Review of Myanmar Digital Rights in 2019

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Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business

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About me

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❏ UNICEF PPD/Brussels, Belgium.

❏ EU Commission and European External Action Service, EU Delegation, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

❏ "Beeline" Telecom, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

❏ Master's degree in Public Policy with a focus on cyber policy, The School of Public Policy (CEU), Budapest, Hungary.

Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business

MCRB aims to provide a trusted and impartial platform for the creation of knowledge, building of capacity, undertaking of advocacy and promotion of dialogue amongst businesses, civil society, governments, experts and other stakeholders with the objective of encouraging responsible business conduct throughout Myanmar.

Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business

Financial support from governments of:

- UK
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Netherlands
- Ireland
- Denmark

Founders:

IHRB

THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

myanmar.responsible.business
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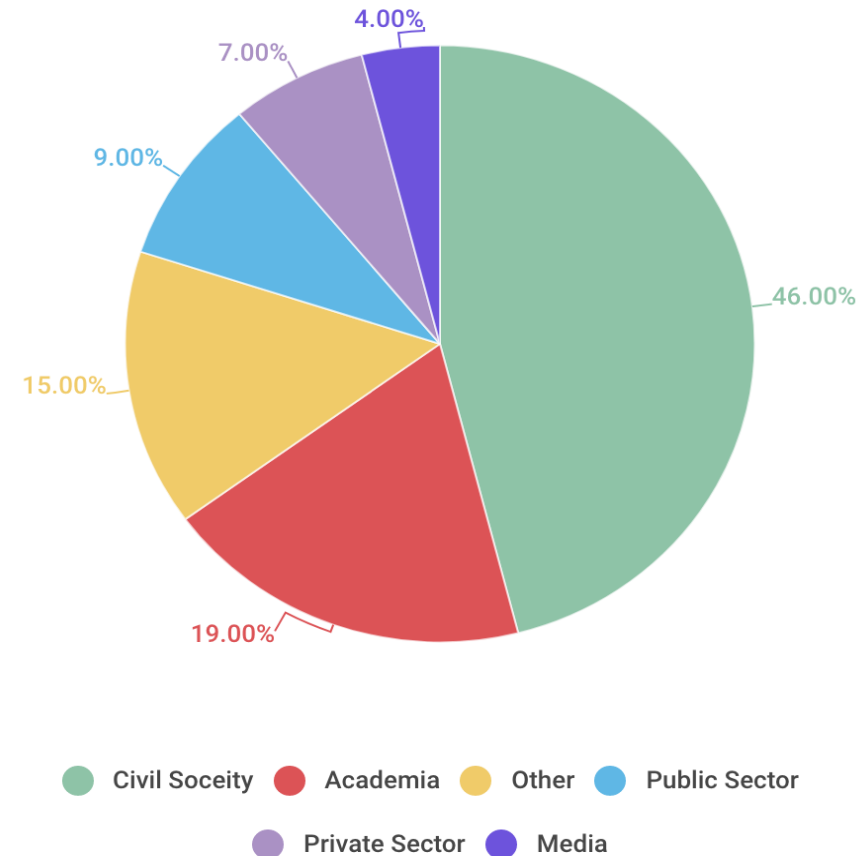Ahlone, Yangon
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Our work on digital rights

- Promote understanding of international standards on responsible business conduct, and "translating" them to the context.

- Reactive respond to government consultations and proactive policy briefs (on www.mcrb.org.mm):

    - Analysis on Myanmar ICT legal framework

    - Data Protection

    - Cyber Crime and Cyber Security.

- Work with ICT businesses on their responsibility to respect human rights

- Advising international ICT companies on key challenges and risks in operating in Myanmar

- Advising local ICT companies on international human rights standards

- Working with users/consumers on privacy protection in the cyber space

    - Recommendations on safe online shopping and financial activities

    - Mechanism of consumer protection and impacts of the internet shutdowns in Myanmar

Myanmar
Digital Rights Forum

Protecting your rights on the internet

#digitalrightsMM

Sector Wide Impact Assessment

Myanmar ICT Sector-Wide Impact Assessment

September 2015

Institute for Human Rights and Business | Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business | THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

MDRF January 2019 Highlights

- *"..Proper policy and regulatory framework to build e-government and promote the digital economy..."*

- *"...Challenges Myanmar journalists face in the digital age..."*

- *"…The Right to Freedom of peaceful assembly and association online…."*

- *"…Normative guidance on how both public authority and the private sector can better ensure their protection…."*

