

Fact Sheet: Zomi Nam Ni (ဇီမီးအမျိုးသားနေ့)

Attribute	Details
Name	Zomi Nam Ni / ဇီမီးအမျိုးသားနေ့ (Zomi National Day)
Date	February 20 (annually)
Historical Origin	1948 – Falam Conference, Chin Special Division, Myanmar.
Foundational Event	A historic Zomi convention at Falam decided to reject autocratic rule and embrace democracy on February 20, 1948. It is commemorated as a "day of deliverance" from colonialism.
Year First Observed	Observed continuously since 1948 in Zogam and by the global Zomi diaspora.
2019 Event Status	Institutional Reaffirmation – The 2019 Kuala Lumpur Conference reaffirmed the day, it did not create it.

Comprehensive Explanation

To understand **Zomi Nam Ni**, one must distinguish between its **historical origin** and its **modern institutional reaffirmation**.

1. The Historical Origin (1948)

Zomi Nam Ni traces its foundation to the **Falam Conference**, held from **February 18–20, 1948**, within the Chin Special Division (Myanmar).

- **The Event:** Thousands of Zomi leaders gathered for a historic convention at Falam.
- **The Decision:** On **February 20, 1948**, they unanimously decided to reject autocratic rule and embrace democratic governance. This marked a transition away from traditional chieftainships toward a modern administrative system.
- **The Meaning:** It is a day commemorating "**deliverance**" from colonialism and autocracy, celebrating indigenous identity and the right to political self-determination.
- **Continuous Observance:** Since 1948, this day has been observed continuously by Zomi communities across Zogam (in Myanmar and India) and the diaspora. A 2012 report from the *Times of India* confirms that celebrations were already being held simultaneously in cities like Imphal, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington, London, and Rangoon.

2. The 2019 Institutional Reaffirmation (Kuala Lumpur)

The **Zomi International Conference 2019 (ZIC2019KL)**, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from February 17-19, 2019, was a milestone event. However, its role was specific.

- **What it Did:** The conference brought together over 70 representatives from Myanmar, India, the US, Canada, and Japan to build consensus and lay out a strategic roadmap for the future.
- **The Key Action: Reaffirmation.** The primary political act of the conference was to issue the **Kuala Lumpur Declaration**. The very first line of this declaration states: "*We reaffirm our Zomi identity as an indigenous people; and resolve to continue working towards achieving our political goal of establishing a self-administered Zogam...*" . This declaration also initiated the drafting of the **Zogam Charter** and articulated **Zogam Mabante** (Zogam's political objectives).
- **Official Clarification:** The Zomi Political Coordination Council (ZPCC) has explicitly clarified that the 2019 conference **did not create** Zomi Nam Ni. It formally stated:
 - **1948 = Historical Origin**
 - **2019 = Institutional Reaffirmation**

Addressing the Misinterpretation

A Burmese-language claim, which translates to:

"In accordance with the resolution of the International Zomi National Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February 2019, the Zomi Political Coordination Council (ZPCC) designated it as Zomi National Day."
ကိုယ့်ကြော ကိုယ်ဖန်တီးခွင့်နှင့် ကိုယ်ပိုင်ဆုံးဖြတ်ပိုင်ခွင့် ရရှိရေးအတွက် လမ်းခင်းပေးခဲ့သော အဆိုပါ နေထုံးနေ့မြတ်အား မြိမ်း နိုင်ငံရေးဆိုင်ရာ ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ရေး ကောင်စီ (Zomi Political Coordination Council) မှ ၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ တွင် မလေးရားနိုင်ငံ ကွာလာလမ်းပါ မြို့၌ ကျင့်ပသော နိုင်ငံတကာ မြိမ်းအမျိုးသား ညီလာခံ၏ ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်နှင့်အညီ မြိမ်း အမျိုးသားနေ့ အဖြစ်သတ်မှတ်ခဲ့ခြင်း ဖြစ်သည်။

This statement is **factually incorrect** and conflates "designation" with "reaffirmation."

- **The Error:** The claim suggests the day was **established** or **designated** in 2019.

- **The Truth:** The day was **established in 1948** through the will of Zomi leaders at Falam. It has been observed for over 70 years.
- **Why the Confusion Occurs:** Large, historic conferences like the one in 2019 often issue formal declarations that restate and recommit to foundational principles. The 2019 Kuala Lumpur Declaration is a powerful document of **reaffirmation**, not a certificate of creation. The ZPCC's role was to consolidate the political objectives (Zogam Mabante) and initiate the Zogam Charter, building upon the legacy of 1948, not to replace it.

Examples of Institutional Reaffirmation Worldwide

The following examples illustrate how different types of organizations and governments actively recommit to their foundational principles.

