



Recommendations from the Myanmar Women's Forum

September 20-22, 2013

Yangon

Women need to be protected by law

The legal challenges and limitations women face are: long trial procedures, costly court cases, women's shy nature, harsher decisions against women due to traditional concepts, that those involved in the court process (as judges, forensic doctors, lawyers, police, and administrative staff) are mostly men, failure to issue effective verdicts, corruption, lack to awareness and education of women regarding protection laws, and administrative influence on legislation and procedures.

To solve these problems, we urge the implementation of the following programs:

- To increase the participation of women in the judicial process
- To educate the related government agencies on gender equality and women's human rights
- To implement the elimination of corruption
- To pass laws to protect women and make it known to the general public
- To publish the laws in ethnic languages
- To adapt traditions which undermine women to bring them in line with women's human rights
- To ensure that the media avoids degrading the dignity of women while reporting on violence against women and legal cases
- To include men and women from different classes and layers of society, government and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, media, political parties, women who were abused and male leaders in the protection and promotion of women rights

Participation of women in decision making

The following measures should be implemented to include women in the decision-making process in the administrative, legislative and judicial sectors

- To amend the Constitutional provision that the President should have military vision so that women can become President
- To defy or amend the provisions of the constitution and existing laws which discriminate against women in getting job and job positions
- To amend the Constitutional provision that allows 25% of Tatmadaw representatives in Parliament as it favors men's rather than women's participation
- To draw up and implement the laws in line with CEDAW
- To draw up laws to protect mother and child as well as single woman, elderly women and disabled women
- To (especially) amend the Constitutional provision that blocks those who marry foreigners from becoming President which is aimed at discriminating against women.
- To recruit more women in administrative decision-making positions, to implement capacity building programs for women and to ensure that men recognize the skills of women
- To ensure that political parties draw up policies that promote women's participation
- To include ethnic women from different areas and sectors in amending or drawing up a new constitution
- To make a plan to ensure that women make up at least 30% of the administrative, legislative and judicial sectors
- To ensure government financial support and cooperation for capacity-building for women in political parties and civil society organizations
- To expand opportunities for women to learn advanced educational subjects (e.g. Political Science and other Science subjects)

Requirements to establish a federal political system which guarantees women's equal rights

- To create procedures to involve women in policy-making, educational programs and capacity-building throughout every layer of the process to establish a genuine federal system
- To form a working group to establish a federal system and to implement at least 30% women's participation in this group
- To include women's intellectual expertise in educational programs regarding the establishment of a federal system

Measures to have more women candidates and voters in different areas and different sectors in the upcoming 2015 elections

- To create situations and opportunities for women in political parties
- To fund political parties for capacity-building training for women's participation and for securing women as party organizers as well as to create opportunities for women to participate in local and village level party leaderships
- To provide special services for women and elderly women in the voting process

Women and Peace

Political Parties

- To provide speeches, discussion and other programs for women to acquire political knowledge
- To ensure that political parties put women in leading policy-making and decision-making positions with respect to action plans and policies for the peace process

Peace

- To promote women to form peace-related organizations and to work for women to participate more in networks formed to support the peace working process and the peace support team
- To support women political prisoners

Other groups (e.g. Government agencies, armed groups, support groups)

- To lobby internationally for the participation of women in the peace process
- To lobby for women's participation in armed groups and governmental organizations

- To draw up a law for women's participation (e.g. providing for quotas)
- To implement a plan for disabled women to attend mixed school not special school
- To stop detention and threats against women and to ensure that the law guarantees freedom of assembly and speech

Women and Gender Equality

CEDAW Action Plan

- Government, Civil Society Organizations and political parties should translate and distribute CEDAW all over the country. In doing so, to use television, radio, newspapers, brochures, and other media
- Government as a signatory of CEDAW must have an effective action plan and policies to implement CEDAW
- Government must provide CEDAW training to female state and national parliamentarians
- To use appropriate language and teaching techniques to educate business owners, political leaders, technicians, civil servants, female farm workers in rural areas and women in different layers of the society about CEDAW
- To translate and distribute the concluding observations of the CEDAW committee members in 2008 to the Government of Myanmar
- To present 2014 alternative CEDAW reports on the situation of women by women's society organizations whether the government submits a report or not

Gender Equality Action Plan

- To provide gender equality training dedicated to men
- To provide CEDAW and gender training to government servants, political parties and artists
- To work on school curriculums all over the country to eliminate gender inequality and gender bias
- To use non-formal educational techniques throughout this school curriculum
- To change government policies to achieve gender equality

- To act on the issues of gender equality and gender bias in government agencies e.g. not to put “dependent” in the place of job description of women in national identification cards

UNSC 1325 Action Plan

- To educate leaders of different sectors, policy makers and decision makers about UNSC 1325
- To send open letters and reports to lobby donors of the peace process
- To work together to strengthen the network of organizations working on the peace process
- To implement training and discussion for political parties and civil society organizations to understand UNSC 1325
- To work for more participation of women in repatriation and integration of refugees
- To monitor the policies and plans of UN representatives, governmental organizations and donors

Domestic Violence

- To work to eliminate domestic violence and to provide assistance to young women, children and rape survivors and to work for effective punishment for perpetrators