

Thank you Madam Chair. My name is May.

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~~I am an Indian descendant~~
woman
muslim, minorities from Myanmar.

Myanmar is a beautiful country rich in diversity of cultures, languages and religions. In Kingdom era, we have Mya Zayde Stone inscription which was written in 4 languages. In ancient time of Myanmar, we respected each other faiths, languages and cultures. Sadly, this traditions ~~has shifted~~ of acceptance and tolerance has shifted towards discriminations.

Indian descents speak different languages, and have different religions and cultures. and we are considered as foreigners in schools, teachers treat us differently and students experience verbal abuse on daily life basis. In many cases, ~~there~~ this results in students not feeling encouraged to seek higher education and even results in drop out after primary school. For girls, this create a life time of dependancy on their families and also limit the participation in public life especially for Hindu Indian descent minorities. I noticed this significant gap ~~when~~ when I am working for ~~improving~~ their assessment in citizenship.

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I also recognized that Ministry of Ethnic Affairs started to produce the curriculum and promoting ethnic minorities languages since 2016. However, this does not address the issues of discrimination against Indian descendants.

Indian descendants who are born in Myanmar are not foreigners just because of practicing their own languages or culture. We love Myanmar as much as others do.

So, I also strongly recommend our government as follows.

1. Government have to present the acceptance of diversity in curriculum and promote tolerance between communities.

2. Government must ensure that education address the different needs of female Indian descendants to support and encourage seeking the higher education.