

[Jointly Open letter to] Political parties, candidates

Date 7 November 2020

Taking into account the very approaching 2020 general election and elected candidates will be in power for Myanmar soon, representative of below women organizations, self-help groups, individuals demand all of your policy manifesto to implement with a profound commitment that uphold concrete gender sensitive measures.

With this communication letter, we call upon the political parties, candidates to firmly actively engage in listening our voices and transform them into policy and legality and their implementation.

We represent the marginalized and urban poor communities in Chin and Rakhine States thus we are significantly unrepresented in any formal and informal decision-making process. At present, some of us in Rakhine State lost our rights to participate in Myanmar's electoral system under the pretext "security" justification of Union Election Commission.

To inform the highest priority in order that reflects our reality, we have been jointly conducted serious of consultations, both in person and virtual, by using strictly on feminist principle and methodology as well as following the Government's restriction of COVID19 pandemic measures.

After spending for 17 days for these joint consultations in IDP camps, villages and towns in Rakhine and Chin States, each individual concern, demand and suggestion that totaling **727** (women, men and others) have been counted. The result of our joint consultations is collectively consolidated, then transform it into the **#womenifesto** (a manifesto by and for the marginalized multi-ethnic women in Rakhine and Chin States).

Here below with areas in priority¹ are for your review and we urge you to work with us for:

1. Addressing **discriminatory cultural practices** towards women and girls
2. Inclusive and meaningful **participation of conflict affected women** for peace and conflict resolution
3. Ensure **women human rights and feminist legal theory and practices**
4. Strategic action plan for small scale **economic empowerment for minority women**
5. Women's **land entitlement**
6. Women participation in **local federal governance** and public life

¹ 1 = Highest priority, 10 = Least priority, detailed #womenifesto document is available upon request

7. Women meaningful inclusion in the making of **social development policy**, especially sexual and reproductive health rights and gender-based violence
8. Establish and strengthen **institutions with a feminist mandate** to promote women human rights
9. Monitoring assistance to **women in special needs**
10. Support **feminist digital and media**

Although we remained at your disposal of advice, participated in developing your policy manifesto, allow us here to remind you not to miss an opportunity for reviewing, preparing your policy implementation and governance platforms that promote international standard of women human rights and a dignify civilization in Myanmar.

We wish everyone who has a valid voter rights are considering for those who lost it for 2020 election to democratically elect parties and candidates who have the best political interest of improving the status quo of marginalized women like us in Myanmar.

Sincerely,

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