promotion of Human Rights in the new constitution	Accepted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - general	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
Theme: Protection of the rights of vulnerable populations, including women			
158.31 Continue to provide adequate human and financial resources to fully implement its domestic laws protective of women's rights	Accepted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework F11 Advancement of women F12 Discrimination against women Affected persons: - women	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.66 Prevent discrimination in all cases without taking consideration of grounds such as religious beliefs or national security	Accepted	B31 Equality & non-discrimination D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Affected persons: - general - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 2.1-2.6
158.62 Advance women's empowerment, and greater representation of women in all sectors	Accepted	F11 Advancement of women F14 Participation of women in political and public life D7 Right to participation in public affairs and right to vote Affected persons: - women	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.63 Effectively implement the Protection of Vulnerable Persons Act to ensure better protection for its vulnerable population	Accepted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - vulnerable persons/groups	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6



158.64 Effectively implement the Gender Equality Act of 2015	Accepted	F11 Advancement of women F12 Discrimination against women Affected persons: - women	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 2.1 – 2.6
158.65 Promote a culture of equality through the equal participation of all members of the society and, in particular the participation of women in rural areas	Accepted	E21 Right to an adequate standard of living - general F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children - youth	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6
158.68 Continue to adopt gender-responsive policies and programmes to cultivate a conducive environment for women’s development and empowerment	Accepted	F11 Advancement of women F14 Participation of women in political and public life Affected persons: - women	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.143 Take measures to enhance women’s participation in public and political decision-making	Accepted	F14 Participation of women in political and public life D7 Right to participation in public affairs and right to vote Affected persons: - women	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.144 Continue its efforts to ensure adequate protection for vulnerable persons living in difficult conditions	Accepted	E21 Right to an adequate standard of living - general Affected persons: - vulnerable persons/groups	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6
158.163 Continue its efforts in strengthening policies and measures to promote and protect the human rights of its people, in particular those of vulnerable groups such as women, children, poor people, and migrants	Accepted	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection G4 Migrants E25 Human rights & poverty Affected persons: - vulnerable persons/groups - migrants - persons living in poverty	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6



Theme: Prevention of violence and discrimination, particularly against women			
158.66 Prevent discrimination in all cases without taking consideration of grounds such as religious beliefs or national security	Accepted	B31 Equality & non-discrimination D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Affected persons: - general - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.69 Continue its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women	Accepted	F12 Discrimination against women Affected persons: - women	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.71 Continue to strengthen measures to effectively reduce discrimination and all forms of violence against women	Accepted	F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.81 Continue to work at the provincial level to execute memoranda of understanding to combat violence against women and children	Accepted	F13 Violence against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - women - children	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.82 Establish an effective policy and legal framework to prevent and contrast all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including domestic violence, in order to ensure that women victims of violence receive adequate support and offenders are brought to justice	Accepted	D29 Domestic violence F13 Violence against women B51 Right to an effective remedy B53 Support to victims and witnesses Affected persons: - women	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3
158.83 Step up efforts to effectively combat violence against women and children	Accepted	F13 Violence against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - women - children	Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3



<p>158.84 Intensify efforts to promote policies in the area of prevention, sanctions and eradication of all forms of violence against women, including measures aimed at promoting their rights regardless of its religion, race, sexual identity or social condition</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women B31 Equality & non-discrimination B32 Racial discrimination Affected persons: - women - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3</p>
<p>159.20 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law which includes all grounds for discrimination</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>A41 Constitutional and legislative framework B31 Equality & non-discrimination Affected persons: - general</p>	<p>Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 2.1-2.6 and 3.1-3.4</p>
<p>159.35 Further address all forms of gender-based violence and abuses by revising the relevant provisions of the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D29 Domestic violence F13 Violence against women D28 Gender-based violence Affected persons: - women</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Sources: paragraph 5.1-5.3</p>
<p>Theme: Access to public services, including healthcare services and education</p>			
<p>158.37 Establish strategies and allocate resources aimed at achievement of SDGs, especially those related to poverty eradication, equal access to resources, rights to education and health care and rights of the vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>C Sustainable Development Goal implementation C01 SDG 1 - poverty C12 SDG 12 - sustainable consumption and production C04 SDG 4 - education E21 Right to an adequate standard of living - general E41 Right to health - General E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general - persons living in poverty - vulnerable persons/groups</p>	<p>Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 6.1-6.3</p>



