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Women's League of Burma (WLB)

JULY - DECEMBER 2024

Overview

For decades, the Myanmar/Burma junta has maintained a system of oppression, reinforcing patriarchal structures that systematically exclude women and ethnic minorities. The military's rule has led to long-term negative impacts on gender equality, denying women leadership roles while exposing them to gender-based violence (GBV) and other human rights violations. Ethnic women, in particular, have faced the worst consequences of this deeply entrenched discrimination.

Since the February 2021 military attempted coup, the junta has initiated a campaign of human rights abuses and atrocities, leading to the deadliest period in the past four years.¹ The proportion of women among civilian casualties increased from 6% in 2021 to nearly 22% by 2024.² Women and children, who make up the majority of displaced persons, are disproportionately affected by armed conflict and systematic violence.

Between July and December 2024, millions of people across Burma/Myanmar suffered extreme hardships. Children were deprived of education, faced severe food and water shortages, and struggled with rising costs of essential goods. Widespread unemployment, power outages, and transportation challenges further deepened the crisis. Women, particularly in conflict-affected ethnic areas, bore the additional burden of ensuring family survival while navigating heightened risks of GBV, forced displacement, and economic hardship.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), since the coup, a total of 6,092 civilians have been killed by the junta, including at least 1,103 women and 695 children. Over the past year alone, 531 women and 248 children were killed, marking a significant increase from 2023. The junta's retaliatory airstrikes, shelling, and indiscriminate attacks have displaced entire communities, forcing women and children to flee with little to no resources.³

Much of this violence is a direct consequence of the junta's loss of territorial control. By the end of 2024, the military-controlled less than half of the country. In an effort to crush resistance movements, The SAC targets innocent civilians, particularly in ethnic regions where it assumes local communities support the resistance. Entire villages have been targeted, forcing repeated cycles of displacement and exacerbating the suffering of ethnic women, who already face systemic discrimination and exclusion from aid distribution.⁴

The junta's recent implementation of the long-dormant 2010 conscription law highlights its growing desperation. This law mandates military service for young men aged 18-35 and women aged 18-27, exposing women to an increased risk of sexual violence, forced labor, and other forms of exploitation.⁵ The forced recruitment of women into the military—an institution already responsible for widespread sexual violence—raises urgent concerns over the safety and rights of women and girls in conflict zones.

1 | Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, OHCHR Myanmar Team

2 | ALTSEAN on X January 2025

3 | Ibid

4 | After 2024 setbacks, junta forces now control less than half of Myanmar, Radio Free Asia, 30 December 2024



“The younger generation should not be pressured into accepting injustice and discrimination,” said Nang Moet Moet, General Secretary of WLB.⁶

The junta has evaded accountability for decades, operating with impunity under the 2008 military-drafted Constitution. Since the announcement of the conscription law, conditions in Burma/Myanmar have rapidly deteriorated. Clashes between the military and ethnic revolutionary organizations (EROs) have intensified, and natural disasters, along with shrinking international donor support, have further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis.

The instability has had a particularly devastating effect on rural ethnic women, especially pregnant women, children, and the elderly. These groups face a double burden: surviving political violence while navigating systemic barriers such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, unemployment, and food insecurity. Many turn to grassroots women’s organizations for support, as they are often excluded from formal humanitarian assistance. A 2024 Human Rights Watch report found a sharp rise in reports of sexual violence and gender-based harassment against women in Burma/Myanmar, underscoring the urgency of the crisis.⁷

Despite these challenges, women have remained at the forefront of resistance. Throughout Burma/Myanmar’s long history of armed conflict, women—particularly those from ethnic communities—have played critical roles in challenging authoritarian rule. Since the 2021 coup, women’s participation in the revolution has evolved. Traditional organizing methods, such as protests, advocacy statements, and coalition-building, have been combined with contemporary tools like digital activism, crowdfunding, and political art. Women from all walks of life—mothers, teachers, activists, and artists—have joined revolutionary spaces, risking their lives in the fight for justice and democracy.

In doing so, women are challenging deeply entrenched militarized masculinity and patriarchal structures that have historically excluded them from politics, peace negotiations, and governance. However, this increased visibility has made them even more vulnerable to junta attacks. While men are often targeted for their suspected support of resistance movements, women leaving their villages or displacement camps in search of food and medicine for their families are frequently caught in junta airstrikes or subjected to violence at military checkpoints.

This six-month situational report by WLB highlights the ongoing human rights violations from July to December 2024. While the scale of suffering continues to grow, ethnic women’s organizations are actively resisting the junta’s oppression through documentation, advocacy, and community-led support. Their voices, rights, and contributions must not be overlooked, and their calls for justice and accountability must be taken seriously by the international community.

5 | Myanmar’s Women Face Significant Risks from Junta Conscription Drive, *The Diplomat*, 7 July 2024

6 | Human Rights Defenders: The Women’s Rights Activist, *Frontier Myanmar*, 8 October 2024

7 | World Report: Myanmar, *Human Rights Watch*



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MAP

FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2024

Sagaing Region



Kachin State



Chin State



Shan State



Mandalay Region



Rakhine State



Nay Pyi Taw



Magway Region



Karenni State



Ayeyarwaddy Region



Bago Region



Yangon Region



Karen State



Mon State



Tanintharyi Region



Unknown



SOURCE: ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS (BURMA)



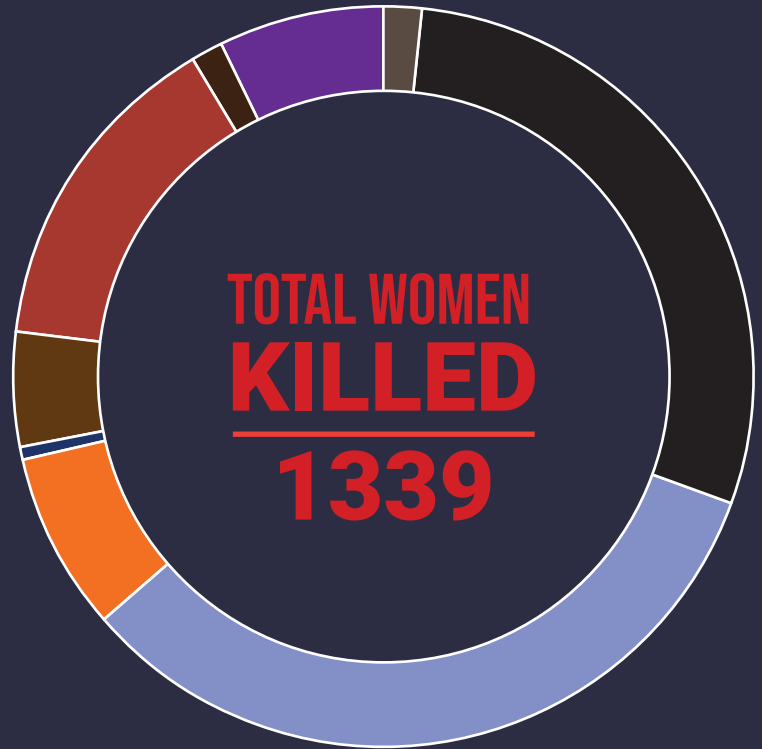
အမျိုးသမီးများအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (ပြန်စာနိဗ္ဗာန်)

