



FIDH – International Federation for Human Rights

THAILAND

Submission to the United Nations (UN) Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

23 October 2024

This submission, prepared ahead of the Working Group’s official visit to Thailand from 2 to 13 December 2024, focuses on women in detention in Thailand.

The United Nations (UN) Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) acknowledge the gender specific needs of women as well as the need to give priority in the application of non-custodial alternative measures to women who have been sentenced to prison terms.¹

However, in Thailand, very high numbers of women continue to remain behind bars as a result of the Thai authorities’ failure to implement non-custodial alternatives to detention and to decriminalize drug use and possession [See below, *Thailand among the world’s top jailer of women*]. In addition, women have been subjected to poor detention conditions that do not address their gender-specific challenges and needs.

1. Thailand among the world’s top jailer of women

Over the past decade, Thailand has jailed women at rates that have been surpassed by very few other countries in the world.

According to comparative statistics published by the Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR) in October 2022, Thailand had the world’s second highest incarceration rate of women and the fifth highest number of female prisoners.² According to the most recent statistics from the Thai Ministry of Justice’s Department of Correction as of 1 October 2024, Thailand had a total prison population of 278,324 inmates (244,724 men and 33,600 women).³ The female prison population of 33,600 constituted 12% of its total prison population.

¹ The UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) state: “Taking into consideration the gender specificities of, and the consequent need to give priority to applying non-custodial measures to, women who have come into contact with the criminal justice system.”

² ICPR, *World female prison population up by 60% since 2000*, 19 October 2022, <https://www.icpr.org.uk/news-events/2022/world-female-prison-population-60-2000>

³ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 October 2024, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2024-10-01&report= [in Thai]

The number of inmates imprisoned for drug-related offenses has consistently accounted for the vast majority of the total prison population. In October 2024, 204,411 inmates (181,403 men and 23,008 women), or about 73% of the total prison population, were incarcerated for drug-related offenses.⁴ The proportion of women incarcerated for drug-related offenses was lower than that of men (68% vs. 74%).

Drug-related offenses have also consistently accounted for most of the crimes for which death sentences have been imposed. As of July 2024, 241 (61%) of the 398 inmates (365 men and 33 women) under death sentence had been convicted of drug-related offenses.⁵

2. Women disproportionately sentenced to death for drug-related offenses

The imposition of the death penalty for drug-related crimes has disproportionately affected women. Although women constitute a small minority of inmates sentenced to death, nearly all of them have been convicted of drug-related offenses.

As of August 2024, 31 (or 94%) of the 33 female prisoners under death sentence had been convicted of drug-related offenses, which was nearly double the proportion (58%) of male prisoners under death sentence for drug-related offenses.⁶

The imposition of the death penalty for drug-related offenses is in breach of Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states that the death penalty may only be legally applied for the “most serious crimes.”

3. Discriminatory penitentiary system

Women in detention have continued to suffer from poor conditions and have been disproportionately affected by the penitentiary system.

Information collected by FIDH from interviews with 12 women who were detained in five facilities between 2021 and 2023 shows that the specific needs and basic rights of women in prison were not being fulfilled.⁷ It is likely that women in other prisons across Thailand experienced conditions similar to those described by former inmates in those facilities. Women’s gender-specific needs have often been neglected in a penitentiary system that is controlled by men and caters to the majority male population.

The CEDAW’s General Recommendation No. 33 recommends that states “pay special attention” to the situation of female prisoners and apply “international guidance and standards on the treatment of women in detention.”

⁴ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees under the Narcotics Act nationwide*, 1 October 2024, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2024-10-01&report=drug [in Thai]

⁵ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under death sentence – August 2024*, 27 September 2024, <http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1727408520.pdf> [in Thai]

⁶ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under death sentence – August 2024*, 27 September 2024, <http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1727408520.pdf> [in Thai]

⁷ Between 2021 and 2023, FIDH interviewed 12 women who had been detained in the following five prisons (years of the interviews in parenthesis): 1) Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok (2021; 2022; 2023); 2) Thanyaburi Women’s Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts in Pathumthani Province (2023); 3) Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institution in Chiang Mai Province (2021; 2023); and 4) Khae Noi Temporary Prison in Petchabun Province (2023); and 5) Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok (2021).

