



KNU/KNLA PEACE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

1. **FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION AND LANGUAGE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. GOD IS THE SUPREME AUTHORITY OVER ALL. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS THE CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE UNIVERSE, ALL LIFE AND MANKIND. GOD SHOULD BE IN EVERY AREA OF MAN'S LIFE AND ABILITY. WE ARE TO HONOUR HIM AND SUBMIT TO HIM IN THE SERVICE OF OUR PEOPLE.**
2. **THE KAREN NATIONAL FLAG AND THE KAREN NATIONAL ANTHEM MUST BE SHOWN PROPER RESPECT BOTH IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE.**
3. **FREEDOM OF TRUTHFUL SPEECH AND RESPONSIBLE PRESS BASED ON TRUTHFUL REPRESENTATION WITHOUT PROPAGANDA, DEFAMATION OR VIOLATION OF PERSON OR PERSONS INNOCENCE, NOR CAUSING DISUNITY OR CONFLICT WITHIN THE STATE OR NATION. THE PEACE OF THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRY MUST BE MAINTAINED. ANY VIOLATORS OF THIS TRUTHFUL REPRESENTATION WILL BE PROSECUTED.**
4. **ANY GOVERNING BODY POLICIES OR INJUSTICE BY AUTHORITES OR ANY RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE THAT CAUSE HARM TO THE PEOPLE CAN BE ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNING BODY PEACEABLY WITHOUT VIOLENCE OR CAUSING INCONVENIENCE OR DISTURBANCE TO THE PUBLIC.**
5. **SECURITY FROM UNWARRANTED SEARCH AND SEIZURE - THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO BE SECURE IN THEIR PERSONS, HOMES, DOCUMENTS, IDENTITY OR PERSONAL EFFECTS AGAINST UNREASONABLE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES OR ARRESTS SHALL NOT BE VIOLATED AND NO WARRANTS ISSUED UNLESS THERE IS SUFFICIENT BASIS AND THE WARRANT AUTHORISED BY APPROPRIATE JUDISCIARY AUTHORITY DESCRIBING THE SPECIFIC PLACE TO BE SEARCHED AND THE PERSON OR THINGS TO BE SEIZED.**
6. **THE RIGHT OF THE PERSON TO REMAIN INNOCENT OF ANY ACCUSATION UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY BY THE JUDISCIARY SYSTEM. ANY BLUNT ACCUSATION WITHOUT FACTS AND PROPER INVESTIGATION WILL FACE PROSECUTION.**
7. **THE RIGHT TO A QUICK TRIAL TOGETHER WITH WITNESSES AND JURY BY THE JUDISCIARY SYSTEM.**
8. **NO EXCESSIVE BAIL OR FINE CAN BE IMPOSED NOR ANY FORM OF PUNISHMENT THAT VIOLATES BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.**
9. **EVERYONE MUST BE TREATED WITH RESPECT REGARDLESS OF POSITION AND SOCIAL STATUS. ABUSE OF POSITION OR POWER IS UNACCEPTABLE AND LIABLE FOR PROSECUTION.**
10. **ANYONE IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY MUST HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF SERVANTHOOD, SERVING IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE, WITHOUT FAVORITISM AND DISCRIMINATION.**
11. **THE PRIORITY IN EVERY ACTIVITY OF EVERYONE WHO LIVES IN KAREN STATE OR TERRITORY MUST BE TO LIVE IN UNITY AND HARMONY DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENTIAL VIEWS AND BELIEFS.**
12. **NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 20 IS PERMITTED TO BE A SOLDIER OR BE ENLISTED IN ARMED FORCES, NOR ANYONE OF ANY AGE WHETHER YOUNG OR OLD IS TO BE FORCED AGAINST THEIR WILL TO ENLIST.**
13. **ANYONE APPOINTED TO THE KNU/KNLA PEACE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST BE OF HIGH MORAL STANDARD BASED ON GODLY PRINCIPLES AND MUST BE OF NOBLE CHARACTER.**

