

SDG REPORT



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY 2022 – 2023



GENDER EQUALITY

5

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- ◆ CEWSS Jointly Organizing Women Empowerment Program: Accession to Justice and Economic Self-Reliance in COVID-19 Pandemic
- ◆ Equality and Non-Discrimination for LGBTQ+ Group at the Walailak Community

Walailak University Recognizes the Rights of Women in Leadership Roles



A move forward in an integrated and inclusive way on being an equal university for all must cover all dimensions of diversity. Walailak University never ignores the rights of women in the Walailak community to express their voices and opinions. The university always realizes the roles of women in administrating and directing the university's decisions on all issues. Since the foundation of the university, women staff have held high positions at the university, including Vice-Chairman, Vice-President, Assistants to the President, Directors, Divisional Directors, Deans, and Faculty Members Committee.

All women staff in the high governing body continually have their own rights to express their opinions and thoughts on the university's decision-making. They also are the role models for the next generation of women who will be part of the high governing body of Walailak University. Women and men staff at the university are equally paid without any gender pay gap. Walailak University will always empower women to pursue higher positions and destroy all barriers, including cultural norms, lack of role models and gender prejudices. In 2022, the female-male ratio was 3:1 indicating that Walailak University never prevented women from working in the Walailak community.



CEWSS Jointly Organizing Women Empowerment Program: Accession to Justice and Economic Self-Reliance in COVID-19 Pandemic

The Center of Excellence on Women and Social Security (CEWSS), Walailak University in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Thailand and the Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University (Pattani Campus) organized a project to empower women's access to justice and economic self-reliance in the COVID-19 pandemic on the topic "Ending Domestic Violence and Empowering Women in the Upper Southern Region". The project was organized particularly for SDG 5: Gender Equality to improve the quality of life and equality among women.



During the event, there were lectures and exchanges on ending legal challenges and best practices. The topics discussed at the event are as follows:

- ◆ "The rights of women, children and family members in the case of violence"
- ◆ "Hospital work and helping victims of domestic violence cases"





◆ “A Lawyer’s Perspective on the Process of Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence Cases”

◆ “The legality of women and violence, a case study of the legal framework of Thailand”

Through the discussions and exchanges on these issues, participants gained knowledge and guidelines on how to deal with violence, as well as supporting the important forces in helping the front-line work at a greater community level.

In addition, Walailak University, through the Center of Excellence on Women and Social Security, adopted all the insights and knowledge from the event to disseminate to Walailak students and staff by creating educational media, teaching, and providing schemes and outreach. This knowledge will be a fundamental issue for Walailak University in creating policies on women encompassing all dimensions of SDG 5: Gender Equality.



One of the policies showing non-discrimination among transgenders students is dressing in uniforms and graduation gowns that align with their gender identity. According to the Notification of Walailak University on the Guidelines for LGBTQ+ Students in Wearing Uniforms and Graduation Gowns, Walailak University has allowed LGBTQ+ students to wear uniforms corresponding to their gender identity. Those LGBTQ+ students who want to wear uniforms and graduation gowns in the graduation ceremony can fill out the form on the request to wear uniforms and graduation gowns corresponding to gender identity and submit it to the Division of Student Support and Development.



Equality and Non-Discrimination for LGBTQ+ Group at the Walailak Community

Each year, Walailak students in the LGBTQ+ community face off in a beauty competition where they match wits, walk runways, flaunt their style, and unveil their special abilities in the hopes of being crowned Miss Ladyboy. This competition falls under the umbrella of the Division of Student Support and Development, which serves as the platform reflecting the identity of LGBTQ+ students at WU. Speaking of beauty pageants, people mostly think about women and men. Thus, this competition is set to ensure that LGBTQ+ rights are recognized in the Walailak community, where they have equal dignity and humanity as women and men.

In the competition, all LGBTQ+ students receive chances to show their ability and potential in various aspects like other women and men do, including art performance, public speaking, singing, dancing, monologue, playing instruments, and so on. WU believes that part of the appeal of the competition is giving the LGBTQ+ community at Walailak University a platform to speak about themselves and gender equality.

Walailak University is regarded as one of the most LGBTQ+ friendly universities in Thailand. The fact that LGBTQ+ rights are not recognized in educational settings is what WU disagrees with, as society recognizes gender equality, non-discrimination, the right to life, the right to privacy, freedom of religion, association, and expression. The university ensures a supportive environment for LGBTQ+ students at WU to carry on their university life without pressure and with freedom of expression.

