

# THAILAND

Thailand is a monarchy located in Asia, with a population of approximately 71 million and Bangkok as its capital. UNHCR estimates that around 110,000 people seeking refuge are currently present in Thailand, constituting roughly 0.1% of the total population, mainly fleeing from Myanmar.

## Negotiation guidelines

Thailand has not signed or ratified the Refugee Convention. The country argues that individuals seeking refuge in camps should be recognized as refugees, but those who leave these camps to enter the country are considered illegal immigrants. Thailand has also reserved Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides special protection to children seeking refuge, citing incompatibility with their laws, including the view that individuals seeking refuge outside of camps are considered illegal immigrants. As a MUN participating university student from Thailand, you could ally with Australia, which shares similar positions on several issues. In the SRHR for youth issue, you could also work with Ethiopia and Colombia. Regarding the right to complain to the UN, you could collaborate with Lebanon.

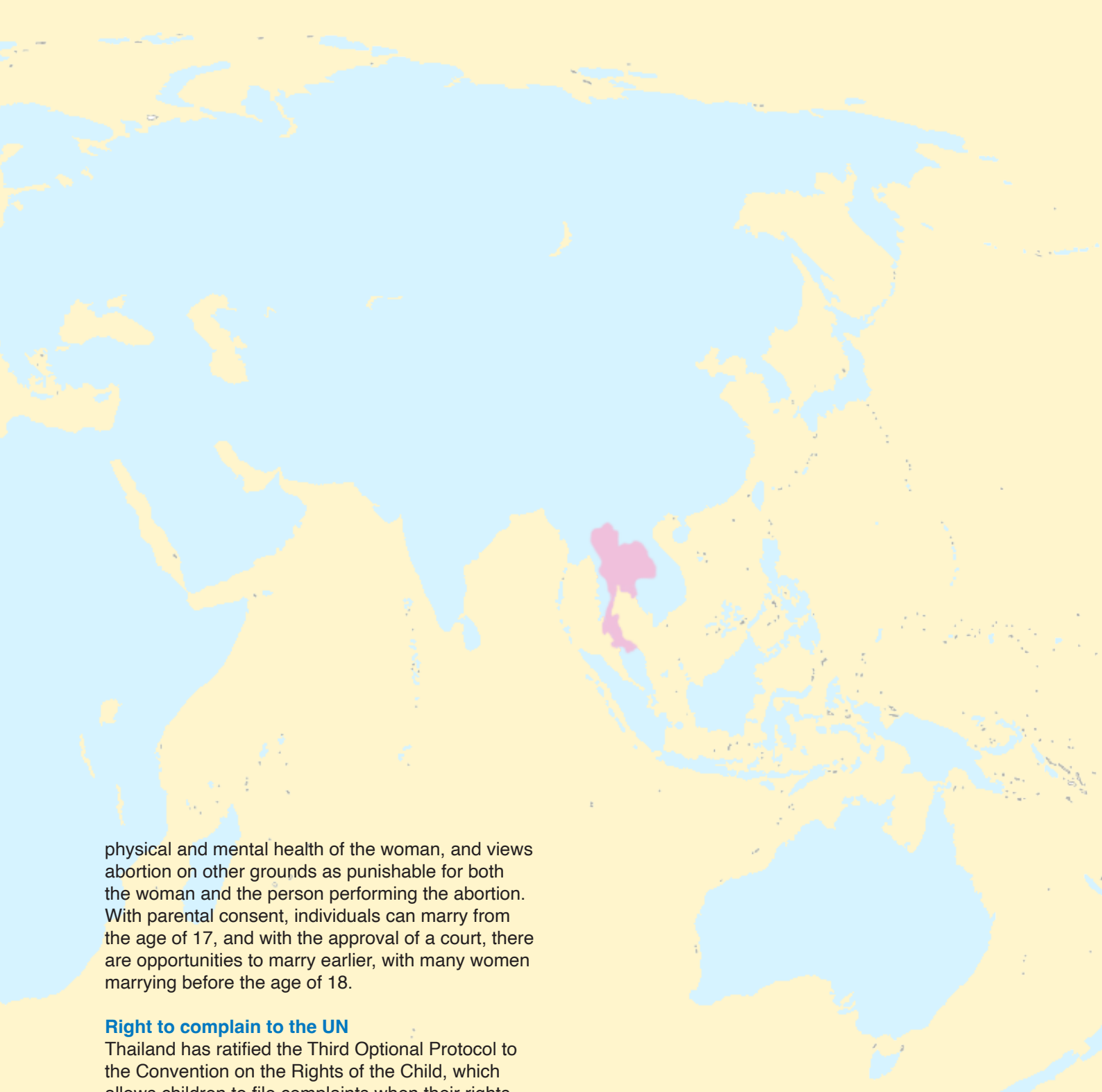
## Family reunification

Family reunification is a significant challenge in Thailand, and the country prefers refugees to return to their countries of origin to be reunited with their families. Although Thai laws protecting children apply to all children, refugees and asylum

seekers have limited access to society, including humanitarian aid, protection, and support, with some exceptions for children. Historically, Thailand has received criticism for detaining refugees, including children, for extended periods, but the country has taken measures in recent years, particularly towards not detaining children seeking refuge, and placing them with foster families instead. However, alternatives to detention remain limited, and projects in collaboration with UNHCR are underway to find more effective alternatives.

## Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Thailand has been successful in providing SRHR services to young people compared to other countries in the region, with most childbirths attended by skilled healthcare personnel, and relatively high access to contraceptives. However, Thailand considers food, education, and shelter to be more important than meeting the needs of children on the move in this regard, despite receiving criticism for detaining children seeking refuge without their parents in the same facilities as adults, putting them at risk of sexual violence. Thailand allows abortion only in cases of rape or to protect the



physical and mental health of the woman, and views abortion on other grounds as punishable for both the woman and the person performing the abortion. With parental consent, individuals can marry from the age of 17, and with the approval of a court, there are opportunities to marry earlier, with many women marrying before the age of 18.

#### **Right to complain to the UN**

Thailand has ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allows children to file complaints when their rights are violated, and has a standing invitation to UN special rapporteurs. Thailand believes that a special rapporteur for children on the move would be a good idea if this person scrutinizes both rich and poor countries equally.

For the latest statistics from UNHCR, please visit our website with an updated set of links.

