

Statement by the Community Women Human Rights Defenders Movement of Thailand

October 14, 2025

We Stand for Truth, Human Rights, and the Dignity of Every Human Being

We stand in unwavering solidarity with Angkhana Neelapaijit.

In a time when fear is dressed up as patriotism and hatred is paraded as civic duty, parts of society have turned their rage against one woman — an independent senator, a women human rights defender, and a voice of conscience — Angkhana Neelapaijit.

She is a woman of courage, doing nothing more than fulfilling her duty — to question what is unjust, to speak truth with integrity, and to stand firmly on the principles of human rights.

Angkhana knows that speaking out today means swimming against the current. Yet she speaks — because she believes that truth has dignity. Even when state power has been merciless to her family, she has never abandoned the side of what is right, even if it means standing alone.

She does not speak for herself — she speaks to protect the rights of us all.

Human rights do not belong to lawyers, NGOs, or any single organization. They live in our breath and in our everyday lives — in our right to speak without fear of reprisal, our right to access truthful information, our right as citizens to question the power of the state, the military, and capital — even influencers, and our right to live in safety and dignity without fear.

To question power is the heart of democracy. To question power is not to overstep — it is to hold power accountable when it fails its people.

When the state refuses responsibility, the people have both the right and the duty to rise and ask. To question is the highest act of civic responsibility — and the only path to protect truth, justice, and human dignity.

We can question Senator Angkhana Neelapaijit's views — but we cannot build a culture of hate.

When Patriotism Becomes a Weapon

It is encouraging to see the public alert to the situation along the Thai–Cambodian border. But when we awaken, we must ask —
Are we awakening to seek understanding and solutions?
Or are we being drawn into an information war (IO) that spreads hate under the banner of patriotism?

The nationalism being incited today is cultivating a culture of fear and hatred in the hearts of people.

When we sow hatred, we will harvest only violence.

When we nourish division, we destroy the roots of justice and peace with our own hands.

We must ask ourselves honestly:

What kind of culture are we growing in our hearts and in our society?

If we build a society rooted in hatred, we will be trapped within that hatred.

But if we nurture a culture of understanding, justice, and care for one another, we will create a society brave enough to defend the dignity of every human life.

True patriotism is not measured by the loudness of hate,
but by the courage to stand for the dignity of every person — even when the nation trembles.

Human Rights and Humanity Must Never Be Abandoned

Thailand is bound by international human rights and humanitarian law — including the Convention against Torture (CAT) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) — which require all parties to respect the dignity of civilians and limit the harm caused by conflict. Even in moments of war or tension, we must not lose our humanity in the fight.

Lessons from Rwanda: When National Security Devours Human Dignity

In 1994, the “Hutu Power” movement in Rwanda unleashed hatred in the name of “defending the nation.”

In less than a hundred days, over 800,000 people were slaughtered — simply for being born into a different ethnicity.

Rwanda stands as a warning to humanity:

State security must never come before human security.

The silence of the world then remains an open wound today.

True patriotism cannot be built upon the bodies of our fellow human beings.

Defending the country means nothing if we do not defend the dignity of every life.

Voices of Women Human Rights Defenders from Across Thailand

“Influencers have no privilege above the law.

Nationalist incitement is a social danger that must be stopped at its root.”

“Thai or Cambodian — we are all human.

Everyone deserves peace, safety, and freedom from violence and discrimination.”

“Authorities on both sides must resolve the Thai–Cambodian conflict responsibly.

Do not let the people of both nations suffer from the greed and power of those who rule.”

“War brings only loss and pain.

Peaceful solutions must always come before political pride.”

Our Urgent Demands

The Community Women Human Rights Defenders Collective of Thailand calls on the Thai Government, the Armed Forces, and independent institutions — including the National Human Rights Commission — to act immediately, transparently, and accountably in line with international human rights standards.

The state must:

Uphold International Humanitarian Law (IHL);

End the use of nationalist rhetoric and information operations (IO) that breed hatred;

Protect the dignity and safety of all civilians — regardless of sides or borders.

To the Media

We call upon all journalists and media outlets to report responsibly — to uphold ethics, accuracy, and fairness, and to reject hate speech.

An honorable media does not amplify fear.

It shines light into darkness.

“The duty of the press is to illuminate — not to deepen the shadows.”

The Power of the People

The power of the people is beautiful — when it rises for human rights, justice, and democracy.

We urge all citizens to use that power to question authority:

Why can we not elect a 100% people’s constitutional assembly (Sor Sor Ror.)?

Why are citizens denied the right to amend every section of the constitution?

Why does the economy collapse while inequality rises and people take their own lives?

Why do political and border conflicts persist without resolution?

And — are the recent Bangchak stock acquisitions linked to money laundering by former Prime Minister Hun Sen or Thaksin Shinawatra?

What is the role of Minister Thammanat — reportedly close to the influencer leading this nationalist campaign and to the network of scammers linked to the Bangchak affair?

How are these networks tied to scammers and financiers who exploit people's resources and dignity, including those in Dan Khun Thot and other affected communities?

We demand truthful answers

And we urge the people — to keep asking these questions, with courage and clarity.

Because the people are not accomplices to silence or hatred —
they are the sovereign power of the nation,
with the right to know, to question, and to change their own future.

Lessons from October 14, 1973: The People Are the Heart of the Nation

The political awakening after October 14 was a turning point for modern Thailand.
When students and citizens rose to question power, the nation learned that state authority only has meaning when the people stand tall in their own dignity.

We have lived through that pain — and its lesson still echoes:
The strength of a nation is not built on silence.
It grows from a society that embraces scrutiny,
that upholds rights, freedoms, justice, and shared responsibility.

A great nation is not one that never errs —
but one that faces the truth and rises again with dignity.

Our Stand

We stand in solidarity with Angkhana Neelapaijit, and with all human rights defenders and people across this country —
not because we agree with every word they speak,
but because we share the same principle:
Every human being has the right to safety, dignity, and truth.

True security cannot be built on fear.
Peace cannot grow from hate.
Justice cannot exist without accountability.

When patriotism is used as a weapon, love must become our resistance.
And when fear is turned into policy, courage must become our collective voice.
— Community Women Human Rights Defenders Collective of Thailand

The Thai version can be found here.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1401321391997179&set=a.532651885530805>

About Us

The Community Women Human Rights Defenders Collective of Thailand is a grassroots movement of women from communities across the country — representing struggles in 19 key issue areas. We are mothers, caregivers, Indigenous women, rural and urban poor, garment workers, landless laborers, sex workers, and young activists — all dedicated to protecting life, land, and our way of living. We fight for land and housing rights, resist destructive mining and mega-projects, and advocate for migrant women, refugees, women with disabilities, and women in conflict areas in southern Thailand and Myanmar. We call for a Care Income for mothers and caregivers —because care work sustains not only families but the future of our nation.