



Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters
Kawthoolei
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Karen National Union's Statement on "International Day of Peace"

The United Nations theme of the International Day of Peace on the 21st September 2020, is **"Shaping Peace Together"**.

The KNU sincerely welcomes and supports the UN's call on world nations to observe the International Day of Peace, with a deep sense of compassion and empathy towards humanity of the World. To give them hope of overcoming losses, sufferings and difficulties and to oppose discrimination and hatred caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To reflect this year's slogan of the International Day of Peace, it is important for all concerned to make changes within the peace process. It is imperative to consider and seriously reform the peace process based on the reality of the challenges faced.

As the peace process is a process of turning enemies into friends, all the ethnic revolutionary resistance organisations in the ongoing conflict must participate in the peace process. There must be assurance for the inclusion and participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) and political parties, which have been excluded.

To improve the mechanisms of the peace process it is essential for the systematic inclusion of intellectuals and learned experts, as an independent group. It must be negotiated solutions through respect, consultation and dialogue and free from pressure to compile.

To ensure the convergence between the legislative processes of Parliament (Hluttaw) and the peace process, there should be a mechanism is linked between the parliamentary and political agreements of the peace process, bringing dignity to the people, creating equality and bringing hope for a brighter future.

Furthermore, we call on both the Government and Tatmadaw to participate, through constructive consultations, in anti-pandemic public health and disease prevention works, undertaken by the ethnic revolutionary resistance organisations, sharing hope of overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and opposing the resulting discrimination and hatred.

Peace means appreciation, upholding and sharing values such as mutual respect, respect for human dignity, affection, humility, truth, justice and so on.

The KNU believes that peace means - in addition to changing the State structure, amendment of laws and the Constitution - the association and transformation of relationships and national reconciliation among individuals, organisations, diversities and conflict partners.

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