Religions for Peace
Advisory Forum
on National Reconciliation
and Peace in Myanmar

21-22 November 2018
Myanmar International Convention Centre II
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
A transformed people, encouraged by their religious communities to advance a shared desire for peace, can usher in ‘progress for all.”

State Counsellor
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
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စာမားအသားခြင်းသည် အျပည္ျပည္ဆိုင္ရာ ၿွင့့ခြင်းများအားလုံးကို ပြောပြပုံဖျငီးမည်

RFP အဖြဲ႕ချင်းစီယမ်အကဲဖူးစီမှ ညုဖ်းသော စာမားအသားခြင်းများအားလုံးကို ပြောပြပုံဖျငီးမည်။

RFP တွင် စာမားအသားခြင်းများအားလုံးကို ပြောပြပုံဖျငီးမည်။
လံုၿခဳံေရးတပ္ဖြဲ႕ဝင္တို႔သည္ CONCEPT (က်င္းပလိုေသာအခမ္းအနားႏွင့္ကိစၥရပ္၏ေနာက္ဆက္တြဲ ဘာသာ၊လူမ်ဳိး၊က်ား၊မႏွင့္ ျပႆနာအခက္အခဲဆင္းရဲဒုကၡတို႔ကိုယ္စားလွယ္အဖြဲ႕သည္ ေဒၚေအာင္ဆန္းစုၾကည္အေနျဖင့္တပ္မေတာ္၊RfP ၿမဳိ၊ စံုစမ္းစစ္ေဆးမႈမ်ားျပဳလုပ္႔ရေးၾကားမႈမ်ားအျဖစ္ အျခားပါဝင္သင့္ေသာ ဒိုင္းနက္၊ သက္ဆိုင္ရာျပည္နယ္အစိုးရမ်ား၊ စပ္လ်ဥ္းသည့္ လူမ်ဳိးမ်ားႏွင့္ ႀကီးမားေသာစစ္ဆင္ေရးမ်ားမစၥတာကိုဖီအာနန္ဦးေဆာင္ေသာ ဟိႏၵဴဘာသာဝင္မ်ားခမီ၊ အေကာင္အထည္ေဖာ္ခ်က္အေနျဖင့္ ျပည္ေထာင္စုႏွင့္ ေၾကာင္းကမန္ႏွင့္ အျပည့္အဝတာဝန္ယူရန္ သေဘာတူညီခ်က္အား ျဖစ္ပြားခဲ့သည့္ လူမ်ဳိးစုႏွင့္ ႀကဳံခံစားေနရသည့္ လည္းအတည္ျပားၾကားခဲ့ပါသည္။ အေလးအနက္တင္ျပခဲ့ပါသည္။ နယ္စပ္ေဒသရွိ စီစဥ္ခ်မွတ္မႈအားလည္း မည္သို႔ပင္ကြဲျပားေစကာမူ ျပည္နယ္အစိုးရအဖြဲ႕မွ စိတ္ကူးႀကံရြယ္ခ်က္မွတ္စု ကုလသမဂၢတို႔အၾကား၏ ၁၀၀ ျပဳလုပ္ခဲ့ရာ ထြက္ေျပးခဲ့ၾကပါသည္။ ကမၻာ့ကုလသမဂၢအဖြဲ႕၊ ခန္႔ကိုအစုလိုက္အၿပဳံလိုက္ ျပည္သူလူထုမ်ားအေပၚ၌ ဒုကၡသည္ ရခိုင္အႀကံေပးအဖြဲ႕၏ အၾကမ္းဖက္တိုက္ခိုက္ခဲ့သည္ဟူေသာ ထိုေဒသရွိ ဒုကၡသည္တို႔ 二氧化碳 ရခိုင္ျပည္နယ္ရွိ တိုက္တြန္းခဲ့ပါသည္။ ကယ္ဆယ္ေရးတပ္ ျမန္မာျပည္ရင္ဆိုင္ ျပစ္မႈအသီးသီးတို႔ ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံေတာ္ ေက်ာ္လႊားရန္လို ၇၀၀၀၀၀ ျပန္လည္ မေရာက္မီး ျပဳလုပ္ရန္ ျပန္လည္ ၄
အကြီးအကျယ် (Low Key)သည် အကြီးအကျယ် ပင်မဖါရာစက်မှုစနစ်အားလုံးနှင့် ဆိုစေရမ်းသော ဝင်းသောက်အစား အဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့် ကိုယ်စားလွယ်ကူသောအခွင့်အရေးများကို သိရှိနေသော အဖွဲ့အစည်းများအတွက် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း စိတ်ကူးႀကံရြယ္ခ်က္မွတ္စု မ်ားသည် သိုသိပ္က်စ္လစ္ေသာ (Low Key)အႀကံျပဳမႈ ယႏၱရားအျဖစ္ ျမန္မာျပည္သူတို႔အတြက္ ဘက္စံုၿခဳံငံုသည့္ ၿငိမ္းခ်မ္းေရးအစီအစဥ္တစ္ရပ္ ခ်မွတ္ရန္ျဖစ္ပါသည္။

အျပည္ျပည္ဆိုင္ရာဥပေဒႏွင့္ လူ႔အခြင့္အေရးစံခ်ိန္စံညႊန္းမ်ား၏ စည္းကမ္းကလနားတို႔အတြင္းမွ ေဆာင္ရြက္ရန္ကို အာရံုစူးစိုက္ ဦးတည္ေသာ္လည္း ေလွနံဓားထစ္ပံုေသကားခ်ပ္ဆုပ္ကိုင္ထားျခင္းမ်ဳိးမရွိဘဲ၊ ဆုတ္သာတိုးသာေပ်ာ့ေျပာင္းညင္သာစြာေဆာင္ရြက္ရန္ရည္သန္ပါသည္။

ပါဝင္မည့္သူမ်ားအား ေအာက္ပါအတိုင္း အၾကမ္းဖ်ဥ္းလ်ာထားပါသည္ -

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<td>အစိုးရတို႔၏ကိုယ္စားလွယ္မ်ား</td>
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<td>၅ ဦး</td>
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အႀကံေပးပုဂၢဳိလ္ (၂)ဦး

စုစုေပါင္းတက္ေရာက္မည့္သူ (၁၀၀)ဦး
CONCEPT

Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II): အတိမ္ေစာင္းမွားစေချင်း၊ အားထုတ္ေပမည္။

