



21 March 2025

Statement of the Migrant Working Group (MWG)

Thai government urged to urgently find a solution to the impending closure of a migrant learning center which can lead to violations of children's rights and the principle of the best interests of the child

In its a press conference on 17 March 2025, the Phuket Provincial Authority ordered a migrant children learning center in Mueang District, Phuket Province to suspend its teaching pending the verification of the ID cards of the parents of more than 300 migrant children who are Myanmar nationals, as well as the verification of the legal status of the learning center. This has as a result affected migrant children, most of whom are dependents of migrant workers who come to work in Phuket Province, and deprived them of access to education during the age when children should have access to education.

The closure of the learning center reflects the neglect of serious problem-solving in promoting migrant children in the area to ensure their access to the education system, the right of which is guaranteed in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560's Section 54, which states that "The State shall ensure that every child receives quality education for twelve years from pre-school to the completion of compulsory education free of charge. " It also a breach to the international human rights conventions that Thailand has signed on to, namely the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1990 World Declaration on Education for All and Framework (EFA), the Dakar Framework of Action, the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth and a Cabinet Resolution on the Provision of Education for Unregistered Persons or Non-Thai Nationals, allowing them to attend school even without any personal documents. However, due to obstacles to accessing the state education system, such as the number of students, the ages, the languages, or the personal documents of the children, state schools are unable to accommodate migrant children in their entirety. Learning centers for migrant children therefore plays a role in supporting this group of children, providing them with educational care and helping to protect them, as well as helping the state to ease the burden of education management. However, at present, it is still not possible to register a learning center for migrant children due to certain limitations, such as the applicant to provide such education must be a Thai national, the personnel responsible for teaching must be Thai nationals, and the core curriculum of the Ministry of Education must be used in teaching and learning, etc.

The Migrant Working Group (MWG) urges the government to adhere to the principle of the best interests of the child to ensure a compliance with Thailand's statement to help promote the work of the UN Human Rights Council towards a truly improved human rights situation. Closing the migrant children learning center will put Thailand in the international spotlight for failing to act in compliance with its statements to the international community and its international obligations. Therefore, the government should immediately order a halt to the closure of the learning center and urgently conduct a survey of learning centers nationwide to ensure their registration with the Ministry of Education to develop appropriate educational management, along with allowing schools in all areas to accept students according to the Ministry of Education regulations, including cooperation between schools and learning centers to prepare children who are not yet able to communicate in Thai well.

Since an education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world.

With respect in human rights and human dignity

Migrant Working Group (MWG)

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