



ศูนย์ประสานงาน (Secretariat office):

เครือข่ายเด็กและเยาวชนต้นกล้าชนเผ่าพื้นเมือง /Ton-Kla Indigenous Children and Youth Network (TKN)  
252 หมู่ 2 ต.สันทรายน้อย อ.สันทราย จ.เชียงใหม่ 50210, Email: networktkn@gmail.com

## **The statement of the Ton Kla<sup>1</sup> Indigenous Children and Youth Network (TKN), Thailand.**

### **Background**

The Ton Kla Indigenous Children and Youth Network (TKN) was established as a result of the strengthening indigenous children and youth to learn their languages and cultures through the support of the Inter-Mountain People's Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT) and Promoting Child Rights to Participation, a joint operating project of the Life Skills Development Foundation, Foundation of Applied Linguistic and IMPECT since 2013. The network held its first assembly on May 4-6, 2016, at the Bhodi Vijalaya College of Srinakharinwirot University, Maesod district of Tak province. Its members comprise diverse groups of indigenous children and youth representatives such as Akha, Black Tai, Dara-Ang, Hmong, H'tin, Kachin, Karen, Khamu, Kui, Lahu, Lao-Khrang, Lao-Vieng, Lisu, Lwua, Mlabri, Mlayu, Mon, and Shan from different ethnic groups and communities in Thailand. Currently, TKN comprises 632 members throughout country-wide.

### **Concerning situations and challenges to indigenous children to fully exercise their rights in Thailand are as follows.**

1. There are still a high number of many ethnic and indigenous children who lack proper legal status and/or nationality that hinder them to access fundamental rights such as name and identity, social welfare, traveling, education, and career advancement as the Thai national.
2. Most ethnic and indigenous children are serving with irrelevant education curriculum against their culture, history, heritage, and wisdom.
3. Indigenous children and youths who studied in higher education and live-in city environment are easily access to multimedia and technological entertainment sources which led to risky behaviors such as computer games, gambling, alcohol drinking that seemed to be irresponsible person, isolation, less engage with community activities resulting to mental health deterioration and less empowerment.
4. Many ethnic and indigenous children are taking care of by their elderly generation which likely to be a negative factor for adolescent pregnancy and become young parents, many bio-parents went to work in town and leave them with fragile families.

### **Recommendations:**

We urge Royal Thai Government to consider the followings recommendations.

1. Providing child-friendly reaching out services to enhance legal status of ethnic and indigenous children, these include effective and in-time documenting process, so we can access human identity, social welfare, traveling, education, and career advancement as the Thai national.
2. Include relevant context of ethnic and indigenous culture, history, heritage, and wisdom, in-state school local curriculum, and providing in our communities.
3. Promote and facilitate the meaningful participation platforms for ethnic and indigenous engagement in the decision-making process with school, community, involving organizations, and public wide.

We urge the Royal Thai Government to put its serious effort to consider our Child Rights without exclusion and discriminatory view.

### **On behalf of the Ton Kla Indigenous Children and Youth Network**

Signed: 

(Miss Ngoen Lahwan)

President

June 25, 2021

Signed: 

(Miss Pinsuda Namkaew)

Vice President

June 25, 2021

<sup>1</sup> Ton Kla means seeding.