Women's League of Burma (WLB)

JULY - DECEMBER 2024

6 January 2025 (Human Rights Violations Resulting in Death)

- 26 Protest Crackdown
- 432 Airstrike
- 492 Artillery
- 116 Detainment
- 12 Rape
- 71 Set Fire alive
- 216 Shot/Shot in head
- 24 Vehicle ramming/Physical disability/Mental illness/Landmine/Fell to death
- 104 Unknown



SOURCE: ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS (BURMA)

War Crimes and International Accountability

As the junta's violence intensifies, women bear the brunt of its atrocities. The regime's campaign of terror has led to systematic human rights violations, including torture, rape, and the brutal targeting of children. The United Nations Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), after analyzing 28 million items of evidence from 900 sources, has confirmed that war crimes and crimes against humanity have escalated at an alarming rate.⁸

Amnesty International has also reported that 2024 was the deadliest year for the Rohingya since 2017, with men, women, and children killed in indiscriminate bombings as they remained trapped in clashes between the junta and the Arakan Army in Rakhine State.⁹

The destruction has been widespread. According to the Institute for Strategy and Policy - Myanmar (ISP), over 149 townships have been torched, with more than 100,000 homes and buildings burned down.¹⁰ The Sagaing and Magway regions have suffered the most, with over 63,655 homes destroyed in Sagaing alone, and over 13,783 houses and buildings were destroyed in the Magway Region.¹¹

These attacks come at a time when more women are stepping into leadership roles, often in the absence of men who have joined resistance groups or been forcibly conscripted. As a result, many women are forced to flee with their families, with no guarantee of safety, while their homes and livelihoods are reduced to ashes.

Sexual violence remains a defining weapon of war. Junta soldiers have repeatedly abused women in military custody, yet many survivors remain silent out of fear and stigma. Women fleeing villages are often captured and subjected to sexual violence as a form of control and intimidation. These acts amount to crimes against humanity under international law.

Despite the growing threats, women-led organizations continue to document these abuses and fight for justice. Speaking at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security, Rohingya activist Wai Wai Nu condemned the global rollback of women's rights and praised the resilience of Burmese women. She stressed that their struggle is not just about resisting the military but about building an inclusive future for all, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or identity.¹²

Women have long played a central role in advocating for peace and federal democracy. The Women's League of Burma (WLB) was founded on feminist federalism, a vision that remains at the heart of its activism and organizing. However, despite their growing influence, women remain underrepresented in policy-making and governance structures. WLB's report *Building the Triple Resistance* found that most women leaders began their activism through grassroots women's organizations, highlighting the critical role these groups play in fostering female leadership.¹³

There are signs that justice may finally be catching up with the junta. On 27 November 2024, International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan KC issued an arrest warrant for Min Aung Hlaing, holding him criminally responsible for crimes against humanity, including the deportation and persecution of the Rohingya.¹⁴ The Karen Women's Organization welcomed this step, stating, "The 74,000 women members of KWO are encouraged to see this step toward justice."

8 | Myanmar military committing war crimes at 'alarming' rate, UN warns, Al Jazeera, 13 August 2024

9 | Myanmar: Four years after the coup, world must demand accountability for atrocity crimes, Amnesty International, 3 February 2025

10 | Over 100,000 Arson Incidents Nationwide, Institute for Strategy and Policy - Myanmar, 22 November 2024

11 | Most Arson Destructions in Sagaing and Magwe regions, Institute for Strategy and Policy - Myanmar

12 | Statement by Wai Wai Nu at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, UN Women, 24 October 2024



Yet, for many victims, justice remains out of reach. Deep-seated distrust in the legal system discourages survivors from reporting abuses. Corruption and impunity further erode their faith in institutions meant to protect them. Women, in particular, face threats to their safety when speaking out, often suffering further economic and social consequences. Nevertheless, the women of Burma/Myanmar continue to fight. Their courage and resilience not only challenge the junta's oppressive rule but also shape the future of the country. Their leadership, activism, and unwavering demand for justice must be recognized, supported, and amplified on the international stage.

Humanitarian Crisis and Cross-Border Aid

Since the coup, intensifying clashes between the junta and anti-junta forces have triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. By the end of 2024, nearly **20 million people** in Burma/Myanmar were in urgent need of assistance, including over **six million children** and more than **seven million women**.

The UN estimates the number of IDPs to be at least 3.5 million;¹⁵ however, local organizations—often the most reliable in conflict zones—report even higher figures. Many civilians have lost everything, and countless others **fear returning home due to the junta's relentless attacks** on villages.

Women, the LGBTQI community, and other vulnerable groups face **heightened physical and psychological risks**, including forced conscription and airstrikes. **Women human rights defenders** are especially at risk, as they continue to be targeted for their activism and forced into displacement.

The ongoing conflict has driven thousands into exile in neighboring countries like **Thailand and India**, while many others remain internally displaced. Some are **sheltering with relatives, hiding in IDP camps, or seeking refuge in safehouses** but many are forced to move frequently due to persistent security threats. Despite these challenges, **ethnic women-led organizations** including members of the Women's League of Burma (WLB) have **stepped up as frontline responders**. They provide essential aid, including hygiene kits, menstrual health supplies, and infant care items, ensuring that **gender-specific needs** are met. These women have also adapted to multiple roles **caregivers, medics, protest leaders, and advocates** responding to their communities' evolving needs.

For years, **cross-border aid has been the most effective and trusted** way to deliver life-saving assistance. **Local actors**—who have deep-rooted connections with affected communities—ensure that aid is delivered quickly, effectively, and **with dignity**.

The **international community, including the United Nations (UN)**, must recognize and support civil society organizations in Burma/Myanmar. The junta does not represent the people, and global efforts must prioritize **cross-border aid** as a **safe and secure channel**. Local women's organizations **possess invaluable experience, expertise, and trust** but they **urgently need political and financial support** to sustain their life-saving work.

13 | Building the Triple Resistance: Women leaders' perceptions of changes and challenges a year and a half after the coup in Burma, The Women's League of Burma, January 2024

14 | Statement of ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan KC: Application for an arrest warrant in the situation in Bangladesh/Myanmar, 27 November 2024

15 | Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 43 | Reflecting on 2024 and preparing for 2025, UN OCHA

Forced Conscription

In addition to navigating humanitarian crises, women are bearing **the social and economic burden** of forced conscription. Many **migrant women** are increasingly vulnerable to **human trafficking, forced prostitution, and exploitative marriages**, which frequently lead to domestic violence.

Meanwhile, wives and mothers are left **struggling to support their families alone** as their husbands, sons, and brothers are forcibly conscripted. According to the Burma Affairs & Conflict Study (BACS), **over 20,000 people** were recruited as soldiers by the military junta between Terms 3-5, with many **perishing on the front lines**.¹⁶

The **Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM)** reported in December 2024 that conscription is enforced **through intimidation and coercion**.¹⁷ A civilian from Mon State described the junta's brutal tactics: *"They're aggressively trying to take as many young people as possible, forcing families to provide three youths per ward. In some cases, where no males are left in households, women are taken. Militia groups are going door to door, threatening people."* – Mawlamyine Resident.

