

Building Human Rights Expertise and Leadership in Myanmar's Diaspora

"The Diplomacy Training Program course has been invaluable in providing human rights advocacy training which essential to our ongoing campaign to achieve democracy and peace in Myanmar."

Tas, female participant

What?

In response to the worsening human rights and humanitarian situation facing people in Myanmar, the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) brought together 41 women and men representing Myanmar's diaspora from across Australia and the Asia Pacific to pilot a human rights advocacy training program. The pilot program ran for 6 weeks in November and December 2021 and included 11 sessions aimed to increase participants' understanding of human rights, diplomacy, and advocacy.

"I was able to question, communicate and learn from diverse real-world human rights advocates and parliamentarians."

Go, male participant

Outcomes

All participants increased their confidence and advocacy skills. Several female participants are now actively engaged in advocacy at ASEAN, speaking in the media and leading advocacy at national levels. 94% of participants improved their understanding of human rights issues, advocacy, and UN mechanisms and want to remain in the network.

"Many participants have a human rights, business, or advocacy background and have been called to act in light of the growing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. We now have the skills, confidence and understanding of diplomacy to bring about positive change."

April, female participant

Future Plans

Based on feedback and consultations with participants and diaspora networks across the Asia-Pacific, the Diplomacy Training Program aims to run a Phase II of the program in 2022 and 2023. Phase II will build diaspora leaders and networks expertise on topics such as Human Rights Diplomacy and Advocacy, UN Human Rights Standards, Media Advocacy, Advocacy at ASEAN, Youth and Women's Rights.

To learn more, contact: dtp@unsw.edu.au

