

Resolution for the MSCA to Express Solidarity with Workers in Myanmar

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WHEREAS the MSCA is part of an international labor movement and should take the opportunity to extend its solidarity to workers across the globe; and faculty, librarians, and students in the Massachusetts State University system have an interest in cultivating and expressing global citizenship; and

WHEREAS the country of Myanmar suffered a coup against its democratically elected National Unity Government (NUG) in 2021 and the subsequent installation of a military junta, and the junta has killed, jailed, and persecuted thousands of protestors, and the junta leader Min Aung Hlaing has refused to negotiate with the NUG; and

WHEREAS the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar and other trade unionists have been at the forefront of civil disobedience campaigns, including the boycotting of military-owned companies, and has consistently called for a peaceful solution and the restoration of the NUG; and

WHEREAS the junta has violated labor law and principles by banning labor unions and firing striking state workers en masse; and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) reported these abuses to the International Labour Organization (ILO) in March 2021; and the ILO has expressed its concern at the junta's abuses of workers' rights; and

WHEREAS the ILO is scheduled to hold the International Labour Congress in June and its Credentials Committee is currently deliberating on whether the NUG or the junta should occupy Myanmar's seat in the meetings, and the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar has called upon ILO not to recognise the junta as the legitimate representative of Myanmar; and

WHEREAS unions in Europe and Asia have also expressed their solidarity with Myanmar by writing open letters to the ILO calling on it to recognise the NUG delegation as the legitimate representative of Myanmar at the Congress;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT

The MSCA President will write to the ILO to express support for the NUG taking Myanmar's seat at the Congress. The President shall convey a copy of the letter to the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar along with a statement of solidarity with striking and protesting workers that calls for the restoration of workers' rights, the release of political prisoners, respect for human rights, and the restoration of democracy; and

The MSCA shall post the letter and statement of support for workers in Myanmar on all of its websites and social media and make these known to its members; and

The MSCA President shall submit a proposed Resolution on Solidarity with Workers in Myanmar, as a new business item, at the upcoming Massachusetts Teachers Association Annual meeting.