

**DVB Debate** is produced by DVB Multimedia Group Ltd. Co. The debate is recorded every Saturday morning in Yangon with a live audience, which is invited to join the discussion as well.



**DVB TV timetable**

Sun	19:15	21:00	night repeat
Mon	10:15	15:15	21:00
Wed	10:15	15:15	21:00
Fri	10:15	15:15	21:00

DVB Debate aims to contribute to a new culture of open debate, in which anyone can participate and agree to disagree, in order to exchange ideas, create better mutual understanding and find solutions for societal issues to improve the future of Myanmar.

The team invites fellow media and debating clubs to join this initiative for open debate. A weekly press release, press picture and cartoon are available shortly after the recording. DVB Debate also has a modest budget to support local debating initiatives.

For any inquiries, remarks or questions, please call 01292743 (office hours), leave a comment on facebook.com/dvb.debate or email [debate@dvb.no](mailto:debate@dvb.no).

# DVB DEBATE



Welcome to DVB Debate, Myanmar's 1st open debate program. This week's debate question is:

***"How can we stop harassment?"***

If you have any remarks, suggestions or questions, please ask a team member,

call 01292743 (office hours) or email [debate@dvb.no](mailto:debate@dvb.no).

## **This week's topic is SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

### ***Historical context:***

Burma is a male-dominated society. The majority of government offices in Burma are headed by men, and only a handful of seats in Parliament are held by women. In Burma's socially conservative, Theravada Buddhist society, concerns about protecting traditional religious or cultural values can clash with calls for sex education and open dialogue about gender issues. Sexual harassment and violence against women is reported to be one of the most pressing human rights violations in Myanmar. Existing laws, which date back to the British occupation in the 19th century, are outdated, unclear and poorly enforced. Myanmar currently has no laws to prevent violence against women at home or sexual harassment in the workplace, or to allow women to seek restraining orders on violent men. Under the Penal Code, rape is narrowly defined and perpetrators do not always receive the proper legal punishment of up to 10 years in prison. In ethnic areas, where rule of law can be almost non-existent, women's experiences of violence have been exacerbated by armed conflict and displacement. Women's organisations are calling for approval of an Anti-Violence Against Women Law that is now being drafted.

### ***Facts & figures:***

- In Myanmar Hluttaw, women hold 20 places only out of totally 659 Representatives.
- Gender equality laws have long existed in other countries but there is still no gender equality law in Burma. Other ASEAN countries such as Cambodia also have laws for protection against domestic violence.
- According to the Yangon Division Police Office, from January to the second week of May 2013 the total number of rapes amounted to 57. In ten of those cases the victims were underaged children and seven cases involved victims under 10 years old.
- On 5th June 2014 Burma became the 150th country to endorse the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict

- Myanmar agreed to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 22 July 1997

### ***Points of view:***

"The government should implement new measures that offer broad support for women's empowerment and rights. It is important to have peace in our community. We all have a duty to stop domestic violence," (Aung Myo Min- Director of Equality Myanmar)

"Women are treated like second-class citizens [...] It's generational, it's historical [...] Our body is not their sex object. Why should we keep silent with our head down? It is time to go against it. We can't work alone but need all helping hands to go against it so that we can create a beautiful, safe and secure environment." (Ma Htar Htar- Women's rights activist)

"All the other countries in the ASEAN regional bloc have laws protecting women from violence. Myanmar is the only country without such a law. The government have been saying for over three years now that they're drafting this law. Please don't just talk the talk," (Nyo Nyo Thin- MP)

"It is up to the individuals to follow moral and religious values themselves, regardless of whether there is a boom in new fashion or porn movies. The authorities shouldn't just practice punishment, they should also try to modify the mindset of individuals." (Dr. Nilar Kyu, the Psychology Dept. in Yangon University.)

### ***Information links:***

[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw)  
[www.womenofburma.org](http://www.womenofburma.org)  
[www.asafeworldforwomen.org](http://www.asafeworldforwomen.org)  
[www.genderindex.org/country/myanmar](http://www.genderindex.org/country/myanmar)  
[www.facebook.com/yangonpolice](https://www.facebook.com/yangonpolice)  
**www.dvb.no**