THE BARONESS COX
HOUSE OF LORDS
LONDON SW1A 0PW

Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
UK Mission to the United Nations

1 November 2021

Dear Barbara,

Re: Attacks in Chin State, Myanmar

Earlier today, I received a direct and urgent appeal from Dr. Sasa, spokesperson for Myanmar's National Unity Government:

> *"The military is escalating its attacks against innocent civilians in Chin State. They are using heavy battlefield weapons to destroy homes and churches..."*
>
> *"The worst days are yet to come for the people of Chin State. I urge you to everything possible to prevent further bloodshed. We must not wait for another genocide to happen."*

The scale and ferocity of military offensives are ominously reminiscent of the genocidal attacks against the Rohingya in Rakhine State in 2016 and 2017. There is now a real possibility that the people of Chin State will suffer the same fate as the Rohingya.

I have visited Chin State many times and I greatly appreciate the people who are inherently peaceable and deeply committed to maintaining their culture. The escalation of attacks throws the future of the State – along with its rich culture, history and many different customs and traditions – into turbulence. As Dr. Sasa, himself an ethnic Chin, told me earlier today: *"The military seeks to reduce our brave people and beautiful country to ashes."*

While the UK Government rightly condemns ongoing atrocities, we urge you to take more effective and urgent action – to fulfil our duty as a signatory to the 1948 convention on the crime of genocide to prevent, to punish and to protect.

The UK must do everything it can to prevent another genocide.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline

Cc: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon; Fiona Bruce MP