

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Sent by email fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

Wednesday 10 February 2021

Dear Mr Raab

The Church of Scotland and Presbyterian Church in Ireland have worked with our partners in the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar for many years. Our shock at the news of the military coup on 1 February was all the sharper because of our concern for our friends in PCM and the implications of the takeover by General Min Aung Hlaing.

Myanmar suffered 49 years of brutal military rule that ended as recently as 2011. In the past decade people have enjoyed increasing freedoms, some political progress and increased, if imperfect, economic growth. The fate of the Rohingya people shows that not all in Myanmar are treated equally.

We fully endorse a statement released by the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar in condemning oppression and calling for the release from house arrest of the State Counsellor, President and other elected leaders without exception.

We join with PCM in urging the authorities not to cause any harm anyone in the Civil Disobedience Movement who are pursuing non-violent means of protest and pray, as our PCM brothers and sisters in Christ say in their statement, 'that love, peace, tranquillity, human rights and dignity may rule [their] government; that there would be no oppression; and that federal democracy would be implemented successfully.'

Church of Scotland and Presbyterian Church in Ireland urge the UK Government do all that it can to ensure the restoration of democracy which fully respects the result of the November election. The historical and cultural bonds between Myanmar and the UK are strong and so the UK should take a leading role in building an international diplomatic response which supports the people of Myanmar and the government they have elected.

Yours sincerely



Rt Rev Dr David Bruce
Moderator of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church in Ireland



Rt Rev Dr W Martin Fair
Moderator of the General Assembly
Church of Scotland

Presbyterian Church in Myanmar – General Assembly Office
Kalaymyo, 8 February 2021
Statement following Military Coup on 1 February 2021

1. The Presbyterian Church in Myanmar (PCM) stands for love, justice and peace according to the teaching in the Bible.
2. We were surprised and astonished on hearing the news of the coup d'état on 1 February. We, along with the people of Myanmar, are deeply saddened by this.
3. Based on Biblical theology, PCM condemns any form of oppression which is against the truth.
4. We urge the military to release from house arrest the State Counsellor, President and other elected leaders without exception.
5. We urge the authorities not to cause any harm or to oppress anyone in the Civil Disobedience Movement who are pursuing non-violent means of protest.
6. PCM prays that love, peace, tranquillity, human rights and dignity may rule our government; that there would be no oppression; and that federal democracy would be implemented successfully.

(Translated by Rev Ramthanga, General Secretary, PCM, revised.)