



**ONE YEAR AFTER THE**  
**ILLEGITIMATE MILITARY**  
**COUP IN THE REPUBLIC**  
**OF THE UNION OF**  
**MYANMAR**

**Joint LGBTIQ+ Civil Society Statement**  
**1 February 2022**

**We will never forget.** It has been a year since the violent and illegitimate occupation of the democratically elected government by Myanmar's military junta on 1 February 2021. This was at a period when the people were at their most vulnerable, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It was and still is a grave and utter betrayal of public will and trust, and a sheer disregard of democratic institutions and values.

In the past 365 days, we have been witnessing accounts of serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, criminalisation, arbitrary detentions, illegal arrests, torture, violent reprisals, and sexual and gender based violence committed against pro-democracy activists and human rights defenders.

This junta has been fueling a humanitarian crisis that continues to impose fear, escalate violence, and destroy innocent lives throughout the country. Bombings of villages identified as centers of the opposition had resulted in killings of civilians and humanitarian workers, and had also triggered gross internal displacement of communities. The crisis continues to escalate and has spilled across its borders as thousands have fled and sought refuge in neighboring countries.

We are appalled by the junta's disregard of socio-economic and health emergencies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as curtailing supplies of oxygen and medicines, arresting doctors and medical personnel, and leaving thousands to die without medical help.

**We will always remember.** The sheer tenacity, bravery and courage of LGBTIQ+ persons who were and are at the frontlines fighting for democracy, dignity, and freedom will forever be commemorated and ingrained in our collective memory.

Despite repressive conditions, our LGBTIQ+ siblings have tirelessly campaigned both online and offline in pursuit of reclaiming democracy and urging for a global action to condemn military-led atrocities. We are deeply moved by various forms of creative resistance such as flash mobs, the waving of rainbow flags, the march of drag artists that had become symbols of peoples' solidarity and strength.

This military junta and their supporters have blood on their hands. We deeply regret that many have been separated from their loved ones and have lost their lives amid the struggle.

Data reported by Myanmar's National Unity Government (NUG) in June 2021 revealed that at least 12 LGBTIQ+ people were shot to death, while hundreds more were detained, arrested, and severely tortured based on their SOGIESC. Many are currently in hiding to escape retaliation.

**We stand firmly in solidarity.** As long as Myanmar is unfree, democracy in Southeast Asia will never move forward. We commit our continuous support for efforts to reclaim and fortify human rights, freedoms, peace and democracy in Myanmar. Human rights and freedoms, particularly of LGBTIQ+ peoples, can flourish only if the people are recognized and respected as the rightful sovereign of the country. As such, we strongly deplore the military junta as an illegitimate force that is unworthy of any recognition.

We urge the UN to step up and impose necessary sanctions and actions against the Junta. Min Aung Hlaing, the rest of the military leadership, their political allies, and their families should be made accountable for the atrocities they committed.

We urge all governments, the UN, and the entire international community to recognize the Myanmar's National Unity Government (NUG) immediately and assure urgent unified response to provide unified assistance for putting Myanmar back on the path to democracy, the restoration of fundamental freedoms such as on information and expression, and guarantee the prevalence of peace and prosperity.

While Myanmar is in crisis, we urge the international community to open up its borders, facilitate safe passage, and create domestic conditions to guarantee safety and dignity for all persons from Myanmar who are seeking refuge.

**We urge ASEAN, especially the government of Cambodia in its capacity as the Chair of the regional bloc, to fully implement its Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar: immediate cessation of violence, constructive dialogue with all stakeholders especially marginalized and ethnic groups who are excluded from political processes, provision of humanitarian assistance, and the appointment and unhindered visits of an ASEAN Special Envoy to facilitate constructive dialogues with all stakeholders.**

**To our Myanmar LGBTIQ+ queerblings both in the country and abroad, you are not alone in this struggle. We are with you until and after democracy is fully regained in your beloved country.**



# In Solidarity:

## Regional/Global

APCOM Foundation  
ASEAN SOGIE Caucus  
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact  
Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN)  
Equal Asia Foundation  
ILGA Asia  
Initiatives for International Dialogue  
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP AP)  
Intersex Asia  
Pan Africa ILGA  
RFSL  
SHAPE-SEA  
Youth Voices Count

## Cambodia

CamASEAN YOUTH'S FUTURE (CamASEAN)

## Indonesia

Arus Pelangi  
Cangkang Queer  
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
ESBISQUET  
Komunitas Sehati Makassar  
GAYa NUSANTARA Foundation

## Malaysia

JEJAKA Malaysia  
Justice for Sisters  
People Like Us Support Ourselves (PLUsos)  
People Like Us Hang Out! (PLUHO)  
SEED

## Nepal

Blue Diamond Society

## Netherlands

Filipino LGBT Europe

## Pakistan

National Forum of Women With Disabilities (NFWWD)

## Philippines

Asexual Support Philippines  
Bisdak Pride  
Camp Queer  
Care for Queers  
Galang Philippines  
Iloilo Pride Team  
Intersex Philippines  
Kapederasyon LGBT Organization  
LakanBini Advocates Pilipinas  
Lakapati Laguna  
LGBT Bus  
LGBTs Christian Churches  
LGBTQ Plus Partylist  
Metro Manila Pride  
Mindanao Pride  
MUJER-LGBT Organization, Inc.  
Pioneer Filipino Transgender Men  
Movement (PFTM)  
Side B Philippines  
Society of Trans Women of the  
Philippines (STRAP)  
Transmasculine Philippines  
UPLB Babaylan  
Youth for Change  
Youth for YOUth Organization

## Singapore

My Queer Story SG

## Thailand

Free Gender TH  
Manushya Foundation  
Mokeluang Rimnam  
Sangsan Anakot Yawachon Development Project  
School of Feminist, Thailand  
Sexuality and Gender Acceptance (SAGA) Thailand  
TaiPride  
The LinQ  
V-Day Thailand

## Timor Leste

ARCOIRIS Timor Leste

## United Kingdom

Human Rights. Migrant Rights

**And by 4 Organizations from  
Myanmar, and  
50 Individuals from  
15 Countries.**

Australia, Cambodia, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal,  
Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Timor Leste,  
Turkey and United Kingdom