

2021 Edition

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Purple Feminists Group

WE ARE FEMINISTS . WE ARE SISTERS . WE ARE CHANGEMAKERS

We Are United to Transforming Feminist Visions into Tangible Realities.



Table of Contents

Our Story	03
Message from Executive Director/Founder	04
A Catalyst of Feminist Discourse	06
G-Taw Zagar Wyne Podcast:	06
<i>Speakers of the year</i>	
<i>Echoes of Inspiration</i>	
Feminist Literature Competition:	09
<i>Sentiments Louder Than Voices</i>	
Networking Roadmaps	12
Purple Infographics	15
Contact Us	16
Donate Us	17

OUR STORY



Organization Background

Purple Feminists Group is a dynamic local feminist NGO, comprising young activists from diverse backgrounds in Myanmar, established in early **2018**. Our innovative approach to advocacy includes workshops, social media campaigns, feminist literature, and podcasts to engage generations across society. We are dedicated to advancing gender equality through positive feminism.

Our Missions

- To restore the dignity of menstruators
- To promote feminist literature in the local language
- To amplify women and girls' voices through podcast and artwork
- To educate on gender-based violence

Our Vision

To build a world without gender discriminations, sexism and misogyny.

WORDS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FOUNDER



2021 was an extraordinary year for the **Purple Feminists Group** and our community. When the military coup d'état took place, it brought our work to a sudden halt. The familiar rhythms of our advocacy and outreach were disrupted overnight. As feminists and as citizens of **Myanmar**, our team grappled with despair and a sense of loss over what we'd spent years building.

Above all, our focus shifted to safety as our lives and well-being were thrown into immediate jeopardy. Like many, I was forced to make an unplanned and challenging relocation to **Thailand** amid **COVID-19** restrictions and immense emotional weight. It was a time of deep uncertainty and of grappling with survival over strategy.

Arriving in **Bangkok**, however, brought a moment of much-needed mental clarity. We realized that allowing the work we stand for—women's rights, gender equality, and social justice—to fade would only further the coup's agenda. For us, finding a way forward meant redefining how we could contribute to the movement while safeguarding our well-being and mental resilience.

After assessing the pressing needs of our community, mental health stood out as an urgent issue that our activists, both in **Myanmar** and within the diaspora, were grappling with. We understood we were unequipped to handle this crisis alone, so we began consulting with psychologist **Gabriella Phyu**, who generously volunteered her time.

Together, we developed a **mental health series**, designed to offer practical guidance and emotional support for people navigating life amidst crisis. These discussions not only provided healing insights to others but also became a personal lifeline for me and, I hope, for others, as we confronted the impacts of collective trauma.

Our third season of discussions naturally evolved into broader conversations with the local and diaspora activists shaping **Myanmar's revolution**. This season was a landmark for us, highlighting a diverse range of voices, from **Rohingya activists** to everyday citizens participating in the movement. Conducted bilingually, the season resonated widely, amplifying perspectives that are often marginalized and inspiring those working tirelessly for **democracy and gender justice**.

As **COVID-19** restrictions continued, our activities moved online. We invested in digital activism to share knowledge and resources with the people of **Myanmar**, utilizing this platform to advocate for the values we stand for. This digital shift also provided space for young people to raise their voices on Myanmar's democratic struggles—voices that resonated from household discussions to the national level, all through a feminist lens.

As a spokesperson for **PFG**, I've also been honored to join dialogues with international media and organizations, lending a voice to critical issues such as **democracy, feminism, and sexual and reproductive rights in Myanmar**. Through articles, panels, and public discussions, we've raised awareness of the ongoing crisis and the resilience of those fighting for justice.

Looking back, **2021** was a testament to our resilience and adaptability. Our work continues because we believe in a future where justice and gender equality prevail.

