***NOTE: THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MANDATE HOLDER WILL BE MADE PROVIDED   
THE MANDATE ITSELF IS EXTENDED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.***

***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 17 OCTOBER 2019 AT 12:00 noon GREENWICH MEAN TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/283689*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/283689)*)*

*and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx)*)*

* *Once fully completed, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)
* *A maximum of up to three optional reference letters may be attached to the email (in Word or pdf format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g. CVs, resumes or supplementary reference letters) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants will receive an acknowledgment email when both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by the Secretariat. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.*
* *Please note that an application will only be considered if both parts and all sections of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.***
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx)
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (*[*hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** Neelapaijit | **5. Year of birth:** 1956 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Angkhana | **6. Place of birth:** Bangkok |
| **3. Other name, if any:** Not Applicable | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** THAI |
| **4. Gender:** Female | **8. Any other nationality:** Not applicable |

**II. MANDATE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** (200 words)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.)**

I served as a Human Rights Commissioner to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT), from November 2015 to July 2019. During my tenure, I led the NHRCT’s work on areas related to civil and political rights, protection of HRDs, torture and prevention, women’s human rights and gender equality, and conducted regular monitoring of detention facilities. I am an important voice for the protection and promotion of HRDs in Thailand. My human rights career began in 2004, when I became a WHRD after the disappearance of my beloved husband. Since then, I have dedicated my life to human rights, opended the Justice for Peace Foundation, and have been conducting human rights monitoring, investigations, evidence-based documentation, coupled with excellent communication in English.

Furthermore, I received prestigious recognition awarding my dedication to human rights protection: the May 18 Foundation Kwangju Prize for Human Rights (2006), EU's Women Human Rights Defenders Award (2006), UN Women's Women of Achievement Award (2014), and the Ramon Magsaysay Award (2019). I am also a recipient of the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand and the "Chevalier De I'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur" from the President of France.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations’ work in the area of human rights. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights. (Please state years of experience.)**

Over the past 15 years, I have acquired in-depth knowledge of international human rights law, standards and obligations, collaborating closely with OHCHR. I have extensive knowledge and experience of institutional mandates of the UN, including both treaty and charter based mechanisms, and have taken part in many expert meetings organised by UN agencies, including OHCHR's Expert Consultation on Effective Practices in Policing and Minority Communities in the Asia-Pacific.

Throughout my human rights career, I have actively participated in Thailand’s UN human rights reviews and directly engaged with the following treaty bodies: CERD, CESCR, CAT, CEDAW, CRPD and the Human Rights Committee. I also participated in Thailand’s UPRs, as an NGO representative in 2011 and as Human Rights Commissioner in 2016. I have also extentively contributed to the NHRCT's reports and NGO shadow reports during my time as the leader of Justice for Peace Foundation (JPF).

Furthermore, I have extentively engaged with UN Special Procedures, by submitting information and complaints to the UNSRs on freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, human rights defenders; and I have recently egaged with the WGBHR for their official visit to Thailand in April 2018. JPF has also been working very closely with WGEID.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200 words)

**Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired.)**

At the national level, I have established myself as a frontline Woman Human Rights Defender since the disappearance of Mr. Somchai Neelapaijit in January 2004, my beloved husband and a prominent human rights lawyer in Thailand. In 2009, I opened Justice for Peace Foundation, which had become a leading human rights NGO seeking justice and access to remedy for victims of torture and enforced disappearance. I was appointed Member of the Constitution Drafting Assembly in 2007 where I advocated for the adoption of measures to effectively protect of human rights.

