

Adopting a 'people-centered approach' to the prevention of violence against women

December 10, 2020

The union minister, Dr. Win Myat Aye, stated that the government is implementing a people-centered activity to prevent violence against women.

The union minister made this statement at the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence online conference on November 25, 2020. Dr. Win Myat Aye said that working towards the development of women, who account for more than half of Myanmar's population, and protecting them from violence, would have impacts on the overall development and violence prevention process of all citizens.

He said that a law on the prevention of violence against women has been drafted to provide more legal protection for women who have experienced violence. Further, he stated that efforts would be made to enact the law as soon as possible after discussions in parliament. This year's theme for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



STOP



Photo : Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Myanmar Facebook

is: "Response to violence against women; let's collect data to have a separate fund." He reminded people to support funding for the prevention of violence against women in various sectors, and that essential services were needed for victims of gender-based violence.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said the empowerment of women is becoming more important, as the Union Treaty provides for the inclusion of at least 30% of women in all sectors for gender equality, and he urged all organizations working with the government to do more to ensure equal development for all women, including ethnic women, in the border areas.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mswrrmyanmar/posts/1850287405120876>



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What are the reasons for the low level of women's participation in Myanmar politics?

December 15, 2020

The factors that contribute to women's low level of participation in Myanmar's politics were described as follow:

- Women are less engaged in politics and have less confidence to become politicians than men.
- Cultural norms restrict women's travel, especially at night.
- Time constraints on women, due to the expectation that they perform 'their' household chores and childcare responsibilities, regardless of their paid work or political activities.
- Institutional factors at the union, state/region, and local levels of Myanmar politics, which favour men, relative to women.
- Most political parties do not take strong steps to promote women's participation.
- Several legacies of military rule from the 1960s-2010s – e.g. a general militarisation of public space, an 'incumbent effect' for senior positions in the civil service and local leadership, as opposition to political leadership was dangerous; and therefore, it was seen as particularly unsuitable for women. For example, roles of ward and village tract administrators, and 100 household head have a strong focus on security provision.

The factors above were highlighted in the "Gender and Political Participation in Myanmar" synthesis report published by the Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF). The synthesis report covered the following topics: i) why Gender inequality in Political Participation matters; ii) women's and men's level of



participation in Myanmar politics; iii) factors that shape women's and men's opportunities to participate in Myanmar politics; iv) the role of political parties and other governance institutions in promoting or limiting gender equality in political participation; v) the costs and benefits of running for election and being a leader; and vi) key recommendations. The full research report can be downloaded from the EMReF website www.emref.org.

Shwe Lay

Publication of policy brief to pave the way for women's participation in politics and leadership

December 14, 2020

A policy brief was published by Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF) to pave the way for women's participation in politics and leadership.

This policy brief was written on topics such as why women need to be involved in politics, why women are underrepresented in Myanmar politics, and how women's political participation should be promoted.

The policy brief proposed three key recommendations for women's political and leadership participation. These recommendations are: 1) at least 30% of women candidates should be included in the party's central committee and their decision-making practices, working



committee, and the selection of elected candidates; 2) more women should be included in public

mobilization methods for women parliamentary candidates, financial and monetary capacity building, policy proposals, and activities to enhance access to technology; 3) to pave the way for women's participation in community leadership and to reduce the barriers that inhibit women's participation (eg; security, gender-based violence, etc).

It also provided detailed recommendations about how to use quota system to increase women's participation in leadership roles. The briefing paper "Paving the way for women's participation in politics and leadership for balanced and inclusive development," is available for free download at www.shorturl.at/afCKS.

Shwe Lay

Women won the most seats in the NLD and SNLD in the 2020 General Election

December 18, 2020

Among all political parties, women won the most seats in the National League for Democracy (NLD) and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) in the 2020 General Election.

Women candidates won 167 seats in the NLD in the election. In the 2015 election, 134 women won seats, thus the number increased by more than 30 seats in the 2020 election. A total of 920 seats were won, with 167 women represented. Women candidates for the SNLD won 13 of 42 seats, thus they represented more than 29% of the seats.

In addition, women won seats in the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) with three seats; the Rakhine National Party (ANP) won four seats; the Kayah

State Democratic Party (KySDP) won two seats; the Mon Unity Party (MUP), the Zomi Congress for Democracy, and the Pa-O National League won one seat each. In total, 194 seats were won by women, including 167 from the NLD and 27 from other parties, and individual parties. In the 2015 election, 151 women candidates won seats, thus the number of seats won by women increased by more than 40 in this election.

In the 2020 election, women won more seats in the state and region parliaments. After the 2015 election, there was 13% women's participation in the parliament. According to the results of the 2020 election, there will be 17% women's participation in parliament.

Source: BBC Burmese

<https://www.bbc.com/burmese/burma-55028420>

Rakhine ethnic woman, Daw Htoot May, becomes Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of Yangon Region



Photo : Htoot May Facebook

December 16, 2020

According to the results of the 2020 election, an ethnic Rakhine woman, Daw Htoot May, became the Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister in Yangon Region under the new government.

Daw Htoot May competed as an independent candidate in the election, and she won more than 41% of the votes. Daw Htoot May contested a seat in the Rakhine National Party in the 2015 election and served in the Amyotha Hluttaw for five years.

Daw Htoot May told the media that she wanted to prioritize the education sector. In addition, she said she will focus more on women's and children's issues; to improve the quality of working conditions/labour standards for young women, and improve women's lives.

Daw Htoot May said, "The participation of women in Rakhine politics is a promising situation for our state. We must welcome women who are taking the country's duties, and increased women's participation seems to represent women."

She said that she believe if women work together, they could do more to promote peace in the state, and work towards advocating for the

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Photo : Htoot May Facebook

rights of women and children. Daw Htoot May's election promises also include: working for the safety of

Rakhine women, improving life with dignity, and working for a better future for Rakhine children.



Photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris

World Famous Quotes

“What I want young women and girls to know is that you are powerful and your voice matters.”

..... SKamala Harris (Vice President of the United States)

Women representatives will be the first to participate in Kayah State Hluttaw

November 15, 2020

During the previous two terms, there were no elected women representatives in the Kayah State Hluttaw, but in the upcoming Hluttaw, there will be women representatives.

As a result of the 2020 election, two women candidates won (for the first time) in the Kayah State Hluttaw. They are Daw Alvin from the Kayah

State Democratic Party (KySDP), who won in Phuso Township Constituency (2), and Daw Khin Mar Win from the USDP, who won in Shadaw Township Constituency (2).

"I believe that women will have more legal rights than in 2015. The voices of women in parliament will also be stronger", she said.

Although 22 women candidates competed for the Kayah State Hluttaw,

only two won. In Kayah State, six women won in all three houses of parliament. There are three seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw, one in the Amyotha Hluttaw, and two in the State Hluttaw. In both the 2010 and 2015 elections in the Kayah State Hluttaw, no women candidates won seats.

Source: Myanmar Now



Photo: Kayah State Hluttaw Facebook Page