

# How to Support - Humanitarian Relief & Advocacy for the Rohingya

## Who are the Rohingya?

- The [Rohingya](#) are a predominantly Muslim ethnic minority of about 1.1 million, that has been living in what is now known as west Myanmar since the 8<sup>th</sup> century
- [State-sponsored discrimination and persecution](#) against the Rohingya minority has been going on for decades. [An escalation in violence](#) since the end of August 2017 has resulted in more than half a million people fleeing their homes to neighbouring Bangladesh – making Bangladesh the “[largest refugee camp in the world](#)” (Marie-Claude Bibeau, Canadian Minister of International Development)

## Why must we support relief and advocacy efforts for the Rohingya?

- International observers have, for years, noted the severity of the situation facing the Rohingya. For example:
  - [United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (Oct. 2017): “*The situation seems to be a textbook example of ethnic cleansing*”
  - [United to End Genocide](#) (March 2014): “*Nowhere in the world are there more known precursors to genocide than in Burma today.*”
  - [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) (2015): Rohingya are experiencing the “*early warning signs of genocide*”
  - [Yale Law School](#) (Oct. 2015): “*Strong evidence that genocide is being committed against Rohingya*”
  - [International Alliance to End Genocide](#): Issued Genocide Emergency Alerts for the Rohingya in 2012, 2013, and 2015
  - [Amnesty International](#) (October 2017): “*Witness accounts, satellite imagery and data, and photo and video evidence gathered by Amnesty International all point to the same conclusion: hundreds of thousands of Rohingya women, men, and children have been the victims of a widespread and systematic attack, amounting to crimes against humanity.*”
  - [International State Crime Initiative at Queen Mary University of London](#) (October 2015): “*Rohingya face the final stages of genocide.*”

## How to support the humanitarian efforts

- “I encourage all Canadians to donate to the organization of their choice. Your donation will save lives...It will allow them to recover their sense of dignity until they can return to their homes.” – Marie-Claude Bibeau (Canadian Minister of International Development)
- **The Government of Canada will match all donations made to registered charities for Rohingya relief from August 25- November 28. Click [here](#) for the list of eligible charities (note: the list is not exhaustive)**
- Two reputable organizations – eligible for government-matching - to consider donating to:

### Islamic Relief



- Working in the region for Rohingya relief since 2008 - delivering life-saving emergency aid, food and hygiene kits, rebuilding schools, and providing healthcare through mobile clinics
- Currently, on the ground in refugee camps delivering food and essential items
- Have reached 852,000 people since 2008

Website: <http://islamicreliefcanada.org/>

To donate: <https://give.islamicreliefcanada.org/donation-general>

### Human Concern International



- Have been on the ground delivering emergency aid (food, shelter, winter relief, water and sanitation)
- Will start to focus on long-term solutions – eg. building tube wells, and latrines in the camps.
- Also working on starting an orphan sponsorship program, children centre, mobile clinic, and health initiatives for new mothers, newborns and expectant mothers

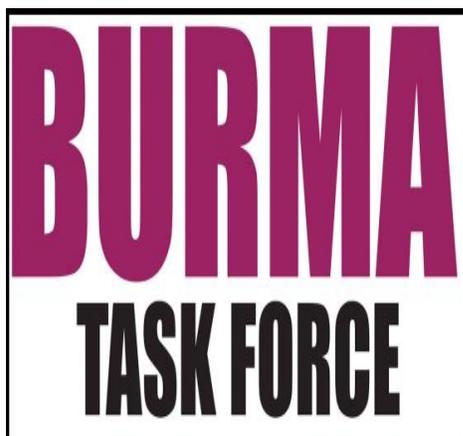
Website: <https://www.humanconcern.org/>

To donate: <https://www.humanconcern.org/donate/>

## How to support advocacy efforts

- The crisis facing the Rohingya is a political issue – and hence, the solution is also political. Without political change, the dire humanitarian crisis will not be resolved
- For their political advocacy work, please consider donating to the following (two of the many):

### Burma Task Force

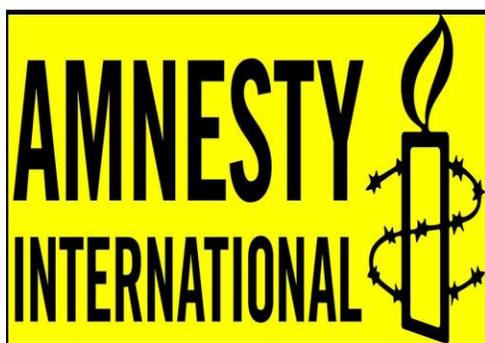


- Have been doing advocacy since 2013 to end genocide/ persecution of Rohingya and other ethnic groups in Burma
- Use social media, demonstrations, workshops, media engagement, and discussions with politicians and human rights groups to educate the public and encourage action by the government, for example:
  - Successful advocacy campaign resulting in President Obama speaking up about the Rohingya during a trip to Burma
  - Numerous meetings with US/ Canadian government bodies and elected officials, NGOs, and representatives of different UN agencies.
  - Discussions with refugee and human rights organizations to improve the treatment of Rohingya refugees in India, Thailand, Malaysia and Bangladesh
  - Sustained campaign of pressure on the Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi to speak up for minority rights through solidarity demonstrations wherever she traveled in the US

Website: <https://www.burmamuslims.org/>

To donate: <https://www.burmamuslims.org/civcrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=2>

### Amnesty International



- Have conducted more than 120 interviews with Rohingya men, women, and children in Myanmar and Bangladesh, investigating and documenting attacks.
- They are using their continued documentation of crimes against the Rohingya to urge global governments to act, asking specifically:
  - A) The UN Security Council to impose an arms embargo and targeted financial sanctions against Myanmar military officials
  - B) The US government to pressure Myanmar to provide access to northern Rakhine State for the U.N. fact-finding mission, to halt the severe restrictions imposed on international and local aid organizations, and to end longstanding systemic discrimination against the Rohingya
  - C) The US government to significantly increase aid
  - D) For global pressure on the Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi to speak up for minority rights

Website: <https://www.amnesty.ca/>

To donate: <https://www.amnesty.ca/donate>