



Towards an Equal World

February 14, 2020



“Each for Equal” is the theme of International Women’s Day 2020. International Women’s Day is celebrated on 8th March every year. A specific slogan is identified every year to celebrate the event. The International Women’s Day 2019 theme was “Balance for Better”, and this year’s theme is “Each for Equal”.

The International Women’s Day website states, “An equal world is an enabled world.” Equality is not an issue only concerning women; it is an issue for the whole society. Gender equality must be mainstreamed in all businesses and communities to thrive. In societies where there is gender equality, people are considered to be healthier, wealthier, and work towards a harmonious world.

The theme “Each for Equal” is derived from the notion of ‘Collective Individualism’, says the IWD team. Individual actions, conversations, behaviors and mindsets can have an impact on society as a whole. “Change” happens in a collective way, and gender equality can only be embedded in society via collective action.

International Women’s Day was first celebrated in 1911. International Women’s Day is a special day to acknowledge the achievements of women in their respective social, economic, cultural, and political fields. It also seeks to promote gender equality.

This year’s theme, “Each for Equal” is a slogan which is needed until gender equality is achieved, not only for this year. All of us together should work to create an equal world.

Reference- www.internationalwomensday.com



Photo: Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Myanmar facebook page

Women’s experiences will be studied in 2020-2021

January 31, 2020

The assessment on women’s lives and experiences will be conducted from January-2020 to December-2021.

The first meeting of the technical survey committee on the experiences of women was held on January 28 in Nay Pyi Taw. U SoeAung, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry said, "This country-level survey is designed to provide useful information on the implementation of the ranking from the National Strategic Development Plan (SDG)'s number 5 and the National Strategic Plan for the Development of Women (2013-2022)."

Women between the ages of 15 and 64 will be surveyed in all regions and states. Based on the requirements for the study, U Soe Aung asked the relevant sectors for their coordination in survey data collection. The aim of the survey is to provide information to help the Ministry effectively implement the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW), budgeting and policy making, and gender-based response activities.

The survey will be implemented by the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, the Central Statistical Organization, and with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Shwe Lay

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Myanmar women are shortlisted in four categories of the Southeast Asia 'Women of the Future' Awards

February 11, 2020

Myanmar women are shortlisted in the four categories of the South-east Asia 'Women of the Future Awards' which will be held for the third time.

The award is given for ten categories, such as Arts & Culture, Entrepreneurship, Professions, Social Entrepreneur, Business, Media & Communications, Property, Infrastructure and Construction, Community Spirit & Public Service, and Mentor. Myanmar women on the shortlist are: Lachmi Baniya, (Co-Founder and CEO of GandaWin Magazine & GandaWin Tellyin) in the Entrepreneur category, Daw Chit Aein Thu,

(Founder and Managing Director of CCEducare Myanmar) in the Social Entrepreneur category, Daw Khin Thida Hnin, (Managing Director of MM Digital Solutions) in the Business category; and Daw Yee Mon Oo, (Advocacy and Campaign Coordinator of Oxfam in Myanmar) in the Media & Communications category.

The Women of the Future Awards South East Asia are open to all women aged 35 or under. The awards will once again aim to build a platform to showcase emerging leaders in the regions- those who are not afraid to question stereotypes, break boundaries, and drive positive change with courage, hard work, and determination.

Previous awards include: Daw Phyu Hnin Nyein, General Manager of FARM Advisory Services, Proximity designs (Myanmar), awarded the Women of the Future Award South East Asia at the Community Spirit & Public Service category in 2018; Dr. Theingi Win, Founder and CEO of Global Assistant Co., Ltd and Global Care International Clinic Chains (Myanmar) awarded at Business category in 2019; and Daw Thinzar Shunlei Yi, Youth Advocate & TV Host of Under 20 Dialogue TV Show (Myanmar) awarded at Media & Communication category in 2019.

Shwe Lay



Photo: Women of the Future Awards Southeast Asia

EMReF launched the research report and short stories book about Lives of people living in the Kachin-China Border area



Photo: Gawlu Ja Seng

February 24, 2020

Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF) launched the “Border Lives: The Kachin-China Border” report and “Borderless Cloud” short stories collection, which studied the socio-economic aspects of people’s lives in the Myanmar-China border area.

