



Protecting Children's Rights for over 30 Years

Thanks to you, we have been able to ensure children access their rights in Thailand for over 30 years.

This year the world is celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Every child deserves to know their rights and how to exercise them. Your support, has enabled children in Thailand to claim their rights, and live a life free from discrimination, violence and neglect. Because of you, children in Thailand are given the opportunity to thrive and live to their full potential.

Take a look inside to see how you have enabled children to access their rights this year.



Official record, of your name, nationality and family.

Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality and to know and be cared for by their parents. No child should be left stateless.

Birth Registration

No child should ever get left behind. Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of Burmese migrants are falling through the cracks in Thailand.

To escape political persecution, military repression and poverty they are finding refuge on the Thai-Myanmar border. However, without proper identification, migrant children have no protection under Thai law and easily fall victim to trafficking and exploitation.

This is why we are working with child protection services on the Thai-Myanmar border to ensure that no child is vulnerable and unaccounted for. This year with your support, we were able to provide birth registration and identification documents to both Burmese migrants and ethnic Thai minorities through the Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot.

The clinic is working towards creating a safer world for these families, offering them the opportunity to register their children's births and assist in making connections where the child can access school, a safe home and health services.

This basic right, that we often take for granted, enables children from these marginalised communities to access healthcare and education, whilst also protecting them from exploitation, like sex trafficking and cheap labour.

Children have a voice. An identity. A right to prosper. Birth registration and identification documents are key to protecting this.

The Mae Tao clinic is an important resource for migrant families, particularly for maternal health care, safe childbirth and providing birth registrations.

An average of 5 babies are born every day at the clinic, Nan* is one of these children. This year, Nan's mother, while pregnant, made the treacherous trek across the Myanmar border in hopes of giving Nan a safe and better life. Once she reached Thailand, she settled down in Mae Sot and that's where she first learned of the Mae Tao Clinic.

Because of the Mae Tao Clinic, Nan's mother was able to have a safe delivery and receive the vital care that she needed; without the clinic Nan or her mother may not of survived childbirth.

Since Nan was born at the clinic, she was able to receive birth registration and an ID. Her mother had no family or connections in Thailand; she had nowhere to go. Her mother was worried that she would not be able to care for her child, so the clinic was able to coordinate with relevant organisations to ensure that Nan could have a safe upbringing.

Nan now has access to a nursery, shelter and a network of care. Our work with child protection services on the border provides vulnerable children and their care-givers greater access to justice and rights-protection services so children like Nan, can have safe and healthy lives.



This year you have:

- Provided **1,045 birth registrations**
- Delivered trainings to **10 communities** on child rights education reaching over **5,000 people**
- Helped **130 social workers** receive training on case management and child protection
- Offered psychosocial and legal **support for over 50 child victims** of abuse and trafficking

Your support has provided legal safety nets for marginalised children and families. With your help, we are able to protect children and ensure that every child enjoys their right to an identity.



Inclusive Education

The vast majority of disabled children live in hard to reach areas where risks of family poverty, isolation, discrimination and lack of social services are extremely high. With your support, you have helped us reach all corners of Thailand and ensure that children living with disabilities are supported, valued and engaged in Thai society.

This year you have:

- Supported a vocational school for young adults, enabling the students to better enter the work force

- Provided life-changing physiotherapy for children with physical disabilities
- Created individualised learning curricula tailored to the child's specific needs
- Supported a school for children who are visually impaired, teaching them to read and write braille
- Offered sporting opportunities such as competing in The National Games in Australia, Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi and other national competitions in Thailand



Every child with disabilities (mental or physical) has the right to enjoy a full and decent life.

Governments should eliminate all barriers for children with disabilities so they can achieve the fullest possible social integration and individual development.



Thom first came to the Father Ray Technical College in 2017. Thom is originally from Myanmar and he contracted polio at a young age which has resulted in a weakness in his legs.

