# BUILDING A MOVEMENT WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

WLB marks ten years of gender activism

#### WLB's Values

- Mutual respect and non-discrimination
- Opposing all forms of violence against women and protecting women from violence (believing in & respecting women's human rights)
- Upholding the principles of democracy and equality
- Responsibility, accountability and transparency
- Upholding gender equality.
- Peaceful co-existence

# Message from WLB

It has been ten years since we began our partnership to work for gender equality. This booklet highlights some of our key achievements along our path of learning and working together. The path has been rough, and our learning curve steep, but the experience has been tremendously rewarding and fulfilling. Seeing how far we have come since the beginning strengthens our commitment to continue towards our goal.

Of course, one of the main structural obstacles to achieving gender equality in Burma, the system of military dictatorship, remains in place. However, we believe that our achievements are broadening and strengthening the movement for political reform. Only with women's equal participation in the movement, can it be inclusive and broad-based, and thus able to achieve our common goal of a peaceful and just society.

We wish to thank all our friends and supporters who have been at our side over the last ten years. Without their efforts, we would not have accomplished so much in such a short time.

We reaffirm our commitment to continue working to oppose any injustice, inequality and exploitation. We firmly believe that our collective efforts will enable us to realize our goal.

WLB December 2009



#### Women of Burma's movement

**Before 1988,** there were only four ethnic women's organizations from Burma, namely The Karen Women's Organization (KWO), the Kachin Women's Association (KWA), the Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO) and the Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU). KWO was founded first in 1949.

#### Between 1988 to 1999

Women in exile were organizing themselves to form into small groups of their own to respond to needs of health and education and social issues such as trafficking and violence against women. More women's organizations were founded.

#### November 1998

The First Burmese Women's Forum: Already-existing women's groups from areas of Burma bordering with Bangladesh, India and Thailand met for the first time. It was an important landmark in the process leading to the formation of the WLB.

#### September 1999

A special meeting of women's organizations, which was also a preparatory meeting for the Second Women's Organizations of Burma Conference. Women from various organizations signed an agreement to form an umbrella organization.



# Dec 1999: Milestone in the history of Burma

The Second Women's Forum was held. December 9th 1999 was the historic day on which the Women's League of Burma (WLB), the first umbrella organization for women' groups from Burma of different ethnic and political backgrounds, was founded

As an umbrella organization, women are able gain a stronger voice. The role of WLB is to be a platform for women of Burma to push for political change in Burma and work for gender equality in society. Meanwhile the role of the women of Burma can be enhanced locally, nationally and internationally.

By working together, and encouraging each other, the Women's League of Burma hopes to build trust, solidarity and mutual understanding among women of all nationalities in Burma.



### Founding members

- All Burma Democratic Lushai Women's Organization (ABDLWO)
- Burmese Women's Union (BWU)
- Chin Women's Organization (CWO)
- Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT)
- Karen Women's Organization (KWO)
- Karenni Women's Organization (KNWO)
- Lahu Women's Organization (LWO)
- Pa-O Women's Union (PWU)
- Rakhaing Women's Union (RWU)
- Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN)
- Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU)
- Women's Rights and Welfare Association of Burma (WRWAB)



WLB values development of trust, friendship, cooperation, solidarity, participation. These values are fostered not only amongst each other, but equally importantly, with all individuals and organizations with whom they interact.

WLB respects that each member organization has its own history, culture, political circumstances, objectives and challenges.

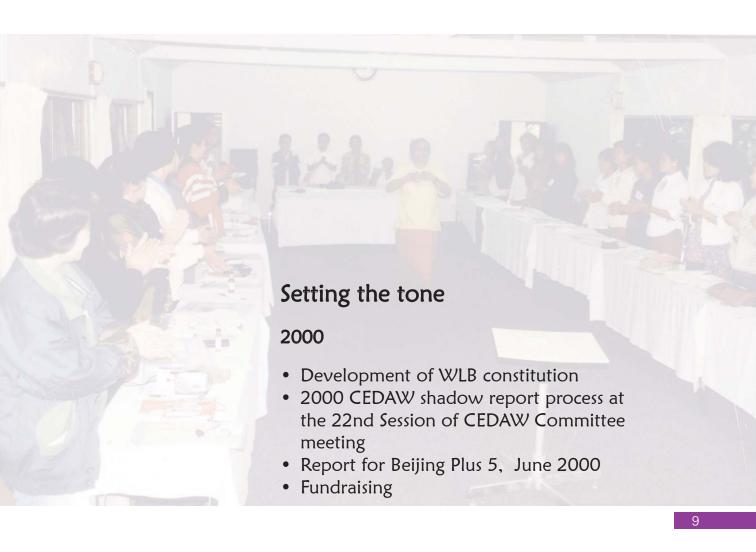
### WLB's strong vision for the future of Burma and her peoples:

A society with equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination.