4.00%

7.00%

9.00%

46.00%

15.00%

19.00%

- Civil Soceity
- Academia
- Other
- Public Sector
- Private Sector
- Media

Privacy – 2019 MDRF poll

Improved 8%

Same

26%

Worse

66%

Priorities for government to address to ensure privacy online in 2019

5,00%

22,00%

3,00%

4,00%

66,00%

Change laws and policies   Train government staff

Regulate private sector   Support public education campaigns

Other
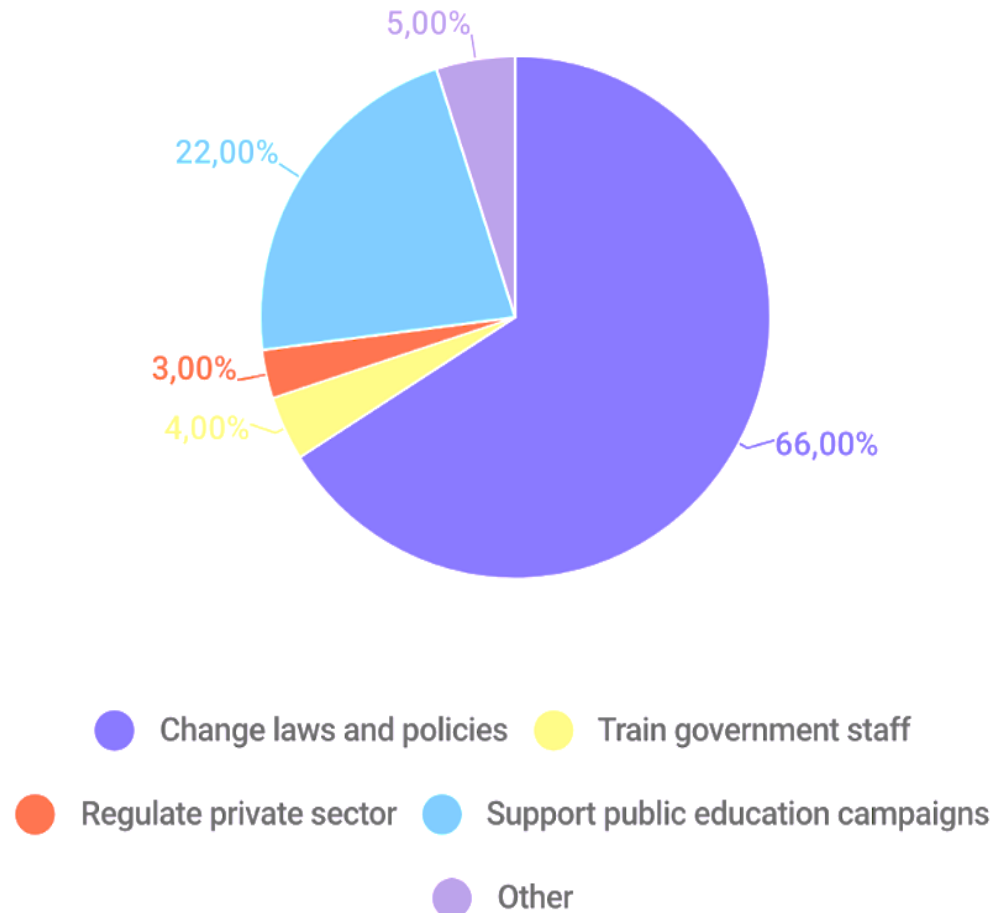
Equality of online access – 2019 MDRF poll

Improved 78

Same

17%

Worse

Priorities for government to address to promote greater equality of online access in 2019

