

# TREATMENT OF WOMAN PRISONERS



ADVANCING  
COLLABORATIVE  
AND INNOVATIVE  
JUSTICE FOR ALL

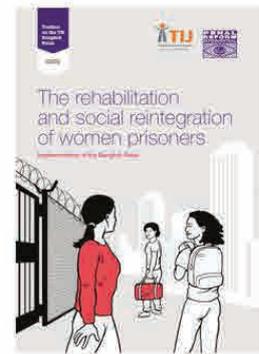
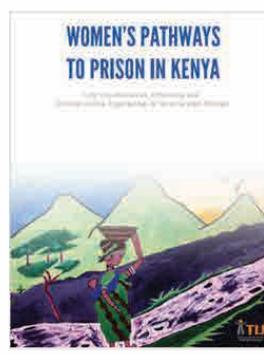
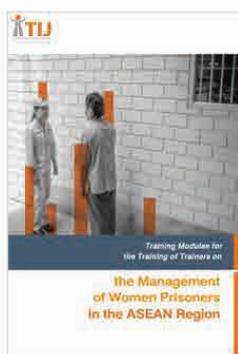
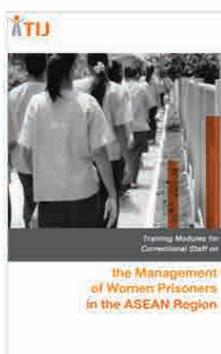
## Treatment of Women Prisoners

The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 2010, is the first international instrument which provides specific and detailed guidelines on responding to the gender specific needs of women in the criminal justice system, as well as of the children of such women. After the adoption, Thailand, along with many other countries, international organizations and criminal justice agencies working with women, place a strong emphasis on putting these Rules into practice.

One of TIJ's organizational mandates is to promote gender-sensitive criminal justice, and rights-based treatment of women prisoners and women offenders that are in line with international standards and norms. This work is led by the Office for the Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders (OBR). To promote and support the implementation of the Bangkok Rules in Thailand, ASEAN region and beyond, OBR's work plan includes a wide range of activities under four pillars: research, capacity building, policy advocacy, and social reintegration programme.

### I. Research

The Bangkok Rules emphasizes the importance of research on women prisoners' backgrounds, causes leading to their offences, and the impact of imprisonment on women and their family, which can serve as a concrete foundation for gender-sensitive policy development. Following this provision, TIJ has strived to conduct various research projects to shed some light on women prisoners' backgrounds and pathways to imprisonment, as well as to provide tools for promoting gender-responsive criminal justice around the world.



For TIJ's relevant publications, click on the link: <https://www.tijbangkokrules.org/en/publication>

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## II. Capacity Building

One of TIJ's flagship training programme is the "Training on the Management of Women Prisoners for Senior Correctional Staff in the ASEAN Region" or the "Bangkok Rules Training" which is an annual training that has cultivated over 115 alumni in the ASEAN region. TIJ also provides a training upon request by ASEAN member countries and individual correctional facilities. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we are creating an online learning platform on the treatment of women prisoners to assist prison staff around the world in learning more about the Bangkok Rules and is also currently developing a training programme on the use of non-custodial measures.



To learn more about our training, click on the link: <http://training.tijbangkokrules.org/>

## III. Policy advocacy

From 2015 to 2020, TIJ worked with the Department of Corrections of Thailand (DoC) to establish the "Model Prison Project", aiming to encourage female prisons across Thailand to carry out their policies and practices in line with the Bangkok Rules. The project invites all women prisons to be evaluated using the indicators developed by the TIJ and the DoC while also provides prison staff with technical supports during the improvement process. Since 2015, 15 correctional facilities across the country have been designated as Model Prisons and serve as a practical example of how the Bangkok Rules can be put into practice. The checklist developed for this project was subsequently adopted by the Ministry of Justice to be used as a tool for performance evaluation of prisons nationwide.



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## IV. Social reintegration programme

Since 2018 TIJ has conducted various activities using the concept of “collaborative approach” for uniting different stakeholders to join forces in supporting women prisoners’ rehabilitation and social reintegration programs. The projects include “the Model Prison Plus”, in which TIJ collaborate with various external experts in conducting pre-release classes for women prisoners who are soon to be release. Modules included in this course are designed to be responsive to the specific needs of women such as mental empowerment, family relations, business planning and financial management.

Furthermore, TIJ in collaboration with partners including the King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Department of Corrections, the Inspire Project and private sectors initiated the “Hygiene Street Food Project” in 2020 to support women prisoners in pursuing street food micro-entrepreneurship after release during the difficult time of the COVID-19. This project aims to economically empower women by providing them with knowledge on food safety and business planning as well as offering financial and material supports necessary for starting a street food business.



To learn more about the Bangkok Rules,  
click <https://www.tijbangkokrules.org/en/about-bangkok-rules>