



Florence Model United Nations

Research Guide

Organized by the International School of Florence

Committee: SPECPOL

Topic: Addressing the statelessness and humanitarian needs of the Rohingya population in Myanmar

Chairs: Martina Lanza, Talya Sonar

Table of Contents

I. Introduction	2
II. Definition of Key Terms	2
III. General Overview	2
IV. Major Parties Involved and their Views	2
V. Relevant UN Documents and Articles	2
VI. Questions to Consider	2
VII. Conclusion	2
VIII. Bibliography	

I. Introduction

The Rohingya population of Myanmar is one of the many minorities facing the issue of statelessness today. However, this specific situation has developed into a large-scale crisis which extends over multiple countries in the south and south-east Asian continent. The issue of statelessness refers to conditions in which individuals or groups of people are denied citizenship or national identity, circumstances which make them vulnerable to discrimination and exclusion.

States all around the world have the responsibility to represent all citizens and maintain integrity, and when this is not done effectively it can lead to internal conflicts and international instability. The issue of statelessness affects many populations around the world including the Palestinians, Kurds, Roma people, Bidoon, Hill Tamils and Dominicans of Haitian descent. All of these groups are facing a clear breach of human rights, an issue which requires international cooperation to solve. Problems caused by statelessness involve the lack of legal protection, political and economic marginalization and might eventually lead to cross-border conflicts, however one of the most pressing issues regards the humanitarian needs of these people.

The issue of statelessness often requires the involvement of other states which are not always able to prevent complex living conditions of these groups. Humanitarian needs include basic survival needs like food, water, shelter and housing, medical assistance, education and special needs for the vulnerable. These basic needs arise in response to crises and they are essential for human survival and more importantly to preserve human dignity.

II. Definition of Key Terms

- **Statelessness:** a person/group of people not recognised by any country
- **Humanitarian needs:** Basic needs for people to live and alleviate suffering after any form of crisis or conflict
- **Legal exclusion:** the systematic denial of legal rights and protections of a particular group or individual
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** a generalised emergency situation that affects an entire community or group of people in a region, it often involves high levels of mortality or malnutrition and health emergencies
- **Gender based violence:** refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It can take multiple forms (physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse)
- **Repatriation:** the return of someone to their own country

- **Resettlement:** the settlement of people in a different place
- **ICJ (International Court of Justice):** adjudicates general disputes between nations, and gives advisory opinions on international legal issues. It is the principal judicial organ of the UN.
- **Legal reforms:** process of analysing current laws and carrying out changes in a legal system, usually with the aim of enhancing justice or efficiency.
- **Sustainable refugee action:** refers to long-term strategies to support and integrate refugees while minimizing negative impacts on other groups through ethical and effective methods.
- **Regional cooperation:** collaboration among countries within a specific geographic region to address common challenges and promote collaboration to solve them
- **Accountability:** being responsible for one's actions and give reason for it
- **Multilateral cooperation:** interactions and agreements involving multiple countries or parties aimed at addressing a shared challenge

III. General Overview

The Rohingya crisis is one of the most pressing issues regarding humanitarian challenges in the modern day. The Rohingya are a group of predominantly muslim people originating from Myanmar's Rakhine State. This ethnic minority has faced decades of systematic exclusion, including discrimination and violence. The crisis began in 1982, when the Rohingya people were effectively denied citizenship (Human Rights Watch), but escalated in 2017 when Myanmar's military launched an operation which forced over 700,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh. As of today, over 1 million Rohingya live in refugee camps in Bangladesh and an additional part of the population is currently dispersed across Asia, living in a situation of statelessness.

The pressing humanitarian crisis faced by this minority group regards statelessness and exclusion, causing them to live in critical conditions in refugee camps, where overcrowding has become a normality and disease outbreaks, food shortages and inadequate healthcare are becoming a reality for many. Furthermore, gender based violence and a lack of educational opportunities are becoming an increasing problem for many in the refugee camps. The Rohingya crisis however does not limit itself to refugee camps, the Rohingya population remaining in Myanmar are subject to continuous persecution. This part of the population continues to face military oppression, travel restrictions and inadequate access to proper aid.

Additionally, repatriation and resettlement efforts have been challenged by a lack of security guarantees in Myanmar and many other countries in the region such as Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, which refuse to give the Rohingya people the title of “refugees”, leaving them vulnerable to human trafficking and abuse. A resolution for this issue requires multilateral cooperation and humanitarian support to ensure that the Rohingya people receive the protection they deserve.