At the regional level, I served as board member of the Asian Human Rights Commission, a regional NGO with ECOSOC Consultative Status, as well as with the Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances; both are leading regional human rights NGOs. Further, as a Human Rights Commissioner, I engaged with the Asia Pacific Forum on National Human Rights Institutions and the Southeast Asian National Human Rights Institutions Forums; and I also worked with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

At the international level, I represented the NHRCT at the UN Human Rights Council and have led the NHRCT's delegation during treaty bodies’ reviews, including the 2017's reviews under ICCPR and CEDAW.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please listsignificant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that you have written or public statements, or pronouncements that you have made or events that you may have participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** Enforced Disappearances in Thailand

**Journal/Publisher:** Justice for Peace Foundation

**Date of publication:** May 2012

**Web link, if available:** http://justiceforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Enforced\_Disappearances\_in\_Thailand\_03.pdf

**2. Title of publication:** Women's Access to Justice: Identifying the Obstacles and Need for Change

**Journal/Publisher:** The International Commission of Jurists and Justice for peace Foundation

**Date of publication:** 2012

**Web link, if available:** https://www.icj.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ICJ-JPF-Report-Thailand-Womens-Access-to-Justice-English.pdf

**3. Title of publication:** Priority to Protect and Preventing Children's Association with Village Defence Militia

**Journal/Publisher:** The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and Justice for Peace Foundation

**Date of publication:** March 2011

**Web link, if available:** https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/priority-protect-preventing-childrens-association-village-defence-militias-southern-thailand

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words):

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that you may have participated in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights High Level Dialogue on Managing Freedom of Expression in the Information Age

**Event organizer:** AICHR

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** April 2018

**Web link, if available:** Not Applicable

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Reinforcing Regional Cooperation to Promote Freedom of Expression and the Rule of Law in Asia

**Event organizer:** UNESCO and Ministry of Finance and Mass Media, Sri Lanka

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** December 2017

**Web link, if available:** Not Applicable

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Expert Consultation on Effective Practices in Policing and Minority Communities in Asia-Pacific Region

**Event organizer:** OHCHR

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 30-31 May 2011

**Web link, if available:** Not Applicable

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words):

1. **flexibility/readiness and AVAILABILITY of time** (200 words)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on special procedures visits, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approximately three months per year to the work of a mandate.**

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

I am ready and available to perform the duties of the next Un Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, including all required activities in relation to the mandate of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, including participating in meetings in Geneva and New York, country visits, as well as researching, documenting and producing annual reports. I am accustomed to regular travels as I have done in the past for my human rights work, as well as developing credible, evidence-based human rights reports related to thematic issues or the overall human rights situation on the ground.

As my my term with the NHRCT has ended, I am currently serving an advisorial role in various human rights NGOs. As a result, I will be able to dedicate my time fully to the work of the mandate.

**III. Motivation Letter**(600 word limit, must be included below and not in a separate email or as an attachment)

My life shift from being a professional nurse to becoming a prominent Woman Human Rights Defender in Thailand, after the disappearance of my beloved husband in March 2004, Mr. Somchai Neelapaijit, a human rights lawyer who was abducted by police officers and had never been seen since. He disappeared due to his important role in the defense of human rights as he courageously represented victims of torture and ill-treatments in the conflicted Southern Border Provinces of Thailand.

Since then, I have dedicated my life to the promotion and protection of human rights, seeking justice for HRDs and the most marginalized, fighting impunity and inequality for a peaceful society. I became a critical voice for the victims of disappearance and their families after I founded the Working Group on Justice for Peace (WGJP) in 2006 and Justice for Peace Foundation in 2009. WGJP published the first ever reports on the situation of HRDs in Thailand “Thailand’s Unarmed Heroes: An overview of the Situation of Human Rights Defenders” and “Situation of Enforced Disappearances in Thailand” that brought the issues to national and international attention. My human rights journey has continued throughout these years as I passionately dedicated and keep advocating on behalf of HRDs, in particular WHRDs representing the most marginalised communities in Thailand and in Asia.

