



crafting
hope



Empowering
Women's Talents
through the
Model
Prison
Project



The stories of **women behind bars**,
as told through their **handwork** and *heartwork*.

About TIJ

Thailand Institute of Justice, or TIJ, was established by the Royal Thai Government in 2011 with aims to promote excellence in research and capacity-building in crime and justice and serve as a bridge that transports global ideas to local practice. TIJ's primary objectives are to promote the implementation of United Nation Rules for the treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) as well as other relevant UN standards and norm, especially those related to women and children. TIJ also gears its work towards important cross-cutting issues on the UN agenda such as the rule of law, development, human rights, peace and security.

**“The quality of justice has nothing to do with imprisoning,
but has everything to do with**

**making offenders better and
more responsible people.”**

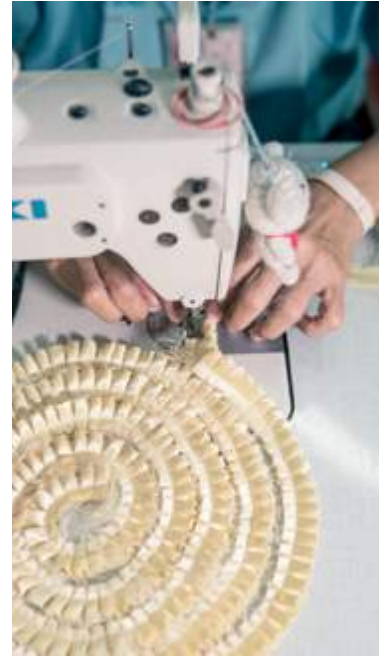
- Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha





The Model Prison Project

With the aim to promote the implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules worldwide, one of the TIJ's missions is to promote and support the implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules in correctional institutions at both international and domestic levels. In cooperation with the Department of Corrections of Thailand, the Project was established with the aim to enhance understanding about the Bangkok Rules among prison staff and to encourage female correctional institutions across Thailand to carry out their policies and practices on treatments of women prisoners in line with the Bangkok Rules.



The Story behind this Book

Hope is a powerful thing.

For every woman, man, young or old person, life becomes a void without hope. This is especially important for those in the fringes of society who are deprived of their liberty. As one of the most socially marginalized and overlooked groups of people in society, women prisoners suffer three-fold; from the social system that suppresses individuals based on their economic status, from their social status, and their gender. The Crafting Hope book is inspired by this group of women who, despite their adversity, are rebuilding their lives and creating identities beyond the prison walls.

This book's aim is to endorse the ongoing handicraft activities across women's correctional institutions in Thailand. At the same time, we strive to involve the community in supporting female inmates. As part of TIJ's Model Prison Project, it intends to satisfy one of the principles of the Bangkok Rules which recognizes the importance of public support in successfully integrating women prisoners back into society and creating a conducive environment for rehabilitation.

With hidden talent waiting to be showcased, we traveled the country to handpicked high quality handicrafts made by these women to exhibit their remarkable skills.









Showcase

Handwoven

silk
fabric



- ผ้าไหมทอมือ -





Interlacing thread by thread, nothing speaks Northern Thailand louder than hand-woven Thai silk. The skills have been extended to the ladies at [Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution](#), courtesy of Chiang Mai's own local craftsmen and continuously supported by the [Kamlungjai Project \(Inspire Project\)](#). Among various techniques are the use of traditional looms (ฝ้าย). It takes a person at least one year to become proficient in weaving silk cloth. For each 4 metre cloth, it takes over three months to complete. Here, we witness the community's legacy being continued while the women in it secure another skill that will allow them to make a meaningful living after release.

Price range : 9,000 – 12,000 THB



Handwoven cotton scarf

- ผ้าฝ้ายทอมือ -

For a more casual yet sophisticated style, women from [Chiang Mai Correctional Institution](#) also learn how to weave cotton apparels. Shown here is shoulder wrap in textured floral pattern (ลายดอก) which has become one of their signature pieces. Coming in various patterns and colours, this intricate art beautifully captures the essence of Northern Thailand culture into one piece of fabric like no other.

Price range : 250 – 350 Baht





Cotton Karen Attires

- เสื้อและย่ามกะเหรี่ยง -





Basked in the glorious cultures of the hill tribe, the ethnic attires, consisting of shirt and cloth bag, resonate the culture of the biggest hill tribe in Thailand, the Karen. The colorful collection by women from [Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution](#) don't only provide unique style; its breathable texture also makes it suitable for wearing in this South East Asia's hot and humid weather.

Price range : 350 – 450 Baht



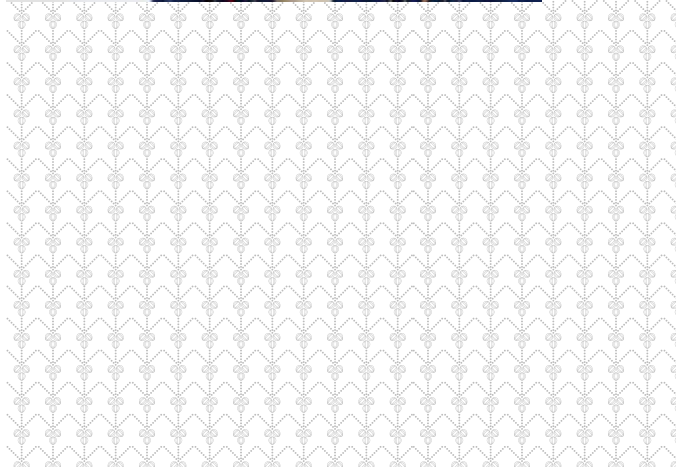
Indigo Tribal Jacket

- เสื้อม่อฮ่อม -

This indigo tribal jacket made by women of **Fang District Prison** represents the heritage of Lanna Kingdom left in the present-day Northern Thailand. The indigenous style jacket takes your casual look up a notch and will definitely make you stand out from the dull crowd.