#### WLB therefore aims to

- Work for the empowerment and advancement of the status of women
- Work for the increased participation of women in all spheres of society, including in politics at the local, national and international levels
- Build mutual understanding among all nationals and participate in the national reconciliation processes at all levels





# Formalizing women's network

#### January 2001: The First Congress

- Twenty-eight representatives from 10 member organizations attended the Congress.
- Approved the constitution
- The presidium board made up of one representative from each member organization was formed.
- Secretaries were elected (Pictures)

- Laid down platform for actions
- Prioritized areas for 2001-2002
  - Capacity building
  - International advocacy
  - Peace and reconciliation
  - Refugee affairs.









February 2001: The WLB Secretariat office was opened in Chiang Mai

Till - Nov 2002

- Programs designed<sup>1</sup>
- Capacity building
- Mobilizing & networking locally and internationally

# Establishing strong coalition/alliances among women's groups & pushing women's agenda<sup>2</sup>

#### December 2002: The Second Congress

- Attended by 32 women.
- WLB declared itself as a political organization
- Prioritized areas for 2001-2002
  - Peace building towards national reconciliation,
  - Promotion of gender equality
  - Increased participation of women in political leadership.



#### December 2004: The Third Congress

- Attended by 34 women.
- Adopted the principle of establishing a democratic federal system in Burma in the future, and the WLB's Constitution Study Team was established to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in the drafting of a federal constitution.
- Prioritized areas for 2004-2006
  - Advocacy
  - Capacity Building
  - Peace Building
  - Women Against Violence



#### January 2007: The Fourth Congress

- Attended by 45 women.
- Reaffirmed WLB's core values of mutual respect, opposition to all forms of violence, gender equality and peaceful coexistence.
- Prioritized areas for 2007-2008
  - Promoting increased women's participation in decision-making processes at every level.
  - Raising awareness of the concept of gender equality in local communities.





#### January 2009: The Fifth Congress

- Attended by 55 women.
- Three main programs of WLB were consolidated: Peace & Reconciliation, Women Against Violence, and Political Empowerment Program
- Prioritized activities: opposing the SPDC's 2008 Constitution

#### Current members

- Burmese Women's Union (BWU)
- Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT)
- Karen Women's Organization (KWO)
- Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO)
- Kuki Women's Human Right Organization (KWHRO)
- Lahu Women's Organization (LWO)
- Palaung Women's Organization (PWO)
- Pa-O Women's Union (PWU)
- Rakhaing Women's Union (RWU)
- Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN)
- Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU)
- Women's League of Chinland (WLC)
- Women's Rights and Welfare Association of Burma (WRWAB)

# Building a movement within a movement

The role of the WLB Secretariat is key in consolidating our formal women's alliance network and pushing our women's agenda.

#### **Our Secretaries**







Secretaries of the Second Congress Term



Secretaries of the Third Congress Term



Secretaries of the Fourth Congress Term



# WLB strategies

- Capacity Building
- Advocacy

#### **Activities for Capacity Building**

- Internship program (at Secretariat and at mother organization through sub-grant project)
- Conducting skills and knowledge trainings, workshops, seminars for women
- Sending women to workshops, trainings, seminars, conferences and internships through networks (local, regional and global)
- Learning and working at the same time on WLB projects/programs/campaigns with fixed time-frame
- Organizational development process (with strategic planning workshops)

# Advocacy

WLB advocates on behalf of its member organisations representing women and their families in diverse situations, whether inside Burma, displaced to refugee camps or living as undocumented migrant workers in neighbouring countries.WLB is uniquely positioned to advocate for women and change in Burma because it represents a nexus where grassroots, regional, and international processes meet and connections are made.

The advocacy strategies designed and implemented by the WLB therefore incorporate working at these multiple levels to simultaneously bring the messages of our member organisations to international attention while garnering education, experience, connective relationships and resources to bring back to their related communities.

#### General activities

- Lobbying for political change in Burma through broad based social movements inside Burma and through garnering support at the international level.
- Calling for gender sensitivity in all social processes that will lead to equality for all through a future federated Burma.
- Advocating for increased women's political participation at all levels of decision making, the provision of welfare services where possible to war and poverty displaced communities, and the education of women at the grassroots level.



