

More than 50 women's rights and gender equality networks/ organizations announced that strongly oppose the current actions of the military, which do not meet democratic standards

February 5, 2021

More than 50 networks/organizations working for women's rights and gender equality issued a statement on February 4, 2020 that have strongly condemned the current actions of the military, which are against the will of majority of the people and do not meet democratic standards.

In addition to objecting this, three points are demanded. These are: call for the immediate release of all detained political leaders and activists without any exception; encourage an immediate dialogue while adopting democratic principles and respecting the desire of the majority people; ask the United Nations and International community to stand with them and support them as they address the present political situations.

The statement maintains that while the country is facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the recent political situation is threatening the economic, physical and emotional security and stability of all people,



Statement on the Current Situation in Myanmar
by Organizations/Networks Working for Women's Rights and Gender Equality

4 February 2021

As organizations/networks dedicated to promoting women's rights and gender equality, we see that the current political situation, during the period that the whole country is facing the Covid-19 pandemic, is threatening the economic, physical and emotional security and stability of all people, including women and children, as well as critically undermining the ongoing process of peacebuilding, democratization and federalism in Myanmar.

In order to advance peace, equality and democracy, it is vital to respect the will and choice of the majority of people. We strongly believe that inclusive dialogue, rather than violence and pressure that are against democratic principles, is the most appropriate way to find solutions while limiting any detriment to the country.

Therefore, we:

- Strongly condemn the actions of the military that are against the will of majority of people;
- Demand the immediate release of all detained political leaders and activists without any exception;
- Encourage an immediate dialogue while adopting democratic principles and respecting the will of the majority of people.
- Encourage the United Nations and International Community to stand with us and support us as we address the present political situation.

Organizations/Networks Working for Women's Rights and Gender Equality (in alphabetical order)

1. Action for Society Holistic Development Organization
2. Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process
3. CEDAW Action Myanmar
4. Cord Myanmar
5. Colors Rainbow
6. Equality Myanmar
7. Enlightened Myanmar Research Organization
8. Farmer Network
9. Farmer's Organization Mohnyin Township
10. Future Star Organization
11. Good Shepherd Myanmar Foundation

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including women and children, as well as critically undermining the ongoing process of peace building, democratization and federalism in Myanmar.

In order to advance peace, equality, and democracy, it is vital to respect the desire and choice of the majority of people, the statement added. The inclusive dialogue,

rather than violence and pressure that are against democratic principles, is the most appropriate way to find solution while limiting any detriment to the country.

The lists of the networks / organizations working on women's issues and gender equality which were participated in this statement are described below.



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

World Famous Quotes

“Womean have value. Women have authority to make decisions about their own lives and their own bodies.”

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

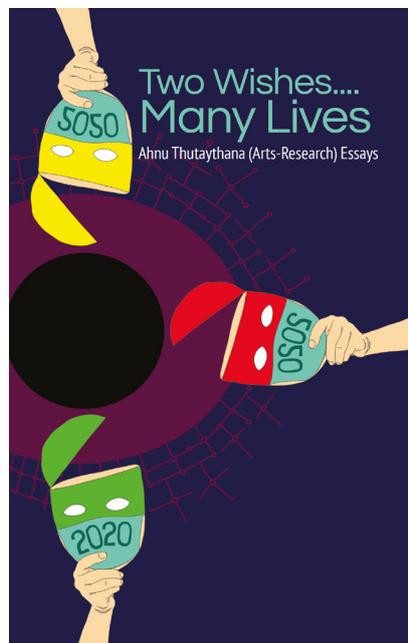
“Two Wishes... Many Lives, and Ahnu Thutaythana Arts-Research Essays”

January 15, 2021

The book “Two Wishes... Many Lives, and Ahnu Thutaythana Arts-Research Essays” which reveals the findings of a rapid assessment of social and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Rakhine State and Paletwa, Chin State, was published by Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF) in December, 2020.

The research was conducted through key informant phone interviews with residents in Sittwe and Kyauktaw townships of Rakhine state, and Paletwa township in Chin state during the second half of August 2020. The comprehensive key findings of the study were written in English, and the main findings of the study were published in the compendium of literary short stories in Burmese, as part of the arts. Main research findings are portrayed in the form of three short fiction stories, and one non-fiction story.

Convergence of Goodness” by



Lu Chi and Thang Sorn highlights the importance of cooperation and communication between the government and civil society organizations in their response to Covid-19. “Tears” by Lu Chi paints a stark portrait of the oppression and difficulties Rohingya, who identify

themselves as Muslims face many challenges, as they are navigating between a pandemic and civil war. Sar Mo's “Bridging the rift” exposes the affects of discrimination on Covid-19 patients and their families through the eyes of a Rakhine family. Thawng Za Pum's non-fiction “Two Wishes.... Many Lives” is a researcher's personal reflection on the daily experiences and feelings of people in the thick of civil wars and COVID-19. Then the detailed recommendations are based upon the key research findings, such as communication and cooperation, community involvement, necessary humanitarian aid, and enhancing people's livelihoods.

According to the editor's note, the book was written with the aim of making human beings aware of art, and the researchers have studied the daily lives of people surviving between military conflict, ethnic conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The book is available for free download at the EMReF website www.emref.org.