

# Indigenous People in the Contemporary World Newsletter

Issue 1, 2023

Hi and welcome back to my fellow activists fighting for a cause! This week we will still touch on the indigenous peoples of Myanmar, the Rohingya. However, in the last edition, we focused on the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, this time we focus on the Rohingya crisis in the refugee camps of Bangladesh. Since our last edition, the Rohingya have sought refuge in Bangladesh after the attacks in their homeland, Myanmar. The Rohingya still face injustice in the camps, through violence and restrictions on their travel, work, and education. Keep reading! This week's newsletter will delve into these matters further and provide us with ways we can raise awareness and provide aid to the indigenous people of Myanmar.

There has been an increase of widespread violence throughout the Bangladeshi refugee camps. Rohingya refugees have reported a rise in militant groups in the camps, noting a disturbing rise in abductions and armed robberies (Tan, 2023). The Human Rights Watch (2023) says that Bangladesh's police forces are also committing acts of harassment and violence towards the Rohingya refugees, along with the gangs and militant groups. Gender based violence is also rampant in the refugee camps, with young girls and women at high risk of rape, domestic violence, and sexual harassment (Islam et al., 2016). Rohingya women face violence from their family members, the local Bangladeshi community, their employers, the police, and the camp authorities (Akhter & Kusakabe, 2014). Listen to these Rohingya women's stories here: <https://www.wvi.org/stories/world-vision-rohingya-refugee-response/rohingya-women-speaking-speaking-out>

Bangladesh is obligated to ensure refugees have access to fundamental rights, such as freedom of movement, education, healthcare and basic needs, Human Rights Watch (2023) stated. The Rohingya in the refugee camps are not receiving their fundamental rights, with restrictions being imposed on their ability to travel (Human Rights Watch, 2023). The Rohingyas that have sought refuge in Bangladesh are confined to their camps and risk persecution if found out of area (Human Rights Watch, 2023). The rations in the refugee camps of Bangladesh have also been drastically decreased, with the United Nations (2023) reporting that the average Rohingya refugee would need to survive off of \$0.27 per day. The Rohingya, the indigenous people of Myanmar face persecution in their home country but are struggling to survive in the country they sought refuge in.



Owens, J., (2017). Photo of Kutupalong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh. (J. Owens, Ed.) [Review of Photo of Kutupalong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh.]



Vision, W. (2020). Nur, a 43-year-old woman and stateless Rohingya refugee, sits with her daughter, Fatema, in a shelter in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. (X. Sku, Ed.) [Review of Nur, a 43-year-old woman and stateless Rohingya refugee, sits with her daughter, Fatema, in a shelter in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.]

What can YOU do to help these Indigenous people in the contemporary world?

As activists, there are few things we can do to help from overseas. Firstly, Donating to various charities. UNHCR, UNICEF, World Vision and Oxfam are just a few. Donating to these charities provides longevity and support to the Rohingya communities, specifically towards the future of adolescents and their education (UNHCR, 2023).

Volunteering, if a safe and suitable option, is a way to provide direct support to the Rohingya in their time of crisis. Providing medical aid, education support, fire safety, and community (Voluntary Service Overseas, 2023).

Raising awareness! Continuing the conversation around the stateless Rohingya people. Including the Rohingya when activists, governments and agencies discuss injustice against indigenous people. Do not let the Rohingya be forgotten. Social media can be used as a tool to spread awareness, along with community forums, flyers, and street art.

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