



case study

Australian Aid | **ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking**

Thailand's Blueprint for people-centric courts

For survivors of trafficking and other victim-based crime, courtrooms can be intimidating spaces that risk retraumatisation and discourage participation in legal processes. Thailand's Office of the Judiciary is leading a reform to make justice services more accessible and supportive. Launched in 2025, the Blueprint Project redesigns courtroom environments to prioritise dignity, safety, and inclusion.

Achievements

Thailand's Blueprint Project represents a significant step forward in embedding trauma-informed and universal design principles into the judicial system. The initiative led by the Court of Justice in partnership with Bangkok University's Faculty of Architecture and supported by the Australian Government through the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking program, reflects a growing recognition that the design and physical environment of justice spaces can profoundly influence the experience of justice seekers.

The Blueprint will be piloted in first-instance courts in Bangkok, with expert recommendations offering both minimal-cost adaptations and an ideal model showcasing full-resource possibilities.

Thailand's initiative builds on international precedents, such as trauma-informed courtrooms in Canada and child-friendly courts in the Netherlands, but goes further by tailoring designs to local community needs. It offers a replicable model for other ASEAN Member States seeking scalable, victim-centred justice reforms.

Participatory design methods were applied by Bangkok University's Faculty of Architecture, involving survivors, persons with disabilities, and justice sector stakeholders in co-design workshops.

Key features of the Blueprint include:

- Separate waiting areas for victims/witnesses and defendants to reduce re-traumatisation and intimidation.
- Child-friendly zones and accessibility enhancements to foster psychological safety and inclusivity.
- Use of technology with remote testimony and digital case management to modernise proceedings while preserving a supportive atmosphere and integrity of the judicial process.
- Spatial reconfiguration to reduce high-tension interactions, such as victim-defendant proximity, while maintaining judicial efficiency.