<p>158.55 Continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the development of children and youth</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>E21 Right to an adequate standard of living - general F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children - youth</p>	<p>Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6</p>
<p>158.70 Improve access to health, education and social welfare for vulnerable groups, including for those in rural areas, ethnic minorities, women, migrants and refugees</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>E24 Right to social security E41 Right to health - General E51 Right to education - General G1 Members of minorities G4 Migrants G5 Refugees & asylum seekers Affected persons: - migrants - persons living in rural areas - women - refugees & asylum seekers</p>	<p>Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 6.1-6.3</p>
<p>158.145 Extend for all access to the rights to healthcare, social security, and minimum wage without ethnic distinction or linguistic barriers</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>E24 Right to social security E32 Right to just and favourable conditions of work E41 Right to health - General B31 Equality & non-discrimination G1 Members of minorities Affected persons: - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups</p>	<p>Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 6.1-6.3</p>
<p>158.146 Continue its efforts to ensure that the universal health-care scheme covers disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and persons living in remote rural areas that still face obstacles in accessing basic health-care services</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>E42 Access to health-care (general) F4 Persons with disabilities Affected persons: - persons living in rural areas - persons with disabilities</p>	<p>Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 6.1-6.3</p>



158.150 Increase its efforts to ensure the right to the highest attainable standard of health also to sex workers by ensuring them access to health care and services and comprehensive sexuality education	Accepted	E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services E44 Health awareness raising, access to information Affected persons: - general	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 6.1-6.3
158.151 Continue to develop the health system through the strengthening of the right to enjoy health for all segments of the society	Accepted	E42 Access to health-care (general) Affected persons: - general	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 6.1-6.3
158.152 Facilitate access to health services for all the population in the Thai territory	Accepted	E42 Access to health-care (general) Affected persons: - general	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 6.1-6.3
158.154 Further strengthen measures to ensure equal access to health services for all, while giving special attention to the needs of children, women and the elderly	Accepted	E42 Access to health-care (general) Affected persons: - women - children - older persons	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 6.1-6.3
158.161 Continue to pursue successful education programmes for all with an emphasis on the most vulnerable segments of its population	Accepted	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - vulnerable persons/groups	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6
158.162 Continue its efforts to ensure that all children have access to education at all levels and all categories	Accepted	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - children	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6
158.164 Continue its efforts to ensure that all children have access to free basic education, and to improve the overall quality of education, including by ensuring that teachers are well trained and fully qualified	Accepted	E52 primary education Affected persons: - children	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6
158.165 Ensure equal access to education of vulnerable people including women, children and persons with disabilities	Accepted	E51 Right to education - General F4 Persons with disabilities Affected persons: - women - persons with disabilities	Status: Not Implemented Sources: paragraph 4.1-4.6

Theme: The protection of human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists



<p>159.51 Ensure that there are no restrictions on freedom of expression especially for the media and human rights defenders, and that no one faces threats and harassment, including attitude adjustment, for expressing their views and that all legislation affecting freedom of expression is compatible and implemented in line with Thailand’s international obligations as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in 2016 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/33/16/Add.1 - Para. 18-19</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>A25 Follow-up to special procedures A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D43 Freedom of opinion and expression H1 Human rights defenders Affected persons: - general - human rights defenders - media</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.1-6.4</p>
<p>159.58 Guarantee and respect the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly putting an end to arbitrary detentions and arrests and any act of harassment against political actors and civil society, including human rights defenders (Switzerland);</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/33/16/Add.1 - Para. 18-19</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>D33 Arbitrary arrest and detention D43 Freedom of opinion and expression D44 Right to peaceful assembly D45 Freedom of association H1 Human rights defenders Affected persons: - general - human rights defenders</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.3-6.4</p>
<p>159.62 Immediately end all infringement on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly under section 44 of the 2014 interim constitution, the Computer Crimes Act, and articles 112 and 116 of the Penal Code – and unconditionally release persons detained or imprisoned for exercising these rights (Iceland);</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/33/16/Add.1 - Para. 18-19</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>D43 Freedom of opinion and expression A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D44 Right to peaceful assembly D45 Freedom of association D33 Arbitrary arrest and detention Affected persons: - general</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.3-6.4</p>