Discrimination in accessing gender-specific services and maintaining family links may, under certain circumstances, constitute discrimination within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

4. Female prisoners detained far from their families

Women are likely to be detained further away from home than men, as there are much fewer women's prisons in the country. Inmates are assigned to prisons based on the length of their sentence, the status of court proceedings (pre-trial or convicted prisoners), and the location where the crime was committed.⁸ Of the country's 143 correctional facilities, 107 hold male and female prisoners in separate sections, 28 house only male prisoners, and eight are exclusively for women.⁹

This distance disadvantages women prisoners because it results in less frequent visits from their family members, which has been shown to have a detrimental impact on their mental health and wellbeing and has an adverse impact for social integration when released. This contravenes Rule 4 of the Bangkok Rules, which states that women prisoners should be allocated to prisons close to their homes, taking into account their caretaking responsibilities and the woman's preference.¹⁰

Female prisoners tend to have more caregiving obligations than their male counterparts. The separation of women who are primary caregivers can cause major distress to both the prisoner and her dependent children and other family members. As a result, women prisoners may need broader visitation rights, such as contact visits with children, which are not necessarily taken into account in the penitentiary system.

According to Article 246 of Thailand's Criminal Procedure Code, courts can suspend the imposition of sentences and/or order non-custodial alternatives for pregnant women or women who have children under three years of age.¹¹ In addition, the Department of Corrections allows children who are born in prison to live with their mother in prison until the children reach three years of age.¹² In practice, children born in prison can stay with their mothers until they are one year old, after which they are removed and placed in the care of a family member or in alternative care.¹³ This fixed age for the

⁸ As of October 2023, there were 26 district prisons (for pre-trial detainees and prisoners sentenced to less than 10 years), 33 central prisons (for pre-trial detainees and prisoners sentenced to more than 15 years), and 50 provincial prisons (for pre-trial detainees and prisoners sentenced to less than 15 years). Department of Corrections, *7 facts behind bars for public awareness – Topic 1: The situation of overcrowding in prisons in Thailand*, 8 October 2023, <https://www.facebook.com/prthaidoc/posts/712610720897987/> [in Thai]

⁹ The eight facilities are: Chonburi Women's Correctional Institution in Chonburi Province; Nakhon Ratchasima Women's Correctional Institution in Nakhon Ratchasima Province; Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution in Chiang Mai Province; Phitsanulok Women's Correctional Institution in Phitsanulok Province; Songkhla Women's Correctional Institution in Songkhla Province; Central Women's Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts in Bangkok; Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok; and Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok.

¹⁰ Rule 4 of the Bangkok Rules states: "Women prisoners shall be allocated, to the extent possible, to prisons close to their home or place of social rehabilitation, taking account of their caretaking responsibilities, as well as the individual woman's preference and the availability of appropriate programmes and services."

¹¹ Thailand Institute of Justice, *Getting the right start: Recognizing the rights of the children of prisoners*, 3 August 2022, <https://tijpublicforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/iCPCJ-Getting-the-Right-Start.pdf> [in Thai]

¹² Department of Corrections, *Regulation on the Treatment of Children of Prisoners 2018*

¹³ Thailand Institute of Justice, *Women Prisoners and the Implementation of the Bangkok Rules in Thailand*, November 2014; page 107

separation of children from their mothers means that individual assessments are not undertaken to decide what is appropriate and in the best interest of the child, as required by the Bangkok Rules.¹⁴

5. Women’s prisons almost at full occupancy

Women’s prisons remain severely overcrowded. As of October 2024, the total occupancy rate for correctional facilities where women were held stood at 99% (33,600 prisoners for an official capacity of 33,744).¹⁵ Some of these prisons were among the country’s most overcrowded. For example, as of October 2024, the women’s section of Buriram Provincial Prison operated at 435% of its intended capacity¹⁶ and the Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok operated at 180% of its intended capacity.¹⁷

The severe overcrowding has a negative impact on living conditions. Former female prisoners interviewed by FIDH reported that inmates continued to lack sufficient sleeping space, which had a negative impact on the quality of their accommodation.¹⁸ For example, at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution, different sizes of sleeping dormitories were available. One former detainee said a sleeping dormitory of about 5m x 10-12m (50–60m²) could accommodate around 30 prisoners.¹⁹ According to one interviewed former prisoner, inmates typically had around 60cm in width while sleeping.²⁰ Bigger dormitories of about twice the size could be used to house as many as 170 prisoners.²¹ Because bigger dormitories tended to be more overcrowded, inmates had to sleep right next to each other with no space between them.²²

