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MYANMAR WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK

Statement from the Myanmar Women Parliamentarians Network

“Standing For Democracy, Gender Equality and Human Rights”

Statement 1/2022

Nov 2, 2022

The military’s unlawful coup d’etat illegally detained the nation’s elected representatives, who were democratically elected by the people through the free and fair 2020 Myanmar general election, and the leaders of the country on the 1st of February 2021.

Elected representatives at the national, state and region level stood in solidarity and joined with millions of Myanmar citizens around the country from all walks of life to protest this illegal seizure of power. Women MPs stood in solidarity with ethnic groups and actively supported the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) despite the Junta’s violent reprisals.

Despite the Junta’s brutal crackdown on these peaceful protests by citizens, in October 2021, women MPs from state and regional parliaments came together with women MPs elected to its national parliament. The women MPs shared the common goals of opposing the military dictatorship, securing the restoration of democracy in their country and the establishment of a fully democratic federal state.

Since that time, the women MPs have been convening regular meetings to identify ways to provide assistance to citizens in their communities experiencing the hardship of conflict. In these meetings, the women MPs share advice and suggestions about how to secure aid and support for the people of Myanmar who are suffering great hardship with the continuing violence.

The women MPs continue to make every effort to fulfill their responsibilities as MPs representing the needs of citizens and communities, despite the very real threat of harm from the Junta to themselves and their families.

The MPs have also held learning sessions to gain more knowledge on a variety of topics, including constitutional structures for federal states and effective constitutional guarantees to ensure human rights and gender equality.

After extensive discussion, the women MPs unanimously agreed to formally establish the “Myanmar Women Parliamentarians Network” with the following goals and objectives:

1. To ensure that the valiant contribution of the women of Myanmar during the Spring Revolution is recognized and to represent, nationally and internationally, their political aspirations and the political decision of women by promoting gender equality, diversity, and inclusion.
2. To continue to advocate for the rights of all Myanmar citizens, including ethnic peoples from the Spring Revolution until democracy is restored in Myanmar.
3. To collaborate with the National Unity Government, revolutionary forces (including ethnic groups), civil society organizations both domestic and international, international Parliaments and parliamentary organizations, and other national governments that support the restoration of democracy in Myanmar for the provision of humanitarian aid, and health care and education services for the people of Myanmar.
4. To support humanitarian assistance efforts throughout the nation.
5. To participate and support the drafting of a federal constitution with robust democratic institutions that ensures gender equality is a core value in framing both government structures and the rights of citizens.
6. To make contact with international parliamentary organizations, gender equality and women’s parliamentary committees inform the world parliamentary community about the work of the Myanmar Women Parliamentarians Network in building a more gender equal future for all citizens and to seek advice and support for these efforts
7. To report human rights violations to local and international judicial bodies.

Further, the Myanmar Women Parliamentarians Network invites any women representatives elected at the national, or state and region level who do not support or cooperate with the Military to join as members.

The Network also commits to stand in solidarity with all ethnic people of Myanmar in opposing this deadly military regime that has violated the human rights of its citizens and conducted a campaign of torture and murder.

The Network acknowledges that the rights of citizens from ethnic groups and communities must be recognized and reflected in future government and constitutional structures.

Consequently, as the members of the **Myanmar Women Parliamentarians Network**, we call for support and collaboration for our efforts from the international parliamentary and democracy community.

We call on you to stand with the people of Myanmar and work for the restoration of democracy and the protection of human rights for all Myanmar citizens!

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