ယွန်းလိုင္းသည္ ဒုတိယအႀကံျပဳေဆြးေႏြးဝိုင္း
ပထမအႀကံျပဳေဆြးေႏြးဝိုင္း

စဖ်ပါး၍က်င္းပမည့္ပံုစံက်င္းပမည့္ေနရာအခမ္းအနားက်င္းပမည့္အႀကံျပဳေဆြးေႏြးဝိုင္းတစ္ရပ္လွ်င္
ရွာေဖြတင္ျပၾကရန္ ရက္ၾကာမည္ျဖစ္ၿပီး၊
စိန္ေခၚမႈမ်ား၏ ဘာသာရပ္ေခါင္းစဥ္အလိုက္လိုရင္းတိုရွင္းတင္ျပမႈမ်ား
တက္တက္ၾကြၾကြ၊
အရာမ်ားေကာက္ႏႈတ္ခ်က္
ဟုအမည္တပ္၍
က်င္းပလိုေသာအခမ္းအနားႏွင့္အစီအစဥ္
က်င္းပမည့္ပံုစံက်င္းပမည့္
အႀကံျပဳေဆြးေႏြးဝိုင္းတစ္ရပ္လွ်င္
Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II)
ေဆြးေႏြးမႈမွန္သမွ်သည္(၅)ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံ၏အဝိုင္းတစ္ရပ္လံုးမွခုအား—ျဖစ္ႏိုင္ေခ်ေျဖရွင္းနည္းမေဖာျပရန္အျဖစ္
"Chatham House Rules"
ခြဲေဝထမ္းပံုသ႑ာန္မွာ
ေဆာင္ရမည့္
ထုတ္ျပန္ပါမည္။
မွ်ေဝခံစားရအပ္သည့္
ဒီမိုကေရစီစနစ္သို႔အႏၱရာယ္တို႔အားလည္းေကာင္း၊
၂အၾကမ္းဖ်ဥ္းအစီအစဥ္––––––
စံုညီစည္ေဝးရွာေဖြတင္ျပၾကရန္
ရက္ၾကာမည္ျဖစ္ၿပီး၊
၂၃စာရြက္စာတမ္းမ်ား
ၿပီးေျမာက္သြားတိုင္း
၂၄ October ၂၀၁၉
၂၀နိုင္ငံရေးေနရာက်စရာ
ေမွ်ာ္လင့္
ေကာင္းဆိုးတို႔အား
ေကာင္းက်ဳိး၂၀
ဒုတိယေန႔
က်င့္သံုးသြားပါမည္။
ယင္းတင္ျပမႈတို႔၏
ေနျပည္ေတာ္၊
ဦးစီးၿပီး
ထားပါသည္။
အႏၱရာယ္တို႔အားလည္းေကာင္း၊
ပဋိပကၡမွသေဘာတူညီခ်က္ရယူၿပီး၊
ၾကားကာလတြင္
အျဖာျဖာတို႔အျပင္
ညေန
ျပင္ပတြင္ၿပီး
ကိန္းဝပ္တည္ရွိေနေသာ
ပိုင္းျခားေဝဖန္ကာ၊
ဦးႏွင့္
အေျခခံၿပီး
အႏွစ္ခ်ဳပ္ႏွင့္(တက္ေရာက္သူအားလံုးအေနျဖင့္
၃း၀၀
က်င္းပမည္ျဖစ္ၿပီး၊
အေျဖရွာရန္)
နာရီတြင္
ေတြ႔ဆံုရင္ဆိုင္ေနရေသာ
အႀကံျပဳ
ႏွင့္ စူးစမ္းႀကဳိးပမ္းသဘာပတိ၏
ၿပီးဆံုးပါမည္။
ဘာသာရပ္ဓမၼတရား၊
ေဆြးေႏြး
ႏွင့္ 6
CONCEPT

အက်င့္သီလ၊ လူမႈႏွင့္ ယဥ္ေက်းမႈဆိုင္ရာ ေဒသနာတို႔၏ အက်ဳိးျပဳေဆာင္က်ဥ္းႏိုင္စြမ္းႏွင့္ တာဝန္ယူႏိုင္မႈအလားအလာတို႔ အား စူးစမ္းရွာေဖြမႈလည္း ျပဳလုပ္သြားေပမည္။

မစၥတာကိုဖီအာနန္ဦးေဆာင္ေသာ အႀကံေပးေကာမရွင္၏ အႀကံျပဳခ်က္၌ ေဖာ္ျပထားေသာ ရခိုင္ျပည္နယ္၌ ေတြ႔ႀကဳံ ေနရေသာ ဖြ႕ံၿဖဳိးမႈ၊ လူ႔အခြင့္အေရး ႏွင့္ လံုၿခဳံမႈဆိုင္ရာ အက်ပ္အတည္းဟူသည့္ အခ်က္တို႔သည္ ရခိုင္ျပည္နယ္အတြက္ တည္တံ့ခိုင္ၿမဲမည့္ ေျဖရွင္းနည္းတို႔အား ရွာေဖြစူးစမ္းရန္ ေဆြးေႏြးၾကမည့္ RfP အႀကံျပဳေဆြးေႏြးဝိုင္းအတြက္ အေရးႀကီးေသာအခ်က္အလက္မ်ားကို ေဖာ္ညႊန္းေပးေပမည္။

IDP စခန္းမ်ားတြင္ ႏွစ္ရွည္လမ်ားခိုကိုးရာမဲ့ ထိလြယ္ရွလြယ္အေျခအေနတို႔ ႏွင့္ ေလွာင္ပိတ္ေနသူမ်ား၊ ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံကို မိမိတု႔ိဇာတိေျမအျဖစ္သိထားၿပီး၊ အိမ္နီးခ်င္းဘဂၤလာေဒ့ရွ္ႏိုင္ငံ စခန္းမ်ားမွ ႏွစ္ရွည္လမ်ားခိုကိုးရာမဲ့ ထိလြယ္ရွလြယ္အေျခအေနတို႔ ႏွင့္ ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံ မိမိတိုင္းျပည္သို႔ ျပန္လိုၾကသည့္ ဒုကၡသည္မ်ားအေရးကိုလည္း ဤေဆြးေႏြး အႀကံျပဳဝိုင္းတြင္ ထည့္သြင္းေဆြးေႏြးသင့္ပါသည္။

ထို႔အျပင္ ၂၁-ရာစု ပင္လံု ေရးညီလာခံႀကီး၏ တိုးတက္ေအာင္ျမင္မႈရရွိေရးအတြက္ ထိုက္တန္ေသာ အာရံုစိုက္မႈတို႔ကို ဤအႀကံျပဳေဆြးေႏြးဝိုင္းမွ ျပဳလုပ္သြားမည္ျဖစ္ပါသည္။

(က်င္းပလိုေသာအခမ္းအနားႏွင့္ စပ္လ်ဥ္း၍) စိတ္ကူးႀကံရြယ္ခ်က္မွတ္စု
Religions for Peace Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar

Background and Purpose

On 24 May 2018, a Religions for Peace High-level Multi-religious Delegation1 presented the ‘Letter to the Peoples of Myanmar’ carrying a vision and call for peace and development. The Letter was delivered to H.E. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 25 May 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw and is being disseminated across the country in different languages.

