THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS, INCLUDING COVID-19

Protecting Your Community

• All people - women, girls, men and boys - shall be treated with respect, dignity and without discrimination based on sex, age, ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender identity, disability, migratory or other status.

• Officers shall prevent, investigate and make arrests in cases of sexual and physical violence against women and children and refer survivors to the appropriate health and social services.

• Officers play a vital role in providing peace and security. Maintaining the rule of law during health crises and emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, will ensure the cooperation of communities and reduce the impact of the pandemic.

Maintaining Ethical Standards

• Sexual activity between officers and persons under the age of 18 is not permitted.

• Exchange of money, goods, benefits or services for sex, or other forms of discriminatory, humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour, is prohibited.

• Body searches, including temperature checks, of women or girls shall be done by female officers and conducted in a respectful manner.

• Children shall be treated with sensitivity and not be subjected to intrusive screening methods. If the physical search of a child is deemed necessary, a parent or legal guardian must be present.

• If children are separated from their caregivers, child protection/social welfare authorities shall be immediately informed to find an appropriate safe placement.

Principles in Cases of Deprivation of Liberty

• Officers shall prevent overcrowding at their duty stations to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases, such as COVID-19, in accordance with respective protocols/guidance established by the Ministry of Health and local authorities.

• Children should not be deprived of their liberty. Deprivation of liberty should only be used as a last resort, in exceptional circumstances, for the shortest possible time and be subject to review.

• If children are detained, they shall be separated from other adults, unless it is in their best interests to be held with parents/caregivers, and shall be protected from all forms of violence.

• Children should not be detained for violations of curfew, containment, quarantine, and other measures in place for health crises, like COVID-19.

• Women and girls deprived of liberty shall be supervised by female officers and put in custody separately from men.

• Pregnant and nursing women, and mothers accompanied by young children, shall be provided appropriate and separate facilities.

To report cases of violence, you can contact:
One Stop Crisis Center hotline: 1300
บทบาทหน้าที่การบังคับใช้กฎหมายในการปกป้องสุขภาพและสิทธิที่ช่วยชีวิตผู้มีสิทธิในการสื่อสารร่วมกัน (One Stop Crisis Center) โทร. 1300