



Women Peace Network

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Statement on International Women's Day | March 8, 2021

For Our Fight for Gender Equality, Justice, and Peace

On International Women's Day, we honor the women who have fought for gender equality, justice, and peace throughout our history. Boldly and bravely, these women have fought for our rights to be respected, justice to be served, and our future generations to turn hate into compassion. Across land and sea, they have taught us that gender equality, justice, and peace are fundamental to a world for all people. We are here today because of our women's collective fight.

In this fight, we recognize our fellow women for raising their voices for human rights and risking their lives for democracy. Since the Myanmar military's coup on February 1, our country's women have led mass movements of civil disobedience for our future generations to live with full equality and self-determination. Flying their htamein nationwide, our women leaders are exercising their fundamental freedoms to fight against a military that has institutionalized patriarchy among its ranks. Together, in our fight, we continue to denounce this military for its brutality.

In turn, emboldened by torturing our ethnic minority women with decades-long impunity, the Myanmar military is now killing, assaulting, and arbitrarily arresting our women protesters without restraint. Left unchecked, the security forces will continue to intensify their violence fueled by raping our Rohingya women, murdering their loved ones, and expelling them from their home for years. If no action is taken against this military, our country's future generations will never achieve universal enjoyment of peace, human rights, and democracy.

Our International Women's Day continues beyond this day. While the whole world watches, we will boldly and bravely fight to break this vicious cycle of impunity enjoyed by those in power. With our fellow women, Women's Peace Network will take action to ensure that the Myanmar military is held accountable for dehumanizing our people. Amplifying our voices together, we will carry the torch of our women for a world where gender equality, justice, and peace will become the norm. When our rights are respected, justice is served, and compassion prevails, we will win this fight -- once and for all.