Religions for Peace is the world’s largest and most representative multi-religious coalition, advancing common action among the world’s religious communities for peace. Headquartered in New York and accredited to the United Nations, Religions for Peace works to transform violent conflict, advance human development, promote just and harmonious societies, and protect the earth. The global Religions for Peace network comprises a World Council of senior religious leaders from all regions of the world; six regional inter-religious bodies and more than 90 national ones; and the Global Women of Faith Network and Global Interfaith Youth Network.

The meeting between the Religions for Peace delegation and H.E. State Counsellor and senior government representatives, including the Minister for Religious Affairs; Minister for International Cooperation; and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was marked by a constructive spirit of commitment and cooperation.

From 26-28 May, representatives of Religions for Peace visited Sittwe and Maungdaw in the north of Rakhine State where militant attacks in August 2017 triggered massive operations by the security per-

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1 Myanmar National Delegates included H.E. Cardinal Charles Bo, Patron, Religions for Peace Myanmar, Archbishop of Yangon; Sayadaw U Narayana, Faundaw Oo Sayadaw; Venerable Ariya Wun Tha Bhivun Sa (Myawaddy Sayardaw), Abbot, Myawaddy Mingyi Monastery in Mandalay; U Myint Swe, President, Religions for Peace Myanmar, President, Ratana Metta Organization; Grand Mufti U Ko Lay, Patron, Religions for Peace Myanmar, Chief Convener, the Islamic Center of Myanmar; Daw Yin Yin Maw, Chair, Religions for Peace Myanmar Women of Faith Network, Former President, Myanmar Council of Churches; Rev. Father Joseph Maung Win, Secretary General, Religions for Peace Myanmar, Head of the Office of Yangon Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith; and U San Min Naing, EC Member, Religions for Peace Myanmar, Core Member, Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI). The International Delegates included The Most. Ven. Kotugoda Dhammawasa Thera, Sadharama Keerthi Sri Tripitaka Visharadha Aggamaha Panditha, Supreme Patriarch of Amarapura Nikaya (Theravada Buddhism), Sri Lanka; The Most Ven. Tep Vong, Co-President, Religions for Peace International, Great Supreme Patriarch of Cambodia (Theravada Buddhism), Cambodia; Rev. Nichiko Niwano, Honorary President, Religions for Peace International, President, Rissho Kosei-Kai (Mahayana Buddhism), Japan; Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin, Moderator, Religions for Peace Asia, Special Envoy of President of Indonesia for Inter-faith and Inter-civilizational Dialogue and Cooperation; Chairman, Advisory Forum of Indonesian Ulama Council (Islam), Indonesia; Dr. Vinu Aram, Co-Moderator, Religions for Peace International, Director, Shanti Ashram (Hinduism), India; Bishop Gunnar Stalsett, Honorary President, Religions for Peace International, Bishop Emeritus of Oslo (Christian), Norway; and Rev. Kyoichi Sugino, Deputy Secretary General, Religions for Peace International.
SONNELL ON THE AREA’S MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND SOME 700,000 MUSLIMS AND HUNDREDS OF HINDUS FLED FOR BANGLADESH. THIS REGION HAS ALSO SEEN TERRORIST ATTACKS BY ARakan ROHINGYA SALVATION ARMY (ARSA) ACCUSED OF MASSACRES OF A 100 HINDUS AND ATTACKS ON OTHER ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES. THE DELEGATION SAW FROM THE AIR HUNDREDS OF BURNED AND DESTROYED MUSLIM VILLAGES BEFORE VISITING THE SITES OF RECEPTION CENTERS AND TRANSIT CAMPS. INCLUDED IN THE MISSION WERE MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

THE DELEGATION EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH UNION AND RAKHINE STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, STRESSING THE NEED TO OVERCOME THE PREVALENT CULTURE OF FEAR AND SUSPICION AND TO PROMOTE INTER-COMMUNAL HARMONY, IRRESPECTIVE OF RELIGION, ETHNICITY, GENDER AND CITIZENSHIP.

IN RESPONSE TO DIFFERENT NARRATIVES OF VICTIMS, THE DELEGATION URGED THE UNION GOVERNMENT TO TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A THOROUGH AND TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION INTO MUTIPLE CRIMES PERPETRATED IN RAKHINE STATE, INCLUDING EVENTS RELATED TO ENTIRE POPULATIONS SUCH AS THE RAKHINE MUSLIMS, MYO, THAT, DYNET, KHAMEE, KAMEN AND THE HINDU. RELIGIONS FOR PEACE IS ENCOURAGING A PROCESS TO ESTABLISH FACTS, RESTORE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS, AND SUPPORT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE. THE PROCESS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OVERCOMING FEAR, HATRED AND INTOLERANCE IN RAKHINE STATE AND ELSEWHERE.


AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE MULTI-RELIGIOUS DELEGATION TO MYANMAR, THE “THE LETTER” CALLED FOR A RELIGIONS FOR PEACE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITH MYANMAR GOVERNMENT, THE MILITARY, CONCERNED STATES, UNITED NATIONS, ICRC, ASEAN AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ACTORS TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL ISSUES FACING MYANMAR.

Daw Aung Sun Suu Kyi welcomed the delegation’s offer of multi-religious solidarity and accompaniment and was supportive of the future steps planned for continuing dialogue and multi-religious cooperation in the framework of RELIGIONS FOR PEACE. This is hereby presented as a low key advisory mechanism which is dedicated to serving the comprehensive peace agenda of the people of Myanmar in a focused yet flexible way within the framework of international law and human rights.

2 UNHCR and UNDP signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on June 6, 2018. The MoU is a first and necessary step to establish a framework for cooperation between the UN and the Government aimed at creating conducive conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh and for helping to create improved and resilient livelihoods for all communities living in Rakhine State.
The *Religions for Peace* Advisory Forum will bring together representatives of the Myanmar government, the military, parliamentarians from ruling and opposition parties, ethnic organizations, UN agencies, ASEAN, ICRC, international NGOs, national NGOs, religious leaders, and experts. The provisional breakdown of the participants is as follows:

- Myanmar government (5)
- Myanmar military (6)
- Myanmar parliamentarians (10)
- Ethnic armed organizations (10)
- Representatives of Foreign Governments (15)
- United Nations and Intergovernmental Organizations (5)
- International Agencies (5)
- National NGO (5)
- Experts (5)
- National and International Religious Leaders (20)
- Guest Speakers (5)
- Facilitators and Rapporteurs (5)
- *Religions for Peace* International Secretariat (2)
- Advisors (2)

The total number of participants is 100.

**Venue**

Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

**Format**

Each Forum will be scheduled for two days, concluding around 3 pm on the second day. There will be short thematic presentations. Relevant background documents shall be distributed in advance. All participants are expected to be engaged in an active, creative and critical dialogue to contribute both to the analysis of the issues/challenges and to possible solutions.

The Forum will consist of plenary sessions (100 participants) and five thematic working groups (20 participants each).