## At community level

- Gender education, training and empowerment amongst ourselves and within our communities displaced from Burma and inside Burma
- · Raising gender issues through programs along borders and inside Burma
- · Community-mobilising activities and events along all Burma's borders

#### At international level

- · Lobbying governments
- Networking and advocating to get the Burma issue included at regional and international forums and UN conferences (UNCHR, UNHR Council, WCAR)
- Active participation at UN processes on the advancement of women and girls.

Since WLB was founded, WLB has been regularly attending the annual UNCHR (and now UNHRC) and UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women). From 2006, WLB has been participating in the UNSC Resolution 1325 lobby week, and UNGA lobby trip

- Beyond Beijing Process (Process after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in 1995)
- CEDAW shadow reporting process

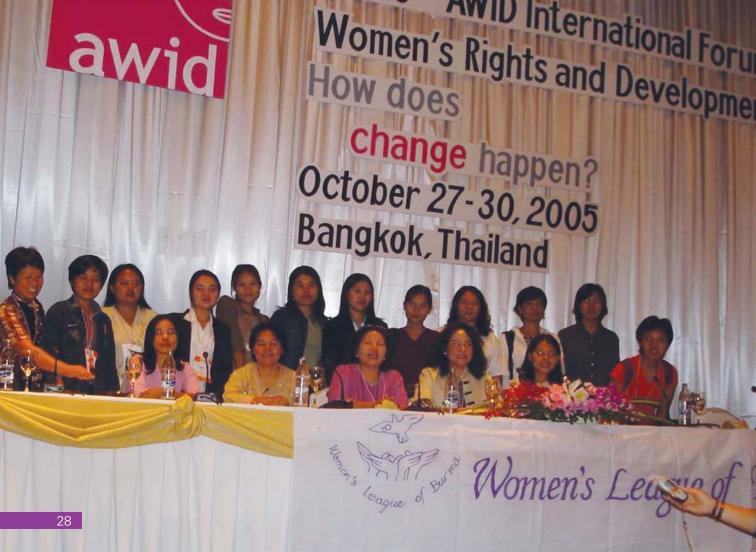
#### • Active participation at international women's forums

- Asia Pacific Women's Watch's Asia Pacific NGO Forums for Beijing Process
- Asia Pacific Women's Networks' Conferences including Asia Pacific NGO Consultations with UN Special Rapporteurs on thematic issues
- The AWID<sup>3</sup> International Conference (every 3 years)



( A PUBLIC HEARING )







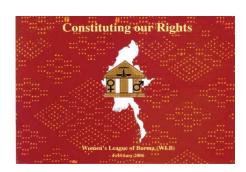


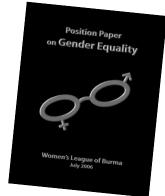




# Using action-oriented research, publications & media productions







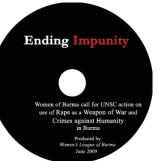












# Using IT: Website & releasing action-oriented statements & press releases



# Working with the media





- Women of Burma on youtube
- WLB on a Campaign
- · Women's League of Burma honoured Madeleine K. Albright Grant
- 31 March 2009 Part 6





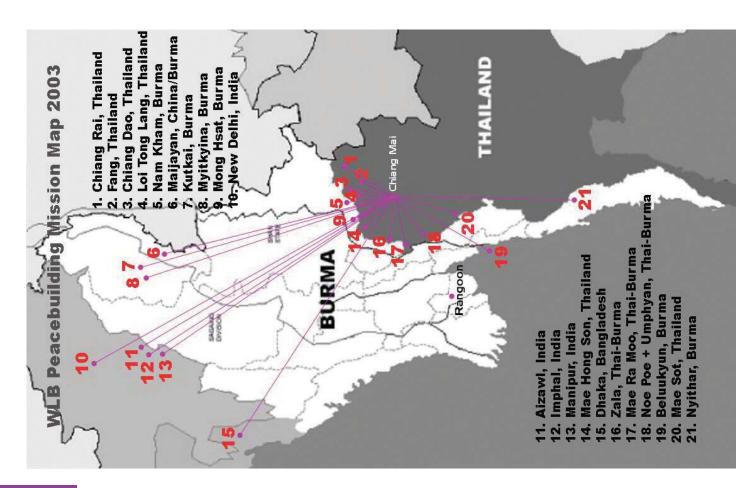
FORM, 425 OFO Ching Mr. 2000 Their all Showmendorm are new worsendorm as

WLB programmes are based on the principle of working together to enhance cooperation, mutual understanding and trust among the women of Burma, and across ethnic divisions to promote genuine national reconciliation.