In solidarity,

Nandar

Executive Director, Purple Feminists Group

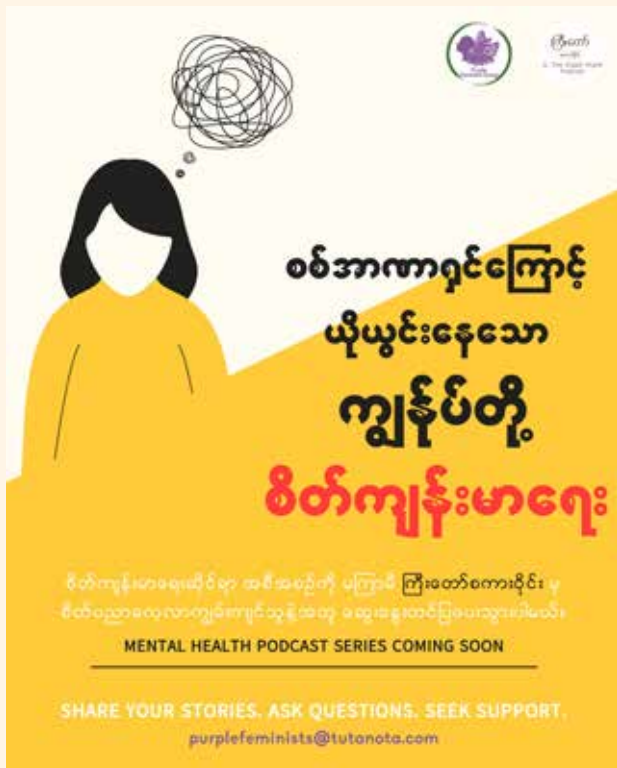
A CATALYST OF FEMINIST DISCOURSE

G-Taw Zagar Wyne Podcast

G-Taw Zagar Wyne is a pioneering podcast initiative in Myanmar, launched in 2019 with the mission to amplify the voices of Myanmar women and girls. The podcast serves as a platform to promote social, political, and economic equality while challenging stereotypes and myths entrenched in Myanmar's cultural and social fabric.

Podcast Progress

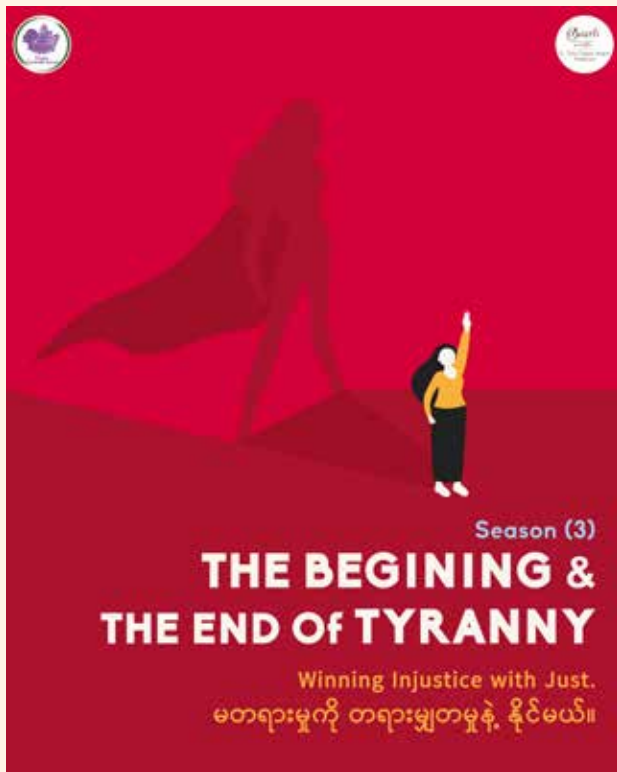
Season 2: Mental Health Under The Coup Myanmar



In this season of the mental health series, the focus is on highlighting the deteriorating mental well-being of Myanmar citizens amidst the ongoing coup. Across five episodes, the series delves into the various aspects of this deterioration and explores strategies to address it effectively.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Season 3: The Beginning & The End Of Tyranny



The stories of **Burmese women** were shared within **19 episodes** of the journey to justice by smashing patriarchy and dictatorship and seeing through the tireless efforts of women as they strive to meaningful change within our society.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

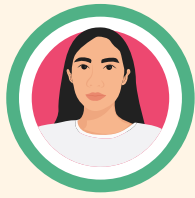
G-Taw AThan Campaign



This Campaign served as a platform for women from various walks of life in **Myanmar** to share their individual paths towards catalyzing positive change in **healthcare, political development, and social evolution**. Through the medium of advocacy, these women not only highlighted their own experiences

but also empowered others by amplifying their voices. Their collective efforts served as catalysts for meaningful change, sparking a ripple effect of progress throughout Myanmar.