The discussion will be conducted under Chatham House Rules to facilitate a free conversation. At the end of each Forum, a “Chairman’s summary” may be issued by the consensus of the participants.
Tentative Schedule for the Advisory Forum

1st Advisory Forum 21–22 November 2018
2nd Advisory Forum 27–28 March 2019
3rd Advisory Forum 23–24 October 2019
4th Advisory Forum 25–26 March 2020

Agenda

In search for a solution based upon human dignity and shared well-being and from the perspectives of global responsibility sharing, Religions for Peace Advisory Forum will address the critical issues facing Myanmar’s transition from dictatorship to democracy, from conflict to peace, and from closed to open economy. The potential of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural contribution and responsibility of the rich religious traditions in Myanmar will be explored.

The recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Mr. Kofi Annan regarding the developmental, human rights and security crises in the State provides an important framework for the Advisory Forum’s deliberation on, and search for, lasting solutions. The vulnerability of those living within Rakhine State, including those who for years have been confined to IDP camps, those suffering in refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh, all those desiring dignified and safe return to the places they know to be their homes in Myanmar, should be addressed by the Advisory Forum. The Forum shall also address the suffering and the future of people affected by other internal conflicts, including displaced populations from the most recent escalation of armed conflicts in Kachin and Shan States. Furthermore, the Advisory Forum will pay due attention to the progress of the Panglong 21st Century Peace Conferences.

Theme and Sub-themes

Theme: “Our Common Future”

Sub-themes for Working Groups:

- Education (Access to higher education, ethnic language education, interfaith curriculum for formal and non-formal education)
- Equal Rights and Responsibilities for All Ethnic and Minority Groups
- Women’s Empowerment and Participation
- Youth Empowerment and Engagement
- Identity, Diversity and Common Challenges in Rakhine State

Special Plenary Sessions:

- Religion and Peacebuilding
Draft Program

DAY I: 21 November 2018

9:00-9:45 OPENING SESSION

MC:
- Daw Kyi Kyi Khin, Religions for Peace Myanmar Women of Faith Network

Welcome and Introduction
Multi-religious Vision of Peace and Development in Myanmar
- His Eminence Cardinal Charles Bo, Patron, Religions for Peace Myanmar

Opening Addresses:
- H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Myanmar (TBC)
- General Mutu Sae Po, Chairman, Karen National Union (KNU); Chairman, Peace Process Steering Team (PPST)

 Remarks from Co-Chairs:
- U Myint Swe, President, Religions for Peace Myanmar
- Bishop Gunnar Stålsett, Honorary President, Religions for Peace International

Group Photo

9:45-10:00 Break

10:00-11:30 PLENARY SESSION I: Religion and Peacebuilding

- Ven. Dr. Dhammasami, Chief Abbot, Oxford Buddha Vihara, Buddhist Chaplain to Oxford University
- Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo, The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Anglican)
- Al Haj U Aye Lwin, Convener, Islamic Center of Myanmar, Core Group, Religions for Peace Myanmar
- Dr. Hla Tun, Hindu Community, Core Group, Religions for Peace Myanmar
- Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General, Religions for Peace International

11:30-12:30 LUNCH

12:30-14:00 PLENARY SESSION II: Presentations on Sub-themes

1. Education
   Honorable Pyone Kathy Naing, Member of Parliament

2. Equal Rights and Responsibilities for All Ethnic and Minority Groups
   Ms. Seng Raw Lahpal, Founder, Metta Development Foundation

3. Women's Empowerment and Participation
   Ms. Cheery Zahau, Human Rights Activist and Researcher

4. Youth Empowerment and Engagement
   Dr. Min Zaw Oo, Executive Director, Myanmar Institute for Peace and Security

5. Identity, Diversity and Common Challenges in Rakhine State
   U Maung Saw Win, Representative, Buddhist Community, Rakhine State
   U Aung Myo Min, Representative, Muslim Community, Rakhine State

14:00-14:30 Break
### WORKING GROUP SESSION

1. **Education**  
   Facilitator: *Ms. Piyamal Pichaiwongse*, Deputy Liaison Officer, International Labor Organization (ILO)

2. **Equal Rights and Responsibilities for All Ethnic and Minority Groups**  
   Facilitator: *Mr. Aung Naing Oo*, Executive Director, Join Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JCM)

3. **Women's Empowerment and Participation**  
   Facilitator: *Daw Yin Yin Maw*, Chair, Religions for Peace Women of Faith Network

4. **Youth Empowerment and Engagement**  
   Facilitator: *Ms. Ja Nan Lahtaw*, Executive Director, Nyein (Shalom) Foundation

5. **Identity, Diversity and Common Challenges in Rakhine State**  
   Facilitator: *Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing*, Director, Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNH)

### SIGHTSEEING in NAY PYI TAW

16:30-18:00

### DINNER & INFORMAL NETWORKING

18:30-20:30

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### DAY II: 22 November 2018

8:30-10:00  
**PLENARY SESSION III**

Reports from Working Group

10:00-11:30  
**PLENARY SESSION IV: Our Common Future, Our Common Action**

- **Ven. Dr. Seikinda**, Dean, International Theravada Buddhist University
- **H.E. Cardinal Charles Bo**, Archbishop of Yangon; Patron, *Religions for Peace Myanmar*
- **Dr. Vinu Aram**, Director, Shanti Ashram; Co-Moderator, *Religions for Peace International*
- **Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin**, Moderator, Asian Conference of *Religions for Peace*

11:30-12:30  
**CONCLUDING SESSION**

- **H.E. Thura U Aung Ko**, Minister of Religious Affairs and Culture
- **U Myint Swe**, President, *Religions for Peace Myanmar*
- **Bishop Gunnar Stålsett**, Honorary President, *Religions for Peace International*
CONCEPT

Core Group, Co-Chairs and Co-Coordinators

Core Group:
A group of 10–15 members shall be selected to serve as the **Core Group for the Advisory Forum**. *Religions for Peace* International Secretary General **Dr. William F. Vendley** shall be an ex-officio member of the Core Group. The **Core Group of States** in support of the Advisory Forum will also be constituted.

Co-Chairs:
- **U Myint Swe**, President, *Religions for Peace* Myanmar, President, Ratana Metta Organization
- **Bishop Gunnar Stålsett**, Honorary President, Religions for Peace International, Bishop Emeritus of Oslo, Norway

Co-Coordinators:
- **Rev. Kyoichi Sugino**, Deputy Secretary General, *Religions for Peace* International

Secretariat

*Religions for Peace* International, in partnership with *Religions for Peace* Myanmar, shall be responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Advisory Forum.
Provisional List of Invitees

Myanmar government (5)
- State Counsellor
- Ministry of Religious Affairs
- Ministry of Social Welfare
- Ministry of International Cooperation
- Ministry of Education

Myanmar military (6)
- Commander-in-Chief
- Ministry of Defense
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Border Affairs
- High-ranking official
- High-ranking official

Myanmar parliamentarians (10)
- National League for Democracy (NLD) (5)
- Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) (1)
- Arakan National Party (ANP) (1)
- Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) (1)
- Shan Nationality League for Democracy (SNLD) (1)
- Kachin Democratic Party (KDP) (1)

Ethnic armed organizations (10)
- Chin National Front (CNF)
- All Burma Students’ Democratic Front (ABSDF)
- Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)
- Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS)
- Karen National Union (KNU)
- Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) (KNU/KNLA PC)
- Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA)
- Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)
- The New Mon State Party (NMSP)
- Lahu Democratic Union (LDU)
Other groups may be invited.