The **psychological toll** on families, especially mothers and grandmothers, is profound. Many **suffer from high blood pressure, anxiety, and severe stress** as they **fear losing their children to the military**. Meanwhile, as adult men are forcibly taken, **children are being exploited to fill labor shortages** under the junta's rule.

Additionally, **women and girls remain at extreme risk of sexual violence** while in military custody. Within Burma/Myanmar, **there are no viable legal avenues for justice**, leaving survivors **without recourse or protection**.

Sham Election

The military junta is pressing ahead with its long-awaited **November 2025 election**, but opposition groups, analysts, and election monitors widely view it as a **sham—a planned ploy** to gain regional and international legitimacy rather than a sincere attempt at democracy.¹⁸

The junta has systematically **excluded opposition parties**, including **Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD)**, by banning them and **imprisoning key leaders**. At the same time, it has intensified **violent crackdowns** on resistance movements and civilians. This election is not about **restoring democracy**—it is about **consolidating military control**.

Women human rights defenders have strongly condemned the election as **unfair and illegitimate**. **Naw Hser Hser**, a political initiative and advocacy leader at the Women's League of Burma (WLB), stated:

*"It will be a sham election. It won't be fair. It will simply be an election held only due to the junta's coercion."*¹⁹

Independent election monitors, including the **Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)**, warn that any vote held under these conditions—**armed conflict, martial law, and voter intimidation**—will **lack legitimacy**. If the junta proceeds, the election could further esca-

16 | Burma Affairs and Conflict Study <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=537430759242202&set=pcb.537434679241810>

17 | <https://rehmonnya.org/reports/Forced-to-Enlist.pdf>

18 | Women Activists Disapprove of Junta Election Plans, BNI, 7 November 2024

19 | Ibid



late Burma/Myanmar's crisis by:

- Entrenching military rule under the guise of democracy.
- Deepening international isolation as global actors reject the results.
- Fueling resistance movements that see armed struggle as the only path to restoring democracy.

Instead of bringing stability, the junta's forced election will likely provoke more unrest, deepen public distrust, and prolong the suffering of millions.

Economic Situation

Burma/Myanmar's economy is spiraling into collapse due to the junta's mismanagement, corruption, and authoritarian policies. The Myanmar kyat has devalued sharply, causing prices for essential goods to triple, making basic survival an increasing struggle for millions.

With severe food insecurity and limited job opportunities, women have been forced to take extreme risks for survival. Many flee to border areas and neighboring countries in search of work, only to face low wages, labor exploitation, and dangerous conditions. The junta has further exploited this crisis by mandating that migrant workers abroad send back 25% of their earnings, attempting to prop up its failing economy at the expense of its own people.²⁰

For many women, sex work has become the only means of survival, exposing them to human trafficking, exploitation, and violence, with no legal protections. Meanwhile, entrenched gender discrimination continues to block women from leadership roles and economic advancement, deepening inequality.

The economic collapse has also forced children into exploitative labor. Since the forced conscription law, many sole breadwinners have been sent to the frontlines,²¹ leaving families with no choice but to send children to work. This has led to a surge in child labor and exploitation under the junta's rule. The crisis has also exacerbated domestic tensions. With livelihoods destroyed and uncertainty rising, women are increasingly at risk of domestic violence and abuse.

The junta's economic mismanagement has not only plunged thousands into poverty but has also weakened its grip on vital trade routes with China and Thailand, further destabilizing the economy. The shortage of affordable goods has led to widespread hunger, worsening an already dire humanitarian crisis.

Efforts by emergency relief and women's organizations to provide food and aid to communities have been met with military roadblocks and confiscation of supplies. The junta's tactics of obstruction and repression disproportionately harm women, who have less access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities during times of crisis.

²⁰ | Junta requires workers abroad to send money home via approved banks, Radio Free Asia, 13 September 2023

²¹ | Rising Labor Shortages Leads to Increased Exploitation of Underage Workers, BNI, 21 March 2024

Education

The junta's attacks on education have left nearly **8 million children** without schooling over the past two years, with school enrollment dropping by as much as **80% in some areas**.²² The **United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights for Myanmar, Tom Andrews**, has referred to these young people as the "**lost generation**"—robbed of opportunities due to the military's relentless violence.²³

A UN report on children in armed conflict further underscored the devastating reality, stating:

*"The unsettling fact remains: no one knows the true extent of the suffering of Myanmar's children and their families at the hands of the junta and their forces."*²⁴

By **July 2024**, Myanmar Witness recorded **174 instances of severe violence against schools**, with **31.5% sustaining significant damage and 9% completely destroyed**. The military was responsible for **90 out of 113 reported attacks**.²⁵ Schools have been frequent targets of airstrikes, with **200 air raids recorded since the coup**.²⁶ Even before the coup, years of chronic underfunding had left the education system severely under-resourced, particularly in rural areas.

The worsening risks inside schools have also led to a **major teacher shortage**. Since the coup, **150,000 teachers—nearly 35% of the public education workforce—have joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM)**, refusing to work under the junta. Women have been at the forefront of these protests, with teachers, garment workers, and nurses leading resistance efforts. However, their defiance has come at a high cost, facing intimidation, dismissal, and persecution by the military regime.²⁷

Public resistance to the junta's control over education is also evident in the **40% drop in enrollment in military-backed schools**. In response to the education crisis, **the National Unity Government (NUG) has established independent schools**,²⁸ enrolling approximately 150,000 students, primarily in areas of active resistance. Additionally, **the Karenni Interim Executive Council has opened the first autonomous university in Karenni State**, offering fourteen subjects—a historic step toward an independent education system.³⁰

Even before the military takeover, Burma/Myanmar's education system faced deep-rooted challenges. Severe underfunding had disproportionately impacted **rural women**, who were often denied educational opportunities and pushed into traditional gender roles. Patriarchal customs have historically prioritized boys' education, leaving many young girls without access to schooling.

However, despite these challenges, women in Burma/Myanmar **outnumber men at every level of education**. Women's groups and individuals have long been at the forefront of **peace-building and post-conflict reform**, yet their efforts continue to be limited by deeply entrenched discrimination across government and military institutions.

A truly inclusive future requires breaking down gender stereotypes that have historically excluded women from decision-making spaces. Investing in the education of young women and girls is essential for Burma/Myanmar's long-term peace and development, ensuring their voices are heard in policymaking, leadership, and rebuilding efforts.

22 | Education Crisis in Myanmar: A Surge in Out-of-School Children Amidst Pandemic and Conflict, Children of the Mekong,

23 | Youth in the spotlight as analysts ponder fate of Myanmar's lost generation, Burma News International, 2 August 2022

24 | Losing a generation: how the military junta is devastating Myanmar's children and undermining Myanmar's future, United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures, June 2022

25 | Myanmar's education crisis deepens under military rule, East Asia Forum, 13 December 2024

26 | Nearly 200 schools in Myanmar hit by junta air strikes since military coup, Radio Free Asia, 4 November 2024



Healthcare

The healthcare crisis in Burma continues to deepen as the military junta deliberately targets healthcare facilities, particularly in ethnic regions, leaving conflict-affected communities without essential medical care. As of 12 October 2024, there have been 1,507 recorded incidents of violence against healthcare infrastructure since the coup. These attacks have led to the destruction of 322 health facilities, the deaths of 130 healthcare workers, 135 injuries, and the abduction of 39 medical professionals.³¹ With hospitals and clinics forced to close or relocate, ethnic women—who already face systemic barriers to healthcare—bear the brunt of this crisis.