5.00%

27.00%

47.00%

11.00%

10.00%

Legend:
- Urban-Rural Divide
- Gender divide
- Access for persons with diabilities
- Ethnic Languages
- Other
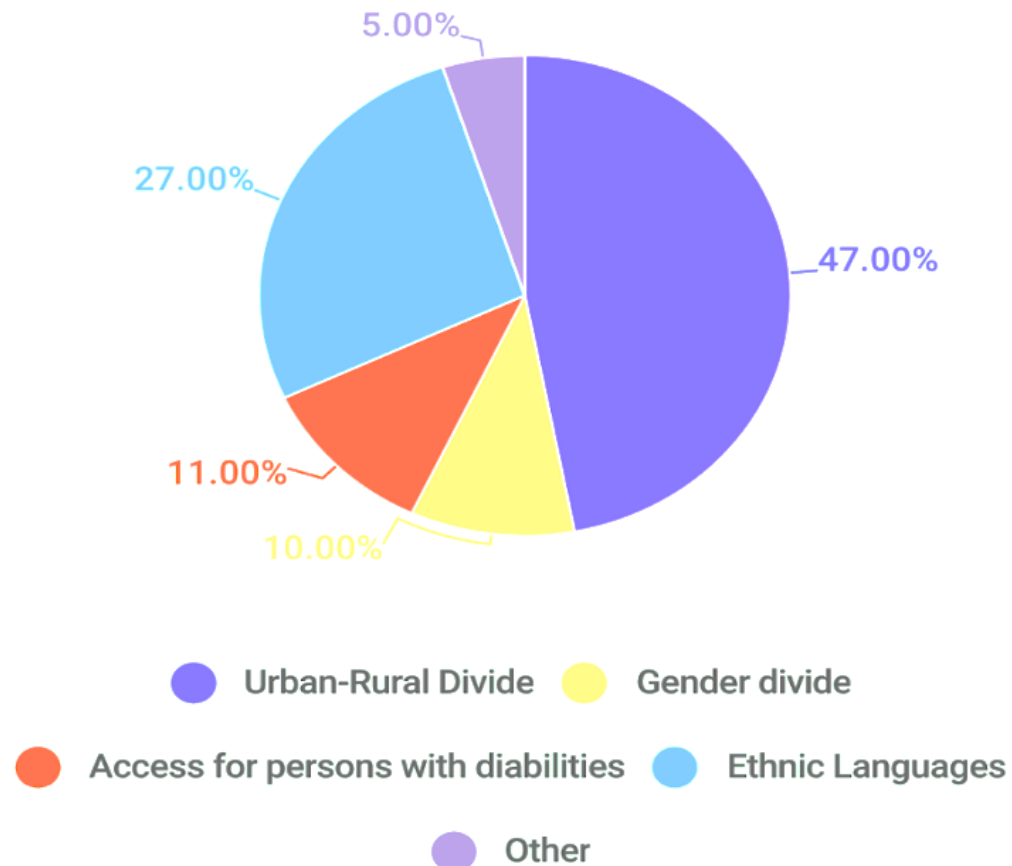
Freedom of online expression – 2019 MDRF poll

Improved 25%

Same

34%

Worse   41%

Priorities for government to address to ensure FoE online in 2019

- 7.59%
- 23.95%
- 57.48%
- 10.98%

Legend:
- ● Change laws and policies
- ● Train government staff
- ● Support public education campaigns
- ● Other
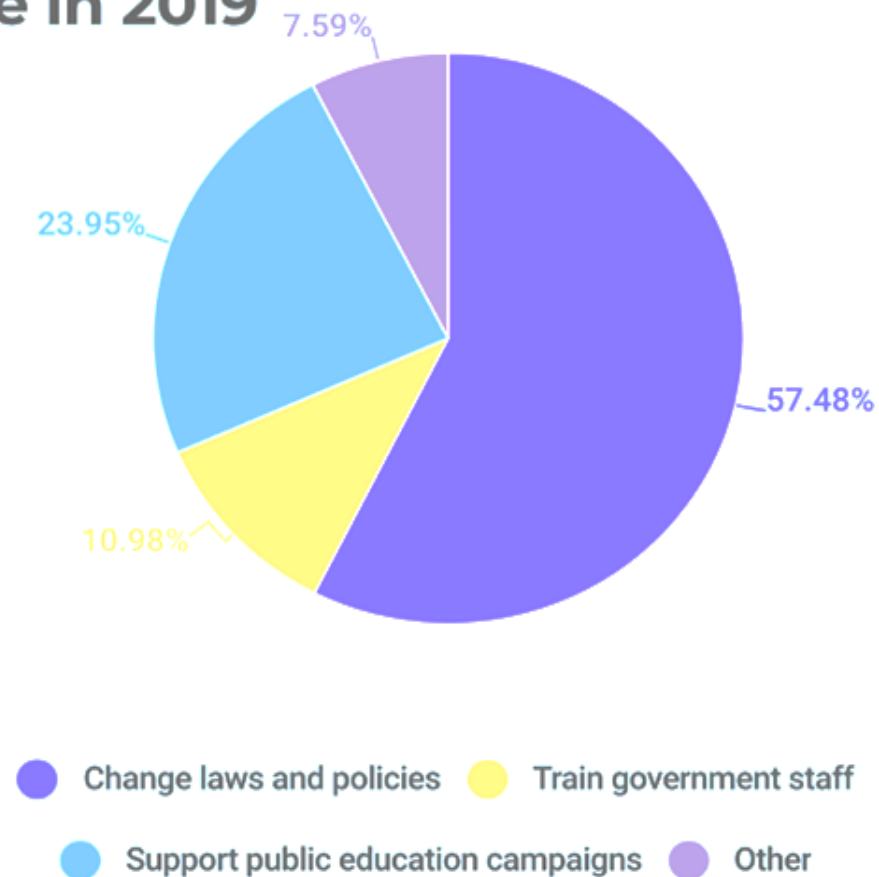
Developments since the last MDRF - Privacy