6. Female prisoners subjected to degrading treatment

Former female prisoners interviewed by FIDH reported a pattern of degrading treatment by prison guards and officials and a submissive and authoritarian culture prevailing in correctional facilities for women.²³ For example, former prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution reported that female prisoners addressed prison staff as “mother,” which they thought reflected the paternalistic and unequal relationship between prisoners and prison staff.²⁴

¹⁴ Bangkok Rules, Rule 52

¹⁵ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 October 2024, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2024-10-01&report= [in Thai]

¹⁶ Department of Corrections, *Report of the overcrowding situation in prisons/correctional facilities*, accessed on 22 October 2024; http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2024_2024-10-05 [in Thai]

¹⁷ Department of Corrections, *Report of the overcrowding situation in prisons/correctional facilities*, accessed on 22 October 2024; http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2024_2024-10-05 [in Thai]

¹⁸ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023 – Chapter 7.1.*, 9 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/thailandprison804a.pdf>

¹⁹ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022

²⁰ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022

²¹ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 1 December 2022

²² FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 1 December 2022

²³ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023 – Chapter 7.2.*, 9 March 2023,

<https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/thailandprison804a.pdf>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024 – Chapter 8.2.*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/thailandprison823a.pdf>

²⁴ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 1 December 2022

Former female prisoners at the Thanyaburi Women’s Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts and the Central Women’s Correctional Institution described the display of submission to prison guards, such as sitting on the ground while interacting with them, as a practice that was intended to show respect for the authorities.²⁵

In June 2022, a detained female political activist reported being threatened and verbally harassed by a male volunteer doctor while receiving medical attention at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok.²⁶

7. Female prisoners lack adequate gender-specific sanitary and hygiene products

Former female prisoners reported the lack of availability of necessities for their specific hygiene needs, especially sanitary pads and underwear, which seriously undermined their dignity and their right to health.²⁷ For example, all interviewed former female prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution, Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution, and Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institution reported that the number of sanitary pads distributed in prison were insufficient. As a result, most female prisoners had to buy more sanitary pads at the prison shop at higher prices than outside the prison, or receive them through visiting family members.²⁸ A former prisoner at Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution said: “Some women prisoners had to wear the same sanitary pad for two or three days at a time. It’s a reality for those who don’t have money or family. Or they had to wait until some other prisoner hired them to wash their clothes, so they had some money to buy it at the prison shop, which was generally more expensive.”²⁹

The shortage of sanitary pads seriously affected the personal hygiene of female prisoners. All former female prisoners reported witnessing other female prisoners having to wash and reuse the same sanitary pad many times. A former inmate at Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institution recalled: “One time I went to the bathroom, and I saw the woman next to me was having her period. But she had to take out the same sanitary pad, wash it with some water, and squeeze it dry. But it was totally unusable. It was dirty and wet. It was absolutely awful.”³⁰

A former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution reported that those who could not afford to buy sanitary pads from the prison shop were eligible to receive more pads only if they could prove to the prison officers that they really had no money or any support from their families.³¹

²⁵ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thanyaburi Women’s Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts*, 8 November 2023; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 8 November 2023

²⁶ FIDH, *Thailand: Deteriorating health and arbitrary detention of two pro-democracy activists*, 7 July 2022, <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/thailand-deteriorating-health-and-arbitrary-detention-of-two-pro>

²⁷ Rule 5 of the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders states: “The accommodation of women prisoners shall have facilities and materials required to meet women’s special hygiene needs, including sanitary towels provided free of charge and a regular supply of water to be made available for the personal care of children and women, in particular women involved in cooking and those who are pregnant, breastfeeding or menstruating.”