The military junta's relentless airstrikes, drone attacks, and indiscriminate shelling of medical facilities have severely restricted healthcare access. These assaults disproportionately affect ethnic women, compounding their struggles as they face entrenched gender inequalities and geographic isolation. A report by the Karenni Human Rights Group underscores these dire conditions:

"Attacks by the military junta prevent [civilians] from traveling to clinics safely, and inflation has made many services unaffordable. Local community-based organizations, such as the Karenni Midwives Society, are working to provide health-related services."³²

For ethnic women, healthcare is not just about survival—it is about dignity. The lack of access to essential medicines, maternal care, and nutrition has resulted in a tragic rise in preventable diseases and maternal and infant mortality. Expectant and new mothers are left without safe options, forced to navigate life-threatening conditions to seek basic healthcare. Landmines, military checkpoints, and the constant fear of interrogation and violence at the hands of junta forces make these journeys nearly impossible, leaving countless women to suffer in silence.

The ongoing violence has created a reproductive health crisis. Pregnant women, often forced to flee their homes under relentless attacks, experience heightened stress-induced miscarriages and severe malnutrition. Many suffer from exhaustion and trauma, leading to complications before, during, and after childbirth, with no medical assistance available.³³

A report released on 25 November 2024 by the Women and Children's Affairs Department of the Karenni State Interim Executive Council (IEC) highlights these worsening conditions. Maw Pray Myar, chairperson of the Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO), emphasized the severe lack of access to contraceptives, which has contributed to a rise in unplanned pregnancies, domestic violence, and gender-based abuse. The absence of family planning resources leaves women with fewer choices, making them even more vulnerable to exploitation and harm.³⁴

As if conflict were not enough, environmental disasters such as Typhoon Yagi, which peaked in September 2024, have compounded the crisis. Flooding and mudslides devastated healthcare infrastructure, leaving communities without access to clean water and further increasing the burden on ethnic women. Natural disasters exacerbate gender inequalities, exposing women and girls to heightened risks of violence and severe health complications.

27 | Education Left Behind: COVID, Coup and Conscription, *Mohingya Matters*, 7 March 2024

28 | *Ibid*

29 | *Ibid*

30 | First Autonomous University Opened in Karenni State, BNI, 23 April 2024

31 | Attacks on Health Care in Myanmar (30 October - 12 November 2024), *Insecurity Insight*, 22 November 2024

Typhoon Yagi affected 70 townships across 11 states and regions in Burma/Myanmar, displacing at least one million people—60% of whom were women and girls.³⁵ Ethnic women, many already displaced by war, now find themselves in even more precarious situations. In Southern Shan State, flooding in Namsang, Kalaw, Hsi Hseng, Keng Tung, Tachileik, Mongton, Mongpan, and Lankho townships displaced approximately 300 people, further straining resources and increasing the urgent need for humanitarian aid.

Despite overwhelming adversity, ethnic women are leading efforts to protect their communities. Local women's organizations have become the backbone of humanitarian response, addressing critical service gaps left by the collapse of state institutions. The Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO) has been at the forefront, providing emergency food supplies, rain covers, and even motorboats to assist those stranded in refugee camps.³⁶ These organizations operate with deep trust within their communities, ensuring that aid is delivered effectively and with dignity. Unlike larger international aid agencies, local women-led initiatives understand the unique struggles faced by ethnic women. They provide not only essential resources but also emotional and psychological support, empowering women to reclaim their agency in the face of overwhelming oppression.

32 | Trying to Stay Strong, the Karenni Human Rights Group, December 2024

33 | Pregnant women in war-torn Myanmar face perilous childbirth, The Straits Times, 11 March 2024

34 | Pregnant women in Karenni State struggle with health challenges amid conflict, Mizzima, 27 November 2024

35 | Gender-impact flash update: Myanmar flooding, UN Women, 1 October 2024

36 | See KNWO Facebook, 15 September 2024



Impact of Military Offensive and HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ETHNIC AREAS

The junta's relentless attacks have fueled mass displacement, depriving ethnic communities of healthcare, food, hygiene essentials, and clean water. The humanitarian crisis in Burma/Myanmar worsens daily as military offensives dismantle access to education, nutrition, and health services. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, six million children have been 'severely impacted' by the junta's offensives, with one-third of the population struggling to survive.³⁷

Sexual violence has escalated as a weapon of war, systematically stripping women of their rights, freedoms, and safety. Over the past six months, the increase in sexual violence has been deeply alarming.³⁸ In October 2024 alone, the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) documented at least nine women who were sexually assaulted, four of whom died as a result, with five others suffering injuries.

BWU General Secretary Naw Khin San Htwe underscored the dire need for justice and accountability:

*"We must do everything we can to stop this violence. The military regime must be held accountable for its crimes. International assistance is essential. We must document these atrocities to prosecute under international law."*³⁹

Burma/Myanmar's economy is spiraling into collapse due to the junta's mismanagement, corruption, and authoritarian policies. The Myanmar kyat has devalued sharply, causing prices for essential goods to triple, making basic survival an increasing struggle for millions.

With severe food insecurity and limited job opportunities, women have been forced to take extreme risks for survival. Many flee to border areas and neighboring countries in search of work, only to face low wages, labor exploitation, and dangerous conditions. The junta has further exploited this crisis by mandating that migrant workers abroad send back 25% of their earnings, attempting to prop up its failing economy at the expense of its own people.

In Karen State, the Karen Human Rights Group reported 19 cases of sexual violence between the coup and September 2024, all committed by men (and two boys) against women and girls in Southeast Burma.⁴⁰ In Karenni State, more than 40 cases of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and rape, were recorded by the Women and Child Affairs Department of the Karenni Interim Executive Council (IEC) throughout 2024.⁴¹

Kachin State presents another harrowing reality: women are at heightened risk of human trafficking. Findings by the Kachin Women's Association Thailand revealed that trafficked women were forcibly kept as brides in China and subjected to sexual slavery. "The women were locked up and not allowed outside."⁴² the report stated, exposing the brutality of cross-border trafficking networks. The stigma surrounding sexual violence further isolates survivors, preventing them from seeking justice. Cultural taboos, fear of retaliation, and a lack of legal protections silence countless women, allowing perpetrators to act with impunity.

37 | Trying to Stay Strong, the Karenni Human Rights Group, December 2024

38 | Sexual violence against women rises amid post-coup conflict: advocacy group, Development Media Group, 6 November 2024

39 | Ibid

40 | Neglected Suffering: Sexual violence and barriers to justice faced by villagers in Southeast Burma since the 2021 coup, Karen Human Rights Group, 23 December 2024

41 | Over 40 Cases Reported to the IEC Women and Child Affairs Department Within a Year, Majority Involving Violence Against Women, BNI, 23 January 2025

42 | Sold to China, Kachin Women's Association Thailand, 19 December 2024

Since the failed coup, calls for legal reform and an end to military impunity have intensified. Burma's women and girls have endured decades of conflict, with the military junta responsible for the majority of crimes against them. The Women's League of Burma (WLB) documented nearly 500 cases of sexual assault against women between 1 February and June 2024.⁴³ Among these, at least thirteen women were killed after being raped⁴⁴. WLB has been a leading voice in exposing these crimes, issuing reports, statements, and press briefings to amplify the plight of survivors.