Thanks to my objective and impartial voice, I was selected to sit in various Governmental and Independent Committees. In November 2015, I was selected as a National Human Rights Commissioner, my mandate covering Civil and Political Rights and the Situation of Human Rights Defenders. I took my appointment very seriously, committed to take the peaceful, legal approach to fighting human rights abuses, doing what I can in “pushing the limits”, within a seven-member commission in which I was the only one with extensive grassroots human rights defender’s experience. As a Human Rights Commissioner operating under a military junta, I became an inspirational voice for justice and did all I could for the protection of HRDs. I successfully interceded with the authorities for victims and their families to access justice and remedy. I investigated a lot of cases of W/HRDs in Thailand and released a series of reports with recommendations to the Cabinet, relevant ministries and the parliament to protect HRDs from all kind of human rights violations. During my investigative fact-finding missions, I always maintain professional relationship with the government, the military, the police and all stakeholders, grounded on mutual respect. I also raised the concern on situation of WHRDs regarding the sexual harassment, bulling and threats their face for the work their do to protect women’s rights or LGBTs rights.

After 3 years 8 months as Human Rights Commissioner, working under pressure, I realized earlier this year that I could no longer work independently, impartially and with integrity. I therefore resigned from the NHRCT and I am back to my roots, standing freely with people who are suffering.

My extensive human rights work of more than 15 years testifies my conviction in the protection of human rights as well as is proof that my independence, impartiality, and integrity are genuine. This experience will be invaluable for the work as an independent human rights expert of the Human Rights Council.

Finally, I humbly received prestigious recognition awarding my dedication to human rights protection: the May 18 Foundation Kwangju Prize for Human Rights (2006), The Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019.

I believe that my human rights experience, dedication and motivation to support the work of all human rights defenders in the world will grant me the opportunity to serve as the UNSR on the Situation of HRDs.

**IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)**

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **Thai**

**2. Knowledge of the official languages of the United Nations:**

**Arabic:** Yes or no:If yes,

**Read:** Easily orNot easily:   
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Speak:** Easily or Not easily:

**Chinese:** Yes or no:If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**English:** Yes or no: **Yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Easily**

**French:** Yes or no:If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Russian:** Yes or no:If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Spanish:** Yes or no:If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating type of degree, subject, and whether full or part-time, ex. *Masters in law, University of xxx, part-time)*.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003): | **Place and country:** |
| Honorary Doctorate Degree in Human Rights, College of Governance and Politics, Mahasarakham University | 2017 | Mahasarakham, Thailand |
| Training on Prevention of Genocide, Aushwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the UN Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretarey-General on the Prevention of Genocide and the Resposibility to Protect, part-time | 2016 | Orwiecim, Poland |
| Postgraduate Certificate, Advanced Certificate Course in Promotion of Peaceful Society, King Prajadhipok’s Institute, Thailand | .2008-2009 | Bangkok, Thailand |
| Bachelor's Degree in Nursing Science, full-time | 1976-1980 | Bangkok, Thailand |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with your current occupation.** **Also indicate whether positions held were not full-time.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,**  **functional title,**  **main functions of position, full or part-time:** | **Years of work** (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005): | **Place  and country:** |
| National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, Commissioner, Full-Time | November 2015 to July 2019 | Bangkok, Thailand |
| Jury Committee of Isa Award for Service of Humanity, Member, Part-time | 2015-2017 | Bahrain |
| Asian Human Rights Commission, Board of Directors, Part-time | 2013-2015 | Hong Kong |
| Justice for Peace Foundation, Chairperson and Founder, Full-time | 2009 to November 2015 and August 2019 to present | Bangkok, Thailand |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.**

No

**2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

No

**3. Is there any reason, currently or in the past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which the candidate discharges the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

No

**4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1? (Please answer YES if the candidate complies, NO if the candidate does not comply, together with an explanation.)**

***Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected.***

***Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity.***

Yes

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, the candidate will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures the candidate will take.**

The candidate will take necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that there will not be conflict of interest.

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and are made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.  
  
Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the secretariat by   
email (**[**hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org**](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)**).**

**Please review your application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:** Angkhana Neelapaijit

**Date:** 17 October 2019

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1. The short **online survey** is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity. The same name, gender and nationality should be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The **application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the form). The application form should be completed in English only. It will be used as received to prepare the public list of candidates who applied for the vacancy. The candidate’s application form will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)