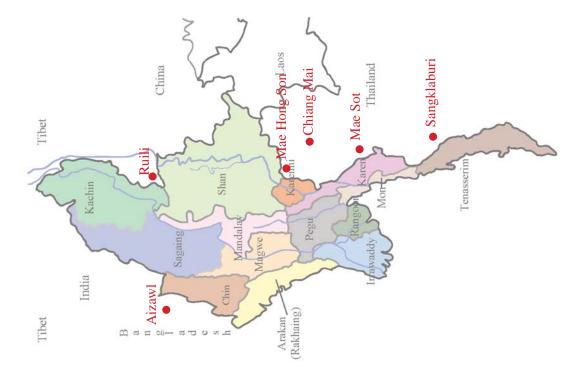
- Peace and Reconciliation
- Women Against Violence
- Political Empowerment

(Further information can be viewed at www.womenofburma.org)





# MAP of project areas for Women Against Violence Programme



\* WAV Working Team is also in Dehli, India.



# Part II: Achievements of WLB in the past 10 years

### I. Within WLB

### Institution building & Capacity building

February 2001	The WLB Secretariat office was	opened in Chiang Mai
,		

March 2001 WLB six-month intern program begins<sup>4</sup>

2002 Set up Women as Peacebuilders team under Peace and Reconciliation

Program

2003 Setting up WLB website through consultations

2005 Established the Women Against Violence Program<sup>5</sup>

2005 Established Sub-grant Project for member organizations<sup>6</sup>

Jan –April 2006 WLB external evaluation<sup>7</sup>

May 2006 Established Political Empowerment Program

Jan 2007-Aug 2007 Drew up WLB Operational guidelines through Organizational

Development process with series of workshops

June 2008 – to date Emerging Women Leaders Course<sup>8</sup>

# II. Within Burma's male-dominated democracy movement

Dec 2001 & Dec 2002	WLB representatives were included in constitution study tours and seminars in Germany and Belgium
Feb 2002	WLB representatives were included in the MPU's Electoral System fact-finding mission in Sweden $^9$
Jan 2004 - May 2005	A process was carried out to draw up a WLB position paper on Gender Equality by the Constitution Study Team made up of 3 young women 10
2006 - 2007	30% quota for women included in legislature of the FCDCC federal constitution
2007 - to date	WLB has been increasingly recognised as a political organisation, not just a women's organization. WLB has been invited to "Strategic Coordinating Meetings" for the movement to make political decisions, and also requested to send representatives to join various political processes. WLB's voice and concerns have started to be acknowledged, for example in the democratic opposition's Road Map, and in broad-based alliance building.





### III. In the community (through mobilising activities)

From 2001 – date: Organizing trips by WLB<sup>11</sup>

From 2001 WLB has been organizing the following commemoration days in six areas

in Bangladesh, India and Thailand on International Women's Day on 8 March, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Birthday on 19 June, and the 8888

anniversary on August 8th.

Jul – Aug 2001 WLB organized WCAR signature campaign 12 (collected more than 50,000

signatures from all Burma's border areas)