*"Incidents of sexual violence are on the rise, with women being abused in front of their husbands and family members," said WLB Joint General Secretary (1) Moon Nay Li. "These are situations marked by extreme inhumanity."*⁴⁵

Despite the junta's attempts to disempower women through terror and violence, women human rights defenders remain resolute. Their relentless pursuit of justice is a testament to their resilience. The international community must not only listen but take concrete action to support them, ensuring that the perpetrators of these heinous crimes are held accountable and that Burma's women and girls can live free from fear and violence.

43 | Nearly 500 cases of sexual assault against women in Myanmar's conflict, Radio Free Asia, 6 November 2024

44 | Ibid

45 | Ibid



CHIN State

Chin State has faced relentless conflict over the past six months, particularly in Tedim and Kanpetlet. Civilians caught in the crossfire have had their homes burned, suffered injuries, and endured arbitrary arrests, assaults, and sexual violence at the hands of the junta.

On 5 July, two junta soldiers raped a teenage girl in Mhwalpi Village, Tedim Township.⁴⁶ The military has not responded to the case, reflecting the broader pattern of impunity for sexual violence.

Beyond direct violence, civilians also struggle with severe food insecurity due to transportation restrictions. Many residents rely on motorcycle transport, farming, and daily wage labor for survival, but economic instability and junta-imposed roadblocks have cut off access to essential goods, including medicine.

Natural disasters have compounded these hardships. Flooding from Typhoon Yagi triggered outbreaks of malaria, diarrhea, and the flu, with medicine in critically short supply.

Between July and October, escalating clashes in Tedim displaced 10,000 people, while additional fighting in Mindat increased the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kanpetlet. More than 19,000 IDPs now shelter in Paletwa Township and along the India-Burma border in Mizoram, desperately in need of humanitarian aid.

KACHIN State

The military junta has escalated systematic attacks against civilians in Kachin State. Between July and December, blocked roads and communications blackouts isolated communities, while military assaults left 114 wounded, 45 arrested, and 38 killed.

As commodity prices soar and humanitarian access is restricted, displaced communities struggle to obtain food and medical care. Despite the reopening of some hospitals, they remain critically understocked, forcing pregnant women to seek help at charity clinics run by the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC).

A surge in robberies, coupled with the pervasive presence of junta soldiers, has heightened fear, particularly among women. In IDP camps and temporary shelters, women lack access to essential hygiene products, including sanitary pads, underwear, and soap.

Airstrikes often launched late at night or early in the morning without warning target displaced individuals in shelters, villages, places of worship, schools, and clinics. Survivors report deep trauma and distress, fearing the unpredictable nature of these attacks.

Decades of civil war have left women and children in Kachin State particularly vulnerable. Human trafficking remains a dire threat, with many women deceived by false job offers and sold as forced brides in China. The Kachin Women's Association Thailand documented harrowing accounts of trafficked women being locked up and subjected to sexual exploitation.

⁴⁶ | Junta Troops Rape Underage Girl in Tedim, BNI, 8 July 2024

Karen State (Kawthoolei)

The junta has intensified airstrikes and drone attacks across Karen State, leaving civilians trapped in a cycle of fear and displacement. Arbitrary arrests, indiscriminate shelling, and village raids have forced thousands from their homes.

Between July and December 2024, 107 civilians were injured, including 29 women; six people were arrested, and 55 were killed, 15 of whom were women. Many displaced residents refuse to return home, fearing further violence and the loss of property, livestock, and livelihoods.

The conflict has also devastated education. Schools remain closed, and children are forced to study in bunkers and caves as military attacks continue. Roadblocks imposed by the junta have led to severe food shortages, exacerbating malnutrition and disease among displaced families.

Local organizations have played a crucial role in providing emergency relief. The Karen Women's Organization (KWO), which has worked for decades in conflict-affected areas, has expanded its capacity to deliver aid since the coup. However, rising cases of domestic violence have exposed gaps in legal protections. Survivors face financial barriers, stigma, and failing legal systems that prioritize perpetrators over victims.⁴⁷

Despite these challenges, KWO continues to empower women through protection programs, safe houses, and counseling services. During the 16-Day Campaign to End Gender-Based Violence, KWO shared a message of resilience: *"Let's build a community free of violence for women and children"*⁴⁸

A nationwide report by the World Health Organization in November 2024 further underscored the urgency of these issues, revealing that one in five families in Burma/Myanmar has experienced physical, sexual, or psychological violence from an intimate partner.⁴⁹

KARENNI State

Karenni State has witnessed some of the highest levels of violence against women since the coup. In 2024 alone, attacks by the military junta have killed at least 35 women and children,⁵⁰ including infants as young as one year old.⁵¹ The Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO) has documented rising casualties, reporting 57 deaths between 2022 and 2024.⁵²

"Since 2021, people have been unable to live in their own villages due to frequent displacement," said Maw Pray Myar, Chairwoman of KNWO.⁵³ *"Children are forced to seek education far from home, while parents relocate elsewhere. Families are separated, leaving children vulnerable to exploitation and hardship."* added Maw Pray Myar.

Following Operation 1111 in November 2023, heavy fighting in Karenni State displaced thousands. Loikaw and Moe Byae townships saw mass evacuations, with civilians fleeing to Demoso Township. In Bawlakhe, the junta's expanding military presence has created security threats, particularly for those sheltering in IDP camps.

47 | Neglected Suffering: Sexual violence and barriers to justice faced by villagers in Southeast Burma since the 2021 coup, Karen Human Rights Group, 23 December 2024

48 | See KWO's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=978958630926096&set=pb.100064359056864.-2207520000&type=3>

49 | Women in Karenni State Face Highest Levels of Physical Violence During Military Coup Period, Kantarawaddy Times, 28 November 2024

50 | 35 Women and Children Killed by Military Junta's Attacks in Karenni State in 2024, BNI, 18 January 2025

51 | Ibid

52 | Ibid

53 | Women in Karenni State Face Highest Levels of Physical Violence During Military Coup Period, 28 November 2024, Kantarawaddy Times,



Between July and December 2024, the conflict in Karenni State resulted in:

- 29 women were injured (among 107 total casualties)
- 200 civilians arrested
- 14 women and 7 children killed

With constant airstrikes and artillery fire, IDPs face worsening survival conditions. Women's organizations report that desperation has driven some to engage in high-risk survival strategies, including illegal activities such as drug selling and gambling, which in turn fuel debt, domestic violence, and mental health crises.