<p>158.22 Ensure that human rights defenders in Thailand are treated in accordance with the General Assembly Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (New Zealand); Source of position: A/HRC/33/16 - Para. 158</p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>H1 Human rights defenders Affected persons: - human rights defenders</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.3-6.4</p>
<p>158.119 Protect the human rights defenders and investigate any reported cases of intimidation, harassment and attacks against them (Luxembourg); Source of position: A/HRC/33/16 - Para. 158</p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>H1 Human rights defenders Affected persons: - human rights defenders</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.3-6.4</p>
<p>158.120 Stop all forms of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and effectively implement measures aimed at preventing violence and crimes against them (Czech Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/33/16 - Para. 158</p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>H1 Human rights defenders Affected persons: - human rights defenders</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.3-6.4</p>
<p>158.121 Investigate and ensure justice to all reported cases of intimidation, harassment and attacks of human rights defenders and journalists (Botswana); Source of position: A/HRC/33/16 - Para. 158</p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>H1 Human rights defenders Affected persons: - human rights defenders</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.3-6.4</p>
<p>158.122 That all alleged attacks on human rights defenders are promptly and thoroughly investigated, and that perpetrators are held accountable (Norway); Source of position: A/HRC/33/16 - Para. 158</p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>H1 Human rights defenders B51 Right to an effective remedy Affected persons: - human rights defenders</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.3-6.4</p>
<p>158.123 Ensure that the rights of the human rights defenders are properly respected and perpetrators are brought to justice (Romania); Source of position: A/HRC/33/16 - Para. 158</p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>H1 Human rights defenders B51 Right to an effective remedy Affected persons: - human rights defenders</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented Source: Paragraph 6.3-6.4</p>

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About BUKU Classroom

BUKU Classroom is a local non-profit making organization based in Pattani province, Deep South of Thailand. Founded in 2013, BUKU Classroom works within feminism and human rights framework to protect SOGIESC rights, promote LGBTI and women’s health and well-being, gender equality, lack of knowledge and understanding on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Three Southern Border Provinces (SBPs). In the region, Muslim Malayu LGBTI and women are marginalized because of their gender, sexuality, religion, education, economy, language and geography. LGBTI people are invisible, bullied, humiliated, stigmatized, discriminated and face human rights abuses. Their rights over on their body are violated. They are faced with physical and mental violence. In addition, there is no safe space for learning about sexual diversity. They have low sense of self-value and lack understanding about sexual well-being and rights. BUKU CLASSROOM is therefore working to improve the situation of LGBTI and women in SBP.



About Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand (RSAT)

Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand (RSAT) was founded in 2000 and officially registered as association (a nonprofit entity) under Thai laws as of November 1, 2003 with the National Cultural Commission of Thailand, the Ministry of Culture. RSAT works towards four main programs, including human right and gender equality, HIV outreach, medical technology clinics and Love-Sharing Rainbow (a fundraising program).



About Sirisak Chaited

Sirisak Chaited is an independent Sex Worker & LGBTI Rights Activist with more than 15 years of activism in Thailand. He is a Board Member of Manushya Foundation, Amnesty International Thailand and Young Pride Club.



About Health and Opportunity Network (HON)

Health and Opportunity Network (HON) is a dedicated care and support organization for transgender individuals living with HIV and AIDS in Pattaya, Thailand. Pattaya is a hotspot where a significant number of transgender live and work including engaging in commercial sex. The organization had started its work at the beginning of 2008, with the funding from the Provincial Office of the Ministry of Public Health, to assess the needs of transgender individuals related to HIV and AIDS. The organization was later officially established and registered as legal entity on August 1, 2008. HON's main objective is to provide advice and counseling on health-related issues including training personnel and production of health promotion materials. The founder of the organization is Ms. Thissadee Sawangying, who has experiences working on care and support for women and children affected by HIV, HIV research and HIV prevention among MSM (including TG).