Because of this, Thom has become a permanent wheelchair user. Thom felt excluded from his community so he came to Pattaya to get an education and discovered the Father Ray Technical College which specialises in young adults with disabilities.

The college provides meals, accommodation,

free education and health check-ups. Thom chose to study Computer Business and Management and he quickly integrated himself into the programme, excelling in all of his coursework.

In April, Thom achieved his dreams and graduated from the programme receiving a certificate in Computer Business and Management English. Thom was so grateful for his education, that he has decided to move back to his hometown in Myanmar to work for other children with disabilities through education and awareness.



When it is not suitable, or a child is unable to live with their parents alternative care should be provided.

Such care should include kinship care, foster care, adoption and only if necessary placement in a suitable residential home. The child's culture, religion, language and ethnic background should always be protected.



Alternative Care

Fighting for Better Care

This group of Thai organisations was brought together to drive reform of the care system in Thailand by strengthening the system at every level.

Capitalising on current momentum and government engagement, SCT is facilitating the group to run strategic planning workshops to define their strategy and develop work plans for the coming years.

This will allow the group to act upon opportunities to drive change in the behaviour of professionals and structures to sustain a strengthened model of alternative care for children.



We Want to Create a Thailand:

- Which protects children from abuse and exploitation
- Which prioritises families and communities and helps them care for children safely at home
- With robust social welfare services and inclusive childcare choices
- Where all children enjoy access to equal rights and opportunities and
- Which ensures children in care are loved, safe and can thrive

* The Alternative Care Working (Thematic) Group (ACWG) is one of six thematic working groups under the Convention on the Rights of the Child Coalition (CRCC) for Thailand.

Keeping Families Together

In Thailand, poverty is the number one reason for family breakdown and separation. Combined with a lack of social services, many families lose hope in their ability to care for their child and feel forced to put their child into care.

Every child deserves the right to grow up in a loving and nurturing environment. With your support, we have been able to prevent family breakdown and support children in their family homes.

One programme you have funded this year is the Keeping Families Together project in Bangkok, providing monthly trainings, weekly home visits, family fun activities, as well as access to health care, educational sponsorships and income generation grants.

These family strengthening projects enable children to enjoy their right to safe and loving home.



Narisa is a widow, taking care of her three boys. As a single mother, she is the sole breadwinner of her family. Narisa supported her family by selling fish. Daily she would lift heavy fish crates, which has resulted in extreme back pain. The pain was so bad that it started to interfere with her ability to care for her three children. She knew she needed to find new work, so she could be the mother she needed to be for her children.

However, with this job loss, Narisa did not know how she was going to support her family, pay off her debts and pay for her children's education.

With your support, the KFT project delivered a 'Family Finance' training to Narisa. The small grant and trainings has increased Narisa's income so much so that she has

been able to pay off her debts and improve her family's living conditions. Because of her business success, Narisa has been able to purchase two freezers, to help store all the food she cooks. This purchase has saved her even more money as food no longer spoils and as result, she has seen an increase in profits and is now able to pay the utility bills.

Additionally, KFT has been able to take Narisa to the hospital to get her back checked as well as provide her three sons with regular medical check-ups. With your support, KFT has been able to send her children to school by covering costs of school supplies, uniforms, bags and shoes. Narisa has learned so much from the training sessions and has gained positive parenting skills as well as the opportunity for fun family outings. Her children are proud of their mother's success and they are happy to be in school.

This is the power of family strengthening and the power of your support- giving children and families hope for a bright future.



In Thailand, every child has the right to a free and accessible education. However, not every child in Thailand is able to claim this right.

Children with disabilities are often isolated and excluded from the education system. Migrants and ethnic Thais may not have an ID to attend school and many families battling poverty are unable to afford the cost of uniforms, text books and transportation.

With your support, this year we have been able to help more children than ever to access quality education.

Prim* lives in north east Thailand. Both of Prim's parents died when she was less than 2 years old and she lives with her grandparents. Prim has been chronically ill since birth and her grandparents have had to take her to her regular medical appointments - miles away from their home. Her grandparents earn a living by growing vegetables and weaving baskets in the traditional style of northern Thailand.

