

**People with Disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disability's
Press Statement on Situation in Myanmar (Burma)**

We write this communiqué on behalf of various organizations representing people with disabilities from across Myanmar to urgently request you to take all necessary measures to help us end the serious human rights violations and disruption of democratization and peace process in Myanmar.

The military has carried out a coup d'état on Monday 1st of February 2021 led by senior general Min Aung Hlaing. The country's elected president Win Myint and state counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, and many other elected members of parliaments, political figures and activists have been unlawfully detained. On the 8th February 2021, Martial law has been declared prohibiting public speech and any gathering of five persons or more in public areas and a curfew was also in force from 20:00 to 04:00.

We, people with disabilities, are participating in resistance to the coup with fellow Myanmar citizens across the country and supporting a civil disobedience movement to our utmost capacity. The coup comes amid the COVID-19 pandemic crisis which is hitting the country's economy, health system, people's health and livelihoods hardest. Moreover, it overturns our progress of implementing the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, sustainable development goals, ASEAN enabling master plan 2025, Incheon Strategy, domestic disability rights law and other international and regional human rights treaties which our years of efforts have been invested in.

We are seriously concerned about the threatening conditions in transitions to democracy in our country as well as peace and basic human rights of all Myanmar citizens.

Therefore;

- We, people with disabilities and organizations of persons with disability strongly condemn the military's unlawful action on a coup d'état and call for immediate end to all violations, unconditional respect for all human rights and fundamental

freedoms, in particularly the right to life, freedom of movement, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and the right to access information.

- We, people with disabilities and organizations of persons with disability urge the coup leaders to release all detainees including civil society leaders and return of power to an elected democratic government.
- We, people with disabilities and organizations of persons with disability urge UN-CRPD Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Disabled People International (DPI), World Blind Union, International Disability Alliance, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), all Donor Agencies and Development Partners, all international and regional disability alliances to stand with us and begin the process of overthrowing the military dictatorship.
- We, people with disabilities and organizations of persons with disability urge the UN and governments of friend countries to give more serious and effective support on the movements of people including persons with disabilities in Myanmar and increase the pressure on the junta in various ways.
- We, people with disabilities and organizations of persons with disability urge the local and international media to spotlight more on the civil movements of persons with disability and amplify the voices of people with disabilities and people without disability to be heard by the people around the world.
- We, people with disabilities and organizations of persons with disability urge all the stakeholders responsible for human rights, democracy and peace to create the inclusive and better future of Myanmar respecting the commitment of “No One Left Behind”.
- We, people with disabilities and organizations of persons with disability welcome and fully support the formation of the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) formed by the elected members of parliament on the 5th of February 2021.

Date: February 15, 2021

List of signatories endorsed this statement

1. Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities (MFPD)

2. Magway Regional Association of Persons with Disabilities
3. Sagaing Regional Association of Persons with Disabilities
4. Ayeyarwady Regional Association of Persons with Disabilities
5. Shan State Association of Persons with Disabilities
6. Yangon Regional Association of Persons with Disabilities
7. Mandalay Regional Association of Persons with Disabilities
8. Karen State Association of Persons with Disabilities
9. Rakhine State Association of Persons with Disabilities
10. Kachin State Association of Persons with Disabilities
11. Chin State Association of Person with Disabilities
12. Bago regional Association of Person with Disabilities
13. Alin Thit Association of Persons with Disabilities
14. Association of Persons Affected by Stroke
15. Association of Person with Disabilities (Hmawbi)
16. Association of Person with Disabilities (Dala Township)
17. Bawa Thit School for the Blind (Meiktila)
18. Bawa Pandaing Association of Person with Disabilities (Dala Township)
19. Bawa Pyo Kin Yoon Sa Lin Association of Person with Disabilities (Hpapon)
20. Disabled People Development Organization (DPDO)
21. Future Star Self-Advocacy Organization of Person with Intellectual Disability
22. Golden Future Person with Disabilities Development Organization
23. Hlaingthaya the Collective Force Blind Workers Association
24. Hlaingthaya Association of Persons with Disabilities
25. Hpa Si Myay Association of Persons with Disabilities
26. Hle Ku Association of Persons with Disabilities
27. iSchool-Myanmar
28. Kyimyindaing Blind School Alumni Association
29. Lin Yaung Chi Association of Person with Disabilities (Shwepyitha)
30. Lin Yaung Chi Self Help Group Association of Person with Disabilities
31. Lin Lat Kyal Cin Disabled People Development Organization (Yesagyo)
32. Living Dignity for the Blind
33. Lin Latt Yaung Cin Association of Person with Disabilities (Pakokku)
34. Myanmar Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy and 15 Branches
35. Myanmar Autism Association

36. Myanmar Christian Fellowship of the Blind
37. Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (Magway Region)
38. Myanmar National Association of the Blind
39. Morning Star Intellectual Disabled Group (Taunggyi)
40. Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (Mili) and 29 Branches
41. Myanmar Down Syndrome Association
42. Myanmar Deaf Community Development Association (MDCDA)
43. Myanmar Deaf Society
44. Monywa Yaung Chi Thit School for the Blind
45. Nyarna Yaung Chi School for the Blind
46. Nway Thaw Lat Myar Self Help Group Association of Person with Disabilities
47. Purple Lotus Disability Inclusive Business Organization
48. Rainbow Star Psycho Social Disability Group
49. School for the Blind (Pyin Oo Lwin)
50. Shwepyitha Shwe Lin Yone Association of Person with Disabilities
51. Yangon Association of Hearing Disabilities