



Photo : Shwe Lay

Political parties are urged to start increasing Women's participation

October 23, 2019

Without waiting for the response of government, political parties began their own initiatives to promote women's participation, according to the participants in the 'Women and Electoral Politics' (Myanmar Spring Talk).

Daw Cheery Zahau, a human rights activist, said at the panel discussion, "The Chin National League for Democracy (CNLD), a coalition of Chin parties, has already decided to include 30 percent of women. The policy is already developed. The other parties should initiate to promote at least 30% of women participation. We can't wait for the government's responses. The parties must start."

Political parties are playing a key role in promoting women's involvement, and they should consider ways to select candidates, and how to promote them. This point was raised by U Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint, Executive Director of the People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE).

He said, "During the remaining months, if political parties adopt strategies for nominating female candidates, the percentage of female candidates



Photo : Shwe Lay

will increase in the 2020 election.”

He said that the Union Election Commission plays a critical role in the development of political parties; as well as overseeing them. In the Union Election Commission's 2019-2022 strategic plan, the equality rights are stated, and the Union Election Commission needs to take steps to increase women's participation. It is also important to encourage political parties to implement recommendations regarding strategies to include more women candidates in political parties.

U Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint said, “If not, women’s participation would be a mere dream. It’s just a matter of good talking.”

According to participants, the policy of women and youth’s participation, as well as the real implementation of that policy, is essential in a political party. Daw Khaing Khaing Leh, MP from Mon State Parliament, added that the current female MPs need to show their powerful presence in



Photo : Shwe Lay

their constituencies, in order to encourage to increase more women’s participation in the next election.

She said, “If we can do, and we can show what we can do, more female MPs like us would increase in 2020. There will be more female administrators. So, we need to do more. More than

that, we need to show our strong standing point.”

The 'Women and Electoral Politics' (Myanmar Spring Talk), was led by Myanmar Spring Media on 20 October, at Park Royal Hotel, Yangon.

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Myanmar Ranks 150 of 167 World Countries in the Women, Peace, and Security Index 2019

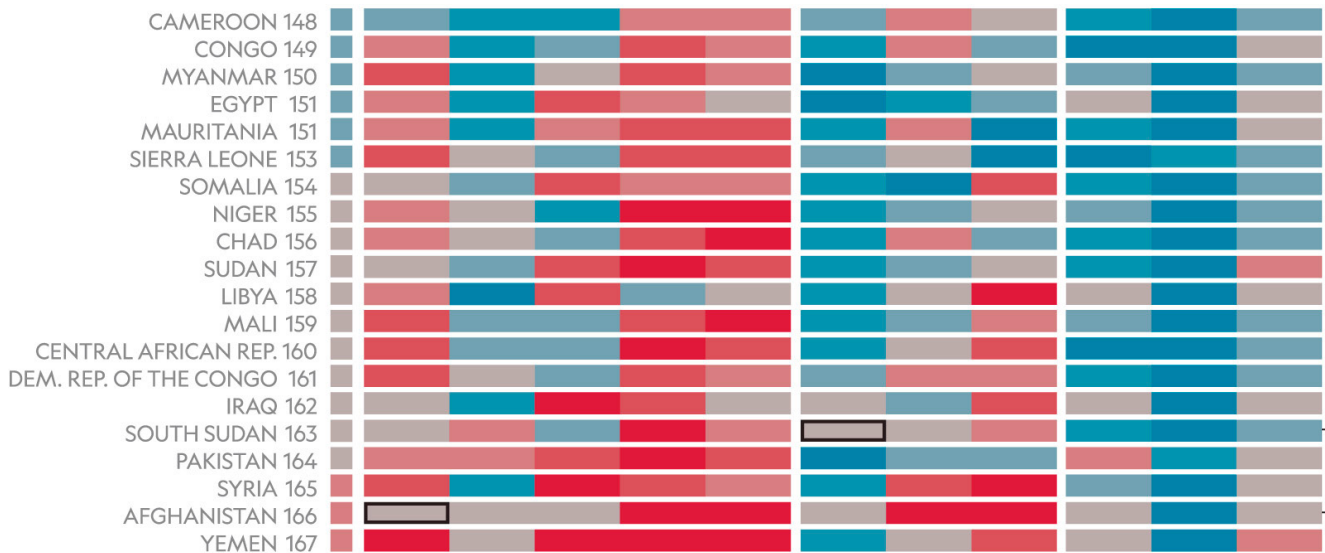


Photo : www.nationalgeographic.com

October 17, 2019

Myanmar ranks 150 out of 167 countries, according to the Women, Peace, and Security Index 2019.

According to the Women, Peace, and Security Index, Norway ranks number one, and Yemen is the worst country, ranking 167. Out of all ASEAN countries, with the exception of Brunei, Myanmar received the worst rating. In ASEAN countries, Singapore ranks 23, Malaysia ranks 73, Laos ranks 78, Philippines ranks 90, Vietnam and Thailand rank 92, Indonesia ranks 95 and Cambodia ranks 102.

This survey was reported by National Geographic Magazine, in an article titled: "The best and worst countries to be a woman". The Women, Peace, and Security Index seeks to understand global differences by measuring key indicators such as women's inclusion in society, sense of security, and exposure to discrimination. The study examined three main

categories: inclusion, security, and justice with 11 sub-categories. Women's level of participation in economic, social, and political sectors was studied in the context of the 'inclusion' category. In the security category,

the sense of safety and exposure to violence were studied. In the justice category, experiences of formal and informal discrimination were studied.