Local NGO (5)
- Shalom Foundation
- Metta Development Foundation
- Paung Ku Foundation
- Paung Sie Facility
- Women’s organization
- Youth

Representatives of Foreign Governments (25)
The States marked with * constitute the “Core Group of States” based upon their level of commitment and contribution. The Core Group of States could be expanded.
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Canada
- Cambodia
- China
- Denmark
- European Union*
- France
- Germany*
- India
- Indonesia*
- Japan*
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- The Netherlands
- Norway*
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka*
- Sweden
- Switzerland*
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States*

United Nations and Intergovernmental Organizations (5)
- UNSG Special Envoy
- UN Resident Coordinator
- UNICEF
- UNHCR
- ASEAN

International agencies (5)
- ICRC
- IOM
- Oxfam
- Save the Children
- MSF
Provisional List of Invitees

Experts (5)
- Thant Myint-U, Historian
- Ms. Cheery Zahau (Chin)
- Daw Seng Raw Lahpai (Kachin)
- U Kyaw Min (Muslim from Rakhine State)
- U Tha Aye (Muslim from Rakhine State)

National and International Religious Leaders (20)
- H.E. Cardinal Charles Bo, Patron, Religions for Peace Myanmar, Archbishop of Yangon
- Ven. Dr. Seikinda, Dhammaduta, Dean, International Theravada Buddhist University
- Ven. Dr. Damathami, Chief Abbot, Shan Monastery, Chaplin, Oxford University Buddhist Monastery
- Ven. Dr. Samdadica, Chief Abbot, Shwe Parani
- Ven. Dr. Dhammapiya, Ngar Gyan Pyan Sasana Yeiktha
- Dr. Pinnyathiha Linkara, Sitagudi Buddhist University
- U Myint Swe, President, Religions for Peace Myanmar, President, Ratana Metta Organization
- Dr. Hla Maung, Interfaith Dialogue Group
- Grand Mufti U Ko Lay, Patron, Religions for Peace Myanmar, Grand Mufti, Suratee Jamia Masjid
- Al Haj U Aye Lwin, Founding Member, Religions for Peace Myanmar, Chief Convener, the Islamic Center of Myanmar
- Saw Shwe Lin, Vice President, Myanmar Council of Churches
- Daw Yin Yin Maw, Chair, Religions for Peace Myanmar Women of Faith Network, Former President, Myanmar Council of Churches
- Rev. Father Joseph Maung Win, Secretary General, Religions for Peace Myanmar, Head of the Office of Yangon Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith
- Dr. Hla Tun, Core Member, Religions for Peace Myanmar
- The Most Ven. Tep Vong, Co-President, Religions for Peace International, Great Supreme Patriarch of Cambodia (Theravada Buddhism), Cambodia
- Rev. Kosho Niwano, Co-Moderator, Religions for Peace International, President-designate, Rissho Kosei-Kai (Mahayana Buddhism), Japan
- Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin, Moderator, Religions for Peace Asia, Special Envoy of President of Indonesia for Inter-faith and Inter-civilizational Dialogue and Cooperation; Chairman, Advisory Forum of Indonesian Ulema Council (Islam), Indonesia
- Dr. Vinu Aram, Co-Moderator, Religions for Peace International, Director, Shanti Ashram (Hinduism), India
- Bishop Gunnar Stalsett, Honorary President, Religions for Peace International, Bishop Emeritus of Oslo (Christian), Norway

Guest Speakers (3)
Education:
- Honorable Pyone Kathy Naing, Member of Parliament
- Ven. Badanda Thawma, Buddhist Leader, Rakhine State
- U Aung Myo Min, Representative of Muslim Community, Rakhine State

Religions for Peace International Secretariat (2)
- Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General
- Rev. Kyoichi Sugino, Deputy Secretary General

Advisors (2)
- Mr. Leon de Riedmatten
- Ms. Janelle Saffin

Facilitators and Rapporteurs (5)
- Ms. Piyamal Pichawongse, Deputy Liaison Officer, International Labor Organization (ILO)
- Mr. Aung Naing Oo, Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)
- Daw Yin Yin Maw, Chair, RfP Women of Faith Network
- Ms. Ja Nan Lahtaw, Executive Director, Nyein (Shalom) Foundation
- Mr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing, Director, Center for Diversity and National Harmony
A LETTER TO THE PEOPLES OF MYANMAR

ဗိုလ်ချုပ်မှူးဦး ဗိုလ်ချုပ်မှူးဦး

သို့မဟုတ် တစ်လံုးတည်း တို့ဖင့် အာဏာကို တစ်ခါကရန္သူမ်းက သည်။ ဗားသီးထားခဲ့မ်း၊ မိသားစုပမာ ဗီဟုေဆာင္ရြက္မႈ၊ ကပ္ေဘးဆိုက္ ဘာသာေရးဓေလ့ထံုးစံတို႔တြင္ လွေသာမ်း၊ လူမ်ဳိ္း၊ ျမန္မာႏိုငံ၏ ျမန္မာႏိုငံတြင္ ဤျမင့္ျမတ္သည့္ အဆိုပါ လႊဲေျပာင္းႏိုင္ေၾကာင္း ျမန္မာႏိုင္းကိုယ္ ဘာသာခြဲျခားကာ ယွဥ္တြဲရပ္တည္ခဲ့သည့္ စိတ္သေဘာထားႏိုင္မႈစသည့္ ေရာက္ေနသည့္ရြာတိုင္းမွဒုကၡသည္တို႔အား ဘာသာေရးေခါင္းေဆာင္တို႔မွ အစၥလာမ္ ဒုကၡတို႔အားေက်ာ္လႊား၍ အနာဂတ္သည္ နာဂစ္မုန္တိုင္းကပ္ေဘးႀကီး ဖပါလီမန္လႊတ္ေတာ္အတြင္းအတူတကြယွဥ္တြဲကာေနထိုင္ၾကပီး၊ အက်င့္သီလတို႔အား ဆီးထားသည့္ ကိန္းဝပ္အျမစ္တြယ္ေနသာ ကမၻာ့ဘာသာေပါင္းစံု ျမန္မာႏိုငံ၏ အိမ္နီးနားခ်င္းႏိုင္ငံမ်းသာမက ျပည္သားအခ်င္းခ်င္း မိနွန္တိုဘာ့တရား၏တန္ဖိုးႏွင့္ ဆက္ဆံမႈမ်းႏွင့္အတိၿပီးေနသာ စည္ေဘာင္ ညမအ စ္ပပ္ပါလီမန္လႊတ္ေတာ္အတြင္းအတူတကြယွဥ္တြဲကာေနထိုင္ၾကပီး၊ ရုန္းကန္ေနခ်ိန္ တမွ်ပို႔အပ္ အတြင္းမွ ကုစားရန္ ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံတြင္ အတူ အစဥ္အလာႏွင့္ ရဟန္းသံဃာေတာ္ ဝက္ရွိပါ ၿငိမ္းခ်မ္းသာယာေရးကိုေမွ်ာ္ေတြးၿပီး၊ ရုံးနာေးသည္ ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံတြင္ ကယ္ဆယ္ တစ္စည္း ဇြဲ၊ လူမ်ဳိ္းတို႔ အတိုင္းသူျပည္သားတို႔၏ အသိအမွတ္ျပားၿပီး၊ အထက္ေဖာ္ခြဲမွ်ေဝ၍ ရသည့္လ႔ံုံလဝိရိယ၊ လူ႔အဖြဲ႔အစည္းတို႔ ဤအားတက္ဖြယ္ရာ ရဟန္းသံဃာေတာ္ ခရစ္ယာန္ဘာသာ၊ ဘာသာ၊ ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံတြင္ ကယ္ဆယ္ တစ္စည္း ဇြဲ၊ လူမ်ဳိ္းတို႔ အတူ စီးပ်မွ်ေနသည့္ ကိန္းဝပ္ေနသည့် ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံတြင္ ကယ္ဆယ္ တစ္စည္း ဇြဲ၊ လူမ်ဳိ္းတို႔ အတူ အတိုင္းသူျပည္သားတို႔၏ အသိအမွတ္ျပားၿပီး
စိုးျမင္ကြင္းအား၎င္းပါသည္။

