



## International Christian Peace Movement

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### *Statement from Pax Christi Australia*

**Pax Christi Australia calls on the Australian government to support the people of Myanmar in their struggle for democracy and the rule of law.**

Pax Christi Australia is a movement that is part of the international Christian peace movement Pax Christi International, based in Brussels, with consultative status at the UN.

Pax Christi Australia is extremely concerned at the reimposition of totalitarian military rule in Myanmar on February 1, 2021, which has been followed with the increasing use of force in cities and towns. Many people continue to be killed in the struggle to exercise their right to peaceful assembly; the arrest of political leaders, government officials, civil society actors and media representatives; the sowing of fear, anxiety and intimidation in local communities by civilian agents of the military regime singling out leaders and supporters of the **Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) Myanmar** in the dead of night; and disruption to freedom of expression and access to information.

Pax Christi Australia stands in solidarity with the nonviolent Civil Disobedience Movement which includes doctors, nurses, teachers, bank officers, and students. We acknowledge that what is happening in Myanmar and in many other countries impacts on all of us as an interconnected community – that our lives are woven together.

Pax Christi Australia supports the people of Myanmar as they pursue democracy, peace, human rights and the rule of law. Pax Christi Australia strongly supports the call of UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, for member states to exercise whatever influence they can offer to condemn the violence against the people of Myanmar. We specifically call on the Australian Government to raise its voice and consider strategies and partnerships in support of the people of Myanmar.

The junta must honour and respect the will of the people following the landslide election victory in November 2020 and adhere to democratic norms where differences are resolved through peaceful dialogue. In the interests of regional peace, it should adhere to the advice of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The people have inspired the world as they show their feelings with courage.

Pax Christi Australia calls for the release of leaders and protestors who have been imprisoned; respect for the recent election outcome; return to democracy and respect for human rights, and that Australia and other member states of the United Nations join the call for a return to democracy and peaceful dialogue.

This statement supports an earlier statement released by Pax Christi Asia-Pacific:

<https://paxchristi.net/2021/02/05/crisis-in-myanmar-pax-christi-asia-pacific-reacts/>

PDF: <https://paxchristi.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Myanmar-Statement-Final.pdf>

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*Pax Christi is a Christian worldwide movement for peace and disarmament.  
It regards justice and human rights as central to peacebuilding  
and fosters the spiritual dimension of peacemaking.*

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