

Call for projects

Thailand: Fostering civil society participation in the CAT review

As a part of the [United Against Torture Consortium](#) (UATC), launched in 2023 by the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and five other major anti-torture organisations - the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), the International Federation of ACATs (FIACAT), the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), Omega Research Foundation and REDRESS – the OMCT will provide targeted and strategic support to local anti-torture organisations in Thailand to increase the impact and reach of their work, foster their sustainability and resilience in response to adversity, and stimulate the growth of the movement.

ABOUT THE OMCT

The OMCT works with around 200 member organisations, which constitute its SOS-Torture Network, to end torture, fight impunity and protect human rights defenders worldwide. The SOS-Torture Network is the largest global group actively standing up to torture in more than 75 countries. Helping local voices be heard, the OMCT supports its field partners and directly assists victims. The international secretariat of the OMCT is based in Geneva, with offices in Brussels and Tunis.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The OMCT is calling for proposals from Thai anti-torture organizations with the objective of enhancing the preparation of a civil society report for submission to the Committee against Torture (CAT) prior to its review of Thailand during its 81st session in October-November 2024. Our aim is to empower civil society actors to actively engage in the CAT review process and provide comprehensive reporting on the prevalence of torture and ill-treatment in the country. Additionally, the OMCT seeks to mobilize Thai civil society for conducting consultations, advocacy efforts, and communication activities concerning both the report and the review process.

The total available budget for this project is **8,000 EUR**.

SCOPE OF APPLICATION AND METHODOLOGY

In 2014, the Committee Against Torture (CAT) reviewed Thailand's adherence to the Convention against Torture, shedding light on significant concerns. In its assessment of Thailand's initial periodic report and subsequent [Concluding Observations](#), the CAT issued recommendations on critical issues. These encompassed the absence of a clear definition of torture, which, at the time, lacked recognition as an offense in domestic legislation. Moreover, concerns were raised regarding the situation in southern border provinces, the misuse of special laws such as the 1914 Martial Law Act, the 2005 Emergency Decree, and the 2008 Internal Security Act, as well as the deficiency of fundamental legal safeguards for detained individuals. Additionally, the CAT highlighted ongoing alleged cases of enforced disappearance, impunity, gender-

based violence, the protection of human rights defenders, and non-refoulement. Despite positive developments, such as the recent enactment of the new Act on Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance, which criminalizes such acts, certain areas persist as areas of concern.

In the upcoming CAT review cycle, the OMCT is committed to support civil society organizations to actively engage with international mechanisms and advocate for the full implementation of the Convention against Torture and other fundamental human rights obligations in Thailand.

The OMCT aims to mobilise Thai civil society to draft and submit an alternative report to the CAT (note that the submission deadline for the alternative report is 30 September 2024), alongside conducting consultations, advocacy, and communication activities around the report.

Organisations interested in submitting proposals should propose activities that may include the following actions:

1. Organising and facilitating a consultative roundtable involving civil society organisations, journalists, academic experts, and state institutions to collectively assess the current state of torture and ill-treatment in the country.
2. Conducting lobbying and advocacy initiatives.
3. Conducting fact-finding missions, organizing meetings with victims of torture and their families to document human rights abuses, gather essential information, and obtain firsthand accounts to enrich the report.
4. Drafting an alternative report to CAT.
5. Conducting public awareness events and campaigns aimed at informing and engaging a wider audience about the CAT review process.
6. Forming a unified civil society coalition against torture in Thailand, functioning as a national watchdog for torture.
7. Dissemination and translation of concluding observations.

The proposed activities must be implemented by 31 December 2024. OMCT may provide technical advice and/or participate in implementing the proposed activities. Please, indicate in the application form if OMCT advice/participation is expected.

All tasks and actions should:

- Promote participatory and inclusive methodology and decision-making among anti-torture organisations;
- Assess appropriate safeguards for the safety of participating individuals/organisations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- The applicant must be a registered or unregistered local civil society group, organisation and/or coalition actively working on issues related to torture prevention;
- The applicant must be a local anti-torture organisation that seeks to increase the impact and reach of its work and foster its sustainability and resilience while contributing to the growth of the movement.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications (available [here](#)) should be emailed to Stella Anastasia, OMCT Asia Pacific Desk: sa@omct.org. The deadline is 12 May 2024. To have your application considered, please send an email mentioning “Grant Call – Thailand” as a subject.

Applications made jointly by more than one organisation will be considered. In this case, it is necessary to identify a main applicant organisation. The main applicant organisation will manage financial resources and promptly present narrative and financial reports. The division of tasks between the applicant organisations should be specified in the application. Personnel from the organisation/organisations/consultants may be hired to carry out the activities identified in the call.

The applications (individual or joint) will be selected and supported based on an evaluation based on indicators considering the eligibility criteria and the proposal's substance, scope and methodology.

'This Open Call for financing country projects has been made possible with the financial assistance of the European Union, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Irish Aid. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Irish Aid.'