25 Nov 2001 & 2002 Awareness campaign materials production on the occasion of the

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

From 2004 The Peace Builder team under Peace and Reconciliation Program has

been organizing peace activities on the International Day of Peace in

communities along all borders. 13

From 2005 The Women Against Violence Program has been organizing Stop VAW Day

& 16 Days activism (25 Nov- 10 Dec) through its regional working teams in

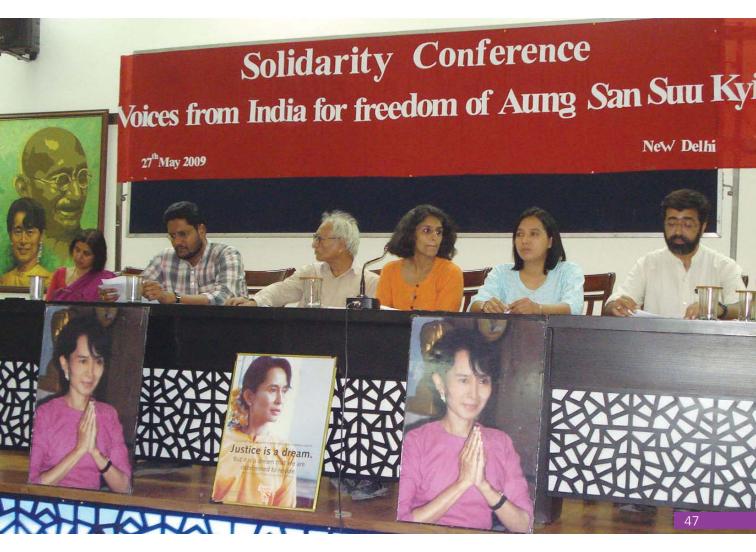
Bangladesh, China, India and Thailand

8 August 2004 Signature campaign to urge the leaders of the EU and ASEAN to

reevaluate their "constructive engagement" policy towards the military

regime in Burma. 14







Jun 2005 & 2006 Yellow Campaign for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Jun 2007 Postcard Campaign for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

2007 - 2008 Women human rights defenders campaign<sup>15</sup>

2008 Vote No Campaign against the SPDC Constitution referendum

2008 ICC campaign (Burma case referral to ICC)

### IV. With the international community

Oct 1999- Jan 2000 CEDAW shadow report process for the 22nd Session of the CEDAW in

New York when Burma's country report was reviewed 16

Feb 2000- Jun 2000 WLB's Beijing Plus Five reporting process

Jan – 7 Sep 2001 WLB process on WCAR and parallel NGO forum in Durban, South

Africa 17

Nov 2003 – Mar 2005 Beijing Plus Ten Process 18

Nov 2007 International campaign to free women human rights defenders in Burma<sup>19</sup>

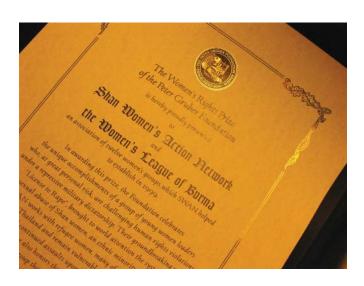
Sept 2007 – Aug 2009 2008 CEDAW shadow report process & follow up<sup>20</sup>

# V. International recognition

2005 Peter Gruber's Women Rights Prize together with our member organization, Shan Women's Action Network  $(SWAN)^{21}$ 

2008 Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Award from International Republican Institute (IRI)<sup>22</sup>

2008 Madeline K Albright Award from National Democratic Institute (NDI)<sup>23</sup>









### **Overall Achievements**

- Young women who have assumed leadership roles within the WLB have gained experience and have more confidence to speak out and actively participate in meetings/conferences/seminars.
- WLB's participation within the movement has become more visible as WLB is playing a key role in political decision-making processes
- WLB and its member organizations have developed closer connections through program activities (e.g. the Vote No campaign, and CEDAW shadow report process)
- Increased empowerment and capacity of young women from member organizations through the sub-grant project as well as the Emerging Women Leaders School project.
- Members of WLB member organizations have gained increased knowledge of relevant international resolutions and processes such as UNSCR 1325 and the ICC system through WLB training programs.
- WLB has been able to maintain its regional and international links with women's networks and gain support for different activities, as the WLB has established itself as a significant change agent in the women's movement.
- WLB has been able to extend its "inland" project with the aim of mobilizing communities prior to SPDC's upcoming 2010 election.

# APPENDIX I: WLB Team for each term

# 1. The First Congress (2001 -2002 Term)

# Presidium Board Members

Organization	Name
ABDLWO	Zothang Sangpuii
BWU	Mi Sue Pwint
cwo	Kyi Kyi
KWAT	Shirley Seng
KWO	Naw Zipporah Sein
LWO	Aye Aye Myint
PWU	Nang Aein
RWU	Saw Mra Raza Linn
SWAN	Hseng Noung
TWU	Tin Tin Khaing
WRWAB	Daw Mya Mya Aye

General Secretary	Nang Yain	BWU
Joint General Secretary 1	Monica	KWAT
Joint General Secretary 2	Naw Myaing Phoe	KWO
Office Manager	Yin Mon Thu ( Lynn Lynn)	BWU
Accountant	Kham Owng	SWAN
Office Assistant	Sam	

# 2. The Second Congress (2003 -2004 Term)

# **Presidium Board Members**

Organization	Name
BWU	Khin Ohmar
KWAT	Shirley Seng
KWO	Naw Zipporah Sein
KWHRO	Chi Chin (became member in August 2003)
LWO	Aye Aye Myint
PWO	Lway Aye nang (became member in August 2003)
PWU	Nang Aein
RWU	Saw Mra Raza Linn
SWAN	Nang Lao Laing Won (Tay Tay)
TWU	Tin Tin Khaing
WRWAB	Daw Molly