The report and short stories collection book launching event was held at Kachin Land College, Humanity Institute in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on February 15, 2020. For this study, the research team from EMReF visited Myitkyina, Lweje, Mai Ja Yang, Kan Pite Tee,

Hpe Maw, Gan Phan in Kachin State and Pian Ma, Zhand Feng, and La Ying from China from January to March, 2019 and collected the life stories of the local residents. In addition to the detailed research findings report “The Border Lives: The Kachin-China Border”, a collection of short stories, “Borderless Cloud” was published, engaging with arts. In the short stories collection book, there are three life stories which were written based on true facts and personal narratives of three people from Lweje, Mai Ja Yang, and Hpe Maw.

Daw Aye Lei Tun, Senior Program

Manager (Gender and Livelihood), who led the research, said “People living in the border area have difficult social lives in crossing the country. Through this research, we mainly explored the inter-dependence of family issues, livelihoods, education, and culture.”

The border study project was led by Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF)’s research team, with funding support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID, Myanmar).

Shwe Lay

National Development will be achieved only if Women's participation in Governance increases, and Violence against women decreases

February 17, 2020

National development will be achieved by means of increasing women's participation in governance, and only when violence against women decreases; Women for Justice (WJ) has announced, in their statement at the 25th Anniversary of the Women for Justice (WJ).

Sexual violence against women continues to be a hotbed in conflict areas, and women are still experiencing all forms of violence, including sexual violence. In the country, the security situation of women remains a challenge, maintained in the official statement. Moreover, women's participation in the peace process and political decision-making still remains very low. Women comprise more than half of the population in the country; thus the living standards of women and their involvement in government

must be improved. Violence against women must also be reduced. These steps would lead to national development.

Women for Justice (WJ) has announced that they will continue working on improving women's lives; promoting women's participation in decision-making roles; ending violence against women in various ways; striving for sustainable peace building through the inclusion of women. The Women for Justice (WJ) was founded in 1995, February 17, in New Delhi, India and was named the Women's Rights and Welfare Association of Burma (WRWAB) before. Then WJ is based in Kalay, Sagaing Region, on 2016. The aim is to eliminate violence against women in various ways; gender equality; to increase women's access to justice and legal aid; and to increase women's participation in politics.

Shwe Lay

Women's Rights Activist received European Union's Schuman Award 2020

February 21, 2020

Lway Poe Ngeal, Women's Rights Activist and General Secretary of the Women's League of Burma (WLB), received EU's 2020 Schuman Awards.

According to the European Union in Myanmar's statement, Lway Poe Ngeal has been awarded the EU's 2020 Schuman Award for her outstanding dedication to promoting women's and minority rights in Myanmar. Presented by the European Union in Myanmar, the annual Schuman Award recognizes outstanding merits in the promotion of the universal values of democracy, rule of law, peace, and human rights.

Lway Poe Ngeal, a Ta'ang woman from Northern Shan State, grew up in a village enveloped in fear, harassment, and a lack of opportunities particularly for women.

"I've seen women suffering from discrimination even in their families. Being a woman, I don't want to be discriminated against, and I want to break away from stereotypes. I want



to ensure all women get away from it. I live to fight for women's rights and the rights of ethnic minorities," she said.

The recipients of the Schuman

Awards are Women's Rights Activist, Lway Poe Ngeal, Human Rights Lawyer, U Kyee Myint, and satirical poetry troupe, Peacock Generation.

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Photo: <https://news.yale.edu>

World Famous Quotes

“Women can build stability. We can make peace.”

..... Hawa Abdi (Somali Human Rights Activist)

The Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Women (PoVAW) Law was drafted February 24, 2020

February 24, 2020

The Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Women (PoVAW) law was drafted to be in line with the country and it can benefit women, said Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement.

He said at the meeting regarding the Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Women (PoVAW) draft law, which was held in Naypyitaw, on February 17. Dr. Win Myat Aye said that penalties to protect women in Myanmar have not been properly documented, and they have been included in the draft law of the Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Women. The bill was drafted in accordance with the country and benefits women; and it is not a law that leads to disintegrate a family and a household. He recommended a law that effectively supports women's standing, development, and protection.

During the discussion, U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw addressed weak perception



Photo: Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Myanmar facebook page

of domestic violence cases, as human rights violations. For example, many women victims of violence are not able to receive protection from violence because of a law that has not yet been enforced regarding violence against women. The draft law is different from any other law, and it is a social law which will only be enforced if the law is applied by the people, he said.

Then, the Director General of the Department of Social Welfare explained the draft law and the attendees asked questions. This draft law was

publicized in government newspapers on January 25. The draft law was prepared by women activists, legal experts, and relevant authorities in the previous government since 2013. Under the current government in 2016, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement amended the draft law in collaboration with legal experts and women's organizations. The draft law contained 13 chapters, and some women activists who participated in drafting the bill said that they had many debates during the process.

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