



LAO WOMEN'S UNION

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF LAO WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Lao Women's Union (LWU) is a mass and social organization of women at all strata throughout Lao P.D.R. It is a part of Lao People's Democratic Republic system. It was officially established in 1955. The history of LWU is closely attached to the country's history for national liberation and development. The organizational system of LWU operates throughout the country at four levels, namely: central; provincial/ministerial, district/municipal and village ones.

Mandates of the Lao Women's Union:

- Gather and unify Lao women actively involve in the national protection and development process. Protect the rights and interests of the Lao multi-ethnic women and children.
- Promote the implementation of policy on gender equality and the advancement of women with an aim to the implementation of national socio-economic development.
- Educate women of all ethnic group and all social strata to have such understanding of the government's policies, constitution, laws and various international instruments concerning the legitimate rights and interests of women adhered to by the Lao PDR.
- Make considerable contributions toward the protection and the support of the rich customs, beautiful cultural traditions of the country as well as Lao women of all ethnic groups.

The Lao Women's Union would like to submit information and recommendations regarding the promotion and protection of human rights in China as part of stakeholders contribution. The Lao Women's Union commented that the Chinese Government has taken effective measures and worked hard to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Chinese people, the past few years have

witnessed new achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights in China, particularly the right of women and children has been improved.

Women's rights

Women's right to employment and equal access to economic resources is guaranteed. By the end of October 2010, the state had provided 16.605 billion yuan in small loans to aid 410,500 women across the country to start businesses. Women's federation in all parts of the country created jobs for more than four million women by launching projects including processing with customer's materials and knitting. The SYB(start your business) project provides training to 50,000 women every year.

The state has intensified efforts to combat domestic violence against women. Already, 27 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government have formulated special rules and regulations on the prevention of domestic violence. Public security organs at many places include service of reporting domestic violence in their "110" emergency police service networks. Many local courts have set up collegial panels for safeguarding the rights and interests of women and anti-domestic-violence collegial panels, and some have launched a trial of habeas corpus for victims of domestic violence.

Children's rights

Children's right to health is guaranteed. The categories of national planned immunity vaccines for children have been increased to 11, aiming at the prevention of 12 diseases, with a vaccination rate of over 90 percent.

The Government has made headway in preventing and cracking down on the crimes of abduction and trafficking in women and children. The Action Plan to Crack Down on Abducting and Trafficking in women and children (2008-2012) has been implemented. Relevant departments have established a notification and verification mechanism for peoples of unknown identity and those who are suspected of being abducted. By the end of 2010, the Chinese Government had solved 9,156 cases of trafficking in women and 5,900 cases of trafficking in children, rescued 9,388 abducted children and 18,000 women, rounded up 3,573 trafficking gangs, and placed 22,500 suspects in criminal detention. In the past two years, people's courts at different levels have concluded the trial of 7395 criminal cases of abduction and trafficking in women and children, of organizing children to beg and other violations of minor's rights and interests, and severely punished 9,596 criminals in accordance with the law.

Recommendations:

The Lao Women's Union would like to give recommendations for the betterment of promotion and protection of human rights in China as following:

A. China should intensify implementing the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests, promoting gender equality and guaranteeing the lawful rights and interests of women.

B. China should keep implementing the Law on the Protection of Minors, promoting

the legislation process regarding children's welfare, preschool education, family education and other issues, and effectively guaranteeing children's rights to life, development, protection and participation for their best interests.