Recommendations on Women, Peace and Security

November 2nd, 2018

Since 2016, Alliance for Gender Inclusion in Peace Process (AGIPP) has been organizing the Women, Peace and Security Forum every year with the intention of promoting gender equality in the peace process, and to ensure that key decision makers consider women’s voices and experiences. In addition, AGIPP’s partner organizations have also organized Women, Peace and Security Forums and participated in peace forums organized by different organizations.

On 1st and 2nd of November 2018 AGIPP held a seminar on women, peace and security at the Mercure Hotel, Yangon. A total of 102 representatives (91 women and 11 men) from different Regions and States included Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Shan, Taninthayi Region and Yangon participated in the forum, including representatives from AGIPP’s partner organizations and other (31) organizations working in the WPS sector.

The main challenges for women, peace and security identified by the participants included:

- Continuous fighting in conflict areas.
- Lack of security (lack of mental, physical, sexual abuse, job and food security).
- Restrictions on freedom of speech, movement and mobilization.
- Lack of effective consultation with civil society organizations and IDPs, regarding resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced communities. Lack of sufficient supports to IDPs and restricted to supporting agencies.
- Lack of rights and opportunities to make important decisions, even though women have the ability and capacity.

Recommendations from the key stakeholders regarding these identified challenges are:

- Identify and implement a strategy to ensure the elimination of all fighting in conflict areas, on the part of organizations leading peace process. Key stakeholders and leaders in the Myanmar peace process should meet and negotiate, to find better solutions and way to stop fighting and end all form of violence – and should commit to implementing these strategies.
- Redefine the meaning of ‘security’, to be based on the concept of human security.
• According to Geneva Convention and National Ceasefire Agreement (Chapter 8, on civilian protection), all stakeholders in the peace process must effectively work on protecting all civilians, including the women and children, in conflict area.

• Respect human rights, and reduce restrictions on basic human rights, including freedom of mobilization, freedom of expression and freedom of association. Respect and guarantee the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other international and national human rights treaties, laws and instrument, including freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement.

• Resettlement and rehabilitation plans need to be drafted and developed according to international humanitarian and human rights laws and standards, international procedures and gender inclusive perspectives. The return, resettlement and rehabilitation of internally displaced people (IDPs) should likewise be in line with international standards, norms, laws and procedure, with a particular focus on gender perspectives and issues.

• Immediately implement the agreed upon minimum 30% gender quota in all level of political and peace process dialogues, as mandated in UN resolution 1325 and other sister resolutions.

• Draft and develop a National Gender Policy, to implement women, peace and security programs with gender inclusive measures.

Participants in Women, Peace and Security Forum of AGIPP