"These acts of violence are tied to political conflict and will persist unless we advocate for policy reforms and implement continuous awareness campaigns," said Maw Pray Myar of KNWO.⁵⁴

To address these challenges, the Karenni Interim Executive Council (IEC) is working to regulate opium cultivation⁵⁵ while establishing a Youth Affairs Department to support at-risk young people.⁵⁶

Meanwhile, cases of gender-based violence continue to rise. From 2021 to October 2024, KNWO documented:

- 101 cases of physical violence
- 65 cases of psychological violence
- 21 cases of sexual violence
- 14 cases of rape

These figures likely represent only a fraction of the true scale of abuse due to stigma and fears of retaliation.⁵⁷

The conflict has also devastated maternal and infant health. With hospitals and clinics inaccessible due to security risks, pregnant women lack prenatal care, and newborns go without essential supplies such as food, blankets, and warm clothing. A report by the Karenni Human Rights Group highlighted the risks:

*"At least 10% of women in Karenni State will have a miscarriage. The biggest challenge is the lack of reliable healthcare. Women travel on unsafe roads, work throughout pregnancy, and cannot access medical care when they need it most."*⁵⁸

The aftermath of Typhoon Yagi has further destabilized Karenni communities. Flooding wiped out farms, worsening food insecurity. As men and women turn to opium cultivation to survive,⁵⁹ drug addiction has surged, leading to increased violence, trafficking, and economic hardship for women.

The crisis in Karenni State mirrors the broader situation across Burma/Myanmar. The junta's attacks on IDP camps and villages have created urgent needs for food, health-care, shelter, and security. Women and girls face additional barriers to education as teachers fear junta reprisals. The Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) has been targeted, but despite these challenges, the IEC has established five universities and colleges, striving to restore education for displaced communities.⁶⁰

54 | Ibid

55 | Expansion of Opium Poppy Cultivation in Karenni State and the Shan-Karenni Border Region, BNI, 16 December 2024

56 | IEC Establishes Youth Affairs Department to Provide Special Support for Disadvantaged Youths, Kantarawaddy Times, 6 February 2025

57 | Ibid

58 | Trying to Stay Strong, the Karenni Human Rights Group, December 2024

59 | Expansion of Opium Poppy Cultivation in Karenni State and the Shan-Karenni Border Region, BNI, 16 December 2024

60 | IEC establishes five universities and colleges in Karenni State, BNI, 27 June 2024

SAGAING Region

The Sagaing Region has suffered some of the most severe violence committed by the military junta since the coup. According to the [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#), Sagaing was the most affected region for the fourth consecutive year, with nearly **500 civilians killed**.⁶¹

The junta, in coordination with the [Shanni Nationalities Army \(SNA\)](#), has committed numerous **war crimes**, including **beheading and mutilating civilians** in Indaw Township.⁶² Women have been **routinely detained, abducted, and assaulted**, in some cases in front of their own families.⁶³

One particularly **brutal attack** occurred on **October 23** in Budalin Township, where **nearly 100 junta soldiers raided villages**, taking more than **50 women hostage** and subjecting them to **days of sexual violence**.⁶⁴

Between **July and November 2024**, junta forces:

- Arrested **51 men**.
- Killed **19 men and 2 women** using landmines, heavy artillery, and small arms.
- Injured **6 men and 5 women**.

The ongoing conflict has severely impacted **healthcare access**. On **September 21**, the junta **closed the Tamu-Kalay roads**, cutting off transportation and trade routes, making medical care nearly inaccessible. Private hospitals in Tamu lack **medicine and doctors**, forcing patients to travel to Kalay City for treatment.

The absence of **safe pathways** to schools has led to widespread education disruptions. Community-based organizations have tried to fill the gap, but many families have lost hope in formal education. Young girls are being forced to work to support their families, while most underage boys have joined **armed resistance groups**.

The displacement crisis in Sagaing is severe. Along the **India-Myanmar border**, most **internally displaced persons (IDPs)** from **Myokengo** are of **Lushine and Chin nationalities**, fleeing **Tantabin village in the Tamu district**, where the junta and **Pyusawhtee militia burned down 300 homes in 2023**. These families remain unable to return home.

SHAN State

Civilians in Shan State continue to face severe economic struggles, escalating conflict, and systematic human rights violations. The military junta has blocked key trade routes, leading to rising fuel and food prices. In northern Shan State, residents rely heavily on agriculture, but the conflict and increasing fertilizer costs have made farming unsustainable. Many farmers have lost vast amounts of paddy and fruit crops due to flooding and wild animals foraging for food.

The large-scale offensive, Operation 1027, launched by a coalition of ethnic armed groups in northern Shan and Rakhine states, was historic in its territorial gains but devastating for civilians. Between June and December 2024, the junta carried out **2,155 airstrikes** across **12 regions**.⁶⁵ Northern Shan State was among the hardest-hit areas,

61 | Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar 2024, OHCHR Team

62 | Myanmar junta soldiers beheaded and mutilated civilians in apparent war crime in Sagaing Region, Mizzima, 8 February 2025

63 | Myanmar Junta Soldiers Perpetrating Mass Rape at Sagaing Monastery: Reports, The Irrawaddy, 5 November 2024

64 | Nearly 500 cases of sexual assault against women in Myanmar's conflict, Radio Free Asia, 6 November 2024

65 | Myanmar military conducted over 2,100 airstrikes in six months, 10 February 2025



suffering over 230 strikes.⁶⁶ According to a coalition of Ta'ang organizations, more than 320 civilians were killed as a result.⁶⁷

Moreover, the United Wa State Army forced people to use the Chinese currency of “yuan” instead of the local Myanmar kyat. In Southern Shan State, prices have risen, and IDPs are facing difficulties. Some civilians have lost their lives after being injured by landmines and cannot afford to travel for life-saving treatments at hospitals.

Healthcare has collapsed in Shan State due to the ongoing conflict. The junta has blocked transportation routes, making it nearly impossible to access medical treatment. As a result, people with chronic illnesses are left untreated, and pregnant women are miscarrying or delivering babies while trying to reach medical facilities. In some townships, including Namsang, hospitals lack basic child vaccinations, forcing families to travel to junta-controlled hospitals in Muse or Lashio City, where medical care is unreliable.

Additionally, Namsang Hospital does not offer vaccines for children. Therefore, they must go to the military junta hospital in Muse City to get injections. This situation is also happening in Lashio City. If there is no injection for children in Lashio City, people must go to Tangyan Township. One of the Lashio local mothers said the military junta hospital provides only one injection per time.

The Lahu people residing in eastern and southern Shan State continue establishing schools in cities and villages. Concerned about educational instability, parents are sending their children to school. However, Lahu children from northern Shan State are unable to attend school due to their status as IDPs. As a result, young children miss out on education opportunities.

A spokesperson for the Ta'ang Women's Organization said, “Ta'ang villages in Lashio Township have long been neglected, she said, with failing agriculture, education and healthcare infrastructure.”⁶⁸

The military junta's drone attacks often target farmers. These civilians now fear landmines as they travel from one place to another. Moreover, internet access has been cut off in these areas. Additionally, Moe Mate (Mong Mit) Township has experienced assaults at least twice during which people lost their homes and private hotels, and the junta's airstrikes deliberately destroyed monasteries.

The military junta's drone attacks and landmines have made farming and travel life-threatening. IDPs in southern Shan State are being forced to return home without proper landmine clearance, putting their lives at risk. Those who refuse to return must pay a bribe, and many have sustained injuries or even lost their lives to unexploded ordnance.

Meanwhile, the junta-aligned Pa'O National Organization (PNO) in southern Shan State has enforced mandatory military service, demanding that one person per household join the army. Families who refuse are forced to pay between 400,000 and 500,000 Myanmar kyat. Similar recruitment tactics are being employed in eastern Shan State, where the junta and the United Wa State Army are extorting civilians through bribes and forced enlistment.