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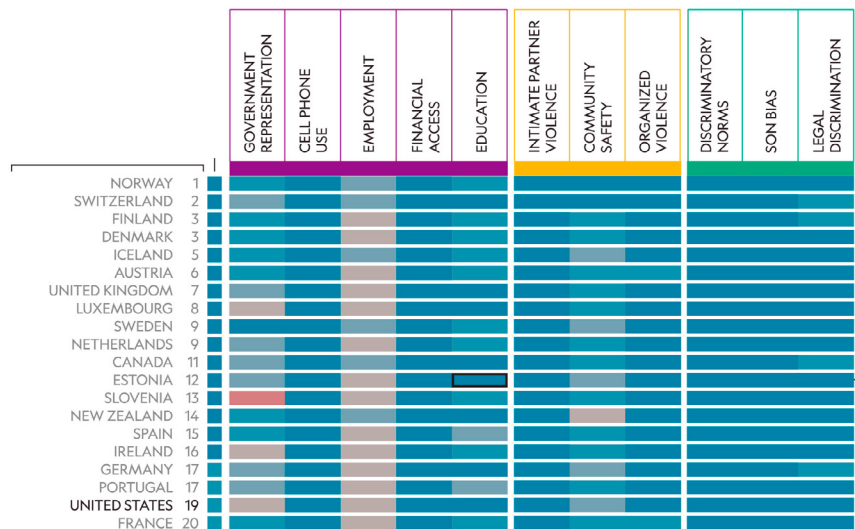


Photo : www.nationalgeographic.com

Leadership Roles must be given to Women for overall Development



Photo: KBZ Bank

October 22, 2019

Women must be given leadership roles for overall development in a country.

Daw Nang Lang Kham, Deputy CEO of KBZ Bank said at the International Day of the Girl's ceremony, "We need to support the idea that women are to be involved in the relevant sectors and to create opportunities for them step by step. We are not creating a world for just men or just women; we need to listen to the voices from both sides to create the world with equality."

The ceremony of International Day of the Girl was held at Plan International Myanmar on October 18, at Myanmar Plaza, Yangon. The International Day of the Girl is a special day to increase awareness about gender inequality, experienced by girls worldwide based upon their gender, Daw Nang Lang Kham explained.

Dr. Moe Moe, Director of Programs from Marie Stopes

International Myanmar said, "I recognized that adults need to make a space for young people. Also, young people who have been given a space must be recognized for their efforts. Yet, it is still important to make a space and to acknowledge the performance and capacity of girls. More importantly, we, women also need to welcome the girls and need to trust them."

In conjunction with International Day of the Girl on 11 October, 1,000 girls in more than 70 countries including Myanmar stepped into leading powerful positions as political leaders, media leads, ambassadors, business leaders etc, for a day as part of the global Girls Takeover campaign. More than 300 applicants have applied for Plan International Myanmar for this year's Girls Takeover program and 15 young women were selected.

Some attendees also discussed forming a Boys Takeover program for young men, as the Girls Takeover program is specifically aimed for young women.

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Arakan Women Peace Forum held to address the challenges facing Rakhine women in armed conflict



November 4, 2019

On 3 November, the Arakan Women Peace Forum was held to raise awareness about the challenges experienced by Rakhine women in the conflict, and to enhance the role of Rakhine women in the peace process.

In this forum, the participants analyzed the issues including weak participation of Rakhine women in the peace process; and the challenges faced by Rakhine women in the IDP camps and in armed conflict. Six key points were raised during the discussion, and participants shared them with stakeholders involved in the internal armed conflict and peace process.

The six key points include: to allow foreign aid to be transported freely to refugees; to allow freedom of expression, thus giving refugees a voice; and to form an independent and effective human rights monitoring commission with the local community, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, State Hluttaw, and representatives from refugees of the IDP camps for the human rights abuses in the IDPs; to conduct a fair and transparent investigation by Pyidaungsu and State governments for the commission's reports which had been heard by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and State Hluttaw. Moreover, the Rakhine Nationalities Organizations which are involved in the internal peace process were requested not to prohibit initiatives for public awareness about the peace process; and the voices of people to be heard by both sites; the government military and ethnic armed groups, for human rights issues, rule of law issues, and to ultimately end the conflicts.

The forum was organized by the All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress (AASYC) and Rakhine Women Network (RWN).

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Photo : Ministry of Foreign Affairs Myanmar Facebook

Appointing new female ambassador again


October 23, 2019

On 21 October, the Foreign Ministry announced that the NLD Government appointed Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne as ambassador.

Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne, who was Myanmar's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, has been appointed to the post of ambassador with special power for the Italy Republic of Myanmar, described in the press release. Daw Kay Thi Soe was appointed as the Ambassador to the Czech Republic of Myanmar in June this year, and Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne is the sixth female Ambassador of Myanmar.

The former Female ambassadors of Myanmar include General Aung San's wife, Myanmar State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's mother, Daw Khin Kyi (India) and Daw Yin Yin Myint(Germany), Daw Maw Maw(Norway) and Daw Ei Ei Khin Aye(Indonesia).

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World Famous Quotes

Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world.”

..... Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton (American politician & diplomat)

Photo: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Women’s League of Burma won 2019 Human Rights Tulip Myanmar Award

November 15, 2019

Women’s League of Burma – (WLB) has been awarded the 2019 Human Rights Tulip Myanmar by the Embassy of the Netherlands to Myanmar.

According to a press release from the Netherlands Embassy in Yangon,

an individual and organization were selected for this year’s Human Rights Tulip Award 2019. The winners were Ko Thet Swe Win from Synergy, and the Women’s League of Burma. They were selected for their outstanding human rights activities and building bridges in their human rights advocacy.

The Human Rights Tulip is an annual award given by the Dutch government for outstanding and courageous human rights defenders. Through the award, the Netherlands supports human rights defenders to continue their work and to share their stories.

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Photo : Women’s League of Burma - WLB FB