14. KAREN STATE UPHOLDS A GOVERNMENT BODY BASED ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE. EVERY KAREN CITIZEN HAS A RIGHT TO DEMOCRATICALLY ELECT THEIR OWN KAREN LEADERSHIP TO SERVE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE KAREN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE IN AN AUTONOMOUS STATE WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC FEDERAL UNION OF MYANMAR, WHICH WILL HOLD THE WHOLE COUNTRY TOGETHER IN UNITY. ALL STATES TO BE RESPECTED EQUALLY RESULTING IN LONG-LASTING PEACE AND STABILITY.
15. ANY RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATION WITHIN THE KAREN STATE MUST NOT USE THEIR RELIGIOUS FACILITIES OR BELIEFS TO BRING ANY FORM OF TERRORISM, VIOLENCE, OR HARM, OR ANY THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY; NOR DISRUPTION OF THE PEACEFUL LIVING AND HARMONY OF ALL THOSE WHO RESIDE IN KAREN STATE. NOR SHOULD ANY STRUCTURE DESTROY THE ORIGINAL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT NOR THE BEAUTY AND LANDSCAPE OF THE KAREN STATE.
16. ANY FOREIGNER OR VISITOR TO THE KAREN STATE MUST ABIDE BY THE LAWS AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE KAREN. ANYONE WHO DISPLAYS ANY FORM OF HOMOSEXUAL (GAY) ACTIVITY, PHEDOPHILIA, CHILD ABUSE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR ANY FORM OF IMMORALITY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY DEPORTED WITH CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY AND MONIES. ANY FORM OF DISRESPECTFUL PRESENTATION OR INAPPROPRIATE OR IMMODEST ATTIRE OR MANNERISMS OR RUDE LANGUAGE THAT IS OFFENSIVE TO INDIVIDUALS OR PUBLIC WILL FACE PROSECUTION.
17. THE KNU/KNLA PEACE COUNCIL PEACE FORCES MAINTAIN THE RIGHT TO CARRY ARMS FOR THE SECURITY OF THE KAREN STATE AND TERRITORY AND ITS INHABITANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING PEACEFUL LIVING. ANY ARMED FORCES MUST BE PURELY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE AND MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY POLITICAL GAIN OR POWER.
18. ANY ILLICIT DRUGS OR HARMFUL SUBSTANCE ABUSE, THE USE AND SALE OF, AND TRAFFICKING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN KAREN STATE AND TERRITORY BY LAW.
19. MEDIA – WHETHER IT BE MOVIES, MAGAZINES ETC, IN THE KAREN STATE IS PROHIBITED TO BROADCAST OR PUBLICALLY DISPLAY ANY PORNOGRAPHY OR VIOLENCE OR DISRESPECTFUL IDEOLOGY THAT DESTROYS THE CHARACTER AND CULTURAL HARMONY OF BOTH OLD AND YOUNG GENERATIONS OR ANY FORM OF ACTIVITY WHICH CREATES CRIME THAT DISTURBS THE PEACEFUL LIVING OF THE PEOPLE RESIDING IN THE KAREN STATE OR TERRITORY.
20. RESPECT OF EACH FAMILY UNIT AND FAMILY VALUES MUST BE UPHELD HIGHLY AT ALL TIMES. ONE HUSBAND /ONE WIFE. THE TREATMENT OF SPOUSE, CHILDREN AND PARENTS MUST BE WITH LOVE AND RESPECT.
21. FREE AND FAIR TRADE AT ALL BORDERS, PORTS OF ENTRY AND WITHIN THE STATE THAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL PARTIES, BOTH FOREIGN INVESTORS AND LOCAL TRADERS. CHILD LABOR IS UNACCEPTABLE. CORRUPTION, SLAVE TRADE, SEX TRADE. UNFAIR TREATMENT OR DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS EMPLOYEES WILL BE PROSECUTED. A PERSON SHOULD NOT WORK MORE THAN 8 HOURS A DAY. IF OVERTIME IS APPLIED THEN THE EMPLOYEE SHOULD BE PAID DOUBLE PAY. THIS WILL ALLOW MORE TIME FOR FAMILIES TO BE TOGETHER. THE WELL-BEING OF THE FAMILY UNIT IS THE STRENGTH OF SOCIETY.
22. BENEFITS SUCH AS FREE EDUCATION, FREE MEDICAL AND FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENTS WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL FAMILIES. FAMILIES OF LOW INCOME WILL BE LISTED AS THE PRIORITY OF THE KNU/KNLA PEACE COUNCIL AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE GIVEN.
23. ALL STAPLE FOOD PRODUCTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EACH FAMILY OF KAREN STATE AND TERRITORY AT A FIXED PRICE AFFORDABLE FOR EVERY FAMILY. ANY SURPLUS PRODUCE OVER AND ABOVE THE NECESSITIES CAN BE MARKETED AT WORLD COMPETITIVE PRICES. THERE WILL ALSO BE QUALITY CONTROL ON PRODUCE SOLD. THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTS PROVIDED FOR EACH FAMILY OF KAREN STATE AND TERRITORY WILL ALSO BE EQUAL TO THE QUALITY OF EXPORTED PRODUCTS.
24. RESPECT OF PROPERTY AND ENVIROMENT WHETHER GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE MUST BE UPHELD AT ALL TIMES. ANY VANDALISM, GRAFFITTI, ARSON OR ANY DISREPECTFUL ACTS, PLUS ANY DISREGARD OF THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF ANY PERSONS WILL BE PENALIZED REGARDLESS OF AGE.
25. TAXING INDIVIDUAL TRADERS OR EXTORTING MONEY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. ANY LOCAL TRADING BY INDIVIDUAL TRADERS WITHIN THE KAREN STATE OR TERRITORY OR ALONG ITS BORDERS, INCLUDING THE THAI BORDER, WHETHER THEY BE KAREN, BURMESE, THAI OR ANY OTHER NATIONALITY WILL BE PROTECTED FROM TAX OR EXTORTION OF MONEY FROM ANY GROUP, INCLUDING THE KNU/KNLA PEACE COUNCIL, ANYONE FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION WILL BE PROSECUTED.

26. KAREN REFUGEES ARE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME AND LIVE UNDER THE CARE OF THE KNU/KNLA PEACE FORCES AND THE KNU/KNLA PEACE COUNCIL WITHOUT DISTURBANCE FROM ANY ARMED FORCES. WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT ANY KAREN REFUGEES OR IDPS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE THREATENED BY ANY AUTHORITARIAN OR ARMED MILITIA GROUPS. ANY NGO GROUPS, WHETHER FOREIGN OR LOCAL WILL BE PERMITTED TO WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE KAREN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM SO LONG AS THEY ARE REGISTERED WITH THE KRDC (KAREN RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE) UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE KNU/KNLA PEACE COUNCIL. WE WANT TO SEE THEIR LIVES FREE AND PEACEFUL SO THAT OUR KAREN CAN DEVELOP A GOOD FUTURE OF THEIR OWN.

27. THE KNU/KNLA PEACE COUNCIL'S POLICY IS TO SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS IN A PEACEFUL WAY. WE DO NOT WISH TO RETURN TO THE PAST OF SOLVING PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS WITH VIOLENCE. ARMED CONFLICT WILL BE THE LAST RESORT. ALSO WE ARE DETERMINED TO BUILD CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH EVERY PARTY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE PEOPLE AND LONG-LASTING PEACE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR KAREN.