

**Public statement to mark the 2023 International Women Human Rights Defenders Day**

**Care income for mothers and caregivers helps to pave the way for the eradication of violence and impoverishment and the establishment of participatory democracy**

To mark the 2023 International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, and on behalf of Community Women Human Rights Defenders Collective in formed by networks of WHRDs throughout the country and women affected by 19 issues;[[1]](#footnote-1)

We would like to reiterate that women, particularly mothers, are a caregiver for children, elderly parents, community and the protection of natural resources in Thailand and around the world. Women are the first person to rise up and the last to go to bed. We do care work and we work to provide for our families. We fight to protect human rights, environmental justice and to mitigate global warming. We are opposed to wars and protect social justice.

Given the political system under the hegemonic power of the elite in collusion with the monopolistic capitalists and powerful men, all political parties, before and after the election, barely pay attention to policies for mothers and caregivers. In the past election, it was the first time some policies for women have been pitched, but that was far from enough.

The majority of taxpayers and voters are women. Still, the government has failed to serve us. They simply depend on women in terms of the work to protect and provide for wellbeing of families and society. Even during the pandemic which severely took its toll on our economy and livelihood, the government has hardly set aside a single baht to support “**mothers and caregivers**“despite their having to all along provide for wellbeing instead of the government.

Since this government has not come from the party that won the most seats, it fails to address structural inequality, to allow the rewrite of all Articles in the Constitution, and is not serious on reforming the military. Instead, they simply focus on borrowing money to offer cash handouts through the “digital wallet” scheme claiming it will serve the people, but instead it will serve vested interest of the capitalists. In other word, the government simply aims to serve the interest of the rich and the elite at the expense of good quality of life of mothers and caregivers. This kind of government is so disgusting and it has not been built based on the consensus of caregivers and the majority of the people.

The current political and economic crisis and conflicts stemming from inequality and causing much hardship among the people cannot be attributed to the people, but the government as the policy makers.

We do not yearn for a country in which its people have to pin their hope on their luck every the 1st and the 16th of every month.[[2]](#footnote-2) But we want to build a country with the government and all parliamentarian members come from election and work to serve the interest of mothers and caregivers and the public. They should lead the people toward a hopeful future and a better quality of life.

This government must allow the rewrite of all Articles in the Constitution and it should value the role of women and caregivers as well as all the people. They must do the following;

1. Be sincere to eradicate impoverishment, not to abuse the poor, or to forcibly evict us from our homes, to abandon our way of life, to abandon our land, and we do not want a government that forces us to eat potash salt instead of rice
2. To serve us, not the capitalists and the elite, or any greedy individuals or institutions
3. Sex work is work, and the government must promptly legislate a law to protect sex workers.
4. To provide access to acquire nationality, the right to have a safe zone and secure employment
5. To make a school a safe place for children and an education must cost nothing and everyone should have access to it
6. To respect community rights and to give us the right to have access to land. The government must protect and support the struggle for the environment and our livelihood.
7. To respect our value and to ensure a good welfare state for older population, mothers, caregivers, and people with disabilities as well as survivors of violence
8. To act to eradicate hatred and violence against women who are transgenders, lesbians or heterosexuals or women who identifies with any gender or sexual orientation.
9. To refrain from weaponizing the law to commit an act of intimidation and harassment, to refrain from arresting and detaining our children or our families when we act to defend our right to life, our right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and any rights and freedoms.
10. Be fair and work toward making peace to bring an end to violence in the Southern Border Provinces and to promote democracy and human rights in Burma and Palestine
11. Not to be involved with the concealment of killing and enforced disappearances and facilitate access to justice among the victim families
12. To rehabilitate soil polluted by toxics, soil salinized by potash mining, protect water supplies, mountains, seas, and must ensure that the air in which we breathe shall not cause the deaths among our descendants.
13. Must respect the rights and self-determination and respect human dignity of indigenous and ethnic women and their traditional communities

We assert that the government must support care income for all mothers and caregivers to ensure security and good quality of life of all people in our society. The remuneration of such care work can be made in cash or in kind through the provision of housing, land and other resources. The state must invest in the livelihood and happiness of mothers and caregivers as well as all people in society. Such issues must be incorporated into the new Constitution.

Last but not least, we want to convey our power, force, love and solidarity to all our sisters and brothers in the Global Women Strike and all mothers and caregivers amidst the war of invasion and oppression in Burma and Palestine.

Community Women Human Rights Defenders Collective in Thailand

29 November 2023

1. Including opposition to dam, access to land and natural resources, sex workers, women with disabilities, female urban poor, female members of indigenous tribes, Thai and foreign workers, refugees and women affected by violence in the Southern Border Provinces, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Thai lottery will drawn on the first day and the sixteenth day of every month. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)