IV. Major Parties Involved and their Views

- **Government and Military of Myanmar:** military and government have continuously denied the Rohingya people citizenship by labeling them as “Bengali” migrants from Bangladesh (1982 Citizenship Law)
- **Bangladesh:** is currently hosting over 1 million refugees in Cox’s Bazar and searching for International support in providing adequate resources for the refugees.
- **ASEAN:** in 2019 the coalition attempted to enact a humanitarian response plan but was unable to achieve any of its aims due to Myanmar’s resistance.
- **ICC (International Criminal Court):** is investigating crimes against humanity committed by the Government of Myanmar against the Rohingya people.
- **United States:** imposed sanctions on Myanmar and provided humanitarian aid to refugees
- **European Union:** imposed sanctions on Myanmar and provided humanitarian aid to refugees
- **Buddhist Nationalist Groups:** Some nationalist movements in Myanmar, such as the MaBaTha (Buddhist Association), view the Rohingya as a danger to national identity and Buddhism. They oppose any recognition of Rohingya rights and call for their exclusion from Myanmar society.
- **NGOs**
 - i. UNHCR
 - ii. Amnesty International
 - iii. Human Rights Watch

V. Relevant UN Documents and Articles

1. UN General Assembly - HRC resolution (Twenty ninth special session) 12 February 2021 - Human rights implications of the crisis in Myanmar
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltid/g21/031/62/pdf/g2103162.pdf>

2. UN General Assembly - HRC resolution (Forty second session) 9-27 September 2019 - Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g19/294/52/pdf/g1929452.pdf>
3. UNHCR - Myanmar Situation - 2025 updates
<https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/myanmar-situation>
4. UN news - global perspective human stories
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/01/115931>
5. UNICEF - Seven years displacement
<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/seven-years-after-forced-mass-displacement-rohingya-myanmar-deadly-attacks-children>
6. OHCHR - Durable solutions to the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/06/durable-solutions-rohingya-crisis-myanmar>

VI. Questions to Consider

1. What are the historical and legal factors contributing to the statelessness of the Rohingya in Myanmar?
2. How does the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship law affect the Rohingya population?
3. What international and legal frameworks apply to this issue?
3. What steps could the Myanmar government take to grant the Rohingya citizenship or legal recognition?
4. What are the most pressing humanitarian needs of the refugees around Asia?
6. How can the international community ensure sustainable and long term support for displaced people?
5. What role do regional organizations play in addressing this crisis?
8. What are the root causes of the persecution against the Rohingya people?
9. What are the key obstacles preventing the safe return of the refugees to Myanmar?
6. What guarantees of security would be needed for a successful repatriation process?

VII. Conclusion

Myanmar is experiencing a crisis where the Rohingya people experience violence, discrimination, and persecution among other human rights violations on a daily basis. Due to this, thousands have fled to neighboring countries and currently live in very poor conditions within crowded refugee camps. The Rohingya have also lost valuable rights such as healthcare, schooling, and citizenship, leaving them vulnerable and excluded. Organisations worldwide continue condemning Myanmar and urge its government to grant rights to the Rohingya people and establish a sustainable resolution to this ongoing situation. It is necessary to assist the Rohingya people as it ensures that there is peace and stability within the region and it would ensure that the Rohingya population will be treated with dignity and in line with human rights, as dictated by the United Nations. It is hence the responsibility of the delegates in this committee to finalise a resolution which allows the Rohingya population to terminate living in a situation of statelessness and which will be able to bring stability and long lasting peace in the region.

VIII. Bibliography

1. *Rohingya* | Human Rights Watch. www.hrw.org/tag/rohingya.
2. *Stateless*. 12 Feb. 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/stateless. 3. *Irc*. “What Is Humanitarian Aid and Why Is It Important?” *The IRC*, 10 Feb. 2025, www.rescue.org/article/what-humanitarian-aid-and-why-it-important#:~:text=Humanitarian%20aid%20is%20a%20form,long%2Dterm%20recovery%20and%20development. 4. *Iberdrola*. “HUMANITARIAN CRISES.” *Iberdrola*, 22 Apr. 2021, www.iberdrola.com/social-commitment/humanitarian-crises-causes-effects-solutions#:~:text=WHAT%20IS%20A%20HUMANITARIAN%20CRISIS,and%20epidemics%20and%20health%20emergencies.
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/what-gender-based-violence_en
5. *Repatriation*. 12 Feb. 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/repatriation. 6. *Resettlement*. 12 Feb. 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/resettlement. 7. *The Court* | INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. www.icj-cij.org/court. 8. *TAP Network*. “Pursuing Law Reforms, Strategic Litigation and Legal Empowerment - SDG Accountability Portal.” *SDG Accountability Portal*, 8 May 2019, www.sdgaccountability.org/working-with-formal-processes/pursuing-law-reforms-strategic-litigation-and-legal-empowerment/#:~:text=Law%20reform%20or%20legal%20reform,of%20enhancing%20justice%20or%20efficiency.
9. *Accountability*. 12 Feb. 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/accountability.
10. *What Is Multilateral Cooperation* | IGI Global Scientific Publishing. www.igi-global.com/dictionary/the-compromised-healthcare-sector-of-india-and-other-southeast-asian-countries/103594#:~:text=Multilateral%20cooperation%20refers%20to%20interactions,benefits%2C%20and%20fostering%20international%20cooperation.