General Secretary	Hseng Noung	SWAN
Joint General Secretary 1	Thin Thin Aung	WRWAB
Joint General Secretary 2	Linda	KWAT
Office Manager	Ying Harn Fah	SWAN
Treasurer	Monica	KWAT
Accountant	Kham Owng/ Saw Nwe Nwe Oo	SWAN/RWU
Office Assistant	Sam	
Information Documentation & Research Department	Yuwadee	SWAN

Beijing Plus Ten Process & IDR Department	Nang Lao Liang Won (Tay Tay)	SWAN
	Naw Paw Hset Hser	KWO
Programmes		
Peace & Reconciliation	Khin Ohmar	BWU
	Myint Myint San	BWU

# 3. The Third Congress (2005 -2006 Term)

# **Presidium Board Members**

Organization	Name
BWU	Mi Suu Pwint
KWAT	Shirley Seng
KWO	Naw Khaing Mar Kyaw Zaw
KNWO	Naw Bwe Paw
KWHRO	Chi Chin
LWO	Aye Aye Myint
PWO	Lway Nway Noung
PWU	Nang Yin Twe
RWU	Saw Mra Raza Linn
SWAN	Hseng Noung
TWU	Tin Tin Khaing
WRWAB	Thin Thin Aung

General Secretary	Nang Yain	BWU
Joint General Secretary 1	Lway Aye Nang	PWO
Joint General Secretary 2	Naw Sandar Waie	KWO
Office Manager	Linda	KWAT
Assitant Office Manager	Muay Ngern	SWAN
Office Assistant	Sam	
Treasurer	Monica	KWAT
Accountant	Yee Yee Win	
Beijing Plus Ten Process & IDR	Nang Lao Liang Won (Tay Tay)	SWAN
	Paw Hset Hser	KWO
Sub-grant Project	Ja Seng Awng	KWAT
Programmes		
Peace & Reconciliation	Khin Ohmar	BWU
Women Against Violence	Nang Lao Liang Won (Tay Tay)	SWAN
	Naw Paw Hset Hser	KWO
	L. Dwelling	KWAT
Political Empowerment	Thin Thin Aung	WRWAB
	Ying Lao	SWAN

# 4. The Fourth Congress (2007 -2008 Term)

# **Presidium Board Members**

Organization	Name
BWU	Tin Tin Nyo
KWAT	Mary Labang
KWO	Nan Dah Eh Kler
KNWO	Naw Bwe Paw
KWHRO	Neng Boi / Kim Boi
LWO	Na Helly
PWO	Lway Aye Nang
PWU	Nang Yin Twe
RWU	Saw San Nyrein Thu
SWAN	Hseng Noung
TWU	Thu Htike San
WRWAB	Nin Zi

General Secretary	Nang Yain	BWU
Joint General Secretary 1	Naw Paw Hset Hser	KWO
Joint General Secretary 2	L. Dwelling	KWAT
Office Manager	Linda	KWAT
Assitant Office Manager	Muay Ngern	SWAN
Office Assistant	Montree/Saw Eh	
Treasurer	Nuon Hseng	SWAN
Accountant	Yee Yee Win/Thazin Ni	TWU
Accountant	Roinu/Seng Shadan	KWAT
IDR Department	Nang Lao Liang Won (Tay Tay)	SWAN
	Ying Tzarm	SWAN
Sub-grant Project	Ja Seng Awng/ Nang Kham Thi Htun	KWAT/BWU
CEDAW Shadow Reporting Process	Naw Htoo Paw	KWO
	Thwel Zin Toe	BWU
Programmes		
Peace & Reconciliation	Na Law Bo	LWO
Women Against Violence	Nang Lao Liang Won (Tay Tay)	SWAN
	Kham Mai	SWAN
Political Empowerment	Thin Thin Aung	WRWAB
	Saw Kay Thwe Aung	RWU

# 5. The Fifth Congress (2009 -2010 Term)

# **Presidium Board Members**

Organization	Name
BWU	Tin Tin Nyo
KWAT	Mary Labang (Shirley Seng)
KWO	Nan Dah Eh Kler
KNWO	Tho Myar Mi Nyo
KWHRO	Ngan Ngai
LWO	Na Vebon
PWO	Lway Moe Kham
PWU	Nang Phu Phu
RWU	Saw Mra Raza Lin
SWAN	Nang Lao Liang Won (Tay Tay)
TWU	Htay Htay Win
WRWAB	Thin Thin Aung