The junta has also shut down the internet in many areas, further suppressing information

66 | Ibid

67 | Junta airstrikes kill 31 in Mandalay and northern Shan State, Mizzima, 15 November 2024

68 | Starving in the mountains: Poverty and isolation grip Mong Yaw, Frontier Myanmar, 4 July 2024

and restricting communication. While some regions can access satellite internet like Starlink, the junta frequently disrupts these services, isolating civilians. The lack of internet access puts women at even greater risk, as survivors of gender-based violence are unable to report cases to women's organizations or civil society groups.

From July to December 2024, Shan State recorded 315 injuries, including 37 women, and 193 civilian deaths, of which 63 were women. Additionally, nine men were arbitrarily arrested. The ongoing fighting between the military junta and ethnic armed groups, particularly between the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP), continues to threaten civilian safety. Both the junta and the PNO have committed human rights violations, blocked trade routes, shut down internet access, arrested civilians for using virtual private networks (VPNs), and forcibly recruited new soldiers.

TANINTHARYI Region

The military junta has intensified attacks in the Tanintharyi Region, launching airstrikes, artillery shelling, and drone bombings that have forced many civilians to flee to Dawei for shelter. As a result, many villages have been left abandoned. Soldiers have looted the empty homes, stealing everything of value, including jewelry, food, clothing, motorcycles, and other personal belongings. Between July and December 2024, two men were arrested, four women and two children were injured, and eight men and three women were killed.

Similar to other states and regions in Burma, Tanintharyi has been devastated by economic hardships, healthcare collapse, and education disruptions. Displaced communities rely on volunteer doctors in resistance-controlled areas, but medicine is in short supply. Patients requiring urgent medical attention must travel to Dawei City, where better treatment is available, but the journey is often dangerous and expensive. Schools have shut down due to military operations, leaving children with no access to education. The internet has been completely shut down in eastern Dawei, further isolating communities and preventing them from seeking help or sharing information.

One particularly horrific case of violence occurred in November 2024 in Taku village, Myeik District. The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) documented the brutal murder of Daw Si Si Nwe, a 63-year-old retired teacher.⁶⁹ Her body was found in a nearby plantation, approximately 50 feet from her home, with severe wounds to her head and face, likely caused by a machete. As with many other violent incidents, no group has claimed responsibility, heightening fear and uncertainty in the community.⁷⁰

Women and girls have also been among the casualties of junta-led artillery attacks and drone strikes. According to HURFOM, since August 2024, drone bombings in Tanintharyi Township have intensified, leading to a sharp increase in civilian casualties and property destruction. Many villagers have lost their lives in these attacks, while others have suffered devastating injuries.

The housing and economic crisis in the region has worsened. Since August 2024, electricity rates have skyrocketed, yet power outages remain constant. Inflation has made basic necessities unaffordable, and the weakening of the Burma/Myanmar kyat has further crippled the local economy. Many businesses have been forced to shut down, and more people are leaving the country in search of work and stability.

69 | Voice Up Issue 4, Human Rights Foundation of Monland, November 2024
 70 | Ibid

WLB MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS' SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

Burmese Women's Union (BWU)

The Burmese Women's Union continues to document and analyze news from a feminist perspective, sharing its findings through monthly reports and analysis papers. This effort ensures that gender-specific challenges and violations are highlighted and addressed in national and international advocacy.

Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO)

KNWO marked the **16 Days of Activism** from November 25 to December 10, amplifying awareness about gender-based violence and ongoing injustices against women. The organization provided emergency relief, including food, clothing, and shelter, to internally displaced persons (IDPs). KNWO also facilitated accommodations for those in urgent need and participated in a civil society coordination meeting, as well as the **AWID Women's Forum**. Additionally, they continued their commitment to education by ensuring monthly salaries for kindergarten teachers.

Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT)

KWAT played a critical role in providing emergency assistance to IDPs and survivors of gender-based violence. Their human rights documentation efforts focused on recording violations in Kachin State, with a particular emphasis on attacks against women and girls.

Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization (KWHRO)

KWHRO provided IDPs with essential support, including medical aid and livelihood programs. They also actively contributed to the **16 Days of Activism** campaign and compiled a briefing paper for the **Humanitarian Program**, ensuring that women's rights and urgent needs were prioritized.

Karen Women's Organization (KWO)

KWO delivered emergency food supplies to IDPs and communities affected by severe flooding. They continued to build local capacities through training, monitoring, and advocacy efforts. The organization actively engaged in strategic meetings to strengthen women's representation and response mechanisms in conflict-affected areas.



Kayan Women's Organization (KyWO)

KyWO strengthened leadership and advocacy through a series of initiatives, including **mindful leadership training, transitional justice workshops, and mental health and counseling programs**. They provided relief to flood-affected populations and civilians displaced by military shelling. KyWO also supported **women human rights defenders (WHRDs)** and took part in the **16 Days of Activism**, advocating for an end to gender-based violence. The organization hosted the **Karenni State Women's Forum**, revised its constitution, and engaged in alliance-building through regional meetings.

Lahu Women's Organization (LWO)

LWO prioritized child safety and health by drafting a **new child safety policy** and conducting **hygiene and health training** in high-risk areas. They developed funding proposals based on immediate community needs and continued **data collection efforts to document and protect the rights of IDPs**. LWO also maintained engagement with alliance partners and conducted regular organizational meetings.

Pa-O Women's Union (PWU)

PWU provided critical support to survivors of violence, WHRDs, and unlawfully detained individuals, particularly those involved in the **Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM)**. They conducted training on **conflict-related sexual violence**, hosted **political analysis workshops**, and offered **sexual and reproductive health education**. Their humanitarian efforts extended to delivering aid to displaced communities.

Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN)

SWAN conducted various trainings on collecting data about gender-based violence (GBV) and basic counseling, as well as mental health awareness sessions for community health workers (CHWs). A refresher training on Child Protection (CP) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) policies was also held. In October, the Women's Political Development Training (WPDT) was organized to strengthen women's leadership skills. Capacity-building activities continued for staff, data collectors, and field officers. Videos, infographics, and articles were created to spread awareness about domestic violence, airstrikes, and women's rights. Workshops and campaigns for STOP Violence Against Women (VAW) Day took place in November at Lak Taeng on the Shan-Thai border. Advocacy materials were developed for migrant workers and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and efforts were made to build stronger connections with Thai and international networks through meetings and workshops. Participation in regional events like the AWID Forum and APFF helped promote women's rights and gender-inclusive policies. Follow-ups were done with scholarship students, and funding for education programs was managed, including school visits and plans for future advocacy videos on education. CHW activities were also supported, including health awareness, mental health training, and medical implant logistics. Additionally, local communities were helped with food and resources during floods and conflicts.

Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO)

TWO organized a development workshop and continued documenting human rights violations in northern Shan State while providing direct support to conflict survivors, CDM members, women human rights defenders, and displaced communities. They also offered transitional justice training and collected GBV data in four townships: Namkham, Kutkai, Namhsam, and Manton.

TWO collaborated with network organizations on a one-year report on Operation 1027, focused on women's participation, and developed student manuals. They provided sexual reproductive health education and raised awareness about early marriage in schools.

