RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DIVERSE SOGIESC IN THAILAND

Save the Children Thailand

The Coalition of CSOs for Children's SOGIESC Rights - Thailand

LAST UPR CYCLE

- Thailand received and accepted **four** specific recommendations on children's SOGIESC rights.
  - Argentina: Train education personnel, both in public and private institutions, and review the basic education curriculum to promote a positive and respectful attitude towards diversity, including sexual orientation and gender identity
  - Fiji: Take the necessary steps to combat discrimination and violence against women and children, and on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity
  - Finland: Include the right to non-discrimination of people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in sexual health education
  - Mexico: Combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, especially in education, employment and health

DEVELOPMENTS

- Two key achievements of legal changes:
  - Marriage Equality
  - Ban all forms of corporal and psychological punishment of children in all contexts

SITUATIONS 1

- **Mental health crisis:** 70%+ of children and youth with diverse SOGIESC depression/anxiety symptoms; 58% have contemplated suicide; transgender youth at highest risk.
- **Family support:** 42% faced conversion attempts, mostly from family. Almost 60% lack a supportive family environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish dedicated, affirming **mental health services**, with professionals trained in SOGIESC-competent, accessible through schools and community settings.
2. Implement a national **positive parenting program that promotes acceptance of diverse SOGIESC**, supported by public awareness-raising and community outreach.

SITUATIONS 2

- **Legal Gender Recognition:** Thailand still has no legal gender recognition for transgender and nonbinary children.
- **School discrimination**: Rigid uniform/hairstyle rules force a binary "male/female" mold. In Nov 2022, a 14-year-old transgender student died by suicide as a result of these rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enact a **gender recognition act** based on self-determination that is inclusive of children, in consultation with children.
2. Amend laws and policies at both national and school levels, including **uniform and hairstyle regulations**, to guarantee all students the right to express their gender identity.
3. Implement a **mandatory teacher training programme on diverse SOGIESC and child rights,** ensuring that all teachers complete the training within two years, with regular monitoring