**UN Special Rapporteur on Torture** (deadline 13 Nov)

**Good practices in prison management (Thailand):**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/current-issues-and-good-practices-prison-management-thematic-report-special>

**Measures to reduce overcrowding**

1. Electronic Monitoring devices

The awareness of the government of Thailand of the need to take measures to reduce the size of the prison population is also evidenced by the introduction of electronic monitoring of offenders by the Ministry of Justice. The ministry’s new regulation became law after it was published in the Royal Gazette on 22 March 2013, based on the amendments to Section 89/2 of the 2007 Criminal Procedure Code, which stipulates that the courts must find alternatives to custody to ensure that offenders remain in a designated place or do not enter certain areas by using electronic monitoring devices.

Accordingly, prison directors and wardens authorised under the regulation can seek

permission from the court to place an offender under an electronic monitoring

programme, if they meet certain criterias which include those who must take care of parents, a spouse or children who are dependent upon them. Eligible prisoners will need to have completed one third of their prison sentence. The new law paves the way for the release of

some women who have caretaking responsibilities, women who are very sick and

need regular treatment and those whose offence was committed in mitigating

circumstances.

<https://knowledge.tijthailand.org/uploads/publication/file/20190530/en-adgjkmrz1347.pdf>

**Designing daily life in prisons to be focused on meaningful and productive activities, rehabilitation and reintegration, and achieving good physical and psychological health.**

1. The NFTxPrison Project

The NFT art development project for inmates emphasizes their education in technology, NFT e-media, NFT artist profession, and principles of storytelling, crucial in conveying narratives behind NFT art. Despite limitations in teaching digital art creation tools, inmates receive training in artistic techniques and craft, leading them to learn how to transform their thoughts into creations. The artworks are then digitally copied, marking a success as 60 inmates joined the initiative, creating over 100 distinct images. The Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) has recently collaborated with NFT artists to showcase a selection of 12 NFT artworks created by inmates from Thonburi Remand Prison and Chonburi Central Prison. These artworks were presented under the theme "12 Beauties of Freedom: The NFT Collection". In addition, an auction was held for the 12 artworks, valued at a total of 260,000 baht or 4.5 ETH, with the proceeds used to support the inmates who participated in the initiative.

<https://www.tijthailand.org/en/highlight/detail/nftxprison>

2. Restart Academy

"Restart Academy”, a new sandbox project of TIJ aiming to support the reentry process for people who are released from prison aims to help individuals who were previously incarcerated by providing support during their reentry process, enhancing post-release assistance, and encouraging community participation in reintegrating former prisoners into society. The program offers on-the-job training and courses in areas such as culinary skills, digital skills, massage, and hairdressing. TIJ launched a pilot programme called "Restart Kitchen" last year. The programme involves former inmates preparing and serving meals to various groups of people such as TIJ officers, government officials, and public customers in our building's cafeteria. The initiative has been successful. Currently, we are renovating the massage and hairdressing studios. We expect to launch these programmes within the next few months.

<https://knowledge.tijthailand.org/en/article/detail/42>

3. TIJ’s Hygiene Street Food for Chance Project

Recognising the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in accessing employment opportunities due to their criminal records, compounded by the economic impact of the COVID-19, TIJ, in collaboration with public, private, and social sector partners, initiated the “Hygiene Street Food for Chance” project in 2020. This endeavor aims to assist former prisoners in establishing street food businesses after their release. The project includes comprehensive online and on-site training, financial support, and essential resources for business operations. TIJ places importance on digital literacy and has partnered with Net for Living, a digital upskilling initiative by True Corporation with its key mission to promote digital inclusion for all, to provide participants with digital skills, including online marketing, photography, and content creation. This empowers participants to explore offline-to-online business opportunities. Furthermore, our enhanced partnership with Robinhood, a local food delivery application, has created online sales opportunities which is especially important in the current digital era. The #ChimRiakYim (Taste for Smile) campaign on the Robinhood platform, along with promotions on the Net for Living Facebook page, facilitated the launch of food delivery services for participants who completed digital training.

<https://www.tijthailand.org/en/highlight/detail/tij-dtac-robin-sim-street-food#:~:text=We%20acknowledge%20the%20limitation%20regarding,sustainable%20careers%20in%20food%20vending>.

**Challenges and innovations for providing mental health provision, including for different groups of prisoners such as those with pre-existing psychological issues, victims of torture, persons with neurodiverse conditions etc.**

In prisons, mental health evaluations have been conducted to assess the stress levels and mental health concerns of detainees. Cases that are identified will be referred to psychologists via a telepsychiatry treatment system or an on-site service. Inmates also have the opportunity to consult the "happy center" on a regular basis for guidance and counselling provided by in-house social workers.

**Laws, policies, special measures and management innovations adopted for groups with specific needs, such as women and girls, children and youth, indigenous peoples, members of national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, LGBTQI+ persons, and people living with past trauma and/or people with neurodiverse conditions.**

1. The searching procedures on admission and on return from court or hospitals

Many large prisons in the country use full-body scanning technology for searching female inmates. When necessary, physical body searches can only be conducted by female staff.

2. Mother and baby units

With regard to prison operation, pregnant inmates are registered and have regular medical

check-ups in a local hospital. They are transported to outside medical facilities to give birth with no restraints being used during transfers to hospitals, medical examinations, and delivering birth. Prisons also provide Mother and baby units and additional food to pregnant women to ensure that they receive adequate nutrition during pregnancy. Children can stay with their mothers up to the age of one. They also receive appropriate diet and regular check-ups at the community hospital. Many women correctional institutions also have programmes and activities appropriate to pregnant women.

<https://www.unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/13th_Congress/12_Thailand.pdf>

3. SOPs for the treatment of LGBT inmates

Department of Corrections has published SOPs for the treatment of LGBT inmates. Some of the procedures include:

* For transwoman inmates who have fully transitioned to female, body searches are done by female prison staff.
* For transman inmates who have fully transitioned to male, body searches are done by male prison staff.
* Housing/ segregation
  + Separate housing during night time
  + Showering or using the bathroom at a different time than the rest of the prisoners
* Continued hormone taking
* STDs testing

<http://www.correct.go.th/bp/?p=505>

**Preparing for next pandemic (what worked and what didn’t in COVID-19 responses to prison management? Any negative consequences of those measures?).**

1. Many prisons in the country provide **Telemedicine** systems to communicate between inmates and doctors and **Telepsychiatry** treatment system

2. Chonburi Women's Correctional Institution has created a separate quarantine zone since 2021 that uses computer technology to take care of inmates to substitute personnel. This reduces the burden and direct contact with individuals to prevent the spread of Covid infection and other communicable diseases.

3. Central Women's Correctional Institution provides electronic mail, also known as “Domimail” through a prison-specific application. Inmates’ relatives can apply through the application and send electronic mail every day to the inmates (no more than 1 page and 1 picture per day)

4. Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution has established a negative pressure room since 2020 to support quarantine measures of prisoners infected with COVID and infectious respiratory diseases. The room is directly connected to the nurse's room through the intercom system. The room can support COVID patients, TB patients during the infectious period, and influenza disease.