



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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Thailand

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the Commission on the Status of Women**

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**Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Thai delegation, it is my great honour to address the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to promoting women's advancement and achieving gender equality. This year's priority theme, elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, is indeed central to our goals and supports our ultimate aim of realizing a gender-equal society.

Madame Chairperson,

Thailand has prioritized and taken various measures underway to tackle violence against women and girls. For example, the Protection of Domestic Violence Act has been enacted since 2007 to guarantee comprehensive protection and assistance for victims as well as penalty measures against perpetrators. Also, one stop crisis centers with multi-sectoral services have been set up nationwide.

However, challenges to end violence against women and girls remain. The first challenge is the gap between legal framework and enforcement. The second challenge is the general perception that violence against women and girls is a

private matter rather a a public one. In addition, the patriarchal structure of the society which results in unequal power between women and men fosters violence against women and girls.

Madame Chairperson,

To respond to the mentioned challenges, Thailand wishes to share with the Commission the measures we have undertaken:

Firstly, Thailand has focused on capacity building of law enforcement officers at all levels to enable them to understand related laws and to be aware of gender issues. Some results from this capacity building effort are demonstrated by the transformation in the justice system. For instance, the Royal Thai Police has embarked on training programmes for their officers to ensure that victims of violence would get effective protection and professional handling of their cases. Furthermore, the Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy has integrated human rights education into their courses and had integrated female students into their roster to provide women police cadets to serve mostly woman and girl victims. Furthermore, the Thonburi Criminal Court, as an example, now provides a separate court room with electronic equipments installed to avoid confrontation between victims and perpetrators, even changed some procedures for conducting trial on sensitive cases.

Secondly, Thailand has placed the promotion of gender equality value and attitudes as the first strategy of the 11th National Women's Development Plan. Also, awareness raising to end violence has been continually implemented. Honorable, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who was appointed UNIFEM (now UN Women) Goodwill Ambassador in 2008, has been a driving force in campaigns to end violence against women and girls. Her goodwill ambassadorship and personal credentials have lent unprecedented nationwide public awareness to end violence against women. Consequently, the Thai society has become more aware and intolerant for violence against women and girls. This is reflected through the increased number of reported cases on violence against women and girls. Consequently, victims have received assistance and rehabilitation. Moreover, the meting out of penalty against the perpetrators is now a reality more than before.

Madame Chairperson,

I am happy to report that Thailand also plays an active role at international levels. For example, Thailand has taken over half of the actions taken worldwide in 2010 in the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign. Furthermore, high level officials, such as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General, have joined the Network of Men Leaders to end violence against women and girls, initiated by the UN Secretary – General.

Importantly, Thailand pledges to developing national strategy, reviewing and amending law pertaining violence against women and girls, carry out community mobilization, as well as review school curricula and educational programme and instruction materials to integrate gender issue and human rights in education at all levels to transform values condoning violence against women and girls.

Madame Chairperson,

Thailand realizes that this issue needs constant input and effort as well as cooperation among all sectors. To this end, we welcome and embrace international and regional initiatives and cooperation in ending violence against women and girls. We believe in a world with zero-tolerance of violence against women and girls. We share the ultimate goal of ending it completely.

I thank you, Madame Chairperson.