



Karen Women's Organization
Message for the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women

Theme: All Women Deserve to Be Safe, Equal, and Respected

November 25th 2025

Today, the Karen Women's Organization (KWO) officially launches the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women. For many years, KWO has carried out this campaign with strong commitment, and this year our theme is **"All women deserve to be safe, equal and respected."**

Each year, we select a different theme. These themes are carefully chosen based on the realities faced by women in our local communities, refugee camps, and in Kawthoolei. In previous years, themes such as **"No One Is Above the Law"** were chosen in response to the absence of rule of law in many of our areas. Often, perpetrators include authorities who face no meaningful consequences for their actions. These messages reflect the urgent issues women experience and emphasize the need for justice and accountability.

This year's theme, **"All women deserve to be safe, equal and respected,"** was chosen because women in our communities continue to experience insecurity, inequality, and a lack of respect. Many women feel unsafe while traveling, and some have been subjected to sexual violence. Even within their own homes, women may face oppression from fathers, uncles, or brothers. Women are still denied equal participation in decisions about pregnancy, child-rearing, and household matters, and gender inequality continues in the workplace.

Women living in conflict-affected areas face the most critical conditions. Since the Burma military coup in 2021, **no fewer than 783 women have been injured or killed** due to military attacks, including airstrikes and drone strikes. Across all areas, women continue to suffer from unsafe conditions, inequality, and a lack of respect.

Therefore, it is time for all of us to take action to ensure that every woman can truly experience safety, equality, and respect. Community leaders and responsible authorities must ensure that women are protected in every setting, including workplaces. Clear rules, protections, and prevention mechanisms must be established so that women feel safe, valued, and treated with equality and dignity.

In Solidarity,
Executive Committee
Karen Women's Organization