



## The Statements on the Occasion of International Women's Day March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### By The Network of Civil Society Organizations for Gender Equality, Chiang Mai

We are women workers and migrant workers, ethnic and indigenous women, LGBTQIA+ women, women living with HIV, women work sex work, stateless women, elderly women, girls and young women, rural women in agriculture, women who were pregnant and had an abortion, women with disabilities, women who fight for democracy, women who protect human rights, community rights, land, environment and resource rights defenders, feminists and allies who rise up to support women's rights, freedom and gender equality.

We are gathering here on March 8, 2025, to show the women's collective power to celebrate the International Women's Day and the struggles and achievements of women at all levels, as well as to show that women have been playing significant roles and contributing to the society.

From the work of our network, we found that exclusion, discrimination, and violation of the human rights of women happens in various forms. This is both gender-based violence and structural violence. For example,

- Women human rights defenders face strategic lawsuits against public participation and organizing.
- Indigenous women face multiple violations when they demand land rights, community rights, and rights to natural resources. Indigenous youth are at risk of forced marriage.
- Stateless indigenous women have no access to civil rights and political rights.
- Women with disabilities do not have access to higher education. They do not have equal right to work. In addition, they do not have access to disability allocation of 1,000 baht.
- Lesbian, bisexual and trans women and girls are discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).
- Migrant women do not have access to decent work and social welfare.
- Women sex workers face stigmatization and criminalization based on their work.
- The majority of women do not have access to safe abortion, although the abortion law has been revised recently. They do not have access to sexual reproductive health and rights.
- Women do not have access to the justice process when they face domestic violence, rape, and sexual harassment as well as when they face online and cyber harassment.

With the continuous human rights violations faced by women, we urge all sectors of the society, including the government to support our demands as follows:

1. Support women's access to resources and provide equal opportunities for all groups of women leading to a shift in power relation. Especially women from marginalized groups, such as providing emergency shelter for children and women who have been exposed to violence. Providing universal child welfare. Providing free sanitary pads throughout the country and being able to take time off from work during menstruation, and support for decriminalizing sex workers.
2. Revise the law in order that all careers can have access to universal social security, reform the social security, apply international human rights mechanisms to promote women's rights and solve the violation of women's rights such CEDAW, including other conventions which the Thai government ratified and those which the Thai government have not ratified yet, and create international cooperation and partnership.
3. Empower women at all levels so they are change makers who strongly believe in human rights and gender justice.
4. Support social and political participation and decision-making processes of women at all levels including their participation in humanitarian crisis and sustainable development.
5. Foster people's movement for gender and social justice by ensuring inclusion of women's right issues at all levels: local, national, regional, and international.
6. Support and promote media's role in public communication to protect and raise awareness on the human rights of women and LGBTQIA+ in all dimensions including eliminating stigmas and reproduction of the gender stereotyping.
7. Promote the participation of the civil society and communities in evaluating and monitoring processes of improving women's rights that the Thai government is committed to after ratifying international human rights instruments.

In herstory of women's struggle, it shows that the women's movement have been at the strategy of social, legal and policy changes. The International Women's Day is not only an opportunity for women to come together to celebrate but it is also an opportunity for women to rise up to reclaim their rights, freedom and equality. The society and the state must recognize that women's right are human rights.