TWO also hosted an Alumni Exchange for Women Leadership School, an online Women, Peace, and Security event for TCSO Women Leaders, and conducted further community development and conflict analysis.

Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU)

TWU edited a video for WEB's 25th anniversary and assisted political activists from Thayat Chaung and Long Lone townships. They held coordination meetings with local women, sharing human rights documentation, and participated in alliance training while discussing office policies. TWU provided training on GBV and reproductive health.

They also joined state-level political discussions and established a GBV response team in Laung Lon and Thayat Chaung townships. They organized a 16-day activism event in Thayat Chaung and Taung Pyaut Tite Nae and conducted a six-day hybrid workshop focused on policy review and strategic planning. TWU also sent letters for 20 political prisoners and attended WLB's 25th anniversary celebration.

Women for Justice (WJ)

Women for Justice held discussions to raise awareness on topics related to gender, domestic violence, and various forms of violence. They conducted different activities such as Protection (GBC, CRC & MRE), awareness-raising initiatives, Hygiene/4Clean awareness campaigns, and the distribution of hygiene kits. They also supported food security for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and provided counselling, food, and other essential materials for women who are victims of violence.



WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA (WLB) ACTIVITIES

From July to December 2024, the Women's League of Burma (WLB) and its member organizations continued working to promote women's rights, peace, and justice in Burma/Myanmar. Despite ongoing political problems, violence, and humanitarian crises, WLB led advocacy efforts, provided emergency support, and helped strengthen local women leaders. In addition, WLB also conducted trainings, workshops, and forums on Women, Peace, and Security, International Humanitarian Law, Transitional Justice, and political forum. These activities helped women build leadership skills and support peace efforts. WLB also took part in international advocacy, Joint General Secretary (1), participated at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review, presented ways to advance women's rights and security in the region. WLB also released joint statements opposing ASEAN's decision to hold meetings in Burma/Myanmar, supporting women human rights defenders (WHRDs) on death row, and calling for ASEAN to stop working with the illegal military junta. Along with other civil society organizations, WLB urged ASEAN to support the people of Myanmar in building a federal democracy.

Furthermore, WLB provided emergency financial assistance to 188 Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) across various regions, including Pegu, Magway, Karenni, Kachin, the Thai-Burma border, Chiang Mai, the Karenni-Thai border, and multiple locations in India, including Manipura State, Tengnoupal District, and Moreh Township. Additional aid was given to WHRDs in Haolenphai IDP Camp, Northern and Southern Shan State, Sagaing Region, Tachileik, and KengTung.

This emergency fund played a crucial role in supporting WHRDs facing persecution, displacement, and economic hardship. The fund provided urgent relief, ensuring the safety and resilience of women activists advocating for justice and democracy.

WLB's Support (From July to December 2024) Members' Significant Activities

No.	Activities Name	Total Number
1.	Provide Food for IDPs	More than 30 people
2.	Provide Monthly Supplies for Women	40 people
3.	CDM Support	269 people
4.	WHRD/HRD Support	152 people
5.	Local/ Regional Advocacy Strategy Development	425 people
6.	Local Community Awareness	170 people
7.	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	348 people
8.	1325 Resolution on Women's Peace and Security	594 people
9.	Local Women Peace and Security	358 people
10.	The Community on Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Violence	513 people
11.	Survivor on GVB, Sexual Violence	20 people
12.	Protection Funds for WHRDs	28 people



CONCLUSION

Since the attempted coup on February 1, 2021, the military has responded to peaceful protests and demands for democracy with brutal violence. However, the reality on the ground is that the junta is losing control. In desperation, they have escalated their attacks on civilians, including targeted violence against women and girls. These systematic atrocities make it clear that the junta has no intention of relinquishing power or halting its military operations.

For decades, Burma/Myanmar has lacked legal protections for women and girls, allowing the junta to commit crimes—including the widespread use of sexual violence as a weapon of war—without consequence. Women are left with no choice but to rely on international mechanisms for justice. One of the strongest and most urgent demands from women's rights organizations remains the referral of Burma's human rights crisis to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Despite the immense challenges ahead, there remains a crucial opportunity for a coordinated global response to support change and reform in Burma/Myanmar. The United Nations and its member states must take stronger action to amplify the voices of women and their communities. A gender-sensitive approach to peace and security—one that actively includes women in decision-making—will be key to achieving lasting justice. History has shown that societies are more stable and resilient when women play a central role in governance, peacebuilding, and justice initiatives.

Amid suffering and repression, an unprecedented sense of solidarity has emerged across ethnic, religious, and socio-economic lines. Women have played a critical role in resisting the junta's attempts to sow division. Their courage and resilience have reinforced the pro-democracy movement, proving that no amount of state-sponsored terror can break the will of a united people.

Women human rights defenders (WHRDs) have been at the forefront of exposing the junta's crimes, raising awareness, and mobilizing their communities. Their leadership, particularly in ethnic areas, has transformed the conflict landscape. Local women's organizations have demonstrated the power of intersectional feminism, forging stronger alliances and driving change in ways that challenge deep-rooted gender norms. Their resistance is not just about survival—it is about ensuring that future generations will never have to endure military oppression again.

The unwavering commitment of women to the Spring Revolution is a direct rejection of the military's rule and a declaration of their vision for a federal, democratic, and feminist future for Burma/Myanmar. Even in the face of relentless violence, women are reshaping political and social structures to ensure gender equality remains at the center of the nation's transformation.

This fight is more than just a political struggle—it is a collective effort to break the cycle of generational trauma and oppression. Women human rights defenders from ethnic communities are not only resisting the junta but also redefining leadership through solidarity and inclusive participation. Their message is clear: women must be seen, heard, and valued as leaders in the fight for justice and democracy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the ongoing crisis in Burma/Myanmar effectively, the international community should:

1. **Condemn the Military Coup and the So-Called State Administrative Council:** Clearly denounce the junta's seizure of power and refuse to recognize it as a legitimate governing authority. Support efforts to restore democratic governance and legitimate representation.
2. **Refer the Situation to the International Criminal Court (ICC):** Advocate for the ICC to investigate and prosecute those responsible for crimes against humanity committed by the junta. Holding perpetrators accountable is crucial for justice and deterrence.
3. **Implement a Global Arms Embargo:** Enforce a comprehensive arms embargo to prevent the junta from acquiring weapons and military resources. Cutting off their access to aviation fuel is vital to halt their aerial assaults on civilian areas.
4. **Support Local Rights Defenders and Safe Houses:** Provide financial and logistical support to local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and women's rights defenders who offer safe houses and shelters for peaceful protestors, particularly those at heightened risk such as women human rights defenders.
5. **Ensure Political Space for Women's Rights Organizations:** Advocate for and facilitate the inclusion of women's rights organizations and civil society groups in political dialogues and decision-making processes. Their involvement is crucial for effective advocacy and the development of gender-responsive policies.
6. **Combat Impunity for Violence Against Women and Girls:** Support efforts to end the impunity for all forms of violence against women and girls, including conflict-related sexual violence and sexual harassment in custody. This includes advocating for legal reforms and providing resources for survivors.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

The Women's League of Burma is an umbrella organization comprising 12 women's organizations of different ethnic and political backgrounds. WLB was founded on 9 December 1999.

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