



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2021

Decisive Action is Needed Now to Save Myanmar

Statement by Lawrence E. Couch

Director, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

The military crackdown in Myanmar continues. Having seized power from legitimately elected officials, the military has declared war on its own people. The military has killed at least 700 unarmed peaceful protesters, including some 40 children. On the bloodiest day, March 27, at least 114 people, including 11 children, were killed.

Myanmar's deposed Nobel laureate leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has not been seen in public since being detained in the early hours of February 1 when the military overthrew her government and seized power. Recently, the military has filed new criminal charges against her.

Unarmed and untrained, the protesters are no match for the well-armed military who has been given permission to kill men, women, and children.

The question is, how long should the world wait. By doing nothing, we may well be encouraging the outbreak of a protracted civil war.

Aside from the calls for peace, the United States must take concrete steps to end the military repression. We recommend supporting the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (or Parliament). The C.R.P.H. was set up by more than 300 representatives from different political and ethnic parties who won posts in the November 2020 general election.

In addition, we recommend recognizing the C.R.P.H. as Myanmar's only legitimate governing authority and provide them with financial and technical assistance.

Now is the time to act. By not taking decisive action, we are acquiescing to this brutal, military takeover of power from a fledgling democracy.

[The National Advocacy Center](https://www.gsadvocacy.org) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their

Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

-30-