

Press release: Urgent international action to implement Women, Peace, and Security agenda needed to resolve crisis in Myanmar and its devastating effects on the lives of gender and sexual minorities

Myanmar's human rights and humanitarian catastrophe is preventing the full, equal, safe, and inclusive participation of women and LGBTQ+ members in peace and state-building efforts, says Women's Peace Network (WPN) in its new briefing paper, "[The situation of Women, Peace, and Security in Myanmar.](#)"

The paper addresses the dire situation of sexual and gender minorities, particularly women and girls, during the nearly four-year period since the Burmese military's February 1, 2021 attempted coup. It draws attention to the military's arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, sexual and gender-based violence, forced recruitment, killing, airstrikes and ground attacks, all of which have disproportionately targeted women and children. It also analyzes how such conditions have aggravated the economic and livelihood conditions of this group, in particular through denial of full and unfettered humanitarian access, forced displacement in Myanmar, and mass exodus of civilians to precarious conditions across South and Southeast Asia.

As the paper emphasizes, Myanmar's deteriorating human rights and humanitarian catastrophe have obstructed avenues for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of all people of Myanmar. Despite the barriers. Myanmar women - including women human rights defenders, women politicians, and women resistance fighters - have made unparalleled contributions in advancing the pro-democracy movement. The paper highlights these women's critical work, ranging from leading local humanitarian relief efforts to building emerging governance structures essential to the country's inclusive, federal democracy.

"Women in Myanmar have led the nationwide, people-led resistance against the junta, sacrificing everything to overcome life-threatening threats against them because of who they are and what they do. For my fellow ethnic and religious minority women, this struggle has been going on for generations due to the Burmese military's decades-long atrocities targeted at us. It is past time the international community takes action," says Wai Wai Nu, WPN's Founder and Executive Director.

WPN also highlights measures for comprehensively resolving the Myanmar crisis, including by dismantling the various barriers to women's full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation in the country's present and future. Specific recommendations are provided to United Nations (UN) Member States and donor governments, the UN Secretariat and the UN System, and the UN Security Council.

Wai Wai Nu says: **"As I told the Security Council's open debate on WPS today, as a civil society speaker, addressing the root causes of conflict is vital for ensuring women's full participation in Myanmar's future, and when the key perpetrators of decades of atrocities remain unpunished, impunity is the root cause. The Security Council, UN and all stakeholders must do everything to end all forms of impunity in Myanmar starting today, as a fundamental step to building the conditions necessary for the effective implementation of the WPS agenda."**

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