Price range: 150 – 250 THB



“

**Making
handicraft
boosts your
creativity.**

**For me, I use the skills to produce
accessory sets for my own costume
rental shop, so I could keep the
price low for my customers.**

”

- ex-inmate,
now a costume rental shop owner







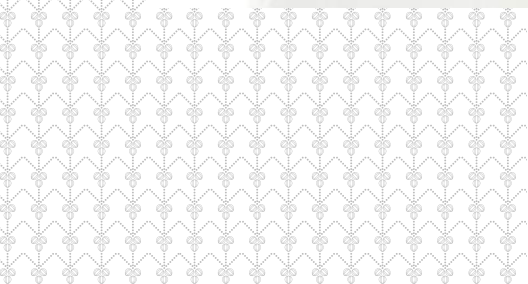
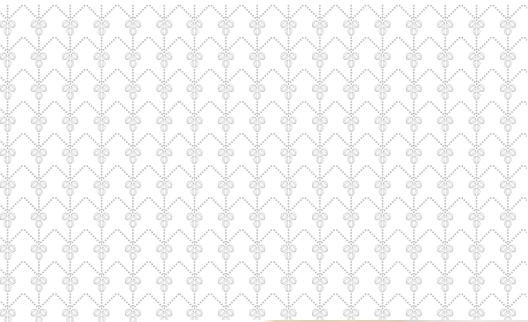
Products
made from
**water
hyacinth**

- เครื่องจักสาน
จากผักตบชวา -

Water hyacinth may be harmful to the ecosystem; they are also difficult and costly to get rid of. But the talented women at [Phisanulok Women's Correctional Institution](#) successfully turn what would otherwise be damaging to the environment into a quirky yet charming collection, ranging from handbags to home accessories. Flaunting the minimal cottage vibe, the water hyacinth accessories let you capture that bohemian style without breaking the bank.

Price range: 200 – 500 THB







Plain
weave
pattern
accessories and
home goods

- หัตถกรรมจากผ้าสาน -

The art of plain weave pattern (การสานผ้า) has long been established as **Chonburi Women's Correctional Institution's** signature work. Behind these simple-looking goods are the handmade fabric lines being handwoven into shape. From simple clutche, tablet covers, to home accessories, the less is more philosophy—with additional local kick—has never looked this good.



Price range: 150 – 500 Baht



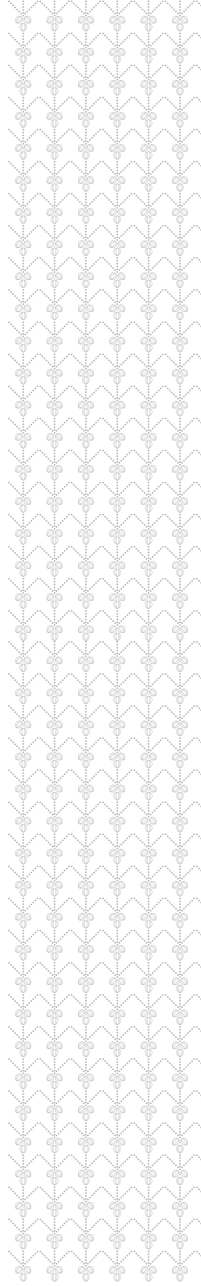
Accessories
from

Smocking Techniques

- กระเป๋าสม็อก -

Fabric smocking techniques may be dying off elsewhere, but not from prison craftsmanship. In case that the term may sound unfamiliar to some, smocking is an embroidery technique of fabric gathering to make a stretchable pattern. Inside the training centre of [Women's Correctional Institute for Drug Addicts](#), various smocked products, especially women bags and accessories, are designed and made to perfection everyday.

Price range: 150 – 400 Baht







Stuffed
Turtle
Toys
- ตุ๊กตาเต่า -

Not just another stuffed toys; these adorable turtles which are made by women at [Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution](#) is the symbol of good health and long life according to East Asian beliefs. Don't be deceived by their innocent look; these turtles have been creating a constant income stream for women of Thonburi and bringing smiles to anyone who receives them.

Price range: 60 – 300 Baht







“ All I need is an
opportunity
to **restart** ,

to build my future as a part of the society,
to be able to withstand any disdain for my past.

- ex-inmate

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If you are interested in the merchandise in this booklet, please refer to the contacts of the featured facilities for more details.

1. Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution (Vocational Training Centre)

100 Rajchavithi Rd,
Sriphum Subdistrict, Mueang District
Chiang Mai, Thailand
+66 53 122 340

2. Fang District Prison

500 Moo 3 Chotana Rd,
Wiang Subdistrict, Fang District
Chiang Mai, Thailand
+66 53 453 509

3. Phisanulok Women's Correctional Institution

801 Moo 8, Wang Thong Subdistrict,
Wang Thong District, Phitsanulok, Thailand
+66 55 313 360

4. Chonburi Women's Correctional Institution

135/5 Phaya Satcha Rd,
Ban Suan Subdistrict, Mueang District
Chon Buri, Thailand
+66 38 282 002

5. Women's Correctional Institute for Drug Addicts

38 Moo 1, Leab Klong Ha Rd,
Klong 5 Subdistrict, Thanyaburi District,
Pathum Thani, Thailand
+662 577 1805

6. Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution

70 Ekkachai Rd,
Bang Bon District
Bangkok, Thailand
+662 453 0319



Thailand Institute of Justice
affiliated with the United Nations