



67th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

3 July – 21 July 2017

Excerpts from the Concluding Observations on the 6th and 7th periodic reports of Thailand: relevant to and potentially impacting sex workers, collated by NSWP.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take concrete and specific measures to address the root causes of trafficking in women and girls by improving the economic situation of women, as previously recommended by the Committee (CEDAW/C/THA/CO/5, para. 28);
- (b) Ensure early detection and referral to appropriate services of women and girls who are victims of trafficking, including by providing systematic training to all relevant law enforcement officials on the effective implementation of the new guidelines on victim identification;
- (c) Ensure the rehabilitation and social integration of victims, including by providing them with effective protection, assistance and remedies and providing financial and other forms of support to civil society organizations assisting women who are victims of trafficking;
- (d) Ensure that women who are victims of trafficking are exempted from any liability and provided with adequate protection, such as witness protection programmes and temporary residence permits, irrespective of their ability or willingness to cooperate with the prosecutorial authorities;
- (e) Ensure that traffickers and other actors involved in trafficking, including government officials, are prosecuted and adequately punished;
- (f) Reinforce international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination to prevent trafficking, including by exchanging information and harmonizing legal procedures to prosecute traffickers with countries of origin, transit and destination, in particular with countries in the region.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Suppression and Prevention of Prostitution Act to decriminalize women in prostitution;
- (b) Address the root causes of prostitution and adopt targeted measures to prevent women in vulnerable situations from entering into prostitution, including by providing women with alternative income opportunities;
- (c) Investigate and punish individuals who exploit women in prostitution, including government officials;
- (d) Immediately end the practice of violent raids of entertainment venues, entrapment operations and extortion and hold individual police officers accountable for their involvement in such activities;
- (e) Provide assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for women and girls exploited in prostitution, in addition to exit programmes for women wishing to leave prostitution;

(f) Ensure the full application of labour laws and social benefits in all enterprises in the entertainment sector, especially to women employed in the legally operating enterprises in that sector.