²⁸ Prachatai, *Rung-Sai-Feminist Liberation Front donate sanitary pads and underwear to female prisoners in the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 26 January 2021; iLaw, “*Prison within prison*”: *The lives of inmates during the third wave of COVID-19*, 27 July 2021

²⁹ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 4 October 2021

³⁰ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institution*, 22 September 2021

³¹ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 25 August 2021

According to the same former prisoner, the officers had the sole discretion to consider and decide whether a prisoner was eligible to receive more sanitary pads.³²

8. Women in detention deprived of adequate healthcare

FIDH's interviews with former female prisoners showed that the prisons where they had been detained were unable to provide adequate and timely physical and mental healthcare services to female detainees.³³

Healthcare, including reproductive health, is a basic right under international human rights treaties to which Thailand is a state party, including the CEDAW and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).³⁴

In general, women prisoners tend to have greater psychological and healthcare needs than their male counterparts. Women admitted to prison are more likely to be affected by pre-existing health conditions, develop mental health issues, and suffer further trauma through their imprisonment. This is often the result of past physical, mental, or sexual abuse prior to their sentences.³⁵ The Bangkok Rules acknowledge that women prisoners have a "disproportionate experience of domestic violence."³⁶

The mental healthcare or psychiatric care services in most of the prisons where interviewed former female prisoners were detained were either unavailable or seriously inadequate.³⁷ A former prisoner at Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution said that she did not receive any help after informing a prison guard about her depression and suicidal thoughts.³⁸ According to FIDH's interviews, prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution had access to a psychiatrist or psychologist through registration, though the process usually took a long time.³⁹ A former inmate at the Central Women's

³² FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 25 August 2021

³³ Rule 24 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. The provision of health care for prisoners is a state responsibility. Prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status. 2. Health-care services should be organized in close relationship to the general public health administration and in a way that ensures continuity of treatment and care, including for HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, as well as for drug dependence.; Rule 25 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. Every prison shall have in place a healthcare service tasked with evaluating, promoting, protecting and improving the physical and mental health of prisoners, paying particular attention to prisoners with special health-care needs or with health issues that hamper their rehabilitation.;2. The health-care service shall consist of an interdisciplinary team with sufficient qualified personnel acting in full clinical independence and shall encompass sufficient expertise in psychology and psychiatry. The services of a qualified dentist shall be available to every prisoner."

³⁴ Article 12(1) of the CEDAW requires state parties to "take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of healthcare in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to healthcare services." Article 12 of the ICESCR stipulates that state parties "recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health" and that the steps to be taken by the states parties to achieve the full realization of this right should include those necessary for the "creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness."

³⁵ Thailand Institute of Justice, *Women's Pathways Into, Through and Out of Prison*, March 2021; pages 36-41, <https://knowledge.tijthailand.org/en/publication/detail/women-s-pathways-into-through-and-out-of-prison#book/>

³⁶ Bangkok Rules, Rule 44

³⁷ Rule 12 of the Bangkok Rules states: "Individualized, gender-sensitive, trauma-informed and comprehensive mental health care and rehabilitation programmes shall be made available for women prisoners with mental health-care needs in prison or in non- custodial settings."

³⁸ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution*, 22 September 2021

³⁹ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 1 December 2022

Correctional Institution reported that sedative pills were given to prisoners with sleeping or stress disorders.⁴⁰ A former prisoner from Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institution reported that 30-40 prisoners with mental disabilities were kept together in one sleeping dormitory and given the same daily medication to help sedate them or put them to sleep.⁴¹ She also recalled another inmate telling her about cruel treatment of prisoners with mental disabilities by prison officers: “When prisoners have a meltdown or try to kill themselves or scream, prison guards will tie them up. If they don’t stop crying or if they cause too much nuisance, prison officers will use electric shocks.”⁴²

Access to appropriate medical treatment and medicine, including specialized medical services, was another primary challenge for female prisoners, especially pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses.⁴³ Former female detainees mentioned that paracetamol continued to be the most common medicine given to inmates to treat various illnesses. “Paracetamol for everything,” commented a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution.⁴⁴ However, in some facilities, even paracetamol was not readily available, and the process to obtain it was slow. At the Central Women’s Correctional Institution, one former prisoner reported having to register in the morning in order to be given a medicine in the evening on the same day.⁴⁵

According to FIDH’s interviews, at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution, pregnant prisoners gave birth at outside hospitals and received postnatal care at the prison clinic.⁴⁶ In addition, there was a special dormitory for inmates with infants in the prison.⁴⁷ However, the limited availability of specialized medical treatment negatively affected pregnant women. At the Central Women’s Correctional Institution, specialist doctors were scheduled to visit the prison on different days of the week: “If a pregnant prisoner has a pain on Monday, she has to wait until Thursday to see a gynecologist,” recalled a former prisoner.⁴⁸