များစွာ သေဘာတူသည် သက္ဆိုင္သူမ်ား ဆုေတာင္းေမတၱာပို႔သမႈကို ေမတၱာ၊ ကခ်င္ျပည္နယ္ႏွင့္ နားလည္ျခင္းအေပၚ၌လည္း အေျခခံထားပါသည္။

ျငင္းပယ္ခံထားရေသာ ကၽြန္ုပ္တို႔ အနာဂတ္သည် ထို ႔အျပင္ ေနပါသည္။

အျခားလူမ်ဳိး၊ ကူညီေထာက္ခံေပးၾကပါရန္ဖြ႔ံၿဖဳိးတိုးတက္မႈဆိုင္ရာ လက္မွတ္ေရးထိုးအုတ္ျမစ္ခ်တည္ေဆာက္ရန္ဟူေသာခံယူခ်က္အား ၂၁ရာစု အေၾကာင္းရင္းရွမ္းျပည္နယ္တို႔မွ လက္တစ္ဆုပ္စာမတူကြဲျပားမႈအားမတူ ျမန္မာျပည္မွ ဤျဖစ္ရပ္တို႔သည္ ယခုစုေပါင္း ဘာသာတိန႔ထက္လိုအပ္ေသာေျခပင္လံုၿငိမ္းခ်မ္းေရးညီလာခံသို႔ေရာက္ရွိေစလိုပါသည္။

အမုန္းတရားမ်ား၊ စည္းလံုးညီညာစြာ ပူးတြဲေဆာင္ရြက္ရန္တူယွဥ္စြာေနထိုင္ျခင္းတို႔သည္ လံုးဝသမိုင္းမွတ္တိုင္မ်ားျဖစ္ပါသည္။

ခ်ဳပ္ဆိုႏိုင္ရန္ ဇစ္ျမစ္မွာ အမ်ဳိးသားျပန္လည္သင့္ျမတ္ႀကဳိးပမ္းအားထုတ္မႈတစ္ရပ္တြင္ ျမင္ကြင္းအား ျပည္သူတို႔ အျငင္းပြားမႈမရွိသည့္ ခရစ္ယာန္ တူးငိမ္းခ်မ္းေရးႏွင့္ အမ်ဳိးသား သင့္ျမတ္ျဖစ္စဥ္အား ျမန္မာျပည္သူတို႔ ထုတ္ယူသံုးစြဲရာတြင္ တိုက္တြန္းအပ္ပါသည္။

သာပိုျမင့္ျမတ္ပါသည္ဟူေသာ လွမ္းတစ္လွမ္းကို သယံဇာတမ်ားခြဲေဝျခင္း ႀကဳိးပမ္းမႈတြင္ အာဃာတမ်ား ေအဂ်င္စီ ကူညီခဲ့ၾကသည့္ ေခါင္းေဆာင္မ်ားမွ တစ္ျဖည္းျဖည္းခ်င္းရုပ္လံုးေပၚလာၿပီျဖစ္ေသာၿငိမ္းခ်မ္းေရးျမင္ကြင္း ေစတနာရွင္ ခြဲျခားမႈမနုႆ အသင္းအဖြဲ႔မ်ား၊ ႀကဳံေတြ႕ေနရေသာ ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံ၏ လူသားအျဖစ္အပါအဝင္အျခား ခြဲေဝမႈအေပၚ ဤျမင္ကြင္း ေနပါသည္။

အႏွစ္သာရ အမ်ဳိးသားအစုလိုက္ ျဖစ္ေပၚမွ်ေဝ ၁၈
မိမိ၏ နောက်ဆုံးအနိုင်ရာအနီးတွင် ဝေးရာတွင် မိမိ၏ စိတ်မှုကို ပြောပြခြင်းရှိသော ရှေးကျော်သော ပညာရေးနေရာများတွင် စာမျက်နှာပြိုင်ပွဲများစွာ ထိုင်းရောက်ခြင်းရှိသည်။

ချစ်သော မိမိ၏ စီးပွားရေးပြောင်းလဲလျှင် မိမိ၏ နေရာကိုပြောင်းလဲ လုပ်ဆောင်ခြင်းရှိသည်။

နိုင်ငံတော်တွင် အပါအဝင်သော ချစ်သော မိမိ၏ စီးပွားရေးအား လုပ်ဆောင်ခြင်းရှိသည်။

မိမိ၏ နေရာသို့ လွှင့်လာရန် အပါအဝင်သော မိမိ၏ စီးပွားရေးများစွာ ထိုင်းရောက်ခြင်းရှိသည်။
လူမႈေရးကိစၥရပ္တို႔တြင္ ႀကဳိးပမ္းေဆာင္ရြက္ရာတြင္ ဘက္စံုလူမႈ ဖူလံုေရး ရခိုင္ျပည္နယ္၏ ေဆာင္ရြက္ေပးပါရန္ လူ႔အသိုင္းအဝိုင္းႏွစ္ခုစလံုးေတြ႔ႀကဳံေနရေသာ ျမန္မာႏိုင္ငံအစိုးရအေနျဖင့္ စံုစမ္းစစ္ေဆးမႈျပဳရန္ ရခိုင္အႀကံေပးေကာ္မရွင္က ပံ့့ပိုးကူညီမႈျဖင့္ ထိုသူတို႔၏ အတည္းတို႔မွာ ပုန္ကန္မႈမ်ားအား ျပဳစုပ်ဳိးေထာင္ေပးရန္လိုအပ္ပါသည္။

