

ITP: **Thailand 2008**

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Paper Title: **Pursuing a Victim's Rights-Based Approach to Human Trafficking Prosecutions in Thailand**

Abstract: The paper examines the phenomenon of human trafficking in Thailand, a nation uniquely situated as a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Although the Thai government has made efforts in recent years to curb the flow of human trafficking, for the most part, the result has been a change in the ethnic identity of the trafficked individuals rather than the number of victims. In recent years, refugees from Thailand's impoverished neighbors, such as Myanmar and Laos, and Thailand's own non-citizen native hill tribes are increasingly exploited by traffickers operating within Thailand and abroad. Moreover, longstanding Thai cultural attitudes toward immigrants and women, coupled with the demand for prostitution by both native Thais and sex tourists, create thriving labor and sex industries based on trafficked workers. Using information obtained from in-country interviews with the Federation for Women, the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Asia Foundation, and Empower Foundation and other sources, the paper explores modern Thailand's anti-trafficking legislation and the problems the Thai government faces in enforcement. The paper discusses the manifold difficulties faced by the victims of trafficking in Thailand, both for citizens and not-Thai victims, many of whom face intimidation, shame, difficulty in prosecution, high likelihood of re-victimization, and deportation to their country of origin. The paper ultimately concludes that broader, victim-based initiatives are necessary both to assist victims and to provide a firmer basis for future trafficking prosecutions.