Interviewed former female prisoners reported that the referral process to an outside hospital was overly complicated and tightly managed by prison staff. This resulted in the officers’ failure to timely respond to cases of medical emergencies, especially at night.⁴⁹ “[To be treated at a hospital], it has to be very serious, really life-threatening cases. And then you have to fight for it as well, [by saying] that you really have to go [to the hospital], that you can’t take it any longer or you will die,” said one former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution.⁵⁰ A former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution said: “When somebody says they are sick, especially if it happens after four o’clock in the afternoon, when everyone goes back to their dorms, or at night, they always assume that the prisoner is lying in order to be transferred to the hospital.”⁵¹

⁴⁰ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 1 December 2022

⁴¹ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institution*, 22 September 2021

⁴² FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institution*, 22 September 2021

⁴³ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 23 November 2023; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 25 August 2021

⁴⁴ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 8 November 2023

⁴⁵ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022

⁴⁶ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 1 December 2022

⁴⁷ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 1 December 2022

⁴⁸ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 25 August 2021

⁴⁹ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022

⁵⁰ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 29 November 2022

⁵¹ FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 25 August 2021

The fatal consequences of the inadequate response to medical emergencies in prisons was illustrated by the death of an imprisoned woman human rights defender, Netiporn Sanesangkhom (aka Bung), on 14 May 2024.⁵² Netiporn was reported to have suffered a cardiac arrest while in custody of the Department of Corrections on the morning of 14 May 2024. She became unconscious at the Department of Corrections Hospital in Bangkok before being transferred to Thammasat University Hospital in Pathumthani Province, where she was later pronounced dead at 11:22am. Netiporn had been detained at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok since 25 January 2024, after the Bangkok South Criminal Court found her guilty of contempt of court and sentenced her to one month in prison in relation to a physical altercation with the court’s security personnel on 19 October 2023. The incident occurred while she and other pro-democracy activists were attending the verdict hearing in a lèse-majesté trial against a fellow activist. On 27 January 2024, Netiporn commenced a dry hunger strike to demand judicial reform and the cessation of imprisonment of individuals for expressing dissenting opinions. Due to her deteriorating health, she was transferred to medical facilities several times. She resumed drinking water in February 2024 and eating in April 2024. Prior to her death, on 4 April 2024, she had been receiving treatment at the Department of Corrections Hospital in Bangkok for her deteriorating health as a result of the hunger strike.⁵³

9. Recommendations

- Urge the Thai government to increase the use of alternatives to prison sentences by developing non-custodial measures within the legal system in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), including measures aimed at: the avoidance of pre-trial or remand detention; alternatives to prison terms during sentencing; and post-sentencing alternatives that assist prisoners’ reintegration into society.
- Urge the Thai government to abolish the death penalty for drug-related offenses, as a step towards the abolition of capital punishment for all crimes.
- Urge the Thai government to address and resolve the issue of overcrowding in prisons by finding sustainable and effective measures to reduce the prison population.
- Urge the Thai government to Improve living conditions for women prisoners in line with the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), by acknowledging the specific needs of women in prison and ensuring they have adequate medical care and facilities, especially in the case of pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and women with young children in prison.
- Urge the Thai government to provide adequate physical and mental healthcare, including reproductive healthcare, and health-related services, to female detainees within the framework of the CEDAW’s General Recommendation No. 24.
- Urge the Thai government to reinforce the human rights training of law enforcement officials and prison officers.

⁵² Netiporn was a prominent activist who advocated for LGBTIQ+ and youth rights in 2020-2021. She then joined the pro-democracy group Thalu Wang (“shattering the palace”), with which she actively engaged in conducting public opinion polls regarding the Thai monarchy. Her political activism was met with repeated prosecutions since 2021, including two cases under Article 112 of Thailand’s Criminal Code (lèse-majesté).

⁵³ FIDH, *Thailand: Death in detention of pro-democracy activist Netiporn “Bung” Sanesangkhom*, 16 May 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-death-in-detention-of-pro-democracy-activist-netiporn-bung>