အျခားအရပ္ေဒသတို႔တြင္ျဖစ္ေပၚက်ဴးလြန္ခဲ့သည့္ ပါဝင္ခြင့္ႏွင့္ ပါဝင္လာေစေရး၊ ထိန္းသိမ္းကာကြယ္ေစာင့္ေရွာက္ရန္ ထိုေဆာင္ရြက္ခ်က္တို႔တြင္ အသစ္တဖန္ရရွိလာခဲ့သည့္ သေဘာတူညီခ်က္ရရွိခဲ့ျခင္းႏွင့္ ေဖာ္ျပပါဒုကၡသည္ အေလးအနက္ေ ထာက္ခံအားေပးရန္လုိအပ္သည့္ ႏိႈေဆာ္အပါသည္။

ရခိုင္၊ အစိုးရယႏၱရား တန္ျပန္ႏွိမ္နင္းရာတြင္ ၿမဳိ၊ အျခားဆက္ႏႊယ္ပတ္သက္မႈ အႀကံေပးေကာ္မရွင္၏ ေျဖရွင္းနည္းမ်ားကိုရွာရာတြင္ အသိအမွတ္ျပဳ ဦးစားေပးၿပီး သက္၊ မိသားစုစိတ္ဓာတ္ျဖင့္ အားလံုးသည္ အဆင့္ဆင့္တို႔တြင္ ဒိုင္းနက္၊ ဒုကၡသည္မ်ား ဤေျခလွမ္းမ်ားသည္ လူ႔ကိုယ္ရည္ ႏိႈေဆာ္အဆင့္အစိုးရအဖြဲ႔ ထားေသာ ဆင္းရဲဒုကၡသည္ ေဆာင္ရြက္ပါရန္ မျပဳႏိုင္ပါ။
A LETTER TO THE PEOPLES OF MYANMAR

ဆိုင်ရာလွှင်ရွားသူမ်ားပါဝင်သည့်
ျမန္မာျပည္သူမ်ားအတြက္

ႏိုင္ငံဒုကၡသည္မ်ားအားတတိယႏိုင္ငံမ်ား၌အေျခ
gyonaungသိကြားပြုပြင်တည်ၿပီး။ဤသည္မွာ
စည္းလံုးညီညႊတ္စြာရပ္တည္ၿပီးႀကီးသည့္
ေရးမွာေပါင္းစံုယွဥ္တြဲေနထိုင္ေရးႏွင့္
ျပည့္ဝသည့္ ပညာေရးကိစၥရပ္မ်ားကိုသင္ၾကားေပးရေပမည္။

ေၾကာင့္ ျပည္တြင္းပဋိပကၡမ်ားေၾကာင့္အျပည္ျပည္ဆိုင္ရာ
ရန္ပိုင္ဆိုင္သည့္ ေရးကိစၥရပ္မ်ားကိုေဆာင္ရြက္ရာတြင္
ေဆာင္ရြက္ရန္ ဘဂၤလာေဒ့ရွ္ဒုကၡသည္စခန္းတို႔တြင္
ေရးကိုလည္းယေန႔အခါသည္ကားနိဂံုးခ်ဳပ္အေနျဖင့္ကၽြႏ္ုပ္
တို႔သည္နိဂံုးစားေရးကိစၥရပ္မ်ားကိုစစ္ေဘးေရွာင္ေနၾကရသည့္
ထည့္သြင္းစဥ္းစားရန္ အဖြဲ႔အစည္းမ်ား、
မျပဳႏိုင္ေၾကာင္းဥဒါန္းက်ဴးရမည့္
ေရာက္ေနၾကသည့္သူမ်ား、
ကၽြႏ္ုပ္တိ္ု႔၏သားစဥ္ေျမးဆက္တိနးရန္
ညီညြတ္ျခင္းႏွင့္
တရားတိနးအထူးသျဖင့္ ျပန္ခ်င္ၾကသူမ်ားတစ္ဦးႏွင့္
တစ္ဦးျမန္မာဟုေခၚျမင့္ျမတ္ေသာသီလဂုဏ္ကို
ျဖစ္ေပသည္။

ထိလြယ္ရွလြယ္ပုဂၢဳိလ္တိနးအတြက္
စိတ္ေကာင္းေစတနာရွိသူမ်ားအဆိုျပဳထား
အတြက္ အထူးသျဖင့္ ျပန္ခ်င္ၾကသူမ်ား
တစ္ဦးႏွင့္တစ္ဦးျမန္မာျပည္ၿငိမ္းခ်မ္းေရးႏွင့္အမ်ဳိးသားျပန္
လည္သင့္ျမတ္ ဘာသာေပါင္းစံုအဖြဲ႔။

ျမန္မာကိုဇာတိခ်က္ေၾကြအမိေျမဟုသတ္မွတ္ကာ
RfPဆိုထိုက္ေသာ ဒုကၡသည္
အေျဖအထက္ေဖာ္ျပပါ
သည့္ အားကၽြန္ုပ္တို႔ေတာင္းဆိုအပါး
ရွာေဖြေရးကိုကၽြန္ုပ္တို႔ေတာင္းဆိုပါသည္။

မည့္သည့္အဖ်က္အင္အားစုကမွ
သင္ၾကားေပးၿပီး ရွာေဖြေရးကိုကၽြန္ုပ္တို႔ေတာင္းဆိုပါသည္။
ေပါင္းဖက္ကာ မ်ား၏ ျပင္ဆင္ေပးၾကရပါမည္။

အျပည္ျပည္ဆိုင္ရာအဖြဲ႔အစည္းတစ္ခု
အပါအဝင္ ျပန္အလွန္ေလးစားၿပီး
အေျခခံအုတ္ျမစ္အရပ္ေဒသမွ
သယ္ေဆာင္ၿပီး သယ္ေဆာင္ၿပီး
ေသာ ျမင္ကြင္းရုပ္လံုးေပၚလာေစ
ႀကီးပြားဖြံ႔ၿဖဳိးျခင္း၊

ေမွ်ာ္လင့္ကၽြႏ္ုပ္တို႔အားလံုး
လြယ္ကူေခ်ာေမြ႔ေအာင္
စစ္ရွိန္ခ်က္ကင္းမဲ့ၿပီး
တာဝန္မွ်ေဝ
ျမင့္တက္မႈ
အိမ္နီး
A LETTER TO THE PEOPLES OF MYANMAR

A Multi-religious Vision of Peace and Development in Myanmar

Dear Brothers and Sisters of this golden land, Shwe Myanmar,

It is at a crucial moment in the history of this country that we, as Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim leaders from Myanmar and across the region, come to you in solidarity with hope for peace.

