Empowering Youth, Restoring Hope: Higher Education and Leadership Across Myanmar
Overview
Since the military takeover in February 2021, Myanmar has faced deep political, social, and economic disruption. Severe conflict, forced conscription, displacement, and economic contraction have caused major breakdowns in formal education. An estimated 75% of young people across the country are unable to continue regular schooling, putting an entire generation at risk of displacement, precarious labour, or social exclusion.

In response, the Jesuit education ministries in Myanmar provide safe, holistic, and inclusive learning environments. Across Yangon and regional centres, four key Jesuit apostolates deliver tertiary pathways, ethical leadership formation, vocational training, and language skills. These programs accompany vulnerable, displaced, and ethnic minority youth, forming women and men dedicated to serving their communities.

1. Campion Institute (Kamaryut, Yangon)
Building Pathways Through Language and Life Skills

- **Purpose**: Empowers young people affected by conflict, displacement, and poverty through accessible, quality English language education and holistic formation, strengthening their English proficiency, critical thinking, self-confidence, and capacity to contribute positively to society and the Church.
- **Core Activities:** Delivers comprehensive English courses across six proficiency levels, alongside teacher training, campus ministry, and holistic formation activities
- **Key Outcomes:** Vulnerable and displaced young people strengthen their English proficiency, critical thinking, communication skills, and self-confidence, improving their opportunities for further education, employment, and meaningful participation in their communities.

2. Myanmar Network of Community Colleges (MNCC)

Community-Owned Vocational Training and Employment Pathways

- **Purpose**: Bridges educational gaps for early school dropouts and excluded youth across eight regional states, providing practical skills linked directly to local market needs.
- **Core Activities:** Runs 10-month holistic courses integrating life skills, vocational specialisations (such as IT, accounting, and trades), and on-the-job internships with local employers. The central Secretariat supports curriculum development, teacher coaching, and quality standards across 15 colleges.
- **Key Outcomes**: Marginalised young people gain relevant vocational and life skills, practical work experience, and increased confidence, enabling graduates to transition into employment, self-employment, internships, or other sustainable livelihood opportunities.

3. Myanmar Leadership Institute (MLI) (Kamaryut, Yangon)
Forming Ethical Leaders for Social Transformation

- **Purpose**: Cultivates ethical, service-oriented leaders equipped to guide community organisations, faith groups, and non-profits through Myanmar's complex social and economic challenges.
- **Core Activities:** Conducts a flagship Diploma in Leadership Development, modular certificate courses (focusing on digital skills, English, and learning facilitation), and targeted community workshops.
- **Key Outcomes**: Participants apply strengthened leadership, conflict mitigation and management skills in their organisations and communities, contributing to stronger grassroots civil society, social cohesion and community resilience.

4. St. Aloysius Gonzaga Institute of Higher Studies (SAG-IHS) (Taunggyi, Shan State)

Nurturing Educators and Community Builders in Shan State

- **Purpose**: improve access to quality higher education and holistic formation for disadvantaged young people from remote areas in Myanmar, enabling them to develop as capable educators and responsible leaders who contribute to their communities, justice and peace.
- **Core Activities**: Runs the Integrated Education Diploma Program for future teachers, preparatory language courses, and community college business classes, complemented by residential hostel facilities for scholars.
- **Key Outcomes**: Disadvantaged young people have improved access to and continuity in quality higher education, strengthened by holistic formation that develops their personal, spiritual, social and leadership capacities to contribute positively to their communities.

In response to Myanmar's continuing political and security risks, the four apostolates have identified context-appropriate measures to support continuity of activities and safety and wellbeing of participants. These measures vary by project and include flexible implementation planning, arrangements to maintain education and accompaniment where possible, student identification or registration support, accommodation support, and student wellbeing measures.

The Potential of Your Support

In times of protracted national disruption, access to reliable, values-based education provides essential stability and long-term hope. By investing in Campion Institute, MNCC, MLI, and SAG-IHS, Pilgrims 100 will directly support safe learning communities, vocational pathways, and ethical young leadership across Myanmar.