

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement No. (17/ 2025)

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which enshrines the fundamental rights of all human beings, including the right to life, liberty and security, was proclaimed on 10 December 1948. This day is observed globally as International Human Rights Day, marking today its seventy-seventh anniversary.
2. The UDHR, emanating from the Charter of the United Nations, stands as a cornerstone document for all humanity in the post-Second World War era. Myanmar not only voted in favor of the adoption of the Declaration, which recognizes the inherent dignity and equal rights of all human beings, in the UN General Assembly but has also incorporated the rights stipulated in the Declaration into the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
3. Emphasizing the importance of the international human rights laws that emerged based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Myanmar has also become a party to four international human rights treaties and two optional protocols to those treaties. Furthermore, Myanmar is participating in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which is a process that regularly reviews the human rights situation of all countries worldwide.
4. Demonstrating regional and international cooperation, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) participated in person at the annual meeting of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2025. Furthermore, the MNHRC attended the 9th International Scientific and Practical Conference on “Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Digitalization of Society”, in the Russian Federation. During this Conference, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the MNHRC and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation to enhance bilateral collaboration in human rights promotion and protection. Additionally, the Commission attended twelve other international meetings via online platforms.
5. In line with its mandate under the enabling law, the MNHRC, throughout 2025, conducted human rights awareness-raising activities such as human rights talks and lectures in collaboration with Union-level organizations, ministries, and civil society organizations, reaching a total of 7,290 participants. In its legal advisory role, the Commission provided human rights-based recommendations on five proposed draft laws. The MNHRC also published translated versions of key documents: the Convention

on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol (CRPD-OP), and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW-OP). Moreover, an illustrated booklet about the MNHRC was published in Myanmar, English, and Russian languages and distributed domestically and at international fora.

6. In its protection mandate, the MNHRC undertakes several key activities: handling complaints, monitoring alleged human rights violations, and conducting inspections of places of detention. These include prisons, jails, labour camps, police lock-ups, court holding cells, elderly homes and day-care center for the aged, and youth training schools. Inspections focus on ensuring non-discrimination, freedom of religion, access to adequate healthcare, sufficient clean drinking water, and the lawful provision of state-authorized entitlements and support. Based on findings, necessary recommendations are sent to the relevant authorities. The respective authorities have also cooperated in addressing the Commission's recommendations.

7. Regarding the upcoming multi-party democratic general election, the Commission Will conduct its monitoring processes in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations to ensure the legally mandated rights of every citizen and to contribute to the realization of a free and fair electoral process.

8. The theme designated by the United Nations for this 77th anniversary of International Human Rights Day is "Our Everyday Essentials." Therefore, on this commemorative day, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission calls upon everyone to respect and uphold the essential human rights that are indispensable in our daily lives.

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