

# Women's Voices: Naga Mothers Association and Eastern Nagaland Women Organisation in the Contemporary Times

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## Abstract

*Despite genealogical discussion of Nagas typically emphasising the community's egalitarian and democratic attitude, the fact that can shock anyone in this modern time is that, Nagaland after its formation of statehood within the Indian republic still does not have a 2 per cent women legislative representative. The second one is zero representative in the Urban Local Bodies (Town Municipal Council). The paper highlights how social media has in fact navigated women's voices to the public. For instance, Naga Mothers Association (NMA) has been fighting for this democratic representation but has been ignored arguing that women have never been part of political decision-making in Naga society. To substantiate the argument, the narratives<sup>1</sup> collected during the fieldwork is used here.*

**Keywords:** NMA, ENWO, Naga society, women's voice.

## Introduction

The NMA and ENWO have been in different forefronts since the 1980s and 1990s. One example, for over a decade, they have been pursuing women's reservations in various courts. They questioned, how the Nagaland Government could have allowed Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections to take place in the past without women's reservation, as this clearly contravened the Indian Constitution. Only in April 2022, the Nagaland government after the Supreme Court intervention considered the implementation of 33 percent in ULB

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<sup>1</sup> The fieldwork was conducted in a span of two years (end of 2020 to end of 2022).

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