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RESILIENCE, RESISTANCE, AND SOLIDARITY: Voices of Myanmar's Women and Minorities

Co-organized by Gender Equality Network, Women's Peace Network, Women's League of Burma, Women, Peace and Security- Myanmar, Women Organizations Network (WON), Global Justice Center, Burma Advocacy Group and New York City Burmese Community

Sponsored by Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS)

Supported by Permanent Mission of Canada, Norway and UK to the UN

Date: 1 October 2025

Time: 4:00 - 7:30 pm

Location: @Ease 605, 605 3rd Ave 7th Floor, New York, NY 10158

Target Audience: UN General Assembly participants, Member States, Participants of High-Level Event on the Rohingya and other Minorities, NGOs, CSOs and WPS advocates and women's rights defenders, democracy activists, policy makers

By invitation and RSVP only

Background and Rationale

The ongoing multifaceted crisis in Myanmar, marked by a military coup, armed conflict, and systematic targeting of ethnic and religious minorities, has created one of the most severe humanitarian and human rights crises in the region. Women, girls, LGBTQ+ persons, people with disabilities, and minority groups have faced disproportionate violence, displacement, and loss of livelihoods. Currently, Myanmar has 3.6 million internally displaced people, and since 2021 there has been a new influx of several million refugees in the Asia-Pacific region and worldwide. Daily atrocities through military offensives—such as aerial bombardments, arson attacks, arbitrary arrests, and torture—are ongoing. The civilian death toll is nearly 7,000.

At the same time, Myanmar's women's organizations, grassroots movements, and diaspora communities have shown extraordinary resilience and are indomitable, providing humanitarian aid, documenting atrocities, advocating for justice, participating in federal nation building process, and preserving ethnic cultural identity.

This event, timed to coincide with the UN General Assembly High-Level Week on Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar, seeks to bring the voices of brave women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals to the international stage, reminding global leaders of their commitments to human rights, accountability, and protection for minorities, on the cusp of the 25th anniversary week of the WPS Framework.

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Objectives

1. Raise awareness about the situation in Myanmar by presenting the lived realities of Myanmar's diverse communities under military rule, especially the experiences of women and marginalized groups.
2. Highlight resilience by showcasing how women's groups, ethnic nationality communities, and ordinary people are organizing, surviving, and resisting despite immense challenges.
3. Foster solidarity with international allies, policymakers, and civil society by providing a space to demonstrate support and write messages of solidarity to people inside Myanmar.
4. Promote accountability for ongoing atrocities by sharing evidence and testimonies of human rights violations, stemming from the political and economic drivers of conflict – both domestic and foreign- that cause conflict-related sexual violence, mass displacement, and airstrikes targeting civilians.
5. Preserve the culture of Myanmar's people by showcasing the ethnic cultural identity, arts, and music of Myanmar's ethnic communities as a form of peaceful resistance.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased visibility of Myanmar's crisis among UN Member States, women peacebuilders, CSOs, NGOs, policy makers, UN agencies and international organizations.
- Strengthened global solidarity for women and minorities in Myanmar.
- Amplified calls for accountability and international action.
- Emotional connection between global decision-makers and Myanmar's affected communities.

Format and Activities

The event will combine art as a medium of sending messages to the world about our conflict dynamics, storytelling, discussion, and an exhibition wall to create an immersive and emotionally engaging experience.

Elements will include:

- Documentary and multimedia screenings highlighting resilience, displacement, and the human cost of the coup.
- Live storytelling panel with persecuted survivors, activists, and leaders from diverse backgrounds who fled to the US for safety.
- Exhibition "World Café" featuring thematic stations on natural resources and political economic drivers of conflict, conflict-related sexual violence, airstrike impacts, internally

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- displaced persons (IDPs), and resource exploitation
- Spoken words, poetry reading, including music and singing revolution songs, traditional cultural displays of ethnic communities.
- Solidarity wall where participants can write messages for women and communities inside Myanmar.

Draft Agenda

4:00 – 4:15 PM – Opening & Objectives

- Registration book signing
- Welcome – 30 seconds silent to honor fallen heroes, and Prisoners of conscience unlawfully arrested and tortured by military junta
- Remarks by GEN on behalf of co-organizers

4:15 – 4:45 PM – Opening Song & Guest Remarks (Mr. Tom Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur, Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun, Ms. Toni Brodber, Head of Secretariat, Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF, TBC), Ms. Helena Gronberg, Program Director, Peacemaking, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

4:45 – 4:55 pm – Documentary film by Myanmar – Women, Peace and Security (M-WPS)

4:55 – 5:45 PM – Presentation by Burma Advocacy Group (BAG)

5:45 – 5:55 pm – Documentary film by Women's League of Burma (WLB)

5:55 – 6:05 PM – Poem recital

6:05 – 7:00 PM – Live Stories Sharing Panel

- Q&A: Impact of the coup on ordinary lives
- Featuring poem recital

7:00 – 7:30 PM – Thank You note and Exhibition Walkthrough & Solidarity Message Writing board

Exhibition Components

- Documentary Screenings – CRSV survivor voices, airstrike impacts, and resilience stories.
- Large Myanmar Map – Marking natural resource locations, IDPs, and airstrike data.
- Photo & Quote Wall – Testimonies from survivors of sexual violence.
- Ethnic Cultural Display – Traditional clothing, fabrics, and artifacts.
- Women's Product Showcase – Padauk Phuu (Myanmar's national flower) crafts and memorabilia produced by CDMers