Speakers of The Year



Gabriellea Phyu
Psychologist



Moe Sandar Myint
Founder, Federation of
Garment Workers
Psychologist



Tin Tin Nyo
Advisory member,
Burmese Women's Union



Yasmin Ullah
Rohingya Social Justice Activist



Me Me Khant
Poet and Feminist



Sandar Mon
Scientist and Activist



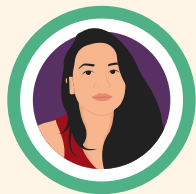
Pencilo
Anti-regime Activist and Writer



Mi Mi Aye
Food Writer and Activist



May Sabe Phyu
Women Rights Activist



Yadanar Win
Multi-Media Artist



Khin Chan Myae Maung
Writer



Lachmi Baniya
Chief Marketing Officer
of Icarus Media



Ei Thinzar Maung
Deputy Minister of
MOWCA Nation Unity Government



Phyu Pannu Khin
PhD Candidate in
Clinical Psychology,
University of Vermont



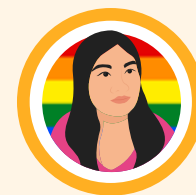
Nu Nu Lusan
Freelance Translator
and Journalist



Thawda Aye Lei
Social Science Researcher
and Novelist



Dr. Tharaphi Than
Professor and Feminist



Sue Sha Shin Thant
LGBTQI Activist and Feminist



Jan Jan
Co-Founder of
Global Movement For
Myanmar Democracy



Nang Kyal Sin
Co-Director of
Pa-O Women's Union

Echoes of Inspiration

Regardless of gender, nobody should be silent upon discriminations, and violence. I call for everyone to adopt 'Zero Tolerance Culture' that does not tolerate injustice of any kind.

-Nang Kyal Sin (Co-Director of Pa-O Women's Union)

Burmanization in Myanmar isn't only oppressing upon ethnic minorities, but also to the Bamar people. We must break the system and structure which create privileged and biased treatment to demolish the ideology of Burmanization.

-Thawda Aye Lei (Researcher)

SUBSCRIBE CHANNEL

FEMINIST LITERATURE COMPETITION



Feminist Literature Competition was initiated in **July 2020** with the purpose to create a feminist literary space in Myanmar regardless of gender, race and age. **Feminist Literature Competition** aims to be a medium in which the authors can express their **feelings, hopes, and**

sentiments without censorship for women rights, empowerment and human rights by artworks, writings, and any kind of expressive creations. This competition recurs every **3 months** under a thematic approach to address diverse issues affecting the lives of women.

Me and My Workplace

Me and My Workplace round of competition allowed **Myanmar writers** to share their experiences in their workplaces. **Violence against women in workplaces**, the importance of inclusivity and representation, and the need for strong safeguarding policy and code of conduct to protect women in workplaces were repeatedly highlighted. The works of the authors echoed the calls against desensitization of violence against women in workplaces.

Myanmar Women Against Authoritarianism

Myanmar Women Against Authoritarianism round of competition rendered **Myanmar female writers** to reflect on their class consciousness under authoritarianism, particularly their awareness on the exploitation of capitalism, limited choices of women under economic pressures, and their positionality (privileges) in the society. The collective voices of authors being empowered by the resistance and persistence of **women against authoritarian, sexism and misogyny** were the main themes of this topic.