Prim is now 16 years old, and she continues to live with her grandparents. The upstairs of their house cannot be used safely as the wood has been eaten by termites. Downstairs, there is a dirt floor and two bedrooms in which the walls don't meet the roof.



The bedrooms consist of two mattresses on the floor and the kitchen is outdoors. Prim's grandparents could not afford her education even though they desperately wanted to send her to school.

Your donations provide her grandparents with regular transport to the hospital for Prim's medical visits, a monthly stipend, food parcels and a school scholarship to ease the burden on the family.

Prim is now studying in Grade 10 and works very hard, this past term she made a 3.59 out of 4! She currently is taking chemistry and physics and would like to be a doctor someday, so in the future, she can care for others, just as her grandparents have cared for her.

When Prim is not excelling at school, she likes to help her grandmother. Her grandmother has had a sore leg these last few months and Prim is keen to do as much as she can. She always helps her clean the house, wash clothes and run to the shops when needed. The outreach programme has kept Prim with her family and has provided her with education she would not have received otherwise. Prim has hope and a future with her education.

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ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Every child has the right to education. Primary education should be free and available for all. Secondary and higher education should be available and encouraged to every child.

This year you have funded:

- Inclusive education for children with disabilities
- A safe house which provides free education to Burmese migrants who have been victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse or abandonment on the Thai-Myanmar border
- Outreach programmes which provide children the means to attend school in hard to reach areas
- Migrant education programmes for over 600 children
- Vocational schools so children can better enter the work force or achieve higher education

Education

Dear Supporter,

As we approach the end of the year it is a time for us to reflect on the past months and look forward to the start of a new year. Since starting at Safe Child Thailand in February I have been able to visit Thailand twice and see for myself the incredible life changing work that happens in the projects we support. From a school for blind children through to providing a special school for children with disabilities, we are helping hundreds of children. And this is all down to your generosity and kind support.

In March I met a young man 18 years old called Pong. He had been supported by Safe Child Thailand for the past 5 years. During this time, we were able to provide him with care, accommodation and education. As we sat talking over dinner he told me how in his younger life he had struggled on a daily basis but since being supported by our work he has been helped by caring staff, grown in confidence and thrived at school. Despite all the odds against him, Pong went from strength to strength. With tears in his eyes he told me how proud he was of now being able to apply for a place at university.

Pong is truly an inspirational young man. Thanks to you, Pong and other children just like him are looking forward to a wonderful future. The gift of kindness and support is most likely the best gift anyone can be given this time of year.

The Christmas newsletter shows you the extent of our work we achieved this year and features just some of the many children we have helped. All of this can only be achieved by the kind generosity of our donors. I would like to ask you if you are able to make a donation this Christmas so we can continue to help children like Thom and Nan featured in the newsletter. Whatever you can donate will make a difference to the lives of children living in Thailand.

May I thank you for your support and along with the staff team here at Safe Child Thailand wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Peter Bradley

C.E.O.

A Message from The Rt Rev Marcus Stock

The annual celebration of Christmas (Christ's-Mass) recalls the birth of the Christ child and the love and care given to him by his mother Mary and foster-father Joseph within the Holy Family. In each child we see something of the wonder of our human nature as created by God. With the birth of a child our appreciation of the gift of life and our hope for the future is renewed.

The best and most secure environment for each child to truly flourish as they grow is the love and care of a family. Families who struggle to provide for their children need therefore whatever support others can give them.

I am proud to be Patron of a charity that works tirelessly for the most vulnerable children and their families in Thailand. Their needs are so great. Yet even the smallest gift we can give to support them on a regular basis through Safe Child Thailand will make a lasting difference to their lives. To all those who share this commitment, I thank you warmly for your constant and generous support. I send you and your family my blessings for a very happy Christmas and a New Year filled with hope.

Right Reverend Marcus Stock
(Bishop of Leeds)
Patron

