

The training workshops cover different topics related to women's human rights such as:

- gender fair language;
- sexual harassment;
- CEDAW and the courts;
- an overview of women's rights;
- specific laws on women's human rights;
- gender sensitivity and ethical and legal writing;
- gender sensitive court interpretation.

Upon the request of participants, a session on how to cope with stress led by a psychiatrist has been included in the module. Recently, the Department of Foreign Affairs has communicated the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee in the Karen Vertido case that appropriate and regular training be conducted for judges, lawyers, law enforcement officers and medical personnel in understanding crimes of rape and other sexual offences in a gender-sensitive manner. More sessions on CEDAW, in addition to 1.5 hours focused on the basic principles of the Convention, have been added to the training workshops.

Making Criminal Courts Gender Sensitive in Thailand⁴⁸

A partnership was established between the Rabibhadanasak Judicial Research Institute, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and Teeranat Kanjanauksorn Foundation to address the findings of a research on women's access to justice in Thailand that points to the male-centredness of the Thai judicial system. It aims to integrate the concept of 'substantive equality' enshrined in CEDAW to ensure that court proceedings take into account the different needs of women survivors and defendants because of their gender.

Meetings with the Office of the Judiciary and a core group of judges who were enthusiastic about the project were held to design a participatory capacity-building approach to train judges on the specific issues affecting women's human rights. As part of the design process, resource materials on applying CEDAW and developing gender-sensitive courts from other countries such as the Philippines were translated and disseminated among the core group involved in the project. Subsequently, the project was pilot tested in the Thonburi Criminal Court and Ratchadabhisek Criminal Court.

Designing the capacity building program for members of the judiciary was highly participatory. It involved judges, court personnel and civil society representatives. The intended participants were also consulted in the design process. Learning tools were included in the activities to encourage collective exchange of ideas and skills among the participants. As a result, individual and institutional changes have occurred, particularly in the Thonburi Criminal Court, such as:

- increased gender sensitivity of court personnel in different units;
- better court ruling for domestic violence cases, which have taken into consideration the different contexts of women as victims and offenders;

48. Presentation of Naiyana Supapung, Director, Teeranat Kanjanauksorn Foundation, 5 September 2013