- Huawei facial recognition cameras deployed and then taken down in Mandalay

- SIM Card registration

    - January 2020 – over 27 million SIMs registered >2 SIMs per NRC

    - April 2019 – introduced limit of 2 SIMs per NRC

    - Tender for database including biometrics

- Launch of Myanmar Information Security Association

- Still waiting for draft legislation on cybersecurity, e-commerce, data protection (or e-government)

    - World Bank sponsored draft(s) with MoTC

- Government wants to amend March 2017 'Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens

Equality of Online Access – Internet Shutdown

- Internet shutdown in nine townships in Rakhine and Chin since 20 June
    - #StopInternetShutdownMM Campaign
    - CSO, UN, business statements
    - Blackout Day 101 30 September

Equality of Online Access – Universal Service

- **Universal Service Strategy 2019-2023** adopted Dec 2019 and issued Jan 2020 (consultation Jan 2018). Covers 23 townships; 95% mobile coverage by 2022.

- Universal Service Fund (USF) 2% levy on revenue. Intended for:
    - Developing infrastructure
    - Digital literacy training programs
    - Access for the people at commercially nonviable areas
    - Implementing projects for minorities, persons with disabilities and poor people

- Aug 2018 Regulations and USF Operation Manual (April 2019)

- Board of the USF Trustees (first meeting 25 March 2019):
    - Chairman - U Thar Oo (Deputy Minister of MoTC); Members - U Myo Swe (DG of PTD of MoTC), U Swe Tint Kyu (Director of Consumer Affairs Department), Daw Khin Mar Thi (Deputy Director of Budget Department), Daw Caroline Yin Yin Htay (Representatives of the Operators)

- Out of the 23 townships, tenders called (Nov 2018, closed Feb 2019) for four townships: Sidoktaya, An, Minbya and Hpasawng to be implemented with World Bank loan. An and Minbya (both Rakhine) won by MPT and Telenor.

- MoTC held a meeting with the Operators in May 2019 for the USF projects for 21 townships to be implemented with USF

Equality of Online Access – Other Issues

- White Paper on FACILITATING FASTER BROADBAND AND 5G ADOPTION IN MYANMAR 2020 issued Feb 2020

- UNICODE Transition

Developments since the last MDRF – Freedom of Expression

- Facebook v.s VK in the fight against of fake news and hate speech
  - Facebook

- Draft Hatred Law (formerly Hate Speech
  - Committtee under MoHA drafted a bill, UAGO, Cabinet

- Usage of 66d
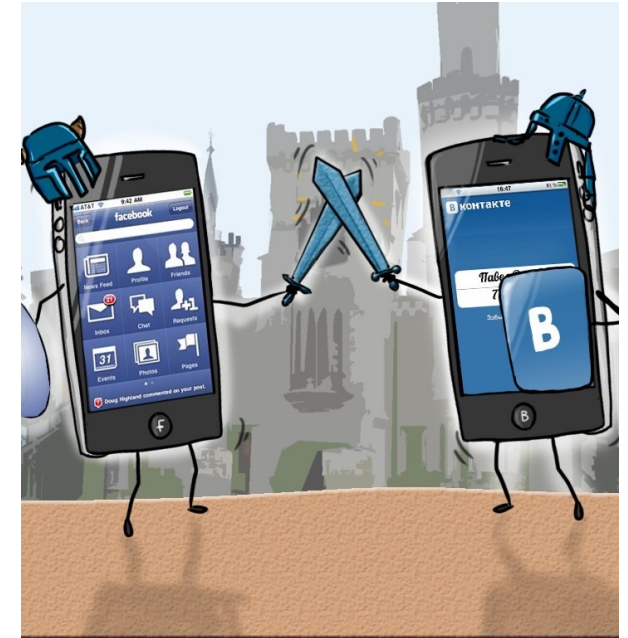
Thank you!
Lets go to
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