General Secretary	y Lway Aye Nang PWO	
Joint General Secretary 1	Tin Tin Nwe BWU	
Joint General Secretary 2	Saw San Nyrein Thu	KWAT
Office Manager	Linda	KWAT
Assitant Office Manager	Nang Kaw Kham	SWAN
Office Assistant	Saw Eh	
Treasurer	Nuon Hseng	SWAN
Accountant	Thazin Ni	
Accountant Seng Shadan		KWAT
IDR Department	nent Ying Tzarm	
Sub-grant Project Nang Kham Thi Htun (until March)		BWU
Mock Trial Project	Naw Htoo Paw	KWO
Programmes		
Peace & Reconciliation	Na Law Bo	LWO
	Kham Yard	SWAN
Women Against Violence	Nang Kham Thi Htun	BWU
	Muay Ngern	SWAN
Political Empowerment		
	Saw Kay Thwe Aung	RWU

# APPENDIX II: List of interns from 2001 – Dec 2009

Year	Organization	Name	Where they are
2001	Tavoy Women's Union	Ei Ei Chaw	
2001	Rakhaing Women's Union	Saw Khet Khet Wai	
2002	Kachin Women's Association Thailand	Seng Shadan	WLB Accountant
2003	Pa-O Women's Union	Nang Yin Twe	PWU Trainer
2003	Lahu Women's Organization	Na Dawsha	Trainer
2004	Palaung Women's Organization	Lway Hnin Moe	Staff at WLB –Branch Office
2004	Karen Women's Organization	Naw Daisy Min	KWO documentation
2005	Shan Women's Action Network	Mo Soi Leng	SWAN Office Manager
2005	Burmese Women's Union	Zin Mar Phyo	In charge of BWU's Dove Magazine
2006	Rakhaing Women's Union	Saw Mi Mi Than	RWU Office
2006	Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization	Kim Boi	KWHRO office
2006	Women's Rights Welfare Association of Burma	San Te	WRWAB library
2007	Tavoy Women's Union	Thazin Ni	WLB Accountant
2007	Karen Women's Organization	Naw Ceilia Paw	KWO documentation
2007	Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization	Ling Boi	KWHRO office
2008	Shan Women's Action Network	Ying Hom	SWAN's Empowerment Program Assistant

Year	Organization	Name	Where they are
2008	Lahu Women's Organization	Na Haw Ve	LWO Office
2008	Pa-O Women's Union	Nang Phu Phu	PWU Trainer
2008	Palaung Women's Organization	Lway De Dyat	PWO Office
2008	Rakhaing Women's Union	Saw Ah thein	RWU Office
2009	Palaung Women's Organization	Lway Poe Boe	PWO Office
2009	Kachin Women's Association Thailand	Lu Lu	KWAT documentation
	TOTAL	23	

# Appendix III: Former interns' current work

Organization	Intern's name	What they rae doing now	
	Noh Noh	Accountant at KWAT	
	Seng Zin	Office Manager at KWAT	
KWAT	Ah Hkawn	KWAT Capacity building Program Staff	
KWAI	Ah Pri	KWAT Documentation & Research Staff	
	Bawn Ze	KWAT Capacity building Program Staff	
	Noh Noh	Accountant at KWAT	
	Naw San San	Assistant & Office Manager of Mae La Camp	
	Naw Juliet	Office Staff at KWO	
KWO	Naw Gay Nay Sae	Assistant to Special Education Coordinator at KWO	
	Naw Shee Shee	Office Manager	
	Naw Moo Hsar	Secretary of Mae La Oo Camp	
KNWO	Naw Htoo Gay	General Office Staff	
KWHRO	Kim Boi	Joint Secretary of KWHRO	
	Ling Boi	Community Organizer & Accountant	
LWO	Naw Dorah	Office Staff at LWO	
PWO	Lway Poe Ngeal	PWO's Joint General Secretary 2	
	Lway Poe Myiam	Joint Coordinator of Political Empowerment Program of PWO	
	Lway Poe Taung	PWO's Joint - Office manager	
	Lway Poe Heing	Internship Coordinator of PWO	

