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III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)

Children with disabilities (art. 7)
17. The Committee is concerned about discrimination and stigma against children with disabilities, which results in reluctance by some parents of children with disabilities to register with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities; the abandonment of children with disabilities by their families; and the number of children with disabilities living in institutions. The Committee is also concerned that children, their families and professionals working for and with children are unaware of their rights; entities working on their protection and promotion lack coordination; professionals in the field lack training; and reliable statistics and information on the situation of children with disabilities are lacking overall.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with representative organizations of children with disabilities:
   (a) Adopt a strategy to combat stereotypes against children with disabilities and prevent their abandonment;
   (b) Develop community-based services and assistance with a view to ending institutionalization;
   (c) Raise awareness of the rights of children with disabilities and strengthen the provision of assistance appropriate to their age and impairment.

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)
39. The Committee is concerned about the institutionalization of persons with disabilities, including girls and boys, in residential institutions, hospitals, half-way homes and rehabilitation centres, and the insufficiency of community-based support services to implement independent living. The Committee is also concerned that many initiatives for facilitating the enjoyment of the right to independent living remain isolated examples and face challenges in terms of sustainability.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in active dialogue with organizations of persons with disabilities:
(a) Adopt a concrete time frame for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities;
(b) Make available a range of supports in the community to ensure that persons with disabilities can
exercise choice and control regarding where and with whom they live;
(c) Continue and strengthen initiatives for independent living to ensure long-term sustainability.

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)
43. The Committee is concerned that family law (Commercial and Civil Code, book V) prevents some
persons with disabilities from marrying and founding a family. It is also concerned that parents of children with
disabilities encounter obstacles to gaining access to specific support for exercising their parental
responsibilities and preventing abandonment.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal section 1449 and related provisions of the
family law that discriminate against certain persons with disabilities with respect to their right to marry
and found a family, and that it increase the availability of early and comprehensive information, services
and support to children with disabilities and their families.

Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)
55. The Committee is concerned about persons with disabilities in situations of poverty, particularly those
belonging to ethnic minority groups, in single parent-headed households and in families where parents care
for a child with disabilities on a full-time basis. It is concerned about the low percentage of persons with
disabilities entitled to receive a disability grant and the insufficiency of the grant to ensure an adequate
standard of living.

56. The Committee urges the State party to review its social security legislation with a view to ensuring
equal access for all persons with disabilities to social protection. It also recommends that the minimum
living support is given on the basis of the personal characteristics, circumstances and requirements of
persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links
between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to empower
and promote economic inclusion of all, irrespective of disability status.
Country Care Review:
Thailand

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**Acronyms and Abbreviations:**

- **CEDAW**  Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- **CRC**    Convention on the Rights of the Child/Committee on the Rights of the Child
- **CRPD**   Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- **ICCRP**  International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- **ICESCR** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- **OPAC to CRC** Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
- **UN**     United Nations
- **UPR**    Universal Periodic Review