

CSOs and NGOs working for Human Rights¹



Name of Organisation: Equality Myanmar (formerly Human Rights Education Institute of Burma)

Website of Organisation: <http://equalitymyanmar.org/>

Facebook of Organisation: <https://www.facebook.com/equalitymyanmar/>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

Equality Myanmar was founded as an NGO in 2000 with the purpose of empowering the people of Myanmar by providing human rights education to encourage them to participate in social transformation and to foster respect for human rights.

The idea was first conceived in 1988 when U Aung Myo Min, the founder, learnt about discrimination and equality. U Aung Myo Min was active in human rights education outside Burma and dreamt of a future in which Myanmar was a strong advocator of human rights.

Equality Myanmar has worked to improve human rights in Myanmar at the local, national, regional and international levels through various advocacy campaigns over the years. Equality Myanmar has sought to build support for shared values of human rights by making human rights education materials accessible and available in Burmese and ethnic languages.

Equality Myanmar's goals:

- To raise awareness of human rights among rights holders and duty bearers through participatory education;
- To support community and network initiation of human rights-based actions through capacity building

In 2016, Equality Myanmar held 85 human rights training and workshops. The organisation also advocated for human rights at the 21st Century Pangalong conference which was joined by 40 other civil society organisations in signing a joint statement to condemn the Tatmadaw's offensive actions against ethnic armed groups and to support the repeal of the unlawful Associations Act. In addition, the organisation distributed 61,024 education materials on human rights.

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 3000 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote human rights more broadly.