Organization	Intern's name	What they rae doing now
	Lway Poe Boe	Office Manager
	Lway Kee Chee	Treasurer/Documentation Department Staff of PWO
PWU	Zun Moe	Trainer for PWU
	San Myat	Attending Foreign Affairs Training
	Nang Phu Phu	Trainer/ conducting political Empowerment training at PWU
RWU	Ah Thein	Office Assistant
	Saw Sanda Khaing	Radio Free Asia's Rakhaing Program News Reader
	Saw Hla Prayit San	Head of RWU's Mae Sot Branch
	Saw Mar Mar Kyaw Zaw	Secretary of RWU
TWU	Hlwin Hlwin Hlaing	Internship Coordinator at TWU
	Htay Htay Win	Presidium Board Member of WLB
	Nu Nu Hlaing	Internship Assistant Coordinator at TWU
	Khin May	Income-generation Coordinator at TWU
WRWAB	San Te	Librarian
	Nin Zi	Former Presidium Board Member of WLB

### **End Note**

- 1. 5 women, the representatives from KWO, BWU (2), KWAT, and SWAN, were appointed by the Congress as the Program design team.
- 2. WLB team for each term can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 3. The Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
- 4. Since the program began, WLB Secretariat has trained 23 women from member organizations. Details can be viewed at Appendix 2.
- 5. The WLB's Third Congress decided to have a separate program to address VAW issues from the local to global level (Details can be viewed at www.womenofburma.org)
- 6. 10 member organizations except BWU & SWAN have been supported. Most organizations run their internship program with this support since 2005. 34 women completed the program are now working force of WLB & member organizations for h (Details can be seen in Appendix 3)
- 7. The evaluation identified the achievements and weaknesses of the WLB and gave recommendations for a more effective strategic planning process for the future
- 8. A 6 month course commenced in 2008 and 14 young women completed the course. 16 young women are currently in a further training, which started November 2009
- 9. 5 women went to Sweden with MPU for the mission and also attended "Seminar on Parliamentary Democracy and Management of Parliament"
- 10. Conducted at least 30 consultation meetings among communities along Burma's borders
- 11. WLB organizing trips aim at updating community/political leaders about WLB activities and lobbying them
- 12. WLB collected 51,487 signatures from various communities to get support for the WLB's "Country Specific Situation and Recommendation on Burma" to the WCAR (Government Forum). On September 7, the WLB representatives submitted all the 51,487 signatures to the UNHR Commissioner, Mary Robinson's office in Durban, South Africa.

- 13. Details at www.womenofburma.org
- 14. More than 42,000 people from Asia and Europe signed the WLB's petition
- 15. E.g. Release of Nilar Thein and other political prisoners campaign
- 16. 5 women from Burma attended & lobbied the Committee
- 17. Details at www.womenofburma.org
- 18. Details at www.womenofburma.org
- 19. Released a report "Courage to Resist" to use as advocacy tool (www.womenofburma.org)
- 20. Nine women attended the session and lobbied the Committee (See Reflections on CEDAW 2008)
- 21. http://www.gruberprizes.org/GruberPrizes/WomensRights\_LaureateOverview.php?id=23&awardid=17
- 22. http://www.iri.org/newsreleases/Program%20for%20Jeane%20J.%20Kirkpatrick%20%283.6.08%29.pdf
- 23. http://www.ndi.org/node/15140

# **Acronyms**

FCDCC Federal Constitution Drafting Committee

ICC International Criminal Court
MPU Member of Parliament Union

SPDC State Peace and Development Council

UNCHR United Nations Commission on Human Rights

UNHRC United Nations Human Rights Council
UNSCR United Nations Security Council Resolution

WCAR World Conference Against Racism



# Women's League of Burma

The Women's League of Burma (WLB) is an umbrella organisation comprising 12 women's organisations of different ethnic backgrounds from Burma. WLB was founded on 9th December, 1999. Its mission is to work for women's empowerment and advancement of the status of women, and to work for the increased participation of women in all spheres of society in the democracy movement, and in peace and national reconciliation processes through capacity building, advocacy, research and documentation.

### **Aims**

- To work for the empowerment and advancement of the status of women
- To work for the rights of women and gender equality
- To work for the Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women
- To work for the increased participation of women in every level of decision making in all spheres
  of society
- To participate effectively in the movement for peace, democracy and national reconciliation

# WLB's Member Organizations



Burmese Women's Union (BWU)



Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT)



Karen Women's Organization (KWO)



Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO)



Kuki Women's Human Right Organization (KWHRO)



Lahu Women's Organization (LWO)



Palaung Women's Organization (PWO)



Pa-O Women's Union (PWU)



Rakhaing Women's Union (RWU)



Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN)



Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU)



Women's League of Chinland (WLC)



Women's Rights and Welfare Association of Burma (WRWAB)



Women's League of Burma

P.O Box 413, GPO Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand

wlb@womenofburma.org www.womenofburma.org