



COLLABORATIVE AND INNOVATIVE JUSTICE FOR ALL: TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

"JUSTICE IS EVERYONE'S MATTER"

TIJ: FROM GLOBAL NORMS TO LOCAL STANDARDS



Building on Thailand's engagement in the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) under the guidance of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) was established in 2011, with strong support from the government of Thailand, with the primary objective to drive the implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

Since then, the TIJ has continued to strive to serve as a bridge that transfers global norms to local practices with an emphasis on fundamental issues, including the interconnections among the rule of law, sustainable development, human rights, and criminal justice. Internationally recognized for its endeavors and contributions to the development of criminal justice, in 2016 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) endorsed the TIJ to be an institute in the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI). Being a part of the PNI provides opportunities for the TIJ to gain international status and to collaborate with a national body, and provides the trust that it can work with different countries on issues that it considers sensitive.

At the core, TIJ's approach is the promotion of criminal justice reform through the implementation of international standards and norms related to vulnerable groups in contact with the justice system in local contexts. The TIJ also actively promotes coordination among domestic justice stakeholders and strengthens regional cooperation, particularly within the South East Asian region.

In doing so, the TIJ collaborates with its domestic and international partners in providing and supporting knowledge-based studies and research projects. Additionally, the TIJ continues to promote and strengthen the rule of law and the criminal justice system in order to build a sustainable society in accordance with the new global agenda on crime prevention and criminal justice set forth by the Doha Declaration of the 13th UN Crime Congress and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs).



NURTURING THE RULE OF LAW & CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

The TIJ recognizes the importance of the rule of law as a foundation for sustainable development in society. The TIJ believes that the rule of law and criminal justice are not stand-alone elements—they are both linked to social and economic development and the participation of all sectors. Additionally, one of the factors that would transform a nation into a rule-based one is by creating a society that fosters a culture of lawfulness. With a firm belief in the benefits of the rule of law and a culture of lawfulness, the TIJ has been supporting such an aspiration according to the following three approaches:

1) *Promoting access to justice and inclusive institutions for all.* The TIJ invests in research projects aiming to promote a more adequate number of women justice professionals in the criminal justice system so as to help seek the rightful protection of women and to provide them with access to justice. TIJ's research projects also aim to promote a child-friendly criminal justice system for child victims as well as children in conflict with the law.

2) *Exploring innovative educational approaches to foster a mutual learning process.* Nowadays there exist

several innovative educational approaches to building resilience and the sense of respect for the rule of law among members of the society. Among other good examples, the TIJ promotes the 'design thinking' approach employing a human-centered process in identifying challenges and testing solutions that could serve as an educational tool to address the rule of law and justice in the society.

3) *Building a sense of ownership through collective participation.* There are several case studies that indicated how strong community resilience is reflected in local efforts towards the building of inclusive and peaceful societies. In Thailand, the TIJ has embarked on a study in the "Huay Pla Lod" community in the northern part of Thailand, where the individual members of this community have agreed among themselves on a 'code of conduct' to promote lawful co-existence with the conserved forest areas. The TIJ continues to explore activities and models to promote the participation and sense of ownership that will cultivate a culture of lawfulness among the members of the society.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Women and children account for a large proportion of the entire population of the world and in the ASEAN area. To date, they are recognized not only as rights holders but also citizens that are able to contribute to the sustainable development of any society. Many women and children in the world are victims of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. It is the duty of states and all stakeholders to protect them from all forms of violence, to prevent, and investigate acts of violence, to eliminate impunity, as well as to assist the victims and to address the needs of female offenders and children in conflict with the law.

On the other hand, women and juveniles in the penal system tend to experience different forms of victimization across the life course, and their pathways into offending are different from those of men. Their victimization experience typically begins during childhood and is often accompanied by other forms of interpersonal violence in adulthood and socioeconomic marginalization. Another significant issue is that in this era of interconnectedness and digital disruption, violence against women and children appears both offline and online and has increasingly become transnational.

Therefore, the TIJ seeks to tackle these issues effectively through international cooperation and participation from all, with a development-led crime prevention and criminal justice lens that is relevant to international standards and norms. These international standards and norms include model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children and against women in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as the UN Rules on the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok



Rules) in the light that it would help formulate policy and prison reformation to eliminate violence against women and children.