HON provides holistic HIV care and support services for transgender people living with HIV and AIDS including clinical, psychosocial, social, and preventive services. These include clinical services (screening of STIs & anal cancer, screening and basic care for OIs), Psychosocial service (counseling and support to promote acceptance of HIV status and self-care behavior and ART adherence, disclosure support), Preventive services (distribution of condom and lubrication, support for disclosure on HIV status and VCT for sexual partners of HIV-positive TG, peer education on prevention of transmission of HIV and other STIs and re-infection) and Social services (assistance on registration to help PLHIV access to social security scheme and universal health care scheme).



About MPlus Foundation

MPlus Foundation is a leading organization and specialized in the prevention of HIV and AIDS (AIDS), sexually transmitted diseases, as well as sexual health and sexual rights among LGBTIQ+ community. Therefore, the main activity of the organization is to carry out activities for the prevention of HIV (HIV) among MSM. Male sex workers and TG in Chiang Mai with activities through the drop-in center and proactive education activities as friend to friend in the prevention of HIV (HIV) and sexually transmitted diseases including referral services for HIV blood test and for services in sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, other activities of the MPlus Foundation such as media production. and corporate public relations raise awareness via radio programs to provide knowledge about having sex Safe protection against HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. To create understanding and cooperation with the public such as police, bar owners, government officials and teachers.

CAREMAT is an organization working to improve the quality of healthcare and health condition of LGBTIQ+ group in Chiang Mai through awareness raising and knowledge sharing.



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About Andaman Power

Andaman Power is the organization for sexual diversity in the southern region. Andaman Power organization works together with local hospitals and specialized clinics with the aim to educate the public on gender and sexual diversity. Moreover, we aim to raise awareness on the issues of gender inequality and human rights. Our work also focuses on helping people living with HIV by reaching out to them and HIV prevention.



About Rainbow Dream Group Thailand

Rainbow Dream Group Thailand is an independent group of people who join together to do activities that benefit marginalized groups in the area. Whether they are ethnic groups, migrant workers and LGBTQ people. The organization is proficient in organizing human rights learning activities and internal strengthening processes for oneself and the organization. The working areas are in Chiang Mai and nearby areas.



About Ruangaroon Lampang Group

Ruangaroon Lampang Group is a public benefit organization working for children and youths in Lampang Province. Our work is mainly focused on Sexual Health Reproductive, Health rights, Human Rights and Media Literacy by focusing on children and youth in various educational establishments and marginalized youths in remote rural areas.



About Tamtang

Tamtang is a human rights feminist group giving all women in Thailand (and Thai women outside Thailand) access to non-biased information needed about access to safe abortion. Tamtang advocates for the right to safe abortion in Thailand, where despite abortion being legal under certain conditions, many procedures are still taking place 'underground' due to stigma, lack of information and provider refusal. Since 2011 Tamtang has offered information about safe abortion and reproductive health on its website and free counselling hotline/messaging service.



MANUSHYA

Empowering Communities | Advancing Social Justice

About Manushya Foundation

Manushya Foundation is a women-led and innovative non-profit organization with the goal to reinforce the power of local communities, in particular women human rights defenders, so they can advance their human rights and fight for equality and social justice. Manushya means "Human Being" in Sanskrit; it was founded in 2017 to engage, mobilise and empower local communities across Asia to be at the center of decisions and policies that affect them by: connecting humans through inclusive coalition building and; by developing strategies focused at placing local communities' voices at the centre of human rights advocacy and domestic implementation of international human rights obligations and standards. Manushya Foundation strengthens the solidarity and capacity of communities and grassroots to become Agents of Change fighting for their rights and providing solutions to improve their lives, their livelihoods and the human rights situation on the ground.

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