



Ministry of
Women
Youths and
Children Affairs

Joint Statement in Celebration of the Pride Month

In celebration of the Pride Month, The Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs and Ministry of Human Rights of the National Unity Government today releases the *Situation Report of the LGBTIQs after the Military Coup in Myanmar*. This report draws attention to the situation of LGBTIQ activists who are killed, arrested and tortured for their participation in the peaceful protests and some of the challenges the LGBTIQ people are facing under the ongoing violence by the military.

This report is based on the first-hand testimonies the LGBTIQs as well as information provided by many sources. Since the beginning of the coup in Myanmar, LGBTIQ people have been actively participating in anti-coup protests, demonstrations and civil disobedience movement (CDM). LGBTIQ groups throughout Myanmar actively participated under rainbow flags as front-liners at every stage of the revolution. The visibility of the community leads to highlighting the diversity and inclusivity of the people against the coup. As crackdowns, violence against and torture of pro-democracy activists and civilians intensified within the past few months, many LGBTIQs across Myanmar faced severe human rights violations. The situation has severely deteriorated for the human rights defenders and activists including LGBTIQs.

Reports from LGBTIQ civil society organizations corroborate that there are (12) cases of LGBTIQ fatalities, with (73) being arrested and/or charged under 505 (a), (65) still being detained, and (28) either in hiding or having fled to non-SAC controlled areas. Reliable sources indicate that gay people and transgender women are predominantly at the top of the chart of most cases of human rights abuses and violations committed against the LGBTIQ.

This report also emphasizes the barriers and challenges faced by the LGBTIQs under military rule. Documented challenges include access to justice by some LGBTIQs in areas outside of cities, access to health care, particularly Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) during detention, and shortage or cessation of service of HIV healthcare services and facilities across the country.

The military coup has unreservedly shrunk civic space for most civil society organizations to operate. Despite previously existing laws not prescribing mandatory requirements of legal registrations of non-governmental organizations, LGBTIQ human rights organizations cannot conduct activities freely at all national and sub-national levels.

The National Unity Government calls on **governments and UN human rights mechanisms** to support and engage with the NUG and recognize their work on protection and promotion of human rights for the people inclusive of the LGBTIQ community. The NUG also calls on these actors to keep amplifying the voices from Myanmar and to keep the struggle visible in the UN human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, UN General Assembly, and the UN Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Further, the NUG calls on governments to support a call to referral of the Myanmar situation to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to establish a coordinated arms embargo against the Myanmar military, as well as targeted sanction against the military's businesses. Support for Myanmar LGBTIQs is also needed; we call for support in monitoring, documenting and reporting of human rights violations and gender-based violence of LGBTIQ people in Myanmar and support for general funding and technical assistance to LGBTIQ groups.

Ministry of Human Rights and Ministry of Women, Youths and Children Affairs

National Unity Government

Dated 30 June 2021