Mental Health Related Experiences During the Revolution

Mental Health Related Experiences During the Revolution round of competition was welcomed with a multitude of writings from all across the country. The authors reflected, in their works, the sense of hopelessness and yearning of a future they felt for themselves and for the country after the **coup d'État in February 2021**. The vast range of coping mechanisms, the striking wealth and income disparities made worse by the dictatorship, and the intersectionality of revolutionary spirit and class consciousness were intertwined in this round.



Sentiments Louder Than Voices

One day.. .

May changes come with morality!

May changes come with ethics!

May changes come with justice and law!

I pray for changes with empathy!

If they do, even in a physically tiresome work environment, women will be able to smile with a sense of contentment.

-Spica Lin

(Winner 2 - LC3 - Me and My Workplace)

We have to empathize with the experiences of the ethnic minorities. We have to apologize for our ignorance in times of oppression. If we can recognise and understand our privileges without arrogance; if we do everything in our power to stop exploitation; if we can humanize and empathize; if we can entitle human rights to human beings; if we prioritize equality, our dreams can come true...They will come true.

-Aung

(Featured Selection - LC4 - Myanmar Women Against Authoritarianism)

Who said every work can be successful with working itself only? For a tree to bloom and blossom, or to be fruitful, it required not only its genetics but also water, air, and fertilizers. For one to be successful, they need not only luck, intellect, and diligence but also their 'human' rights.

-Nang Khem Sein

(Featured Selection 3 - LC5 - Mental Health Related Experiences During the Revolution)

CLICK HERE
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION!

NETWORKING ROADMAPS



One Billion Rising Myanmar 2021 (January 14, 2021)

[WATCH HERE](#)



What's going on in Myanmar?: Feminist Perspectives and International Responsibility

(April 14, 2021)

[WATCH HERE](#)



I Dream of a Democratization in Myanmar where Women and Ethnic Minorities are Not Marginalized

(25 July, 2021)

[READ MORE](#)



Feminist solidarity across borders: Palestine, Myanmar and beyond

(3 September, 2021)

[WATCH HERE](#)



What is Consent and What is Not Consent?
(7 August, 2021)

WATCH HERE



Myanmar’s Women Are on the Front Lines Against the Junta
(12 Mar, 2021)

READ MORE



A Nightmare You Can’t Wake Up From
(10 July, 2021)

READ MORE



Resisting The Coup and The Patriarchy: An interview with Myanmar’s Feminist Activist Nandar
(6 September, 2021)

READ MORE

On behalf of **Purple Feminists Group**, our **Executive Director** has actively participated in the online virtual programs and panel discussion to give support towards **feminist movements and solidarity** across borders and at the same time, she shared her perspectives on the role of the international community in order to bring peace and stability in **Myanmar**. With the aim of women empowerment, she was invited to share about **feminism and taboos against menstruation in Myanmar, and encourage the participants with their advocacy and responsibility to stop sexual violence and harassment towards women.**

Through **Feminist Talks with Nandar**, she invited two activists from **Nepal, Anukriti Kunwar and Anugya Kunwar** to share with the audience about building consent culture in Myanmar and their **advocacy projects on pleasure, consent and sex education.**

During the year **2021** when **Covid-19** widely spread and the civilians were mobilized resistantly to fight against **Military Junta in Myanmar, Nandar** appeared on several news articles to advocate for resisting the coup and patriarchy, then, she was on the frontline to stand up for democracy as a **feminist activist**. Her advocacy through social networks remains well-informed among international communities that Myanmar women are on the frontline to protest against the military junta.



PURPLE INFOGRAPHICS

Podcast Mainstream

24 Official Podcast Episodes Release

5900+ people listen across Myanmar and around the world

6100+ people follow our channel to see updates



Feminist Literature Competition Impacts

48+ authors and artists actively involved in this competition

4300 to 4800+ people stay tuned to inquire knowledge and updated content



Virtual Webinars and Events

Attended **3** Live Webinars as invited

Engaged with international speakers in the events

Build mutual-networking with speakers and related organization

CONTACT US

For more information


Please visit: www.purplefeminist.org


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Feminist Literature in Myanmar

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