Event/Institution	Context of Reaffirmation	Date	Key Principle Reaffirmed
José Martí Cultural Association	Annual meeting commemorating Fidel Castro's centenary and the 67th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.	February 2026	Solidarity with Cuba and opposition to the U.S. embargo.
Simón Bolívar's Ideals	207th anniversary of Simón Bolívar's "memorable speech" at the Congress of Angostura.	February 2026	Ideals of freedom, social equality, and political stability.
Liberia National Elections Commission	Formal signing of a communiqué after a five-day strategic retreat.	February 2026	Commitment to credible elections for Liberia's democratic stability.
Oklahoma State Senate	Introduction of Senate Resolution 24 for America's 250th anniversary.	February 2026	Foundational principles of the Declaration of Independence (e.g., unalienable rights).
Kaduna State House of Assembly	Public address to protesters demanding updates on a legislative probe.	February 2026	Commitment to transparency and constitutional responsibilities.

Analyzing These Events

To understand how these events function similarly to the Zomi National Day reaffirmation, consider them through these three lenses:

- **Ceremonial or Commemorative Context:**

Like the Zomi National Day, most reaffirmations are tied to a significant anniversary. This provides a natural moment for reflection and recommitment. For instance, the reaffirmation of Simón Bolívar's ideals was anchored to the 207th anniversary of the Angostura speech, while the Oklahoma resolution was part of the lead-up to America's 250th birthday.

- **Formal and Public Declaration:**

Reaffirmation requires a public, often official, act. This can take the form of a signed communiqué by all seven commissioners of Liberia's election board, a legislative resolution introduced in the Oklahoma Senate, or a public address by a government official, as seen in Kaduna and Venezuela. This public nature signals seriousness and collective buy-in.

- **Confronting Current Challenges:**

The reaffirmation is rarely abstract; it directly addresses contemporary pressures. For the José Martí Association, reaffirming solidarity with Cuba was a direct response to the "intensifying brutal aggression of U.S. imperialism". Similarly, the Kaduna Assembly's reaffirmation of its probe was a response to public protests demanding accountability. The reaffirmation becomes a tool to bolster the institution against current threats.

These examples provide a useful framework for understanding how groups around the world actively work to sustain their core institutions. Would you be interested in exploring the specific outcomes or impacts of any of these reaffirmation events.

In essence, saying 2019 created **Zomi Nam Ni** is like saying the U.S. Congress "created" Independence Day every time it passes a resolution reaffirming the importance of July 4, 1776. The 2019 conference honored the 1948 origin and gave it renewed political force for the modern era.

Below are some examples of **institutional reaffirmation**, the way the ZICKL rectified the Zomi identity, Zomi political aspiration, Zogam future, and the Zomi National Day, respectively.

1. European Parliament

Type: Supranational Government

When: November 2020

What they did: Adopted the **EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2020–2024)**.

Principle reaffirmed: Promoting and protecting human rights and democracy globally.

2. Human Resources Professionals Association (HRPA)

Type: Professional Regulatory Body

When: 2019

What they did:

Approved a new **Strategic Plan (2019–2021)** titled "Inspiring Professionalism."

Principle reaffirmed:

The vision, mission, and values of the HR profession in Ontario.

3. Government of Ghana

Type: National Government

When: December 2021

What they did: Appointed four **national focal points** to promote the ILO's MNE Declaration.

Principle reaffirmed:

Principles of decent work, social policy, and responsible business conduct.

4. Business Roundtable

Type: Corporate Association (CEOs)

When: 2019

What they did: Released a revised "**Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation.**"

Principle reaffirmed:

Commitment to serve **all stakeholders** (customers, employees, suppliers, communities, and shareholders), not just shareholders.

5. Zomi KL Conference (2019)

Type: Ethnic Political Coordination Body

When: 2019 (Zomi Kuala Lumpur Conference)

What they did: Convened the **Zomi International Conference (ZIC2019KL)**,

articulated **Zogam Mabante**, and initiated the **Zogam Charter**.

Principle reaffirmed:

The historical origin of Zomi Nam Ni (1948), political unity, and indigenous identity, and self-determination.

6. Oklahoma State Senate

Type: US State Legislative Body

When: February 2026

What they did: Introduced **Senate Resolution 24** in commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

Principle reaffirmed: Foundational principles of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, including unalienable rights.

Principal Institutional Reaffirmation in Brief

Icon	Organization	Action	Principle
	European Parliament	Adopted Human Rights Action Plan (In Nov. 2020)	Human Rights & Democracy
	HRPA (Ontario)	Approved Strategic Plan (2019)	Professional Values
	Ghana Government	Appointed ILO Focal Points (In 2021)	Decent Work
	Business Roundtable	Revised Purpose Statement (In 2019)	Stakeholder Capitalism
	Zomi KL Conf.19	Zomi Kuala Lumpur Conference (ZIC2019KL) (In 2019)	Zomi National Day, Zomi Identity & Unity
	Oklahoma State Senate	Introduced Resolution 24 (250th Anniversary (In February 2026)	U.S. Declaration of Independence Principles