We stand together now at a crossroad where the future of this nation will be determined. Through the relentless efforts of innumerable men and women in this great nation, you have striven to overcome suffering and heal the wounds of the past. Myanmar showed to the world that people once enemies could sit together in the parliament and a peaceful transition of power was possible.

We share with you today the vision of a future, one which is based upon Myanmar’s rich history and tradition of multi-religious and multi-ethnic coexistence. This future harbors a relationship of respect and sustainability with our environment, compassion and appreciation for fellow citizens of the country, and a sense of community with neighboring countries and within the international community. At the deepest level, this promising future is secured upon the values and virtues of compassion, shared well-being and justice imbedded in Myanmar’s great religious traditions.

You recall an expression of such inherent virtues of Myanmar during the great Nargis disasters. Buddhist monks saved affected people in all villages, Christian humanitarian agencies distributed aid to those suffering beyond their ethnic and religious boundaries, and Hindu, Muslim and other groups were united to help one another to alleviate the suffering of their fellow country men and women. Compassion and common living are the fundamental values and virtues of the peoples of Myanmar, and unity in diversity is the strength of this nation. We all know that a sense of preference and superiority of one race over another goes against the fundamental tenets of the Myanmar’s religious traditions and brings hatred, discrimination and violence. We reject the misuse of religion and race to divide our people.

In our collective efforts to resolve inter-communal conflicts and to advance national reconciliation, as Myanmar national and international religious leaders, we wish to bring your prayers for peace
to the Panglong 21st Century Peace Conference. This will strengthen the transition from dictatorship
to democracy, from conflict to peace, and from closed to open economy.

We are painfully witnessing increasing hostilities and the large displacement of people in
Kachin and Shan States, which further weakens the peace and reconciliation process. We are committed
to working with the Union Government and other relevant actors to achieve a nationwide ceasefire
agreement and sustainable peace with the vision of a democratic federal system in Myanmar.

We share a vision of development in Myanmar, which is built upon the notion of human digni-
ty, human rights and shared well-being. This vision harnesses principles of fair distribution of Myanmar’s resources as a necessary step on the path to national unity. We have witnessed so much wealth going to and enriching only a few. Most conflicts involve issues of who controls resources. The future of Myanmar depends on its commitment to and capacity for transparency and sharing in the use of resources.

At the very foundation of sustainable peace is respect for and realization of human dignity, the
undeniable and sacred essence rooted in our nature as human beings and as peoples. As we shed light
on the shared tragedies facing many under-represented and disadvantaged populations of Myanmar,
we urge all peoples of faith and good will to support the unfolding vision of peace, rich with diversity,
equality, respect and dignity. We praise initiatives taken by local communities to advance social cohe-
sion.

You recall that the profound spiritual heritage of Myanmar is expressed in the teachings of the
world’s great religions practiced in this country. Buddhism teaches that “hatred can not be ceased by
hatred, but by compassion.” Christ preached “you have heard that eye for an eye and tooth for tooth,
but I say pray for your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Hinduism teaches us to be
“free from attachment and without hatred to any creature,” while Islam calls us not to “let the hatred
of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice.” The shared message by all the
world’s great religious traditions is not to repay vengeance with vengeance but with compassion and
reconciliation.

You recall Pope Francis’s address to you during his most recent visit to the country. He said
that many in Myanmar bear the wounds of violence, wounds both visible and invisible. We are often
misguided to think that healing can come from anger and revenge. Yet the way of revenge is not the
way of the world’s religious traditions. When hatred and rejection is experienced, we respond with for-
giveness and compassion. The present waves of hate speech and incitement to violence on Facebook
and other social media violate the fundamental spiritual principles of tolerance and respect.

We are painfully aware of the suffering of displaced people due to war, violence and lack of
security. A disproportionate majority of those fleeing their places of origin are severely disadvantaged,
women and children, the newborn and the elderly. We implore the Union Government and all rel-
vant partners to undertake necessary actions to secure peace and well-being for the displaced and
marginalized populations. For those who were forced to flee the country, it is crucial that they can return to their rightful homesteads in order to reestablish their lives with full dignity and security.

It is not enough, however, for internally and externally displaced peoples to simply return to their homes. With the great support offered by the good peoples of Myanmar, these returning members of society should be further integrated by cultivating peace with neighbors, communal participation and representation in local and national governments. This step advances inclusive citizenship, fosters their right to participate fully in communities and systems of government, and secures their renewed flourishing of human potentials and social well-being.

Particularly the plight of all the communities living in Rakhine State has attracted international attention. Good and laudable efforts are being advanced, including the agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the return of refugees and the invitation to the United Nations to facilitate this process, urging priority to peace, development, education and human rights for all communities in Rakhine State.

Out of fraternal concern for the other family members, let us together exert our utmost effort to find a comprehensive and thorough solutions to the complexities and sensitivities that prevail in Rakhine State. We are of the opinion that the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Mr. Kofi Annan regarding the developmental, human rights and security crises in the State provides a framework that needs to be seriously supported. It is indeed heartening to know that the Union Government has agreed to implement the Advisory Commission’s recommendations.

Terrorism can never be condoned and we fully acknowledge the duty of the authorities to maintain law and order. At the same time, we are concerned that an excessive use of force in countering insurgency could jeopardize the peace and reconciliation process.

We encourage the Union Government to take full responsibilities for a thorough and transparent investigation into multiple crimes perpetrated in Rakhine State and elsewhere. We urge the Union Government to include in this effort the entire population such as the Rakhine, Myo, That, Dynet, Khamee, Kamen and the Hindu.

In search for a solution based upon human dignity and shared well-being and from the perspectives of global responsibility sharing, we call for an international conference with the participation of concerned States, United Nations, ASEAN, ICRC and other relevant international actors to address the critical humanitarian issues facing Myanmar. This includes the vulnerability of those living within Rakhine State, those suffering in refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh, and those desiring dignified and safe return to the places they know to be their homes in Myanmar. We call for the exploration of global sharing schemes. The proposed international conference should also address the suffering of people affected by other internal conflicts, including displaced populations from the most recent escalation of armed conflicts in Kachin and Shan States.
We ask Religions for Peace as an organization to facilitate and serve the above noted process and accompany it together with other international non-governmental organizations that are engaged in the issues of peace, conflict resolution and reconciliation in Myanmar.

Finally, we must together prepare our children for the responsibility of maintaining and unfolding this vision. To bring quality education and to teach the youngest members of society about the beauty of multi-religious coexistence and the virtue of compassion to carry this vision forward into our shared future is a collective goal shared by all peoples of faith and good will.

Today, we stand in solidarity with all peoples of faith and good will to proclaim that the forces that would divide us will no longer hold sway over our shared hope for peace.

The future of the peoples of Myanmar is in our prayers.

Members of the Myanmar National and International Multi-religious Delegation
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