

Project Title: The Rights of Women and Children

Date: 12-22 June 2012

Location: University of Nottingham, UK

Unit: Short Courses and Training

Core staff: Prof. David Harris, Amy Weatherburn

Funder: Office of the Judiciary of Thailand

Project Summary

In June 2012, HRLC hosted a delegation of thirty six judges from the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand. The two week course, entitled *The Rights of Women and Children*, focused upon international standards on the rights of women and children, the application of family law and practice in the UK and the legal protection afforded to women and children.

Objectives

In accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between HRLC and the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand, a tailor-made programme was designed to enable participants to carry out a comparative analysis of the current legal framework in Thailand against international and UK standards and principles.

Participants

The participants represented all levels of the Thai Judiciary, including Presiding Justices of the Supreme Court, the President of the Juvenile and Family Division of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Justice of the Central Juvenile and Family Court and Presiding Judges from Regional Juvenile and Family Courts.

Activities

The main component of the course consisted of specifically tailored teaching sessions, delivered by highly renowned academics and practitioners, experts in their field. The seminars were complemented by study visits to governmental and judicial organisations in London and Nottingham, such as the Office of the Children's Commissioner, the Government Equalities Office, Nottinghamshire Family Court, HMP Newhall Prison and Garden Court Barristers' Chambers.

Method

The course provided a solid theoretical grounding in the subject area. Seminars gave a holistic view of international standards and UK law and practice.

Speakers

The seminars were facilitated by academics and practitioners, all experts in their field, including representatives of governmental institutions such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency – United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, as well as NGOs such as the End Violence Against Women Coalition, who all play a critical role in ensuring the protection of the rights of women and children in the UK.

Outcomes

The course provided the participants with the requisite knowledge and understanding of international standards and UK law and practice pertaining to the rights of women and children, to be applied and further disseminated to colleagues upon return to Thailand.