



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Catherine West MP
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Dr Al Pinkerton MP
House of Commons
London
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Your ref: AP5150
Our ref: MC2025/19100

9 July 2025

Dear Al,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 June on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], about Myanmar. I am replying as the Minister for the Indo-Pacific.

As I am sure you will understand, I cannot comment while legal proceedings are underway to ensure the integrity of the process. For information on the case itself, you can contact the Metropolitan Police by email: newsdesk@met.police.uk or by phone: 020 7230 2171. You can also contact the Crown Prosecution Service by email: cps.pressoffice@cps.gov.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to set out our support for the people of Myanmar, the democratic opposition groups, and civil society. Rest assured, the UK stands in solidarity with those calling for a return to democracy in Myanmar. The National Unity Government (NUG) is an important voice of the democratic opposition for many in Myanmar, and we have been clear that the military regime must engage with them and all other opposition groups which represent the people of Myanmar. I have personally met senior NUG representatives on several occasions, most recently with Dr Sasa and Daw Zin Mar Aung on 5 June. Our officials are also in close contact with a number of NUG representatives.

We have also been clear that we deal with the military regime only where necessary, notably to protect British nationals, to provide lifesaving humanitarian and health support and on operational matters related to the functioning of our Embassy in Yangon. Our diplomatic presence in Yangon is crucial as it allows us to disburse life-saving humanitarian assistance programmes which have helped over 1.3 million people in conflict affected areas since the coup. Over 50 percent of those reached are women and children.

In financial terms, we have spent over £190 million since the coup on our humanitarian assistance programmes, and this year we will be increasing our assistance to over £80 million, including up to £25 million to respond to the devastating earthquake on 28 March. None of our support goes to the military regime and over 65 percent of our funding goes either directly and indirectly to support local civil society organisations, overcoming humanitarian access restrictions and supporting the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities.

We are also providing material support for Myanmar's civil society and the democratic opposition, including, between 2022-25, £900,000 in support for women and LGBT+ led organisations.

We also remain very committed to keeping Myanmar on the international agenda. The UK consistently uses its role as penholder for the Myanmar crisis at the UN Security Council (UNSC) to maintain a spotlight on Myanmar, convening six UNSC meetings last year. On 30 April, we and international partners convened a closed UNSC meeting on Myanmar, discussing the impact on Myanmar since the March earthquake, and ways in which the ASEAN Special Envoy, and UN Special Envoy could work together on Myanmar.

At the UN Human Rights Council, the UK has co-sponsored numerous resolutions on Myanmar, most recently in April, condemning the human rights violations, including by the military regime against the people of Myanmar, including the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities. On 19 June, to mark Aung San Suu Kyi's 80th birthday, I called for all arbitrarily detained prisoners to be released, including Aung San Suu Kyi.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine West". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CATHERINE WEST MP
Minister for the Indo-Pacific