In keeping with these objectives, the Programme on the Implementation of the Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders (IBR) and the Programme on the Women and Children in the Criminal Justice System (WCCJ) were established to offer, with the support of the Statistics Programme (STATS), evidence-based research, policy recommendations, and capacity-building opportunities. The aim of this formulation is to enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses to violence against women and children while proposing new ideas of crime prevention and criminal justice that place legal empowerment, access to social and economic development, and the rights of women and children at the centre of the Programmes.

From 2018 until April 2019, the TIJ launched four ground-breaking pieces of research focusing on women as justice makers, gender-responsive criminal justice in Southeast Asia, the women's pathways to prison in Kenya, and a survey on violence against children focusing on the history of abuse experienced by children in the juvenile justice system. The IBR also provides training on the management of women prisoners in the ASEAN region.

REALIZING THE FUTURE THROUGH PEOPLE PARTICIPATION



The TIJ has long recognized that the rule of law and sustainable development are mutually reinforcing. The rule of law is the foundation of sustainable development, while developmental effort works to strengthen the advancement of the rule of law. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goal 16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, reaffirm this notion. Through years of working, the TIJ has seen that the essential determinant of the success of achieving sustained, equitable, and inclusive growth is to promote a multi-stakeholder engagement approach.

Adopting such an approach to effectively promote the advancement of the Rule of Law, in 2017, the TIJ launched "The Rule of Law and Development Programme - RoLD." RoLD is an established platform that brings together the future generation of change makers, including emerging leaders and accomplished executives from across all sectors and backgrounds, to engage with and learn from like-minded peers on how the rule of law operates, as well as how to put theory into action within a multi-faceted society. The RoLD is carried out through key activities to deliver impacts on the society as can be seen in the following:

RoLD in Action – initiated by the RoLD Fellows, these activities seek to demonstrate how the rule of law can address current socio-economic issues and benefit local communities and society at large through the application of theoretical knowledge in real-life contexts.

The TIJ Public Forum on the Rule of Law and Sustainable Development – this is a space carefully designed for constructive dialogues between actors across all sectors to exchange ideas with outstanding national and international professionals and specialists on

the vital roles of the rule of law in driving sustainable agendas.

In order to gear collaborative momentum towards impactful outcomes for a more inclusive and just society, in 2018 the TIJ also launched a special catalyst initiative called “Project j.” Project j looks to utilize new thinking tools, and innovative approaches and available technology, in order to shape a justice-enabling mindset and to facilitate a broader collaborative platform, and ultimately to redesign the justice system to be more people-centric. Project j includes the following key functions:

- *j-Education* – with an innovative approach to problem-solving such as design thinking (human-centered approach) and system thinking, the activities under j-Ed seek to present new learning experiences that promote a deeper, more holistic and subtler understanding of justice. The aim is to cultivate a sense of justice in among the younger generation of people. Under j-Ed, the TIJ, in partnership with the UNODC and an expert on Design across Borders from the Stanford d.school, hosted the world’s first-ever “Borderless Youth Forum” on the 2nd and 3rd of March, 2019. This forum utilized existing technology to connect over 150 youths from various geographical locations in the Asia Pacific region to work together on multi-national teams. Through human stories on justice-related issues derived from over 20 local experts, the 27 idea results and reflections from the youth were presented at a side-event of the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development hosted by UNESCAP on the 28th of March, 2019 in Bangkok.

- *j-Experiment* – this is a platform of ideas, experiments, and innovations for multi-stakeholders’ collaboration in order to co-create creative solutions that can be scaled to help address persisting justice-related issues in this fast-changing society. The platform kicked off a roundtable series on technology for justice, called “Blockchain for Transparency and Accountability” and “Open Data and AI for Participatory Justice.”

- *j-Content* – as the knowledge management arm of Project j, j-Content’s activities aim to capture the learning from applying new learning approaches from j-Ed and various experiments from jX to develop lessons learned into a digested form of knowledge, and to disseminate interesting learning in order to educate wider audiences about the rule of law and development and innovation.





THRIVE FOR A BETTER WORLD: TOWARDS THE CONGRESS AND CCPCJ 2020

The TIJ aspires to be a global advocate for the promotion of the rule of law, crime prevention, and criminal justice as a driving force for sustainable development in line with the 2030 agenda. Our programmatic activities are built around research, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination benefitting all relevant stakeholders, with particular emphasis on the young generation.

Towards the preparations for the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020, the TIJ will continue to promote and support the discuss of cross-cutting issues on the UN agenda, taking into account relevant developments in the context of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It is hoped that such work will help bridge all efforts toward building peaceful and inclusive societies worldwide – where ‘No One is Left Behind.’



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