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WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

Statement on the 25th Anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

October 31, 2025

UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted on October 31, 2000, emphasizes the importance of women's participation in peace processes and the need to protect women and girls in conflict situations. It was the first formal and legally binding document by the Security Council requiring parties to a conflict to prevent violations of women's rights, ensure women's participation in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction, and protect women and girls from wartime sexual violence.

Twenty-five years later, women in **Burma/Myanmar** continue to face the devastating consequences of war, displacement, militarization, and deep-rooted patriarchy. Since the 2021 military coup, more than **three million people** have been displaced, nearly **1,900 women killed**, and over **6,000 arrested**. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)—especially by the military junta—remains widespread, while survivors are denied justice and accountability.

Since its founding in 1999, the Women's League of Burma (WLB) and its member organizations have documented widespread and systematic crimes against women committed by the Burmese military. The WLB has recorded over **1,000 cases** of SGBV, including more than **550 conflict-related sexual violence cases**, though the actual numbers are believed to be far higher.

Despite global commitments, women remain excluded from decision-making and face systemic barriers across all four pillars of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda:

- **Participation:** Women are sidelined from peace and political processes, often included only symbolically.
- **Prevention:** The collapse of justice systems enables ongoing impunity for sexual and gender-based violence.
- **Protection:** Airstrikes, raids, and displacement expose women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people to trafficking and violence.
- **Relief and Recovery:** Aid blockages and limited access to education, healthcare, and livelihoods hinder recovery efforts.

Still, women across Burma continue to lead in providing humanitarian aid, documenting abuses, and building peace—often with little recognition or support. But they cannot do it alone. The international community's inaction threatens the credibility of the WPS agenda itself.

WLB Calls for Urgent Action

To the UN Member States and the Security Council:

- Impose targeted sanctions and a global arms embargo on the junta.
- Refer Burma/Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Ensure civil society briefings during UNSC sessions and strengthen WPS integration across all mandates.
- Support long-term, sustainable peacebuilding efforts, not just short-term crisis responses.

To ASEAN and Neighboring Countries:

- Recognize refugees from Burma/Myanmar and enable safe, voluntary returns.
- Deliver humanitarian aid independently, not through the military junta.
- Partner with legitimate local and ethnic organizations, rather than the junta.

To the International Community:

- Condemn the military coup and refuse to recognize the junta's authority.
- Support efforts to restore democracy and legitimate representation.
- Urge the ICC to investigate and prosecute junta leaders for crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Ensure women's rights organizations and civil society are meaningfully included in all decision-making processes.

To Donors:

- Fund and empower women-led and ethnic civil society groups directly.
- Invest in survivor-centered justice, health, and livelihood programs.
- Make aid gender-responsive and localized, reducing bureaucracy and overhead.
- Ensure aid policies reflect local realities and languages.
- Support local women's rights defenders by funding and assisting CSOs and women's groups running safe houses and shelters for at-risk women and peaceful protestors.

For twenty-five years, the women of Burma have upheld the spirit of UNSCR 1325 with courage and persistence. It is now time for the global community to match that courage with decisive action for **justice, accountability, and lasting peace.**

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